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AMBOY GUARDIAN



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City of Perth Amboy: Schools Failure to Report Crime



Mayor Wilda Diaz



Superintendent
David A. Roman



Prosecutor
Andrew C. Carey

News Release 12/16/15
PERTH AMBOY - Mayor Wilda Diaz responds to Perth Amboy Public Schools failure to report crimes to local officials.

The following is a statement

made by Mayor Diaz in response to an article published in www.NJ.com:

“The safety of our children should never be compromised. It is a cause for concern when policy is not followed and

children are put at risk. The City of Perth Amboy’s Police Department has the best interest of the community to ensure the well-being of our families,” said Mayor Wilda Diaz.

I Have Proof

PERTH AMBOY - 12/9/15 Council Meeting - During the public portion, Perth Amboy Republican Chair Sharon Hubberman had 2 concerns.

She stated that she had talked to a resident on Water Street. “There is a live electrical box near the water where children play. This was not in the original part of the Master Plan. Who approved this?”

Her second concern was about the upcoming 2016 elections. “We are supposed to have nonpartisan elections. A lot of elections are run as partisan. We need to draft a resolution to penalize anyone who runs their elections as partisan. We are supposed to follow the Faulkner Act.”

One Council Member said,



Sharon Hubberman

“The elections are run as non-partisan. Do you have any proof that this is not so?”

Hubberman answered back, “I have pictures and paraphernalia to support my claims.”

We Build Buildings to be Occupied

PERTH AMBOY - 12/17/15 Caucus Meeting - Topic For Discussion Bridge Development Presentation.

John Porcek, P.E., P.P. - (Principle) Bridge Development Partners, LLC gave an overview of this project which will be located on High Street (near the Outerbridge). Porcek started his presentation by stating that Bridge Dev. has offices in Chicago, New Jersey, Miami and Los Angeles. The company has been involved in industrial retail development for 15 years. “Bridge Development builds Class A Development Complexes. The Heller Industrial Park is where we first starting developing in New Jersey. We took ownership of the property in Perth Amboy (High Street) in September 2015. We’ll construct 3 buildings. The largest one will be 17,000 ft. We expect the first two buildings to be completed by the late summer of 2016 and the last one to be completed in the late fall of 2016. We will not tax (burden) the school system. We will be creating jobs. The buildings will have state of the art lighting motion sensors.



Reps from Bridge Development Partners, LLC

*File Photo by Katherine Massopust

No hazardous materials will be stored in any of the buildings and they will have reinforced concrete walls.”

Councilman Bill Petrick interjected that the City will be getting rateables on property that was previously unused and underdeveloped with this project.

Porcek spoke again, “Premier Design Builders will be the contractors that will be used. Premier then will bid out more contracts to local businesses. All the buildings are flexible and when we build them, they are built to be occupied.”

From <http://bridgedev.com/>:
We develop investment-grade buildings and business parks and acquire land for the development of speculative and build-to-suit projects. We acquire existing Class A and Class B facilities that provide opportunities to add value and operate on a flexible partnership platform. Additionally, Bridge is one of the largest owners of cold storage and refrigerated facilities in the Chicago market. We take pride in our ability to recognize opportunities that others overlook.

C-Town Demolition Completed in South Amboy

By: Joseph L. Kuchie

SOUTH AMBOY - South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry announced on Wednesday that the C-Town demolition has been completed and the safety fences have been removed.

The demolition ends an 8 month saga that began in April with a four-alarm fire that ripped through the property. Between legal battles with the owner and insurance company, resident concerns about the safety of the building structure, and fences blocking sidewalks for months, the city is relieved that this has come to an end.

“I want to thank everyone for their patience. It was not an easy process with the insurance companies and so on,” Henry said. “I know the owner is very eager to move on from where he is at this point.”

Henry added that there are no plans for the property at the moment but the city will begin looking into the future of the area.

“Right now there are no plans for the property,” he said. “It is something we need to look



Mayor Fred Henry

into... It is private property.”

The council also passed Ordinance #20-2015 which amends the Route 35 Northbound Redevelopment Plan, also known as the old Delilah’s Den property, to allow the construction of residential units. There is hope that this change will bring in developers quicker and get a project started sooner.

All council members were in attendance for the council meeting.

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**Councilman
Fernando Gonzalez**



**Councilman
Joel Pabon**



**Interim B.A.
Peter Pelissier**

PERTH AMBOY - 12/7/15 Caucus - Councilman Fernando Gonzalez requested the monthly cost of operating the YMCA building.

At that point Chief Financial Officer Jill Goldy said she would have to go into the accounts related to that building. "When bills come in for HVAC; the bills are not separated as to how much is for each portion."

Interim B.A. Peter Pelissier said, "The Law Director and

I are working on this. We've had two meetings with the Y and this will be discussed in closed session."

Councilman Joel Pabon said, "I've noticed that the months of December, January and February are the biggest contracting bills for the YMCA."

At the 12/9/15 Council Meeting Resident Stanley Sierakowski said, "The CFO (Jill Goldy) should have records and contracts as to what was done at each City building and

she should have a hard copy.

In response, Interim B.A. Peter Pelissier praised CFO Jill Goldy. "Some public comments were false. The CFO was disparaged. She is an outstanding and hardworking employee with lots of experience. She is the first one here and the last one to leave. She does a lot of work herself. What that resident called her was disingenuous."

Master Plan Reexamination Questioned

PERTH AMBOY - 12/9/15 Council Meeting - Report: Center State Engineering - Master Plan Reexamination Report.

Resident Sharon Hubberman wanted more detailed report.

Councilman William Petrick said, "This is required by the State every few years. Rutgers University did a study and recommended that the City needed more parks and recreation. We were able to get additional grants. There were more changes from the Master Plan from the previous administrations."

Councilman Fernando Gonzalez said, "I just received this information today and it should be tabled."

He also suggested that Bill Petrick should abstain because Petrick is a member of the Planning Board.

Resident Reinaldo Aviles said, "As Chairman of the HPC (Historic Preservation Commission), I'm glad to see the Master Plan on the Agenda." He agreed with Fernando Gonzalez that more time is



Reinaldo Aviles



**Councilman
Bill Petrick**

needed to reexamine the revisions to the Master Plan.

