The Harold G. Hoffman HS 1963 Boys State Basketball Championship Game was a complete success. The event was held at Sciortino’s Harbor Lights in South Amboy, and attending were John Lange, Ted Reick, Mike McCarthy, Jerry Drill and Kenny Wahler. Bruce Wood, along with his sister Sharon Wood, represented their older brother Dennis Wood. Benita Formoso Franco was present for older deceased brother, Manny. University of North Carolina professor, Dr. Jim Oden Helton forwarded a humorous letter to his teammates and family. A memorable letter was sent by player, Chef Meirzer. Lynn Zdanewicz Irving mailed a card on behalf of her father, who was athletic director, John Zdanewicz. Mayor John T. O’Leary presented each player with a proclamation from the City of South Amboy. Board of Education President, Cindy Zammit presented a proclamation to Norine Croddick Switzer and family on behalf of their father, Coach Jim Croddick. A proclamation was mailed to John Nagy on behalf of his younger deceased brother, player Paul Nagy. Enjoyment and together-ness was shared by one and all.

The event was most reflective in the shared hug by past, great high school friends, John Lange, and cheerleading captain, Cindy Kurtz Zuzzio, who had not seen each other in over 40 years.

DeBlis: A Career Of Excellence

By Tom Burkard

It’s hard to believe, but South Amboy’s Recreation Superintendent, Mary Lou DeBlis will be stepping down from her post on March 31st, after 42 1/2 years of hard work and dedication to the City’s Recreation program. During her high school days and after until she married Rich DeBlis, she worked for Raritan Printing. Mary Lou graduated from Harold G. Hoffman H.S. in 1965, and that summer was asked by the Recreation Director, the late John Zdanewicz to get involved with Recreation. She accepted, and attended her first Rec meeting on September 1, 1965. Mary Lou started off as a secretary, and also worked for other proceeding directors including Ray “Burch” Tomaszewski, who served as interim director, Ed Flannery, and lastly John “Jack” Hulsart. She worked her way up to Assistant Director, and said, “I have no complaints about anyone I worked under. It was something I loved doing. I still continue to love doing it. It’s been a great experience for me. Now I’m dealing with grandparent, people I knew when I started who were actually involved with the Rec program, and now they’re grandparents,”

continued on page 12

1963 State Champs

By Norine Croddick Switzer

The 1963 Hoffman High School Group I state championship basketball team was recently honored at a 45th Anniversary Reunion at Sciortino’s Harbor Lights in South Amboy. Pictured top row (l-r) John Lange, Cindy Kurtz Zuzzio (Captain of the cheerleaders), Ken Wahler. Bottom row (l-r) Mike “Woody” McCarthy, Jerry Drill, Ted Reick. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Szwatkowski Will Not Run

City Councilman John Szwatkowski has announced that he will not seek reelection this year. Citing personal reasons, spending more time with his family, and job commitments, the two-term Second Ward Councilman notified the South Amboy Democratic Organization at its February 27th meeting of his intent. “It has been a privilege and an honor to serve the City of South Amboy and its citizens for the last eight years,” Szwatkowski said. “I really do think the City is on the right track of progress and see good things happening on the horizon,” said Szwatkowski. Mayor and Municipal Democratic Chairman John T. O’Leary praised Councilman Szwatkowski’s tenure on the City Council, stating, “John has been an integral part of this City’s rebirth. He has been a committed, diligent and hard working advocate for not only the citizens of the Second Ward, but the City as a whole.” John’s presence, thoughtfulness, and experience will be missed and I think we speak for the Council and the Organization when I say we will be missed, but we respect his choice and with him the best,” O’Leary said. Council President Fred Henry said, “Johnny epitomizes the spirit of a public servant – whether serving as a member of the City’s council or as a Chief of the City’s Fire Department, John has always worked hard on learning the facts and then acting on what he felt was right. There’s not much more you can ask for than that. He should be very proud of his service and the mark he has left on the City.”

Chaiman O’Leary recently announced that the Organization will hold a screening for candidates for municipal office at the
**In Memoriam**

Doris Fuller, 80, formerly of South Amboy died on Feb. 19. She was an avid SA Times reader. Joe Groncki, 71, formerly of South Amboy died on Feb. 20. Known as “Joe The Mailman,” when he worked for the South Amboy Post Office, he was a good-guy, who once tried his hand at pitch- ing for the Post Office’s South Amboy Slow Pitch Softball team. Josephine Zalewski, 93, of Sayreville died on Feb. 23. She was a member and past treasurer of the Union of Polish Women Group 81 of Sayreville. Grace Hoffman of South Amboy died on Feb. 26. She was a fine lady admired and respected by all. John Swider, 82, of Sayreville died on Feb. 28. He was manager of the Post Office’s South Amboy Slow Pitch Softball team. Robert Beattie, formerly of Parlin died on Feb. 20. Known as “Joe The Mailman,” when he worked for the South Amboy Post Office, he was a good-guy, who once tried his hand at pitch- ing for the Post Office’s South Amboy Slow Pitch Softball team. Rosemary Scarola of Parlin died on Feb. 19. She was an avid reader of the SA Times and spent the rest of the year in New Jersey. She lives with her daughter Patricia Scarola and her family.

Patrick J. Vona (L) received a Certificate of Achievement from the US Railroad Retirement Board. He celebrated his One Hundredth Birthday on February 4, 2008. Mr. Vona worked for the Raritan River Railroad and the National Carloading Corporation. He was also a Representative for the Railroad Workers Union until he Retired in December of 1970. Mr. Vona received birthday congratulations from the President and First Lady as well as family and friends. Mr. Vona was a life long resident of South Amboy. Currently he winters in Florida and spends the rest of the year in New Jersey. He lives with his daughter Patricia Scarola and her family.

**Do not forget.**

**Talk Of The Towns**

By Tom Burkard

McKeon’s Grandsons

Former big league managing great, Jack McKeon, a South Amboy native, has a lot to be proud of these days. His grand- son, Zachary Bookor (Son of former major league pitcher Greg Bookor) is a talented young pitcher in the Washington Nationals organization. Also, Kellan McKeon is an outstanding wrestler for Duke University, and in early March, had a (26-13) record, the second most wins on the team, while wrestling in the 125-th. class.

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**Pleasant Little Trivia**

By Tom Burkard

1. South Amboy’s population in 2006? a. 7,865 b. 8,034 c. 9,749
3. This person was elected the first president of the South Amboy Renaissance Inc. in ’93? a. Rosanne Cross-Savoi b. Jorge Gonzalez Gomez c. Bill O’Leary
5. This deli was located at 126 North Broadway in 1993? a. Top Shelf b. C & B c. B & B
7. In ’93, a Felix Winnisewich & Robert Keenan c. Joseph Keenan
9. This was the first president of the South Amboy Renaissance Inc. in ’93? a. Rosanne Cross-Savoi b. Jorge Gonzalez Gomez c. Bill O’Leary

**Answers**

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

**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. Touch my body with Your compassion for others. Touch my spirit with Your strength which you have created. Amen - T.B.
St. Mary’s Hall Of Fame

The St. Mary’s High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee recently chose the following 12 outstanding athletes for induction: Ed Carroll, Nick Charmello, Jay Derent, Lisa Harrigan, John Inman, Joe Kołakowski, Bill “Biff” McKeon, Matt Sabo, Don Szatkowski, Ed Twomey, Jack Vail, and Virginia Zaleski. They will take their place in school history and join the other elites in sports.

The Hall-of-Fame Banquet/Induction Ceremony will be held on October 18, 2008. More information will follow in upcoming issues of The SA Times. Congratulations to all the athletes who were selected!

Hak Appointed Attorney

The Sayreville Council voted 3-2 to reappoint Borough Attorney Brian Hak. The three firms who issued proposals for the job were: James P. Nolan and Associates LLC, of Woodbridge; McLaughlin, Gelson, D’Apolito and Stauffer LLC, of Wall, and Weiner, Lesniak LLP, of Parsippany, which is Hak’s firm.

John Wisniewski has been and continues to be licensed in good standing to practice law in the State of New Jersey since 1987. He is also admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Districts of New Jersey and the Western District of New York. His associates have been and continue to be licensed in good standing to practice law in the States of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Kenneth R. Ehmer, Jr., Esq., is a senior associate of the firm. He has been admitted in New Jersey and Pennsylvania since 1995 and served in the United States Army as a 1st Lieutenant. Richard H. Rybak, Esq., is an associate of the firm. He has been admitted to the practice of law in New Jersey and New York since 2006. Mr. Rybak is also fluent in Russian.

