

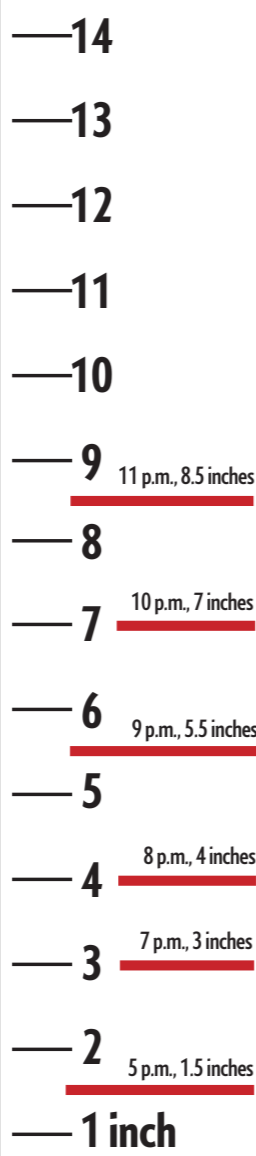

Staten Island
Sunday Advance

BREAKING NEWS ALL DAY ON [SILIVE.COM](http://silive.com)

DECEMBER 20, 2009

PUBLISHED SINCE 1886 | \$2

Snowfall amounts ... so far



Hardy shoppers walk through the Staten Island Mall parking lot as the storm intensifies early last night.

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTOS: BILL LYONS

SEASON'S FIRST STORM PACKS HEAVY SNOW, HOWLING WIND

A snowy blast

By **BEN JOHNSON**
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

For all those folks dreaming of a white Christmas — your wish has been granted, if a little early. Residents up and down the East Coast, including Staten Island, were buried in snow last night as the first big storm of the season walloped our area, packing heavy snow and howling winds gusting over 50 mph. And winter doesn't officially arrive until tomorrow. Accumulating snow at a rate of nearly an inch per hour by early last evening, the potent weather system is expected to drop between

12 and 16 inches of snow on the city by the time it exits our area. By 11 o'clock last night, more than 8 inches of snow had fallen on the Island. By 9 p.m., heavy bands of snow caused near-whiteout conditions with snow falling at a rate of nearly two inches per hour. The snow is expected to taper off by noon today. With temperatures hovering around a bone-numbing 23 degrees, the flakes falling were very fluffy. That, combined with the high wind gusts, caused considerable drifting throughout the night. The Department of Sanitation reported that all of the city's 350 salt spreaders and 2,000 snowplows

were in motion, working to clear Island roads throughout the night. "There will be no scaling back," said Sanitation Commissioner John J. Doherty. "We'll be fighting this storm well into (today)." The first flakes began to fall just after 1 p.m. locally, but the massive weather system had already crippled the Mid-Atlantic region from the Carolinas north, delaying train and flight services up and down the Eastern Seaboard, causing hundreds of thousands of power outages and at least five weather-related deaths. "It's a strange storm," Kerry



Snowflakes along Forest Avenue — both real and incandescent — make for a pretty picture.

SEE SNOW, PAGE A 14

HEADLINES

5 shopping days until Christmas



CASUALTIES OF WAR
SOLDIERS KILLED IN IRAQ

4370 Since the war began
1 Last week

GIS KILLED IN AFGHAN REGION

859 Since the war began
1 Last week

WEATHER WATCHER

Glenn Territo of Westerleigh:



'Snow gradually tapers off. High 31.'

COMPLETE REPORT ON A 36

TODAY'S INDEX

ADVICE A 20 INSIDE OUT A 22
BEA VICTOR A 12 LOTTERIES A 2
BOOKS B 6 MEMORIES B 5
CLASSIFIED A 27-35 MOVIES A 11
CROSSWORD C 3 OBITS A 16-17
EDITORIAL B 1-4 WRD S'RCH B 5

CALSSIFIED SECTION A
PERSPECTIVE SECTION B
ARTS & LEISURE SECTION C
TRAVEL SECTION D
SPORTS SECTION E
TV LISTINGS SECTION F

Staten Island Advance on-line:
www.silive.com



Ferrante quintuplets get ready to turn 1



The Ferrante quintuplets: Alessia, Amanda, Emily, Matthew and Ella.

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/JAN SOMMA-HAMMEL

A JOYFUL YEAR OF FIRSTS FOR 5 TINY MIRACLES

By **STEPHANIE SLEPIAN** / STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Alessia is the typical daddy's girl. Amanda, she's the toy thief. Emily's got patience. Matthew, a prince among princesses, is simply sweet. And Ella has a serious side.

They make each other laugh. They make each other cry. Three of them can hold their own bottles; the other two aren't far behind. Together, they use at least 25 diapers a day — up to 35 "when there's stuff in between" — and six cases of formula. Grandma's laundry service is a 24/7 operation.

The Ferrante quintuplets are growing fast: Next Sunday, they will celebrate their first birthday, two days after their first Christmas. "I just can't believe they're going to be a year old," said mom Jamie Ferrante as her fivesome played at her feet on the floor of their Grant City living room. "It's amazing how big they got," said dad Kevin, quietly watching his brood, a big smile on his face. A household that large runs on routine. The quints wake between 8 and 9 a.m. Eat breakfast. Play. Nap. Lunch is at 12:30. Then, they play some more. Dinner and a bottle is

SEE QUINTS, PAGE A 4

More on the Web To see the Ferrante family in action, go to silive.com/video.

The Island's unforgiven

Lifelong dark mark puts convicted sex offenders on the fringe of society

By **PETER N. SPENCER**
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

After a 12-year stretch in state prison for rape and robbery five years ago, Mr. X was fortunate to find work as a laborer when he came back to Staten Island. But after two years on the job, a woman recognized him and told the foreman about his crimes. He was fired on the spot.

Mr. Y, a city bus driver, was sent to prison for two years after he tried to arrange a tryst with a 15-year-old girl who turned out to be an undercover cop.

He now lives in a one-room hovel in West Brighton. His wife has filed for divorce, his children won't speak with him and he is desperately trying to get another job with the city.

Mr. Z was convicted of fondling a 7-year-old girl. He spends most of his time staring at a TV in a St. George halfway house, where the floors are strewn with broken crack vials and the hallways haunted by zombified drug addicts.

By any moral standard, what these convicted sex offenders have done is despicable. As punishment, they will spend the rest of their lives as pariahs, walking between

SEE OFFENDERS, PAGE A 8

EDITOR'S NOTE: The sex offenders interviewed for this story would only speak to the Advance on the condition their identities not be disclosed. The Advance decided their stories were compelling enough to agree to this request. Each of those interviewed is a registered sex offender, whose name, address and criminal history are posted on police and other public Web sites.