A definition of a Master Plan is quoted from <http://www.edisonnj.org/The Master Plan> is a broad policy statement that guides a municipality's future development. It is the policy umbrella under which reside the official map, the capital improvement program, the zoning ordinance, and the subdivision and site plan ordinances. The Master Plan may include a

wide array of elements, such as a land use plan, housing element, circulation element, utility service plan, community facilities plan, recreation plan, conservation plan, economic plan and an historic preservation element. The Master Plan is adopted by the Planning Board.

The Master Plan should be officially updated every 10 years.

\$100 Worth of Food for \$40

PERTH AMBOY - The Jolin Food box program is designed to provide families with nationally branded food products at wholesale prices. On behalf of the Cathedral's Community Development Corporation, the Jewish Renaissance Foundation's AmeriCorps is helping promote the Jolin Food Box. Check out <https://jolinfoodbox.com> or contact us at 732-324-2114 x103

**Lecture by
Donald Peck**

PERTH AMBOY - Donald Peck will lecture and sign his new book "The American Journey of Hope" on Sunday, March 13 at 2 p.m. at the Kearney Cottage, 63 Catalpa Ave., Perth Amboy.

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www.amboyguardian.com

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 NJ LIC No. 3353

Book Sale

SAYREVILLE - There will be a Friends of Sayreville Public Library January Book Sale at the Sayreville Public Library, 1050 Washington Road, Parlin Saturday, January 16, 2016 and Sunday, January 17 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$10 for FULL bag or \$15 for FULL box (Must use bags/boxes provided). Tuesday, January 19 - *Not for Profit and Teacher Appreciation Day* ~ Books and Media FREE of charge from 12 noon to 4 p.m. (Must provide ID).



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Book Drop/Book Exchange/Book Sale

PERTH AMBOY - The Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library have established a use for the books you have read and would like to recycle!!! Drop off your books. Exchange them for books you have not read ... pick up a book or two (\$.50 for paperbacks/\$1 for hard cover) ...or select a "bag of books" for a price of only \$5. Please no text books or reference books.

Visit us at the Brighton Ave. Community Center located at the corner of Brighton Ave. and Sadowski Pkwy. in Perth Amboy. The schedule for the next three months is as follows: Saturdays, January 9 and 23, February 13 and 27 and March 12. We will be there from 12 noon until 2 p.m. (weather permitting).

For more info, e-mail us at friendsofperthamboylibrary@gmail.com

Dowdell Library Foundation DVD & Recorded Media Drive

SOUTH AMBOY - Your fall cleanout is done and you're wondering what to do with all of those unwanted DVD's, CD's, and video games. How about donating them to South Amboy's Sadie Pope Dowdell Library? Just bring those unwanted items to the library, during regular hours. No VHS please!

This program has been running since 2012 collecting thousands of DVD's and other electronic media for the library. Those generous donations have enabled the library to increase its resources for the benefit of South Amboy residents and the surrounding communities.

All donations are fully tax deductible and the Dowdell Library Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Please call (732)721-6060 for library hours. To schedule a pick-up for larger collections, please contact Grace at 732-721-6592. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Vitale-Greenstein Bill to Allow Urgent Care To Victims of Sexual Assault Without Parental Consent Advances Legislation Updates Law, Authorizes Forensic Examination and Urgent Medical Care Without Parental Consent

Press Release 12/17/15
 TRENTON - Legislation sponsored by Senator Joseph F. Vitale and Senator Linda R. Greenstein that would allow health care professionals and physicians to authorize forensic examination and urgent medical care without parental consent on minors who appear to have been sexually assaulted was approved today by the Senate.

Under current law, a minor who appears to have been sexually assaulted may receive "necessary emergency medical or surgical care." The bill, S-3243, would allow, without parental consent, any emergency or urgent medical or surgical care for minors who appear to have been sexually assaulted.

"There is a very narrow window of time to gather forensic evidence following a suspected sexual assault. Removing the red tape and prioritizing a child's well-being as first and foremost when providing any emergency or urgent care following an attack is critical and common sense," said Senator Vitale (D-Middlesex). "Updating our laws is necessary to allow for an expedited process that puts child victims first and lets healthcare professionals do their jobs effectively."

Also under current law, when a minor appears to have been sexually assaulted, the minor's parents or guardian shall be notified immediately, unless the attending physician believes that it is in the best interests of the patient not to do so. The statute provides that the inability of the treating physician, hospital or clinic to locate or notify the parents or guardians shall not preclude the provision of any necessary emergency medical or surgical care. The amendments proposed under this bill would allow other health care professionals, such as nurses, in ad-

dition to physicians, to authorize forensic examinations and other medical care.

"Allowing other health care professionals such as nurses to authorize forensic examinations and other medical care is important because they are often the first point of contact in any doctor's office or hospital," said Senator Greenstein (D-Mercer, Middlesex). "With time acting against any forensic examination, it is critical that children get the treatment they require as soon as possible, and this bill will provide the necessary updates to our laws to make that happen."

Pursuant to the Statewide Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner ("SANE") program enacted in statute in 2001, specially trained nurse examiners collect forensic evidence from sexual assault victims for use in prosecutions. However, due to the provisions of a 1968 statute that pre-dates the "SANE" law, a minor who is a sexual assault victim may not be allowed an immediate "SANE" examination upon arriving at a hospital emergency room if the minor's parents or guardian cannot be reached and a physician is not immediately available to authorize the examination.

Under the 1968 statute, a minor can give consent to "medical or surgical care or services" without parental consent if, in the judgment of a treating physician, the minor appears to have been sexually assaulted. The result of these two overlapping statutes is that forensic examinations have been delayed for hours as the victim, the sexual assault nurse examiner, and the police officer wait for a physician's authorization.

The bill was approved with a vote of 40-0. It now heads to the Assembly for consideration.

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LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITORIAL

Congratulations & New Awakenings

First of all, we would like to wish all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Most importantly, we want to congratulate all of those who were born on February 29th. You get to celebrate your birthday this year on the actual day.

This past Christmas I was pleased to hear many of the radio stations actually say, "Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!" This was very refreshing after having to hear "Happy Holidays" for the past few years.

I think we were all ready for 2016 to come in. Every year has its good and bad. In 2015 there seems to be a rash of bad news coming in very close together. I'm sure we don't need to be reminded of it.

2015 was also the first year the paper took off the last two weeks of the year instead of one week of Christmas which we normally did in the past.