Wisniewski & Associates, LLC is a general practice law firm. Although the firm has extensive experience representing a variety of governmental entities, it is well versed in representing private clients. Wisniewski & Associates, LLC, can handle your legal needs whether it is planning and organizing a new business, buying or selling real estate, presenting an application before a planning or zoning board, preparing a will, registering Trademarks or handling complex litigation.

Wisniewski & Associates, LLC, is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. Weekend and evening hours are available by appointment. A no-charge initial consultation is available on most matters.


(Photo by Brian Stratton)
The Emotions’ “Best Of My Love” was the #1 song in the U.S. when St. Mary’s Class of ’78 returned to school in September for its final fling. Mag. John L. Gerety was Pastor, and Sr. Joan Gawron was Principal, and now a priest), Joseph Germain, Eugene Mahalme, John Gloss Jr., Frank Misak, Judith Nebus, Susan Nebus, Kathleen O’Brien, Denise Pennella, Debra Matson, Laura McNamara, Jean Messick, Frank Miss, Judith Nebus, Susan Nebus, Kathleen O’Brien, Denise Pennella, Debra Pyonteck, Michael Repsha, Marie Schrembi, Barbara Schneider, Barbara Sorrentino, Terry Tice, Evelyn Tolan, Lisa Tozzi, Steve Witkowski.

Super senior athletes were: Robert Baumann, Robert Bird, Chester Bogota, Ross Booker, Brian Burkard (My nephew), Debbie Collura, Michael Creange, Bill Delaney, Tom Geant, James Hart, John Hughes, Anthony Januszewski, Kevin Kelly, Diane Klein, Keith Lambertson, Dennis Larsen, Michael Munck, Kevin Nealon, Patrick Quigley, Kathleen Redling, Jill Sharkey, Carolyn Woj.

John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John’s “You’re The One That I Want” was a popular hit at graduation time. St. Mary’s Class of 1978 was truly outstanding as a group, and successful as individuals in the world.

Music at Saint Mary’s
Music at Saint Mary’s is pleased to present The Tim Keyes Consort performing the WORLD PREMIERE of Maestro Keyes’ Requiem and also Gabriel Faure’s Requiem on April 27, 2008 at 4PM.

The Tim Keyes Consort is a symphonic orchestra and chorus dedicated to the performance of great historical masterworks and also new compositions by Maestro Keyes. Concert is free and open to the public, please call with any questions: Eszter at 732-721-0179

South Amboy Moves Up
The City of South Amboy was recently ranked #52 on the list of “Top 100 Best Places To Live In New Jersey.” The compilation of NJ towns was provided in “New Jersey Monthly” magazine, with South Amboy showing a marked improvement over last year’s #82 ranking.

My Time
By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
1997
What time is it?
The most difficult and definite statistic known
From: a second, minute, hour, day, week, month,
Year, decade, score, century, millennium, A.D., B.C.,
To: no time like the present
It’s about time
All the time in the world
Time is on my side
Time and tide wait for no man
A time for everything under heaven
Time won’t let me
Time is of the essence
Time is irrelevant
Timing is everything
The best of times, the worst of times
A sign of the times
There’s not enough time
Time will tell
For the time being
For the good times
Once upon a time
For the time being
For the good times
Time and a half
Keeping time
If ever there were a time, it’s now
Time out!
Past, present, future
Yesterday, today, tomorrow
Who is the timekeeper?
Time flies, what they say
But my thoughts tend to disagree
It is we that move through the space called life
And, “Time stands still,” you see.
On Dean’s List
Danny Giovenaco of Sayreville, a sophomore at the College of New Jersey, has been selected to the Dean’s List for the Fall Semester of 2007. He is majoring in Communication Studies, with a concentration in Health Communications and a minor in Spanish.
Recently, Danny spoke at the National School Boards Association in Washington, DC, where he presented a Power Point display on “Learning in the 21st Century.” He also sings with The Tretonis, TNJ’s cappella group, and he was named an Ambassador for the College of New Jersey in his freshman year.

Music at Saint Mary’s
The Tim Keyes Consort will perform the WORLD PREMIERE of Maestro Keyes’ Requiem and also Gabriel Faure’s Requiem at St. Mary’s Church on Sunday, April 27 at 4 PM. The Tim Keyes Consort is a symphonic orchestra and chorus dedicated to the performance of great historical masterworks and new compositions by Maestro Keyes. Concert is free and open to the public.

Black History is Celebrated at South Amboy Middle School
On March 3, 2008 the South Amboy Educational Association of Public Education Committee and the Middle School Language Arts Department hosted an African-American Literary Celebration.
The event was a Reader’s Theatre Performance by the seventh grade students. “Now Let Me Fly” is the story of Thurgood Marshall and the many unsung heroes and heroines behind the struggle to end legalized segregation in America in the 1950’s. Family and friends enjoyed the performance as well as readings of poetry and famous quotes done by eighth grade volunteers.

Blood Drive
There will be a Blood Drive at St. Mary Church on Sun., April 6, in St. Pat’s Hall, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Platelet donation machines will be available. Donors should be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 lbs., and be in good health. Please bring identification and remember to eat before you donate. Homemade goodies will be served, walk-ins are welcome! Please call Sue at 732-220-7077 or Ron 732-727-2221 with any questions. Save a neighbor, donate blood.

St. Stan’s Fundraiser
The next TGIF Friday’s fundraiser is Wednesday, April 9, from 5 to 9 p.m., on Rt. 9 North in Old Bridge. TGIF will donate 20% of check sales to St. Stan’s School for any customer (eat-in or take-out) who indicates that they support the school. The same “rules” will apply to the remain-

Senior Trip to Wildwood, New Jersey
The OLV Seniors are planning a five-day/four-night bus trip to Wildwood, New Jersey from September 22-26, 2008. The cost of the trip is $399.00 per person. It includes accommodations in a Wildwood hotel with 4 full breakfasts and 4 dinners. Side trips included with the package are: AC Casino, Whale watching boat ride, visit to historic Cape May. For further information or to request a brochure call Jack or Ann at (732) 724-7626.

Old Friends - 1938-39
Pictured is a local boys club sponsored by the Order of United American Mechanics. The club was called the Junior OUAM, and met at the old boathouse in the vicinity of what was called the Dohane Homes. There were 2 bowling alleys on the first floor of the building. Pictured back row (l-r) Calvin Hutson, Russell Falk, Harold Semonite (Advisor), Tom Kwist, Max Kurtz. Front row (l-r) Aubrey Render, Donald “Mickey” Crick, Richard Letts, Melvin Sprague, and Nelson “Homic” Thomas. Hutson, a World War II Marine was killed in action. (Photo and story courtesy of Don “Mickey” Czok)
### Foodtown

611 Bordentown Ave.  
South Amboy, NJ

**ATM on premises**

### South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade

Come one, come all to the annual parade celebrating the "Wearing of the Green", on April 20, 2008. South Amboy Foodtown will be marching along with many other attractions. It’s sure to be fun for all.

### CONGRATULATIONS CARDINAL MC CARRICK

**BOYS AND GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAMS**

**COUNTY CHAMPS!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NY State all purpose Yellow Onions 2lb bag</td>
<td>69¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calif. Iceberg Lettuce 99¢ lg head</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calif. Naval Oranges 2 for $5 4lb bag</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh Sliced Hormel Premium Deli Ham</td>
<td>$2.99 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresh 9lb avg. wgt Whole Boneless Pork Loin</td>
<td>$1.49 lb with club card limit 2 per family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prices effective from March 29th to April 4th USDA Choice Tailless Beef Short Loin Porterhouse or T-Bone Steak</td>
<td>$4.99 lb with club card limit 2 per family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foodtown American Cheese Yellow or White</td>
<td>$2.99 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquor prices are effective from March 29th to April 25th, 2008 sales are limited to store while supplies last</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corona Extra or Light 2 - 12 pk 12oz Btl</td>
<td>$23.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budweiser, Bud Select, Bud Ice, or Bud Light 15 - 24oz cans</td>
<td>$13.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelob Ultra 2 - 12 pack 12oz Btl</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smirnoff Vodka 1.75 Liter</td>
<td>$19.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewar's Scotch Whiskey 1.75 Liter</td>
<td>$29.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absolut Vodka 1.75 Liter</td>
<td>$29.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Moon 2 - 12 pk 12oz Btl</td>
<td>$24.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becks Reg. or Light 2 - 12 pk 12oz Btl</td>
<td>$23.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinness Extra Stout 6pk 12oz NR</td>
<td>$6.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Morgan Private Stock Rum 750 ml</td>
<td>$20.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacardi Rum Light or Dark 1.75 Liter</td>
<td>$19.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindeman's Wine all varieties 1.5 Liter</td>
<td>$10.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodbridge Wine all varieties 1.5 Liter</td>
<td>$10.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavit Pinot Grigio 1.5 Liter</td>
<td>$12.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio 750 ml</td>
<td>$18.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CK Mondavi Cabernet, Merlot or Chardonnay 1.5 Liter</td>
<td>$10.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

A Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser on behalf of the Leukemia Lymphoma Society will be held on April 19 from 1-4 p.m. at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 on Fourth St. & Stevens Ave. South Amboy’s Jared Gonsalves is running the dinner to raise funds for a June marathon in San Diego, California, in which he will participate. The goal is $4,000.