We further made a decision to take off a total of 3 weeks starting this year. The week of July 4th and the last two weeks in December will be our time to recharge.

It also gives us a chance to make additional changes to the paper. We will have different promotions that will be tailor made to your specific business.

The paper is solely supported by our advertisers and we thank them for their patronage. We encourage our readers to patronize our advertisers whenever possible. This is the best way you can thank them.

In 2015 many events were held simultaneously and we could not cover them all. We always welcome submitted photos and articles which will be published at our discretion.

Our website www.amboyguardian.com is an important additional tool that can boost your sales and exposure. We offer a wide variety of advertising packages.

Some packages will now include a short video or spotlight



highlighting your business on our website. The possibilities are endless.

To those advertisers who already include a website in your ad, you already have your website linked to www.amboyguardian.com.

Our complete paper is uploaded on the Flip-it Virtual Paper on the website. If you click onto your ad, you are directed to your business's website.

If your print ad arrives too late for publication, you can utilize our website. Please call us for cost and information regarding any and all offers starting this year in print and/or the website.

We wish everyone all the best and find that this will be mutually beneficial.

This year, we are looking forward to all the elections coming up. Next year, there will be a new President, perhaps a new Governor (depending on the result of the Presidential Election) and who knows what's in store for Perth Amboy with the City Council and Mayoral election. Rumor has it that there are nine to ten candidates that plan to run for Mayor. I don't get excited until the smoke clears and petitions are notarized and handed in to the City Clerk. Even that is not a sure thing! I remember in 2012 how some of the tickets fell apart just days before the petitions were due.

I expect 2016 to be a very interesting year. We shall see.

C.M. & K.M.

THE COMMUNITY VOICE

Government Protection

A recent letter said a government's job is to protect the people but didn't qualify his statement. Does that mean a government should totally control its subjects? They can't be citizens if they are totally controlled by a government and its Ruling Class

(those who control the government).

James Madison and others said that freedom and liberty result when political power is evenly distributed. This also requires "Income Equality". Dictatorial restrictions on Freedom of Speech and Assembly or the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and other inherent rights of the people don't really protect us. You

can look that up in the history books.

I wonder what would have happened at that Paris Massacre or the Massacre at San Bernadino if dozens of the victims had the means to stop the killers? Isn't this an obvious solution to the problem of terrorists?

Ronald A. Sobieraj

Season's Greed-ings!

To all of the CEO's of Retail

Establishments that were open on Christmas Day, I sincerely hope your decision caused you to lose money that day. Sea-

son's Greed-ings!

Michael Rusznak

Sweeney/O'Toole/Vitale Bill To Integrate Patient Data Approved By Senate

Health Database Would Improve Health Care Quality, Reduce Costs

Press Release 12/17/15

TRENTON – Legislation to create an integrated data system authored by Senate President Steve Sweeney, Senator Kevin O'Toole and Senator Joe Vitale was approved by the Senate today. The bill, S-3220, would establish the Integrated Population Health Database at Rutgers University's Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research to collect a wide range of information that would be used to improve health care delivery. The plan would develop an effective means for improving the health, safety, security, and well-being of high-risk residents and reduce the overall cost-efficiency of programs that address their medical needs.

"This is a smart and resourceful way to make use of a wide range of information to help improve the quality of care provided to an at-risk population and to reduce overall expenses," said Senator Sweeney. "This has the potential to transform the healthcare delivery system by taking into account the array of factors that influence medical conditions and treatment. Reducing healthcare costs and improving health outcomes requires understanding the forces within and outside the health service sectors."

"Layers of laws and bureaucratic hurdles significantly impede health data access and connections, while increasing costs," O'Toole said. "Residents, especially those facing complex medical and social issues and those incurring the highest costs, rely on multiple public systems and services. Linking different datasets that

already exist within these systems and programs is essential for a holistic understanding of patient needs."

"By integrating data, we can reduce duplicative efforts in data collection and maintenance and allow for comparison and analysis with accuracy and reliability," said Senator Vitale. "What we learn from the data will allow us to identify and address trends and individual and community-level factors that can ultimately lead us to delivering more efficient and effective health care in New Jersey."

The bill would create the integrated population health data system project. The iPHD will contain data collected by New Jersey administrative departments and agencies related to health and publicly supported programs. The legislation would establish the iPHD Governing Board, in but not of the Department of Health, to approve project-by-project analysis and research.

Senator Sweeney praised the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers which has pioneered the concept and practice of using data to improve services.

"Good care needs good data and the integrated population health database legislation is an opportunity to transform NJ's health care delivery system," said Dr. Brenner of the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers. "The iPHD will create a comprehensive picture of the complex health and social problems faced by our state's most vulnerable residents, and support smart and innovative policies to improve quality and

reduce the cost of health care. I'd like to thank Senator Sweeney, Senator O'Toole and Senator Vitale for their leadership and commitment to the iPHD. It will be a tool to address some of the most important issues in our state, issues that impact New Jersey's fiscal health as well as the health and quality of life of our residents."

The new program would provide a centralized system with the infrastructure and resources to provide a more complete picture of what factors are affecting New Jerseyans' health. By linking disparate datasets, the iPHD would allow these entities to leverage their current data collection efforts without additional burdens. The system would link health data with other social datasets while safeguarding the privacy and security of the data.

The project would reduce duplicative data collection and maintenance efforts and allow for comparison of data for accuracy and reliability. The linkage of the data sources will facilitate the identification of population trends and individual and community-level determinants directly related to the health, safety, security, and well-being patients.

The Center for State Health Policy at Rutgers University's Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research would house the iPHD and allow access to authorized entities, such as policy-makers, researchers, certified local Medicaid accountable care organizations, private entities or researchers and other public support programs.

The vote was 40-0.

What Do You Think? Send us a Response!

AMBOY GUARDIAN

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SCIORTINO'S HARBOR LIGHTS.....	132 S. BROADWAY
SOUTH AMBOY MEDICAL CENTER.....	540 BORDENTOWN AVE.
WELLS FARGO BANK.....	116 N. BROADWAY
IN WOODBRIDGE:	
MAIN ST. FARM.....	107 MAIN ST.
NEWS & TREATS.....	99 MAIN ST.
REO DINER.....	392 AMBOY AVE.
ST. JOSEPH'S SENIORS RESIDENCE.....	1 ST. JOSEPH'S TERR.

HIV Support

PERTH AMBOY — Raritan Bay Medical Center is sponsoring an HIV support group meeting on Monday's at 6 p.m. Anyone diagnosed with or caring for someone infected with HIV is welcome to attend. Meetings are held at the hospital's Perth Amboy Division, New Brunswick Avenue.

To register or for more information, call (732) 324-5022.

Volunteer Firefighters Needed

PERTH AMBOY - The Perth Amboy Fire Department: Volunteer Division needs members. Accepting men and women ages 18 years or older. Volunteers must be a Perth Amboy resident. For more information please contact 732-442-3430 or 732-324-3505.

Kearny Cottage Open

PERTH AMBOY - Come visit the historic home of Commodore Lawrence Kearny. The Cottage is located at 63 Catalpa Ave, Perth Amboy, and is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and the last Sunday of the month from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. by appointment. The Kearny Cottage needs your help. Anyone interested in joining the Kearny Cottage Historical Society please contact 732-293-1090. We are on the web! www.KearnyCottage.org

Tea Room Open

PERTH AMBOY - The Proprietary House is now open every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for tea and tours. The tea room has reopened, serving their usual delicious homemade cakes and assorted teas. Hostesses Dot, Helen and Joanne are back to greet you. A \$7.00 donation includes both the tea and a tour of the mansion. Although the house is still in the process of being restored, some rooms have been newly decorated, and we have acquired several pieces of antique furniture, including a 1700's desk and game table. The gift shop is also opened. A visit to the tea room is the perfect way to spend a pleasant afternoon. Groups are welcome, although reservations are required for groups over six people. The Proprietary House is located at 149 Kearny Ave., Perth Amboy, NJ. Tel: 732-826-5527. Email: Info@proprietary-house.org.

Community Calendar

Perth Amboy	
THURS. Jan. 7	Board of Education, 6 p.m. PAHS, Eagle Ave.
MON. Jan. 11	City Council, Caucus, 4:30 p.m. City Hall, High St.
TUES. Jan. 12	Library Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. Library, Jefferson St.
WED. Jan. 13	City Council, Regular, 7 p.m. City Hall, High St.
South Amboy	
WED. Jan. 6	City Council, Business, 4:30 p.m. City Hall, N. Broadway

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**Do you or someone you know have
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Attention! Our Newspaper is available at Shop-Rite, Perth Amboy at the Courtesy Counter!

Deadline for Print Ads:

7 p.m. Thursday

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Thurs. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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Codey-Vitale Bill Supporting 'Advance Care Planning' Heads to Governor

Crucial Decisions on End-of-Life Medical Care Could Be Made In Consultation with Doctors In Advance of Incapacitation

Press Release 12/17/15

TRENTON – The crucial decisions about end-of-life medical care made in advance of incapacitating conditions would be supported by Medicaid, according to legislation sponsored by Senator Richard J. Codey and Senator Joseph F. Vitale. The bill, S-2435, requiring Medicaid reimbursement for advance care planning consultations with doctors or other caregivers, was approved by the Senate today.

“As New Jersey residents age, they should be able to have conversations with their trusted health care providers about their future health care wishes should they become unable to make their own decisions in the future due to incapacity,” said Senator Codey (D-Essex, Morris). “Those advance medical directives should be supported by Medicaid to make sure the elderly and terminally ill are cared for with dignity and according to their own wishes.”

Advance care planning is the practice of preparing explicit written instructions for caregivers, family and friends on the type of care that should be provided or withheld, including palliative care, in case of incapacitation.

“Such planning is important to the elderly and terminally ill because it allows them to maintain control over their own health care decisions even after they are unable to communicate these decisions at a future date,” said Senator

Vitale (D-Middlesex). “Making those decisions with the help of medical professionals before it’s too late is equally important and our Medicaid system should reimburse for this practice.”

The American Medical Association recently recommended that Medicare provide reimbursement for the practice. The Medicare statute currently provides coverage for advance care planning under the “Welcome to Medicare” visit available to all Medicare beneficiaries, but they may not need these services when they first enroll. Starting in 2016, Medicare will begin covering advance care planning as a separate and billable service.

Two states, Colorado and Oregon, have already moved forward on similar legislation by approving Medicaid payments for the consultative care.

Once the government-sponsored programs adopt this change, it would set a standard for private insurers and encourage more doctors to engage in these conversations with their patients, Senator Codey pointed out.

“Coverage would raise awareness of this valuable service, and allow residents to make decisions with greater comfort on end-of-life care,” said Senator Codey.

The bill cleared the Senate with a vote of 29-8. It cleared the Assembly with a vote of 46-13 and now heads to the Governor’s desk for consideration.

Vitale-Cunningham Bill to Allow Licensure of Art Therapists Heads to Governor

Press Release 12/17/15

TRENTON – Legislation sponsored by Senator Joseph F. Vitale and Senator Sandra B. Cunningham that would require licensing for art therapists gained final legislative approval today by the Senate.

The bill, S-2020, would allow for the licensure of art therapists. Under the legislation, only licensed art therapists, associate art therapists and other qualified medical professionals could practice art therapy. To qualify for a license as a professional or as an associate art therapist, applicants must be 18 years of age, be of good moral character, and hold a master’s or doctorate’s degree in a field related to art therapy from an accredited institution, according to the bill. Licenses would be issued for a two-year period after paying a fee and renewed after sufficient proof is shown that an applicant has completed any continuing education requirements. It would also prohibit any person from using titles associated with the practice of art therapy unless licensed to do so.

“It is important that patients suffering from illness and trauma who turn to art therapy to cope with their symptoms are treated and cared for by highly qualified individuals who have the appropriate training, edu-

cation and experience to tend to their needs,” said Senator Vitale (D-Middlesex). “Art therapists practice in a wide range of clinical and other settings. Their licensure will ensure that they have the right credentials to carry out their work, and will allow them the benefit of being reimbursed for their services by insurance carriers that provide coverage for licensed art therapists.”

In addition, the legislation would establish an Art Therapists Advisory Committee under the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners in the Department of Law and Public Safety’s Division of Consumer Affairs. The Committee would be authorized to issue, renew, suspend, and revoke licenses, and maintain a record of every art therapist in the State. It would also implement and change the fees of services for applicants including examinations, licensures and renewals. Furthermore, the Committee would establish standards for the education of art therapists, and make rules and regulations necessary to carry out its duties.