April Senior Meeting

The OLV Senior Group will hold their April meeting on Friday, April 4, 2008 in Monsignor Hall at 12 Noon. This is a change from our regular time due to a HSA event that evening. We will be celebrating Easter and the arrival of Spring so get dressed in your best Spring finery. Plans for our upcoming Senior Mass, May Crowning, and end of year party will be discussed. Light refreshments will be served.

Tricky Tray April 13th

A Tricky Tray will be held on Sunday, April 13th at the American Legion Post #25, 4 JF Kennedy Drive in Milltown. Doors open at 1:00 p.m., the first number will be drawn at 2:00 p.m. There will be Gift Baskets, 50/50s, Prizes, Prizes and more Prizes! Admission is $10.00.

Proceeds from this Tricky Tray will benefit “Caiti Brown’s Trip for Life” Caiti is a delightful 17 year old girl who has been battling bone cancer for nearly four years. Since conventional treatments have failed, Caiti’s oncologist has recommended a stay at Envita Medical Center in Glendale, Arizona where they will treat Caiti with natural therapies and chemotherapy. These treatments will incur expenses to the Brown family exceeding $100,000.00.

Please take part and have a heart to help Caiti on her trip for life.

For information please contact Barbara Wantuch at 732-951-0300 ext. 213.

OLV Senior Mass

All seniors are invited to attend the annual Senior Mass on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 5PM in the evening. There will be an area cordoned off for the seniors for that Mass. A small gift for each senior will be blessed at the Mass. For further information, contact Teri at (732) 727-7639.

Friends of the Sayreville Public Library Antique Appraisal

The Friends of the Sayreville Public Library will hold an antique appraisal on Sunday, April 27, 2008 from 1PM – 3:00PM at the Sayreville Library on Washington Road in Parlin. Barbara from Unique Antique Boutique will be the featured appraiser. Four items can be appraised at a price of four dollars per item. Firearms and weapons of any kind are not allowed. For further information contact (732) 727-1566.
Better Late Than Never!!!
South Amboy St. Patrick’s Day Parade
Sunday April 20, 2008

Upcoming Fundraisers
“Tip a Pint” Night
Thurdsay, April 17, 2008 - 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
at the Freddies SA Pub on Feltus, Cost is $20.00
includes domestic draft beer, wine and soda
Some food will be provided

Commemorative Buttons
still available at O’Ireland and AOH $2.00 each
$5.00 50/50 Drawing on April 20th

Parade Day Events
10:00 a.m. – Flag Raising – South Amboy City Hall, Broadway
12:30 p.m. – Line up
2:00 p.m. – Parade begins

Vist our website www.saparade.com
Four candidates will be seeking election to three 3-year terms on the Sayreville Board of Education. Seeking re-election are Phyllis Batko, Pasquale “Pat” Lembo, and Michael J. Macagnone. Newcomer, Laurie Esposito will also be running for office.

Three Seats In South Amboy

The South Amboy Board of Education will have three seats open during this year’s election. Longtime Incumbent Janet Kern will be running once again, and former South Amboy Councilman/Mayoral candidate, Stanley Jankowski has also filed. The third seat will be filled by the person who gets the most write-in votes. The resignations of incumbents Michael “Woody” McCarthy and Dr. Richard Malik created two of the openings.

Sadie Pope Dowdell Library

The Sadie Pope Dowdell Library of South Amboy just celebrated our 94th anniversary on March 17th and look forward to our 100th year in 2014! The Library has offered free programs and information services since 1914. So, if you haven’t been @ the Library recently, drop in to enjoy free use of current magazines, movies, audio books, bestsellers – or to just ask a question! We’re adjacent to the High School. You can also contact us at 732.721.6060 or comments@dowdell.org If we don’t have the answer, we’ll get the answer for you!

Elaine R. Gaber, Director

Upcoming Children’s Programs

SPRING FASHION PARADE AND LIBRARY BIRTHDAY PARTY! Thursday, March 20th at 6:30 pm: Kids, wear a decorated fancy hat and a great spring outfit to show off on the library runway! We will be playing a game, having an egg hunt, enjoying birthday cake, and coloring!

PUZZLE MANIA! Saturday March 29th at 2pm. Drop in to put together puzzles. Different levels of difficulty will be available.

MONDAY AT THE MOVIES! Monday March 31st at 6:30 pm
Join us for a showing of “Bee” Movie. Don’t forget to ask us about STORY-TIME for kids and tots!

We’re also gearing up for a fun SUMMER READING PROGRAM!

Don’t miss our
Mother’s Day Issue ~ April 26th

Deadlines April 14th

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Mother’s Day Issue ~ April 26th

Deadlines April 14th
Fundraiser For Timmy

Judy Raymond passed away after losing her 5 month battle with cancer. She left behind a loving husband and a 7-year old son, Timmy.

A fundraiser for an education for Timmy in memory of Judy Raymond will be held on April 5 at Buddies Tavern, 277 Johnson Lane, Parlin, beginning at 7 p.m. There will be live music, a tricky tray and a 50/50. All proceeds will benefit Timmy Raymond’s education.

Coach Croddick Remembered

John Lange has been a warehouse manager for nearly 40 years, and will be retiring soon. He and his wife have 3 sons and a daughter. One of his sons is a Las Vegas police officer. The other sons work and go to school, and his daughter graduated from college and is seeking a teaching position.

Mike “Woody” McCarthy was also a contributing member to the ’63 champs, and said that, “Coach Croddick was a great man.

He taught us hard, discipline and respect for one another. Things were tough at different times, but he brought you through it. He was a great man, and great coach.”

McCarthy recently retired after working for the City of South Amboy for many years, and serving as an elected Board of Education member. He has moved to sunny Florida.

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Coach Croddick Remembered

continued from page 1

We had a lot of laughs, and he made all of us better. He taught me what work could do. When I was a freshman or early in my sophomore year, I couldn’t catch a ball. If he threw one, he threw 10 thousand basketballs at me or to me. I started to catch them, and he said, “See you can do that.” I didn’t have a lot of confidence, but he told me to shoot and I took a shot and made it. Then I took another shot and made it. The team we were playing called a timeout, and he said, “You see you can do that.” He taught me if you work at it, it will come. I think about him to this day.”

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Fundraiser For Timmy

Judy Raymond passed away after losing her 5 month battle with cancer. She left behind a loving husband and a 7-year old son, Timmy.

A fundraiser for an education for Timmy in memory of Judy Raymond will be held on April 5 at Buddies Tavern, 277 Johnson Lane, Parlin, beginning at 7 p.m. There will be live music, a tricky tray and a 50/50. All proceeds will benefit Timmy Raymond’s education.
her. “I lost my mom at a very young age, said. The seniors are also so very special to how they’ve advanced over the years,” she them, to see them mature and grow. Seeing just being there to help the children, guide has really loved her career. “It’s enjoyable. responsibilities, you can see how much she youngest to the oldest.”

DeBlis was named Superintendent of Recreation, or as most people know her as the Recreation Director when Mayor John T. O’Leary took up office. In addition to caring for her family and raising 2 wonderful sons, Brian and Corey, she held other part-time jobs along with the city position. She was a receptionist for a dentist, and also a billing clerk for a doctor’s office in Woodbridge. Mary Lou shared her thoughts on the difference in recreation today as compared to back in her earlier years with the department: “It was less complicated. There was more involvement with recreation back then. It was on-going. You couldn’t go anywhere that you didn’t see a pickup game going on. It was not as popular here until later years. There were always pickup games going on at Vets Field or the landfill, or street games. In back of St. Mary’s School, there were whiffle ball games going on. There was always something going on. The kids were always involved. That was their only outlet. Nowadays, they have computers and literally become couch potatoes. It’s more of a computer world right now, and that’s where kids are involved. You don’t see as much involvement in recreation sports. You see in South Amboy where numbers have dropped considerably over the years, as far as involvement in team sports. We’re not the only municipality that’s suffering. Every other one has some problem. That’s the way society is.”