“Art therapy provides much comfort to individuals, couples, and families who have survived trauma, abuse, and natural disasters, and those living with serious health is-

ues and emotional disorders,” said Senator Cunningham (D-Hudson). “Allowing for the licensure of art therapists will ensure that these vulnerable patients are receiving the right level of care by these highly-educated professionals and will promote the safe practice of art therapy in New Jersey.”

An art therapist would be defined as any person licensed to practice art therapy, under the bill. Art therapy would also be defined as the psychotherapeutic use of art media and creativity to assist individuals, families or groups in increasing awareness of themselves and others, providing coping strategies for symptoms and traumatic experiences, and assist persons with cognitive, developmental, mental, and emotional needs.

According to the American Art Therapy Association, other states have implemented art therapy licensing requirements including Maryland, Mississippi, Kentucky, and New Mexico. Currently, licenses are not required in the state of New Jersey.

The bill was approved with a vote of 26-10 in the Senate and 60-11 in the Assembly. It now heads to the Governor’s desk for action.

Cunningham-Vitale Bill Removing Restrictions on General Assistance Benefits Advances

Press Release 12/17/15

TRENTON – Legislation sponsored by Senator Sandra B. Cunningham and Senator Joseph F. Vitale removing the eligibility restrictions for receiving general assistance benefits under the Work First New Jersey program for people who have been convicted of an offense involving the use, possession, or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance was approved today by the full Senate.

“We as a state should show compassion for these individuals who ultimately still have families to support, and are working to turn their lives around,” said Senator Cunningham (D-Hudson). “This is a small way to help our residents access the resources they need to get back on their feet and become self-sufficient. This bill could also reduce homelessness in our state; the money from the Work First New Jersey program can go a long way in terms of helping individuals who have just gotten out of prison to pay for shelter stays and different rental assistance programs. It gets them off the streets and under a roof.”

The Work First New Jersey

general assistance program provides an essential lifeline for those most in need. Eligible New Jersey residents are provided a small cash subsidy of approximately \$140 per month, depending on family size and whether the recipient is disabled.

“A person’s family should not be forced to pay a price for something that happened to their loved one in the past,” said Senator Vitale (D-Middlesex). “This bill looks to make the necessary changes to bring fairness to those who are trying to rebuild their lives and be productive citizens. This piece of legislation will help these families as they strive to move their lives forward and not limit them. These are still families that need to be fed, and cared for, and they shouldn’t be denied that.”

Prior to 1997, New Jersey’s general assistance program did not deny benefits based on an individual’s drug convictions. In 1996, however, federal legislation was enacted disqualifying individuals with drug convictions from Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). While states were

given the option to opt out of this disqualification through legislation, New Jersey expanded it with the creation of the Work First New Jersey program, which disqualified individuals with drug convictions from receiving general assistance as well.

In 2010, recognizing the need to assist individuals who have paid their debt to society and are struggling to reenter as productive citizens, New Jersey passed the “Women and Families Strengthening Act,” repealing the drug conviction ban for SNAP and TANF benefits. This repeal, however, did not apply to general assistance under the Work First New Jersey program. Currently, of the 28 states with general assistance programs, New Jersey is one of only four states that deny benefits to individuals with drug convictions.

S-2806 passed the Senate 25-9 and now heads to the Assembly for further consideration.

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This Week in World War II 75 Years Ago

By: Phil Kohn. *Dedicated to the memory of his father, GM3 Walter Kohn, U.S. Navy Armed Guard, USNR, and all men and women who have answered the country's call in time of need. Phil can be contacted at ww2remembered@yahoo.com.*

The start of 1941 finds countries in Europe, Africa and Asia embroiled in war with the "Axis Powers" of Germany, Italy and Japan, and their allies — since 1935 in Ethiopia, 1937 in China, and 1939 in Europe. In the U.S., President Franklin D. Roosevelt has been walking a political tightrope: trying to maintain the nation's official stance of neutrality while extending aid to opponents of aggressive German Nazism, Italian Fascism and Japanese militarism. Far from the fighting and still bitter over U.S. involvement in "The Great War" — Europe's war — Americans wish to remain aloof from further foreign conflicts. The desired isolationism, however, is not to last.

On January 1, Germany's foreign minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop, meets with Prime Minister Bogdan Filov of Bulgaria to negotiate passage for German troops to transit that country. No agreement is reached, but Bulgaria, feeling the Nazi pressure, edges closer to joining the Axis.

On Jan. 2, President Roosevelt announces a program to produce 200 7,500-ton freighters built quickly to standardized designs. They will be known as Liberty ships.

The Allied 13th Corps, bolstered by the newly arrived 6th Australian Division, begins an offensive against Italian-held Bardia, Libya, on January 3. The Australians have replaced the 4th Indian Division, which has been sent to the Sudan.

The Greeks begin a new offensive in Albania on January 4, but are outnumbered by Italian troops there and cannot make much headway.

In Libya, on January 5, Australian and British troops capture Bardia, taking 40,000 Italian prisoners and large numbers of guns, tanks and other vehicles. Allied casualties number less than 400. It is the first battle of the war in which an Australian Army formation takes part.

On January 6 in his State of the Union message, President Roosevelt talks of four essential freedoms: of speech and worship and from fear and want. He refers to the United States — as he has several times in the past — as the "arsenal of democracy."

Two days later, on January 8, President Roosevelt presents his budget to Congress. It envisions expenditures of \$17.5 billion, with \$10.8 billion for defense.

On January 9, British Commonwealth forces complete a strong encirclement of Tobruk, Libya, defended by 25,000 Italian troops, 200 guns and 70 tanks.

Two Views: Star Wars: The Force Awakens



By: Anton Massopust III
"Help me grandfather, help me see the true side of the Force so I can finish what you started."
Kylo Ren

The spirit of 1977 lives. J.J. Abrams who brought us "Lost" and a new branch of "Star Trek" brings us, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." This is exactly what fans have been looking for - a direct sequel to Return of the Jedi.

A young Stormtrooper named Finn does not want to continue in the fierce life that the New Order demands of him, so he helps a rebel pilot escape capture to find BB-8 a small droid

with information of the whereabouts of Luke Skywalker. After crash landing on a desert planet, Finn finds a young scavenger named Rey. The two form a friendship and decide to return the droid and information to the Resistance. Along the way they steal the Millennium Falcon and run into two familiar figures: Chewbacca and Han Solo. Hot on their trail is Kylo Ren, a man who is obsessed with Darth Vader and wants to track down Luke Skywalker.