In addition to her heavy workload in Recreation, Mary Lou took over as Senior Citizens Director in 1997 after Pat Olexa passed away. “I absorbed it into my role and my State of the City Address, and she received continued from page 1 a standing ovation. Mary Lou was my boss up for a special proclamation by the Mayor at her retirement! Thank you for everything, I wish her health and happiness throughout her life. She certainly showed the way I feel. I would like to be remembered for people, the better she liked it. That’s the way I feel. I would like to be remembered like that.” She also said that she is most proud of “My boys, my children.”

Mary Lou said she never got a chance to enjoy it before he got sick and passed away. I feel it’s time to sit back and take care of me for a change,” she said. Her son Brian, 37, is a Tech Sergeant in the Air Force, married, and stationed in Oklahoma. May 1st will mark his 17th year in the service. Youngest son, Corey is 34, single, and residing in Bayville.

What do you plan on doing during your retirement? “After retiring, my first trip will be to meet my son and daughter-in-law out in Las Vegas. I plan to relax and enjoy myself. My husband, Rich retired and didn’t get a change to enjoy it before he got sick and passed away. I feel it’s time to sit back and take care of me for a change,” she said.

Mary Lou said her greatest inspiration in her life was her mother. “My mom was always a hard worker. The more she could do for people, the better she liked it. That’s the way I feel. I would like to be remembered like that.” Also she said that she is most proud of “My boys, my children.” Mary Lou DeBlis has really touched so many lives in such a positive way. It was never more evident than when she was called upon for a special proclamation by the Mayor at his State of the City Address, and she received a standing ovation. Mary Lou was my boss for 20 years, and believe me, really knew her job inside out. A true professional in every sense, it was a pleasure working for her, and I wish her health and happiness throughout her retirement! Thank you for everything, and God Bless, Mary Lou!”

Know Your Local Authors
Trivia Challenge
By Tom Burckard

1. _Where The Witch Birds Fly_ a. George Francy
2. _My Life With Elizabeth_ b. Chelle Martin
3. _I’m Just Getting Started_ c. Jerry Smith
4. _Captive Angel_ d. Frederick Deibert
5. _Life: How Do You See It?_ e. Gene Harkins
6. _Death, Life & Things In Between_ f. Frederick Deibert
7. _Epitaph For Ellen_ g. Alan Karcher
8. _The Mayanmar Maneuver_ h. Ruth Manieri
9. _The Aquariums Of Pyongyang_ i. Joseph Karcher
10. _The Redemption_ j. Dr. Gail Milgram
11. _The Complete Book of Jewish Weddings_ k. Edward “Jake” Defort
12. _The Teenager And Alcohol_ l. Jack McKeon
13. _Images Of America South Amboy_ m. Tom Burckard
14. _Code Of Honor_ n. Lea Bayers Rapp
15. _Death, Life & Things In Between_ o. Chris Mader
16. _The Mayanmar Maneuver_ p. George Speckter
17. _Never Safe_ q. Sister Marianne Chorba
18. _Jack McKeon: Baseball, Cigars & St. Theresa_ r. Harold Coyle
19. _New Jersey’s Multiple Municipal Madness_ s. Michael Coyle
20. _Rails Up The Raritan_ t. Robert Windrem

Answers
1e 2f 3l 4c 5q 6p 7k 8i 9o 10s 11t 12j 13a 14r 15n 16h 17b 18m 19g 20d.
The Florida Experience: Spring Training, Gary Lewis, And Much More

The Florida '08 Spring Training tour continued at Port St. Lucie on Wednesday, as the Orioles took on our local favorites, the New York Mets. A few hours before game time, the Mets regulars were taking batting practice on the ballfield, way in back of Tradition Field. Vice President of Media Relations, Jay Horwitz, and his assistant, Ethan Wilson brought a group of youngsters from Make-A-Wish to see their heroes up close and personal. David Wright chatted with the youngsters, signed autographs and posed for countless photos, all while enjoying the moment, while bringing the brightest smiles to the faces of these kids in need. Manager Willie Randolph also signed a few autographs and posed for pictures with the Make-A-Wish group, while the other ballplayers continued with their workout.

I finally got to play with a World Series pitcher on page 16). The beer vendor caught plenty of attention at Spring Training.

The fun began on Monday, March 10th, when we trekked to Jupiter to see the Mets vs. Marlins. The fun began on Monday, March 10th, when we trekked to Jupiter to see the Mets vs. Marlins. The fun began on Monday, March 10th, when we trekked to Jupiter to see the Mets vs. Marlins. The fun began on Monday, March 10th, when we trekked to Jupiter to see the Mets vs. Marlins.

My sixth trip to Spring Training in Florida was a most memorable one that I will never forget. Our home base was at Deerfield Beach, which is near Boca Raton and Fort Lauderdale, and from March 9-15, we traveled over 850 miles, and saw 3 exhibition baseball games in 5 days. In addition, I was able to meet and interview legendary Rock ‘N’ Roll star Gary Lewis, leader of the Gary Lewis & The Playboys band.

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New York Mets’ ace, Johan Santana, is regarded by many as the greatest pitcher in baseball.

Mets’ relief pitcher Aaron Heilman, a Notre Dame University alumnus keeps improving each year.

New York Metsannouncer, Kevin Burkhardt (No relation), is a true talent with a great future.

Los Angeles Dodgers’ Hall-Of-Fame manager, Tommy Lasorda (l) is interviewed by former Dodger and current Florida Marlins announcer, Tommy Hutton (r) at Vero Beach.

Sandy Koufax (r), Dodgers Hall-Of-Fame pitcher signs his autograph for a fan at the Dodgers Press Dining Room at Vero Beach.

New York Mets’ Vice-President of Media Relations, Jay Horwitz (r), and his assistant, Ethan Wilson (l) arrive for work at Jupiter, Florida, where the Mets traveled to take on the Marlins.

Mets’ slugging third baseman, David Wright awaits the pitch in an exhibition game against the Baltimore Orioles.

NY Mets manager, Willie Randolph poses with a youngster from Make-A-Wish at Spring Training in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Mets’ superstar, David Wright signs his autograph for the “Wright fan,” a youngster from Make-A-Wish, who was visiting the Mets practice at Port St. Lucie.

Minnesota Twins’ All-Star catcher, Joe Mauer gets ready for the pitch at Roger Dean Stadium, Jupiter, Florida.
Bon Jovi, Part Two: Me And Bon Jovi, “Bad Medicine

By Henny The DJ

It was in 1983 and I was DJ’ing in the Lions Den on a Thursday night when Mimi and Eileen brought me an album just off the presses of a band from Sayreville and told me they wanted me to play a cut from it named “Runaway”. They told me the leader of the band, John Bongiovi was a great guy and a good friend of theirs and that the album was gonna’ be a big hit. I played the song, it went over fairly well, and I put the album cover back in one of the purloined milk crates that DJ’s used in those days and forgot about it. I don’t remember ever playing it again except when Mimi and Eileen asked for it. So much for me having an “ear” for music. But the early 80’s was a time for great pop music, especially DJ oriented singles type music. For example, check out some of the songs from that year, 1983: Billy Jean. Down Under, Flashdance, Maniac, Come On Eileen, Hungry Like the Wolf, Mickey, Sexual Healing, Little Red Corvette—all songs still very popular and played by DJ’s nightly around the world. So, John Bongiovi had his work cut out for him if he was gonna crack that Top 100 list. Another reason playing his music was not a priority for old Henny the DJ was because I was a fan of the fun-loving and lovable Lynch Boys, the sing-a-long sensational Byrnes Brothers, the hilariously blue-humored Lou Caddy and The Panics, and I was trying somehow to re-create the atmosphere of the raucous Sea Girt Inn when I played music, and not mindlessly be feeding request songs onto a record player. However, against all odds not only did that song make it, Jon Bongiovi went on to have many, many hits and become a big star. And so it went for years and years, but the only time I played songs by the band now called Bon Jovi was when they were requested. Albeit, those songs were now being requested very often, especially after the hugely popular, Slippery When Wet and New Jersey albums, and even more so when Bon Jovi was discovered by and embraced by MTV. I guess everybody else got it, but somehow, I couldn’t find any one of his songs that worked for me. As a matter of fact, the only song that I played when asked for a generic Bon Jovi song was the dirge like, Wanted: Dead or Alive cause it had a hypnotic video, great sing-a-long hook and everybody in the bar got into it. Yes, I was a fake and a phony when it came to Bon Jovi music. I was faking it musically like those sociopath serial killers on Cold Case Files fake it emotionally, making believe I was digging the scene of Bon Jovi on the outside, but on the inside sneaking back to my little lair and listening to The Doobie Brothers, Jimmy Reed, and Chuck Jackson: singing along to songs like Who’s That Knocking? by the Genies, “Trickle, Trickle” by the Videos, “Rainy Day Bells” by the Globetrotters, and “Little Girl of Mine” by the Cleftones.