This movie has plenty of great characters and just enough of old favorites and great spaceship

battles. Any fan of the Star Wars franchise, or if you're just a sci-fi fan, you'll enjoy the movie. Each Character brings something interesting to the table including Finn, who struggles to find out where he belongs in the universe. Rey, a young woman is desperately trying to find her family.

The droid, BB-8 is cute, just like his predecessor R2-D2. Probably the most interesting character was Kylo Ren, who is complicated and mysterious.

Everyone I talked to loves this movie. Do I like it? Yes. It's fun and never boring. Go see it.



By: Katherine Massopust

I've been a fan of the Star Wars movies since I was 10 years old when I saw Star Wars when it first came out in 1977. I've seen every Star Wars movie, most of the Clone Wars episodes (which are excellent); I've seen the Star Wars Holiday Special, two Ewok movies and I've bared with a few episodes of the new series: Star Wars: Rebels.

"The Force Awakens" is a fan driven movie. Director J.J. Abrams gives the fans exactly what they wanted and waited to see: space battles, Jedi Lightsaber battles and a visually beautiful movie. The film barely even acknowledges the prequels and has a lot of scenes and dialogue to pay homage to the original three movies (A New Hope, The Empire Strikes Back, Return of the Jedi).

Many fans do not like the 3 prequels: (Phantom Menace, Attack of the Clones, and Revenge of the Sith). I actually liked the prequels. The prequels explained why Jedi Anakin Skywalker did what he did and how he became the evil Darth Vader. I'm okay with that.

What I liked about "The

Force Awakens:

BB-8: The little droid is cute and fun to watch.

The Presence of Women: As much as I love Star Wars, there are only two women in the first film that have any lines (Luke's Aunt Beru and Princess Leia). At least in "The Force Awakens" there is a 50/50 ratio of men/women. There are female Stormtroopers, (Captain Phasma - (Gwendoline Christie)) and many other female characters. Rey (Daisy Ridley) is a young scavenger on the desert world of Jakku. Rey has the power of the Force behind her and can handle herself in a fight. Carrie Fisher reprises her role as Princess Leia, now a General leading the Resistance against the rising Empire (now called the First Order)

Visually Beautiful: The Space battles, Lightsaber battles and variety of worlds are visually gorgeous.

What I didn't like:

Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac) - This character is so over the top, he's annoying.

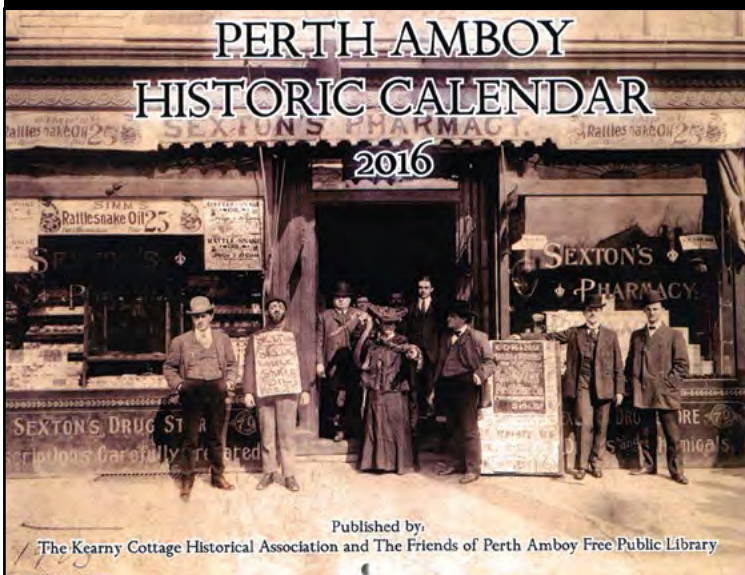
The Overall Feel of the Movie: I don't want to give away any spoilers, but there is some-

thing to a film or any work of art that is missing when the genius (the artist) is not present. (The best way to explain it is through the Halloween Movie Series - The first and second movie is all John Carpenter. When associate producer Moustapha Akkad took over the series, there just was something missing as if the film were just going through the motions.) The absence of Star Wars Creator George Lucas takes away from the overall tone of "The Force Awakens." Because of this, there is an element of commercialism, that big business feel of Disney. The film is less about having something to say and more about fan satisfaction.

As much as I liked the film, there were a lot of gaps to be filled. Much is left unexplained, hopefully to be revealed in Star Wars VIII to be released in 2017. Disney plans to release a Rogue One movie coming out at the end of 2016 as well as a Han Solo and a Boba Fett Movie.

Should you go see "The Force Awakens" - absolutely. Enjoy the show and decide for yourself.

2016 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars



2016 Historic Perth Amboy Calendars are available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy 732-442-3000 or at Fertigs Dept. Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy 732-442-1079 or Call Paul or Katherine at 732-293-1090. Back by popular demand the Calendars feature old photographs from Perth Amboy. Sponsored by the Kearny Cottage Historical Association and the Friends of Perth Amboy Free Public Library. Calendars are \$10 Each.

Novena to St. Rita

O holy protectress of those who art in greatest need, thou who shineth as a star of hope in the midst of darkness, blessed Saint Rita, bright mirror of God's grace, in patience and fortitude thou art a model of all the states in life. I unite my will with the will of God through the merits of my Savior Jesus Christ, and in particular through his patient wearing of the crown of thorns, which with tender devotion thou didst daily contemplate. Through the merits of the holy Virgin Mary and thine own graces and virtues, I ask thee to obtain my earnest petition, provided it be for the greater glory of God and my own sanctification. Guide and purify my intention, O holy protectress and advocate, so that I may obtain the pardon of all my sins and the grace to persevere daily, as thou didst in walking with courage, generosity, and fidelity down the path of life. *(Mention your request.)* Saint Rita, advocate of the impossible, pray for us. Saint Rita, advocate of the helpless, pray for us. *Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be three times each. K.M. & C.M.*

Prayer to St. Anthony

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your words, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me *(request)*. The answer to my prayer may require a miracle. Even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of Sweet Infant Jesus who loved to be folded in your arms, and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be. **M.S.K.**

Little Scientists

SOUTH AMBOY - Little Scientists Mondays 12/4 & 12/18 - Little Magformers; 12/11 & 12/25 - Play-Doh at 1:30 p.m. at the Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. Ages 3-5 yrs. For more info call 732-721-6060.

Lego Toddlers

SOUTH AMBOY - Ages 2-3 yrs. old. Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. at the Dowdell Library of South Amboy, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy. For more info call 732-721-6060. Come build with us!

Food Pantry

SAYREVILLE - Each month on the 3rd Thursday of the month our Food Pantry "Daily Bread" distributes food for those in need. Between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Faith Fellowship Ministries, 2707 Main St., Sayreville. For more info call (732)727-9500 ext. 1704

Need Rent, Food or Utility Assistance?

PERTH AMBOY - The JRF Family Assistance Center provides rent, food or utility assistance to qualifying individuals or families in the community. To be eligible you must meet program requirements. For more information, please call 732-324-2180. You can also stop by our office on the 2nd floor! (149 Kearny Ave. - Rear of Proprietary House)

Vet's Coffee House

PERTH AMBOY - Attention area vets of our Armed Forces. The Salvation Army Vet's Coffee House meets once a month, every 2nd Thursday for coffee, donuts and conversation. Time is 19:00 - 21:00 located at the corner of Washington Street and State Street, Perth Amboy. We can be reached at the Salvation Army 732-826-7040. We look forward to meeting you.

Senior Scene

Happenings

Perth Amboy

- WED. Jan. 6 Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.
- St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.
- Holy Trinity Seniors, 1 p.m., Church Hall, Lawrie & Johnstone St.
- THURS. Jan. 7 The Cathedral International Seniors, 9:30 a.m., Family Life Center, Madison Ave.
- MON. Jan. 11 St. James Golden Girls, 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall, Commerce St.
- TUES. Jan. 12 Holy Spirit Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Church Hall, Brace Ave.
- Market Square Seniors, 1 p.m., Presbyterian Center, Market St.
- WED. Jan. 13 Holy Rosary Seniors, 12:30 p.m., Auditorium, Florida Grove Rd.
- St. Stephen's Seniors, 1 p.m., Cafeteria, State St.

South Amboy

- WED. Jan. 6 South Amboy Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave
- MON. Jan. 25 Sacred Heart Seniors, 12 Noon Memorial Hall, Wash Ave.
- TUES. Feb. 8 St. Mary's Seniors, 12 Noon, Senior Center, S. Stevens Ave.

Answers From Puzzle On Page 11



LOOKING BACK

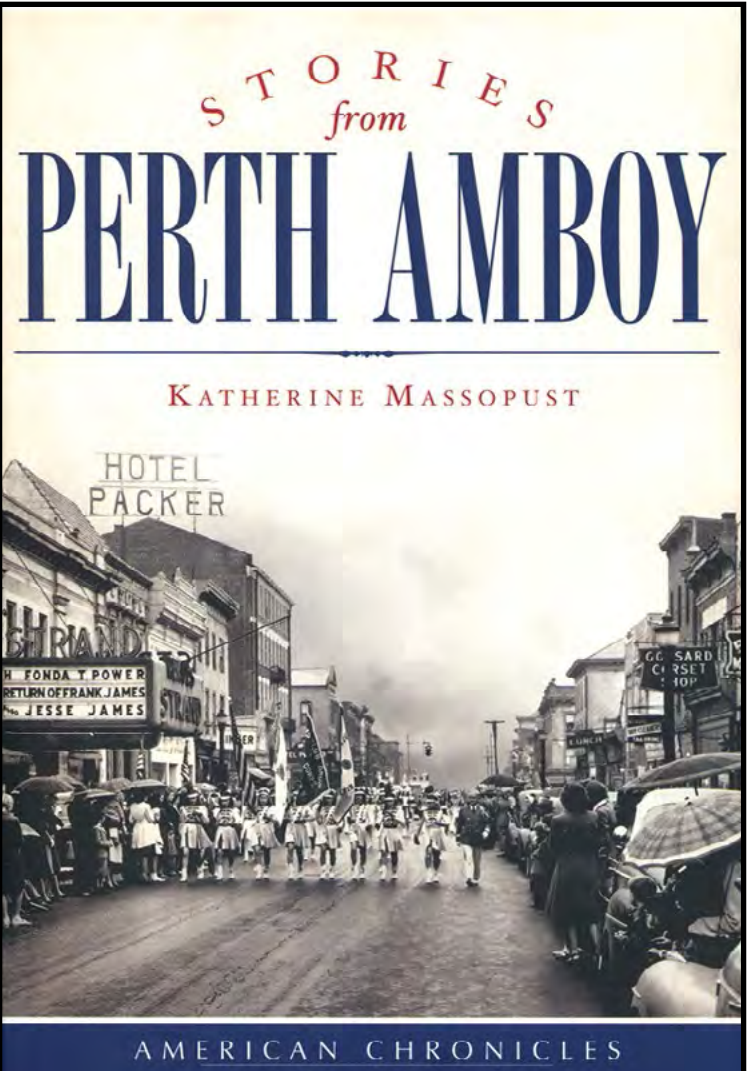


PERTH AMBOY - President Theodore Roosevelt stopped in Perth Amboy on July 7, 1905.

**Photo Courtesy of the Tarlowski Family*

This Photo was restored under a grant for the Kearny Cottage Archiving project by the Middlesex Cultural and Heritage Commission

Attn: If Your Club changes Your Schedule due to the Holidays or if you have Community Events to Submit Please give us two weeks advanced notice! 732-896-4446 or 732-261-2610 AmboyGuardian@gmail.com



Stories From Perth Amboy

PERTH AMBOY - Stories From Perth Amboy by Katherine Massopust is available at the Barge Restaurant, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy or in Fertig's Department Store, 195 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy For more info call Katherine at 732-261-2610 or call the Barge at 732-442-3000 - or Fertig's at 732-442-1079 - A Great Gift! Get it now along with Then & Now: Perth Amboy!