The irony was that on a personal level I liked all of what I knew of Bon Jovi. He promoted the area and neighborhoods where he and I grew up with pride in a time when New Jersey had become the butt of many cheap shot jokes, and he courageously embraced blue collar politics when, then as now, that could easily gain him a one way ticket to radio palookaville and total obscurity. But how was I to know that soon my days of duplicity would be over and in Hamburg, Germany I would finally see the light. Next Time: Bon Jovi’s Hamburg, “Living on a Prayer”
Gary Lewis

Gary Lewis and The Playboys burst onto the pop music scene in January 1965, and took their first single, “This Diamond Ring” to #1 the spot in the nation. That was only the beginning, as the band reeled off 6 more consecutive Top 10 hits through May 1966, including such outstanding tunes like, “Count Me In,” “Sure Gonna Miss Her,” and “Green Grass.”

It’s hard to believe that 43 years have passed since their arrival, but Gary Lewis & The Playboys are still performing all over the country, doing up to 100 gigs a year. During my recent trip to Florida, I was very blessed to have the opportunity to see this group, as they’ve always been one of my All-Time favorites. Not only did I get to watch them doing a sound check hours before the show, but Gary responded, “The only difference is that you’re the greatest!”

He felt his greatest professional accomplishment was when he got to meet The Beatles at The Hollywood Bowl in 1965. “Evidently someone got word that I was in the audience, and The Beatles sent one of their roadies to come meet me and get me backstage, and I met all The Beatles! I had my Playboys suit on with black velvet collar and cuffs, and Mickey puts his arm around me and says, ‘Hey man, nice suit!’”

Gary said his greatest professional accomplishment was “When my first 7 singles all went Top 10, and Kasey Kasem said that I was the only American group to ever do that. I said to him, not even The Beach Boys? He said, ‘Yeah, you were.’”

It was during this time that Gary Lewis met his wife, Shelby Lynne, and they have been together ever since. “Shelby’s vocals evoke Dusty’s country soulful vibe of each song. The a capella opening of “You Don’t Have to say You Love Me” is simply stunning, which leads to the acoustic version that is brilliant! These pop songs were originally 70’s AM Gold in the acoustic version. The only difference is that you’re the greatest!”

Since joining the group in January ’64, he has only missed 2 years of performing, and in 1967-68, when “I got drafted,” he said. He recalled that his first day in the Army was “Horrible, you take the gas mask, and I got out the end of ’68. They sent me over to Viet Nam, and I was there for 3 months in a holding compound. I couldn’t hardly hear, but they gave me that I wasn’t going to do what they wanted to do with me or where they wanted to assign me. And then, the big Puddle incident, where the North Koreans took our ship, so there was a big buildup there, and I went there to finish out my tour of duty. Other than that, ’69 through now, I’ve been on the road.”

He feels his greatest personal accomplishment was when he got to meet The Beatles at The Hollywood Bowl in 1965. “Evidently someone got word that I was in the audience, and The Beatles sent one of their roadies to come meet me and get me backstage, and I met all The Beatles! I had my Playboys suit on with black velvet collar and cuffs, and Mickey puts his arm around me and says, ‘Hey man, nice suit!’”

Gary said his greatest professional accomplishment was “When my first 7 singles all went Top 10, and Kasey Kasem said that I was the only American group to ever do that. I said to him, not even The Beach Boys? He said, ‘Yeah, you were.’”

I asked him what his favorite song was, and he said, “This Diamond Ring” because it was his first No. 1, and only the second ever number 1 in the country. Musically and artistically, I like “She’s Just My Style.”

“We were kind of going for a Beach Boys sound, but we also tried to keep it to the point where we could do it live on stage. It was our second biggest song.”

I mentioned to Gary that I had a video of the “Hullabaloo Show” that was hosted by his father, legendary comedian Jerry Lewis and him. “I hosted that show once myself and then with my dad. It’s always fun to do anything with any of his dad. When I’m on stage with him, I’ve got that feeling that comes over me like I’ve really hit the big time now. I think so much of him and his artistry and how much I think he is, I want to be on stage with him, no matter what you’re doing.”

He recalled the Hullabaloo show, and how he had to tell him what the melody was and he didn’t have to have anything new to do. “It was fun!”

Gary Lewis spoke about his world famous family: “As many times as I’ve seen my movies, everybody’s on TV, just a local channel, or wherever I happen to be, I’ll watch them again, and just find myself cracking up all the time. My childhood was like growing up in a movie, growing up in a comedy. He was that way all the time. It was constant entertainment. We’d wonder which one of his parties and get a bunch of chicks. Now it’s 44 years,” he marveled.

Gary, who lives outside of Rochester, NY has had 14 albums released in his illustrious career. He has a little recording studio in his home, and “I still mess around with originals, and put it down whenever I get an idea, but I don’t have to have anything new out there.”

The passion I had back in the ’60s to write in the very beginning is a little quieter now.” Gary Lewis & The Playboys have a new CD out called “Dealing The Hit Live,” and to purchase a copy, go to: www.garylewissandthetheplayboys.com.

* A special thank you to Rick Sapierre, who is the agent for Gary and his father. Without your help, Rick, this would not have become a reality.

Music Trivia-Animals

1. _Hound Dog_ a. Paul Anka
2. _Honky Cat_ b. The Tokens
3. _What’s New Pussycat_ c. Elton John
4. _Bird Dog_ d. Elvis Presley
5. _Disco Duck_ e. The Early Bros.
6. _The Lion Sleeps Tonight_ f. America
7. _Horse With No Name_ g. The Rolling Stones
8. _Cut Scratch Fever_ h. Jesse Colin Young
9. _The Chipmunk Song_ i. Tom Jones
10. _Dark Horse_ j. Fabian
11. _Do The Tuna_ k. George Harrison
12. _Wild Horses_ l. Rick Dees
13. _Hound Dog Man_ m. Dee Dee Sharp
14. _Birds And The Bees_ n. Rufus Thomas
15. _We Way The Lucky Chicken_ o. Paul Weller
16. _Puppy Love_ p. The Osmonds
17. _The Horse_ q. Jewel Akens

Answers
1d 2c 3e 4b 5f 6b 7a 8d 9b 10c 11a 12b 13c 14a 15b 16d 17e
Bombers #1 In County

The Sayreville Bombers (24-3), talented wrestling team finished #1 in the Home News Tribune’s final Top 10 rankings for the area. Coach Joe Lewis’ fightin’ Eagles rallied in the final quarter, running off 9 straight points to take a 49-47 lead, but St. Rose answered with the last 9 tallies of the game to end the Eagles’ highly successful season. Mike Burwell finished his outstanding career with 19 points, and was followed by Julio Rosario with 11. Coach George Olesky in his last season as Coach followed by Colin Krzyzanowski’s 19 and Lavone Graham 10.

Lenahan Ends Superb Career

South Amboy’s talented basketball player, Larry Lenahan closed out a brilliant career, with 960 points, and most likely 1,000 rebounds, although no rebounding records are kept. Lenahan, a senior played the game hard, and always gave 100%.

Bombers Fall In Group IV

The Sayreville Bombers boys basketball team was eliminated in the N.J.S.I.A.A. Group IV state tourney by a strong Colts Neck club, 72-49. Ricky Harding scored 12 points, Chris Matagrano 11, DeMild 11, and Lavone Graham 10.

Roses Shock Eagles

St. Rose of Belmar (18-8) shocked Cardinal McCarrick (24-4), by a 56-49 score in the state Non-Public South boys’ hoops semis. McCarrick the county champions, led 15-12 after the first stanza, and 28-26 at halftime, but the Purple Roses bounced back and took a 43-38 lead after three quarters. Coach Joe Lewis‘ fightin’ Eagles rallied in the final quarter, running off 9 straight points to take a 49-47 lead, but St. Rose answered with the last 9 tallies of the game to end the Eagles‘ highly successful season. Mike Burwell finished his outstanding career with 19 points, and was followed by Julio Rosario with 15. The Blue & Gold finished with an excellent (24-5) record, and missed tying the school record for victories by one.

Bartlinski Superb

Soph pitcher Joe Bartlinski of South Amboy is off to a terrific start for the championship Kean University baseball team. The right-handed fireballer is currently (2-0) with 24 strikeouts in only 12 innings, and for his outstanding efforts was chosen Pitcher of the Week in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC), and also the first Pitcher of the Week for 2008 by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA). Bartlinski currently leads the NJAC in strikeouts (24). Congratulations, Joe!

College Chatter

Sayreville’s Priscilla Senyah, a soph track star for The College of New Jersey, recently won the 50 dash and 55 hurdles at the McNeilligot Invitational at Haverford. She ran an 8.97 in the hurdles, an ECAC qualifying time. In the dash, Priscilla breezed to a 7.76.

Szatkowski Faced Detroit Tigers

South Amboy’s A.J. Szatkowski, who made the Florida State College baseball team as a walk-on catcher, realized the dream of a lifetime, when FSC faced the power Detroit Tigers Major League Baseball Club in an exhibition game in early March. A.J. caught three innings, and went 0-for-2.

Sayreville Wins District Title

District Coach of the Year, John Demont’s Sayreville Bombers captured the District 20 wrestling title with 219 points, to top 2nd place finisher, Old Bridge, who came in with 213 points. The Blue & Gray also brought home 3 individual champions: 140-Ramon Santiago; 145-Mike Delucio; 189-Mike Knight. Congratulations, Bombers!

State Tourney Basketball

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By Tom Burkard

Ratajczyk 2nd In MOC

Sayreville’s super swimmer, Alex Ratajczyk finished 2nd in the 50 Freestyle and 3rd in the 100 Freestyle at the Meet Of Champions (MOC). Alex is only a junior, and we will be hearing a lot more about him next year.

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The Local Sports Memory Machine
By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives

1973-It’s hard to believe, but it has been 35 years ago since the talented Hoffman Governors won the CJ Group I baseball championship. Pictured kneeling (l-r) Jerry Kotula, Mike Kelly, Joe "Moose" McCarthy, Rudy Neumann, George Bogiosimo, George Hubbs. Standing (l-r) Jim Wurth, Tom Szatkowski, Ray Poulson, Tom Diem, John Szatkowski, Coach Bob Bloodgood, Ken Bookner, Henry Worley, Mike Downs, Bob Stillwagon, Don Braum.

1946 Eagles Finished 24-3

Bet You Didn’t Know
Gary Kahn is the only South Amboy athlete to score over 1,000 points in high school (Hoffman) and duplicate the outstanding feat in college. Joe Kolakowski, who is the only player to pull down over 1,000 rebounds at St. Mary’s, also went on to score more than 1,000 points on the college level. John “Jack” O’Brien did not crack the 1,000 point barrier at St. Mary’s, but went on to burn the nets for 2,733, while becoming the NCAA’s All-Time leading scorer at Seattle University in the early ’50s. His twin brother Ed O’Brien never cracked 1,000 for the Eagles, but scored 1,237 at Seattle U. Ray "Butch" Tomaszewski starred for Hoffman in the early ’50s, but did not break 1,000 points until going to Monmouth College, where he became the school’s first player in history to reach the magical mark.

T.E.H. Game
Year-1979
Sport-Baseball
Teams-Hoffman vs. Montgomery in the CJ Group I semifinals
Recap-Trailers-5, the Governors came back in the bottom of the 7th to win it, 6-5. Winning pitcher, Steve Szatkowski, who came on in relief in the top of the 7th, unloaded a 2-run triple to score Rudy Neumann and Tom Mulligan for the victory. Szatkowski finished with a single, triple, and 2 RBI.

MVP-Steve Szatkowski

Springsteen Played For St. Mary’s
Believe it or not, Springsteen played basketball for St. Mary’s H.S. in 1934. No, not Bruce, Ed Springsteen, who transferred to the South Amboy School as a Post Graduate (PG) from Keyport H.S. PG’s were allowed to play an extra year back then, and Springsteen made the most of it, by leading the Eagles in scoring.

50 Years Ago
1958-Joe Phillips topped the Eagles baseball team with a sizzling .600 batting average, and was followed by Pat Mullane, who hit .350.

Gardenhire Praises Mulvey
Minnesota Twins manager, Ron Gardenhire praised highly-touted pitching prospect, Kevin Mulvey of Partin. In a brief interview at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, he told me that, “I like Kevin Mulvey a lot. We’re very excited about his potential. He has a lot of good stuff....”

Good Luck This Spring!
BOMBERS
EAGLES
GOVERNORS

Now Booking Communion Sittings
Now Booking Communion Sittings

Scans And More
Scans And More

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Family Portraits
Headshots
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Photo Restorations
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Studio Address
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South Amboy

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www.ScansNMore.com

Thank You
The Friends of Colleen Committee would like to thank all our patrons and contributors for their support. You helped to make our benefit a Great success!

Thanks Again!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Thanks Again!!!!!!!!!!!!
One Thing Leads To Another
By Elaine Scott

The childhood images I have seem to bear a striking resemblance to those found in the paintings by Norman Rockwell. From little girls with pigtails to little boys with scraped knees, Rockwell’s paintings for The Saturday Evening Post depict a bucolic, simplified lifestyle which seems to have come to an abrupt ending in the early ‘60’s. As we continue to speed into the future, let’s take a look at some Americana of the past.

Just like the title of the 1983 hit song by The Fixx, “One Thing Leads To another,” memories do, too.

Hair Rollers: Can you recall the last time you saw a woman shopping in a store or even anywhere outside the home wearing hair rollers? Are you hand-blown blow dryers and electric curling irons, the sight of hair rollers was as common as the sight of milkmen.

Milkmen: Wearing white uniforms and driving small white trucks to match the color of the milk they delivered, milkmen had been an integral part of American lives. In a time when families had only owned one car, and that car was taken by the man of the house to go to work, milk companies made sure everyone had their milk. In the early morning hours, the milkmen would arrive. First, they’d check inside the little milk boxes on all the driveways for empty bottles and for notes stating what the family wanted that day. Also inside the boxes would be payment. The sight of those milkmen in their uniforms and hats was as common as the sight of the be-capped and uniformed gas station attendants.

Gas Station Attendants: Long before Esso changed its name to Exxon, gas station attendants had worn one-piece uniforms, as well as hats, but, then again, all men had worn hats years ago. The attendants, all grown men, would even check the oil and clean the windshields for every customer as the gas was being pumped. That was before teenagers, wearing neither hats nor uniforms, got hired and before S&H Green Stamps were given to customers to attract more business.

S&H Green Stamps: Whatever happened to S&H Green Stamps? There was a time when just about everyone had collected sheets of stamps and licked them into S&H Green Stamp books. Filled books would then be cashed in for rewards. The best part was that those stamps had been free, just like the free dishware given at movie theaters.

Free Dishware: At Movie Theaters: Going to the matinee at the Majestic Theater in Perth Amboy, I would always see the display of dishware on a table to the right of the lobby. We had never gotten any because they were for older people who paid full-price in the evenings. We’d see those free dishes coming, going, and during Intermissions.

Intermissions: The movies always had three parts when I was growing up: the first half, the intermission; and the second part. In the middle of the movie, the theatre’s lights would be turned on, while the word, “Intermission,” came on the screen. That had meant it was time to buy more candy, drinks, or popcorn. Pooling a few coins together, as our pockets usually held nothing more than empty candy wrappers, one of us would get off the Majestic’s worn, ruby red, velvet-covered seats to go to buy the cheapest thing for sale. Even at the Drive-in, there were intermissions.

The Drive-in: I was a small child when the Amboy’s Drive-in had opened but I can remember how exciting it was. Going to the playground on Conover Street as soon as dusk fell, all of us kids would climb to the top of the tar-papered roof of Lyanna’s shed to try to get a peek. In the distance, all we could ever see, though, was just a tiny little screen blinking with movement. Yet, to the left of the drive-in, there was always something else to watch, a kaleidoscope of colorful emissions coming from the smokestacks of National Lead.