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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For Sale Radio Control Truck - Duratrax - \$50 - Steven 732-316-2148	Hess Trucks and Mini's 1988 to 2010 \$25 & up 732-718-9137	Thatcher for Snapper Power Lawn Mower Good Condition \$20 732-826-8522
Artificial 7.5 foot Christmas Tree with 700 lights. \$45. Call 732-324-0964	Twin side by side Carriage sleeper cup holders basket \$65 - 732-721-2825	10 Piano Keyboards \$50 each, piano stands \$20 each. 732-881-0434
Back-2 Life Therapeutic Massager for home or office. Great Condition \$75 - 732-354-1249	Dyson Vacuum Cleaner Upright Mint Condition - \$45 - 732-721-4477	Kitchen Cabinet - white, tan class top, shelves - 5 drawers, 6 ft. tall - \$75 - 732-887-2235
LazyBoy Dual Recliner Sofa \$75 Trundle Bed \$50 - 732-382-6917	School desk - excellent condition \$75 - 732-721-7186	Excellent Condition Futon Brown with Storage underneath \$75 or B.O. 732-895-4542
20 Mint CD's for \$8. Various Music. Call Joe - 732-423-0646	Carhart Jacket Size Lg. Black - Rich \$20 732-727-1306	Golf Clubs \$25; Weslo Treadmill \$50; Bamboo Sofa \$25 - 732-925-6542
Portable Peddler Tone Arms and Legs while sitting \$35 Each (2) - 732-442-2939	Hess Red Firetruck 1986 MIB \$30 Train Set \$10 - 732-727-8417	Handyman's complete workshop - Radial Saw \$30, tons more. 732-970-3097.
Lady's Schwinn Bicycle 3-Speed with Deluxe Foot Pump \$50 - 732-442-5806	Guinea Pig with cage and accessories \$60 or Best Offer 732-738-7323	9PC Silver Plated 1950's Rogers Tea Serving Set \$50 - 908-561-9033
Solid Oak Coffee Table \$65; Oak End Table \$45 732-570-9732	Professional Deli Meat Slicer, Stainless Steel \$75 - 732-750-1340	Women's Clothing, Shoes, Jewelry, Handbags, Accessories \$1 - \$20 each 908-803-9623
HP Officejet 5610 All-In-One Color Inkjet used slightly \$45 - 732-595-6334	Free Sanyo TV 25" Color Silver 732-754-3718	
	Senior Clearance X-Mas Decore; Large Selection \$25 takes all - 732-826-5865	

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How to Publish a Novena

If you wish to publish a Novena in The Amboy Guardian, you may use this coupon.

A Petition to St. Joseph

Dear St. Joseph, head of the most perfect household, foster father of Jesus and guardian of His mother Mary, I confidently place myself and all my concerns under your care and protection. I ask that, through your powerful intercession with God, you obtain for me all the help and graces that I need for my spiritual and temporal welfare and in particular, the special favor I now ask there mention or think of your home sale or any other petition, especially family needs. Good St. Joseph, I know with confidence, that your prayers on my behalf will be heard by God and that He will grant my request, if it be for His glory and my greater good. Thank you St. Joseph, for having responded to my call. Amen. **G.T.A.**

Prayer To St. Clare

Prayer To Blessed Mother

Prayer To Blessed Virgin

St. Jude Novena

Cost \$10.
Pre-payment required.

A Petition to St. Jude

May the sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of Miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. *Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.*

Thank you, St. Jude
F.M.J.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____

Initials at end of prayer _____

Please circle one prayer, and return form with check or money order to:

The Amboy Guardian
P.O. Box 127
Perth Amboy, NJ 08862

For Employment

Prayer To Holy Spirit

Thanksgiving Novena

Pray The Rosary

Prayer To St. Jude

Novena To St. Anthony

Novena To St. Joseph

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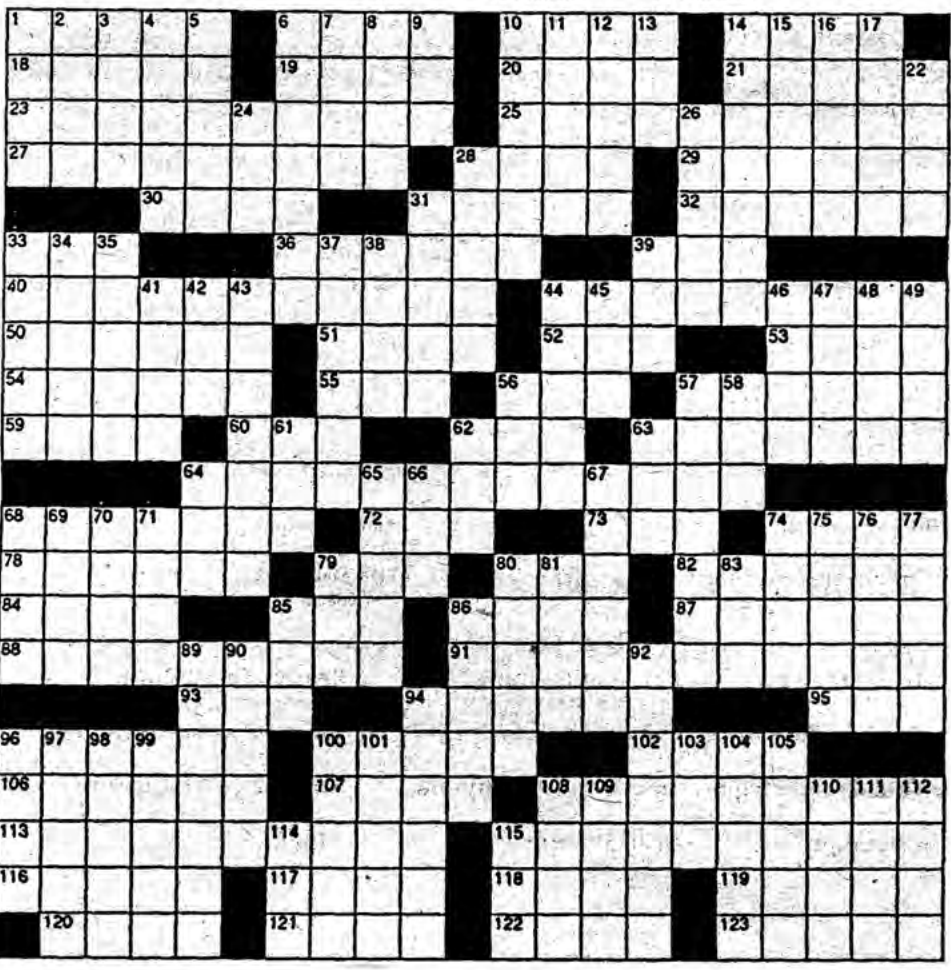
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