National Lead: My father, as had so many other men in the area, had proudly worked for National Lead. The different colors of lead paint that were being manufactured created the prettiest colors of toxic smoke when they had been released into the air around sunset. I can remember seeing blue, yellow, red, green, and even pink, just a shade darker than the pink hair rollers I used to wear.

One thing really does lead to another; doesn’t it?

p.s. Hello, Johnny Pappu!! I still think of you with a smile.

(A Elaine Scott may be contacted at site seein526@bellsouth.net.)

Grease Auditions

Triple H Productions, Inc. – the NEW Resident Theatre Company of the City of Somerville, is holding open auditions for the hit musical GREASE, to be performed at the South Amboy Middle/High School auditorium during the last two weekends of July 2008 (Performances run on July 18, 19, and 20 and on July 25, 26, and 27. One weekend will feature performers in Gr. K-8 and the other feature performers in Gr. 9-12). All students in Grades K-12 are invited to attend.

We ask that all performers adhere to the following guidelines.

Note: Auditions will be held at St. Stanislaus Kouka School, 221 MacArthur Avenue, Sayreville, NJ08872. Early rehearsals (in the months of May & June) will also take place at St. Stan’s until the school year has ended, at which time the production will be moved to its location at the South Amboy Middle/High School Auditorium. Rehearsals are held 3-4 times per week depending on role and increase as the production gets closer. Conflicts are accepted.

Audition dates and times: Monday, April 14, 2008 - Students in Grades K-8 Only! (6:30pm-9:00pm) (YOUTH CAST). Tuesday, April 15, 2008 - Students in Grades 9-12 Only! (6:30pm-9:00pm) (TEEN CAST). *Students are asked to sing a song in the style of the show (songs from the show are acceptable). All students must bring sheet music, an accompanist will be provided. Students will also be taught and asked to perform a short dance combination (so please wear appropriate clothing). Pre-Register for audition at tripleproductions.com to save time and ensure you opportunity to try-out. Auditions my last anywhere from 15 minutes to 3 or 4 hours depending on your registration number, so register today.

For more information you can call 732-254-1353 or email Wilfredo@tripleproductions.com

The South Amboy High School Players Present

April 11 & 12, 2008
3:00 PM

South Amboy Middle/High School Auditorium

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The Baker and His Wife Little Red Riding Hood

And more.....

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Contact Mr. Stratton or Miss Waltner at 732-316-7668 or email pstratton@saboe.k12.nj.us (No Under the Age Of Four Permitted)

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by James Lapine

The South Amboy-Sayreville Times March 29, 2008 19

Pictured working on the disaster plan (l-r) are Sylvia Good, Secretary, Mayor, John T. O’Leary, Councilman, Jack O’Connell and Beatrice Harvey, Vice President.

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Note from the author: This story was written as a piece of flash fiction for a contest. It is not intended to be an accurate representation of actual events.
Gardening Tips for Lower Back Pain

Prevention

The best preparation for gardening is a back conditioned by spinal care, exercise and good posture all year round. Moreover, when you garden, let your legs and arms do the work instead of your back. Here are some tips to make your gardening easier:

1. When weeding, get down on your hands and knees rather than bending and twisting from the waist. Don’t stand and bend over repeatedly.
2. Lift dirt and debris by letting your arms, legs and thighs carry the load. Keep your back straight and bend your knees. Handle only manageable loads at a time.
3. Use long-handled tools to keep you from stooping while raking, digging or mowing. Don’t stoop when pushing a wheelbarrow.
4. Switch hands frequently when doing prolonged raking, hoeing or digging. Repetitive motion on one side can bring on lower back and shoulder spasms.
5. Don’t work too long in one position especially one that is awkward or unusual. This can cause muscle imbalance.
6. Don’t over expose yourself to long periods in the sun without protection of head and body. Take frequent breaks and drink lots of water.

Fishing Flashes

By Teo “Weebles” Weber

Salt Water

The new 2008 Fluke season regulations have been enacted by the State Marine Fisheries Council. They are: 18 inch size limit with season running from May 24th to September 7th, and an 8 fish bag limit. Flounder season opens March 23rd. Flounders have already come out of the mud and will soon move out to sea. Many have been caught but they had to be released. Striped Bass action is slow all over. I haven’t seen anything caught yet in the bay. Don’t expect good action until early April. Areas to the south are equally slow. I have only heard of two keepers. Far off shore trips by reservations have produced big Sea Bass and some Pollack and Ling. Inshore Party boat trips have had decent action in areas below Lambertville and Trenton. Some Walleye and Small Mouth Bass are also among the fish starting to make an appearance.

Fresh Water

Trout fishing for holdovers was decent prior to the storms and heavy rains. All streams are currently for stocking with opening day set for Saturday April 5th at 8 a.m. The Delaware River is high from the heavy rains. Channel Catfish are the featured catch in areas below Lambertville and Trenton. Some Walleye and Small Mouth Bass are also among the fish starting to make an appearance.

Theodore Roosevelt will be having breakfast at the Keyport IHOP before Keyport’s Centennial Memorial Day Parade. Keyport is celebrating its Centennial this year and is opening the celebration with the president of 1908. He will be greeting people at the Keyport IHOP from 9-Noon. President Roosevelt will be marching in the Keyport Centennial Memorial Day Parade on W Front Street. The Parade starts at 2 PM. Come experience this Historic Event!
Hi Guys,
You must have really run the fast break to get the Eagles double championship in the last issue. A wise decision! Great collection of photos! Many of them must have been taken while I was standing near Brian at SBHS.
Tom, I really enjoyed your article on cousin Betty Leveille. It was a deserving tribute.

Jerry Smith
South Amboy

Hi,
We just moved to North Carolina and was making sure we didn’t miss one issue of The SATimes. Keep that great newspaper continuing!

Sincerely,
Christopher & Susan Dill-Raba
North Carolina

Confessions Of A South Amboy Guy: Giving Up The Ghost

I’m Henny Conroy, Henny the DJ, originally from upper David Street, ex-player of kick-the-can, hit-the-racket, baby-in-the-hole, hide-and-go-seek, steamin’-in, curl balle hit all, wiffle ball, hit-the bat, scum, and two-hand touch; a proud alumnus of Tarallons, Gus Potts, Tekks, Kennys Sweet Shoppe, Vince Poulsen’s, Prusshills, Downs Ree, The Guild Hall, Sacred Heart Wednesday Night Dances, The Tank, O’Connors Ice Cream Emporium, Fritz’s, The Bottle Stop, The Hideaway, Colonel Cooper’s, Roddy and Charleys, and The Place; friends to everyone from Yoo-Hoe Teddy to Postie to Johnny Dragotta. I’m an ex-employee of Ed Kossbo’s HY-35 Car Wash, the Perth Amboy Evening News, and DJ for the last 23 years at the Landmark. And I’ve been writing “Confessions of a South Amboy Guy by The Ghost articles for the last few years. When Steve Flanagan died a few years ago, Tommy Burkard asked me, as well as some other people, to compose a few words in memory of his passing. As a fan of Steve’s sense of humor and his unselfish style of playing basketball, as a classmate, team mate, and friend I was very happy to do so. I enjoyed the writing and asked Tommy if it would be ok if I wrote an article about playing basketball “up the Tank” back in the 50’s. He said yes and then that turned into Confessions of A South Amboy Guy by The Ghost.

I didn’t know until I started how many of the memories and how many of the people in those memories of growing up in town had stuck with me. So one story melted into another and what was supposed to be one story about the Tank became the bars, candy stores, the Extra Back, Sadie Feffer, and the circular Miller High Life beer sign rotating into perpetuity in Fritz’s. And all of it to me a very, very enjoyable experience which he said was the prior owner before Baranowski’s. Other winners correctly identifying only Baranowski’s were Mary Agnes Morris, Bill Madeline, Tom Kross, Joe Madeline, and Beverly Kovacs. A few contestants actually thought the name was Baranowski’s Meat Market. Congratulations to all!

The Goodyear Blimp flies over Deerfield Beach, Florida. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Letters

Dear Sirs,
I am wondering if you have any information on the 2 Civil War cannons that are at the park on Ridgeway Ave. between the skating rink and Hole-In-The-Wall. I was wondering who donated them or where they came from? I know they are two “12-pound” Napoleons, smoothbore and made in 2 different foundries in 1862 in Massachusetts. Anything else you can tell me would be greatly appreciated. I am going to try and find out what units they were assigned to and what battles they fought in. By the way, did you know one of them is mounted upside-down?

Thank You
Timothy T. Fraass
South Amboy

There could be more things to write about from those days: Jackie Conrons hitting a softball from the little league field at St Marys onto Augusta Street by the annex, Bobby Zaleski singing songs in The Student Prince, being struck out by Jackie Seaman, Walter Conroy, Dave Imman, and Jimmy Ferguson in the Little League, watching Bobby Martin sink jump shots for Hoffman, watching my father and all the other firemen jumping jumping jumping four stories from The Fourth Street School into a tiny safety net on the ground, going to Fourth of July fireworks displays downtown “the Island”, watching Gary Lange set the hot dog eating record at The Dog City, and watching Danny Kudelka set the soda drinking record at the same establishment on Broadway, all those memories beckon … but they’re gonna have to be put on hold cause it’s time to say goodbye to “The Ghost”. “The Ghost” thing for a by-line was, at first, just for fun, but it turned out to be a comfortable writing that way, and I don’t think it’s gonna’ be the same now that I’ve come out in the open, name-wise. So this is the last article by “The Ghost. Or rather this ghost, since there have been a few others flying around lately besides me. I want to thank Tommy Burkard and Brian Stratton and especially all the people who took the time to write in to the paper saying that they enjoyed these little letters. In the meantime, I’ll be writing some further articles, one already in this current edition, as “Henny the DJ”. Also, if anybody wants to say hello in person and you’re out on a Saturday night, stop by The Landmark Tavern and watch the bartenders play, saying that they enjoyed these little letters. By the way, I’m still writing some further articles, one already in this current edition, as “Henny the DJ”. Also, if anybody wants to say hello in person and you’re out on a Saturday night, stop by The Landmark Tavern downtown on Broadway and Augusta Street, walk to the back of the bar and I’ll be in my DJ booth. Finally, if you have any comments you can write to me at “Henny the DJ@aol.com”.

Bye for now … Henny

The big winners who identified last month’s building as the former Baranowski’s Market, and most recently Batista Supermarket were Marlan Mills, Elaine Zonak, Jim Rehfuss, Arlene Rondeau and Jennifer Eng, Estelle Pluskota, Ann Bartlinski, Dennis O’Leary. Also, Lou Zrebiec who added a third name to the structure, A & P Store, Winners

The Goodyear Blimp flies over Deerfield Beach, Florida. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

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Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary’s High School held its Annual Alumni Dinner and Evening of Recognition on March 15 at The Forge. Honorees included (l-r) Tom Burkard, Publisher of The South Amboy-Sayreville Times newspaper, Class of 1969 for Entrepreneurship and Community Service; Roxanne Meszaros Keegan, Assistant Vice President and Senior Branch Manager of Provident Bank, Class of 1975 for Excellence in Business and Community Service; William Schwarick, Retired Secret Service Agent, and currently Chief of Security for the Perth Amboy Board of Education, Class of 1963 for Government Service and Community Service. (Photo by Brian Stratton)
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ITALIAN DINNER

Trinity United Methodist Church, located at 815 Bordentown Ave., South Amboy, will hold an Italian Dinner on Sat., Mar. 29 from 4:30-7 p.m. The meal features Ziti, Eggplant Parm, Spaghetti, Meatballs, Sausage, Salad, Bread. Tickets are $11-adults, $5-children under 10, and FREE-under 5. Take out dinners available. For more info call 732-721-3588.

BALLROOM DANCING

The Cultural Arts Council of the Borough of Sayreville will sponsor the Continental Dance Club of Bloomfield (Ballroom Dancing-Audience Participation) at the Senior Center, Main St., Sayreville on Thurs., April 3 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is FREE with light refreshments. All ages are welcome. For more info call 732-257-6510.

TRICKY TRAY

A Tricky Tray (Chinese Auction) will be held on April 18 at East Brunswick HS, Cranbury Rd., East Brunswick to benefit Animal Rescue Force. General Admission is $5. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Ticket pulling at 8 p.m. Numerous prizes including Flat Screen Color TV, Wii, Ipod, Portable DVD player, Digital Camera, Vacuum Cleaner, GPS System, Gift Certificates, Gift Baskets, 50/50 Raffles, and much more. For more info call 732-257-7559.

ITALIAN DINNER

continued from page 1

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For more information contact the SADO Secretary at (732) 727-3076 or e-mail the Organization at SADEMS@optonline.net

Szatkowski Will Not Run continued from page 1

Organization’s March 13th meeting. This year the City’s three Ward seats are up for election. The incumbents are Democrats Russell Stillwagon in the First Ward, John Szatkowski in the Second Ward, and John F. O’Connell in the Third Ward. Due to the announcement of Councilman Szatkowski, the Chairman has extended the deadline for candidates. Any candidate who is interested in seeking the Organizational endorsement for the June 3rd primary election must submit a letter of intent along with 20 copies of his or her resume by March 6th to SADO, 269 Second Street, South Amboy, NJ 08879. Potential candidates must also submit a Petition of Nomination for Public Office with at least 25 signatures of registered Democrats eligible to vote in the City of South Amboy. (Petitions are available at either the Municipal or County Clerk’s office.) The potential candidates will address the Organization’s members and then a brief question and answer period will follow.

For more information contact the SADO Secretary at (732) 727-3076 or e-mail the Organization at SADEMS@optonline.net

Roger Dean Stadium Security Guard, Al Schramitz retired after working for 30 years as a firefighter in Allentown, NJ, and relocated to sunny Florida. (Photo by Tom Burkard)
Obituaries

Beattie, Robert H., formerly of Parlin died on Feb. 28.

Conway, Helen M., 83, of Parlin died on Feb. 28.

Creed, William “Bill”, 76, formerly of South Amboy died on Mar. 20.

Denuto, Eileen, 60, of Parlin died on Feb. 24.

Dilworth, Patrick J., 81, of Parlin died on Feb. 27.

Fuller, Doris, 80, formerly of South Amboy died on Feb. 19.

Groncki, Joseph A., 71, formerly of South Amboy died on Feb. 20.

Hoehman, Harold F., 85, of Sayreville died on Feb. 22.

Johnson, George V. “Buster”, 88, of South Amboy died on Feb. 20.

Kania, Walter J. “Kelch”, of Sayreville died on Mar. 11.

Kierst, Lorraine C., 87, of Morgan died on Mar. 11.

Klein, George “Ray”, 74, of Sayreville died on Mar. 18.

Kornacewicz, Julius J. “Chuck”, 83, of Sayreville died on Feb. 22.

Loktwicz, Edward G., 70, formerly of South Amboy died on Feb. 22.

Lynch, David M., 37, of Parlin died on Mar. 15.

Meyer, George J. Jr., 56, of Sayreville died on Feb. 23.

O’Brien, Michael T., 62, formerly of Sayreville died on Mar. 8.

Paul, Michael C., 57, of South Amboy died on Feb. 21.

Phillips, Sylvester “Sy”, 92, of Parlin died on Mar. 6.

Porter, Ronald W., 58, of Sayreville died on Mar. 11.

Reich, Robert, 53, of Parlin died on Mar. 13.


Russo, Marie Jean, 79, formerly of Sayreville died on Mar. 11.


Schwarzenberg, Edward Sr., 84, of Parlin died on Mar. 12.

Sobol, Louise J., 83, of Morgan died on Mar. 8.

Soto, Matilda, 81, of Parlin died on Mar. 13.

Swider, John S., 82, of Sayreville died on Feb. 26.

Switzer, Blanche Niehoff, 92, of South Amboy died on Mar. 11.

Tenay, Margaret Conway, 97, of South Amboy died on Mar. 2.

Till, Jo-Anne, 56, of Sayreville died on Mar. 4.

Valasin, Rose A. Wnek, 87, of Sayreville died on Mar. 6.

Trent, Joseph G., 82, of Sayreville died on Mar. 7.

Zalewski, Josephine K., 93, of Sayreville died on Feb. 23.
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Snow Crab Legs: $17
Extra $1/2 order $6

Wednesday
Shrimp Medley: $15
Baked Stuffed Shrimp, Shrimp Scampi & Fried Shrimp
Snow Crab Legs: $17
Extra $1/2 order $6

Thursday
St. Louis Ribs & BBQ Chicken: $15
All you can eat
1 1/2 lb. Grilled Jumbo Rib Eye Steak: $21
Snow Crab Legs: $17
Extra $1/2 order $6

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All You Can Eat!
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All You Can Eat
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Saturday
Seafood Feast: $21
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March 29, 2008 South Amboy-Sayreville Times