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## HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATES CLASS OF 2019

Three-hundred ninety students graduated from Linden High School at the school's 109th Commencement on Friday, June 21, 2019, in the LHS gymnasium.

Eighty-three percent of the graduates plan to continue their education at two- or four-year colleges and universities.

The Class of 2019 heard speeches from district, community, and student leaders. Particularly emotional and inspirational was a speech by salutatorian Piotr Zelazny, who spoke of overcoming difficulties, including his family's emigration from Poland and his father's ongoing fight against cancer.

"To achieve greatness, you must face challenges," said Zelazny, who will attend Steven Institute of Technology and major in electrical engineering. "I've faced many problems in my life. ... However, I always thought that the magnitude of my problems never came close to my dad's. I learned to never give up and to always work toward your goals, even when they may seem unachievable."

Valedictorian Muhsin Khan, who will attend Rutgers University to pursue a degree in biochemistry, told his fellow graduates that reward comes from effort and hard work.

"Think big, set your goals, then make them happen," he said. "If you aim for nothing, you'll hit it every time."

"Today we are Linden High School graduates. The home of the Tigers is now also the home of tomorrow's business leaders, doctors, politicians, scientists and stars. Go forward, work hard, and attain excellence."

Acting Superintendent Denise Cleary said she hopes the graduates will remember the four years' worth of advice they've gotten from their teachers, coaches and counselors as they make their way in the world.

"I would like to guarantee a good life for each of you, but that is way beyond me," she said. "You are now in charge of your own destiny, and it is our hope that the lessons we have given you will lead you in the right

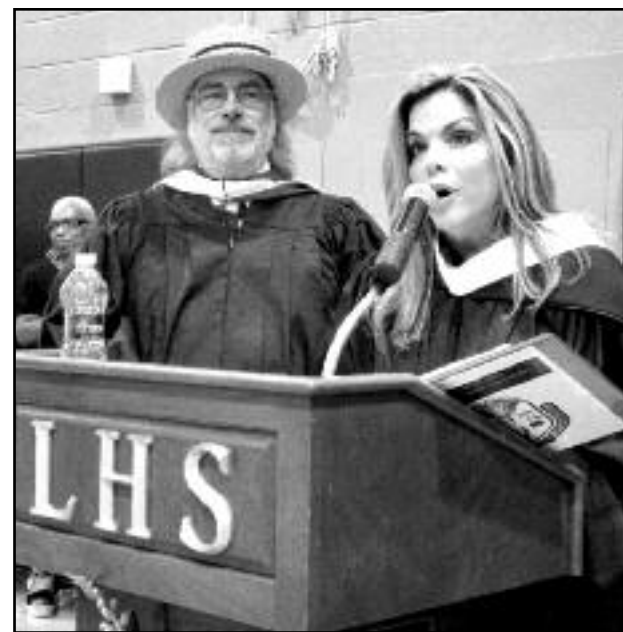
direction."

The LHS Concert Choir – including emotional members of the graduating class – performed the class song, "Just a Single Voice," and joined with

Photos by Linden Public Schools (continued on page 2)



(above) Valedictorian Muhsin Khan and salutatorian Piotr Zelazny.



(above) Linden High School Principal Yelena Horré announcing that the award for perfect attendance would from now on be named after English teacher William McMahon, who is retiring after 33 years of perfect attendance.



(above) The Class of 2019 assembled in the Linden High School gym for the school's 109th Commencement on June 21.



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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Linden Chamber of Commerce assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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## HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT (continued)

the LHS band in performing the school's alma mater, which was written by Alexander Luba of the Class of 1936.

Before reading off all the graduates' names and handing out diplomas, Vice Principal Kevin Thurston awarded top-five honors in each course of study. The honorees were:

College Preparatory: Muhsin Khan, Piotr Zelazny, Love Desrosiers, Jeremiah Acosta, Daniel Lopez

Business Education and Computer Science: Austin Urban, Erik Hernandez, Angelo McNeill, Anthony Rodriguez, Justin Diana

Career Technical Education: Biankah Osborne, Nina Miller, Raphael Ramirez, Kevin Granillo, Kyle Lipscomb Jr.

Ariana Eastwood was honored twice, first with the Union County Secondary Schools Principals Exemplary Student Award, then with the A.R. Taranto Award for Best All-Around Student. That award is named for the superintendent from 1971 to 1985, and given out by his niece, Business Administrator Kathleen A. Gaylord.

Two students – Stephanie Araujo and Nicholas Tome – were honored for having achieved perfect attendance through all four years of high school. Those awards were handed out by William McMahon, an LHS English teacher who is

retiring this year after 33 years of perfect attendance.

Principal Yelana Horr  announced that the award would be known from now on as the William McMahon Award for Perfect Attendance, an announcement that was greeted with a loud ovation by the graduates.

In her speech, Horr  told the graduates that they will always take a piece of the school with them.

"You are going to do amazing things," she said. "But no matter where life leads you, Linden High School will always be your home."

Photos by Linden Public Schools



(above) Many of the Class of 2019 graduates wore decorated caps.



(above) The Linden High School choir and band performing the school's alma mater.

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**Comedy Night**  
 Thurs. Aug 8, 2019 - 8:00pm  
**Petty mania ~ Tom Petty Tribute**  
 Fri. Aug. 9, 2019 - 7:30pm  
**Mush Mouth ~ Hottest Cover Band**  
 Tue. Aug. 13, 2019 - 7:30pm  
**Comedy Night**  
 Thurs. Aug 15, 2019 - 8:00pm  
**Zydeco-A-Go-Go ~ Music of New Orleans/R&B**  
 Fri. Aug. 16, 2019 - 7:30pm  
**Tru Sol ~ R&B**  
 Tue. Aug. 20, 2019 - 7:30pm

**Comedy Night**  
 Thurs. Aug 22, 2019 - 8:00pm  
**Promised Land ~ Springsteen Tribute**  
 Fri. Aug. 23, 2019 - 7:30pm  
**Reminisce DooWop/ Oldie's/Motown**  
 Tue. Aug. 27, 2019 - 7:30pm  
**Epic Soul ~ Soul/R&B**  
 Tue. Sept. 3, 2019 - 7:30pm  
**Able Ovidia Quartet ~ Jazz**  
 Fri. Sept. 6, 2019 - 7:30pm  
**Frontier ~ Journey Tribute**  
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## LINDEN FIRST RESPONDERS COMPETE IN BATTLE ON THE DIAMOND

*Submitted by Lt. Christopher Guenther*

On Friday, June 14, 2019, Linden First Responders put their “rivalry” aside and took the field for the annual Battle on the Diamond charity softball game.

This year the game benefitted Isabel Dominguez and Arion Mamudi, two Linden students who are battling cancer. There was no charge to attend the game, but thanks to donations from the Linden Police Superior Officers Association, Linden PBA Local #42, and Linden FMBA Locals 34 & 234, as well as concessions sales and generous private donations, each family was presented several thousand dollars to help offset the costs associated with treatment.

The ceremonies started with a presentation of the flags by members from the Police and Fire

Department Honor Guards, and a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem by members of the Linden High School NJROTC. Then Isabel and Arion threw out the ceremonial first pitch to start the game.

The Fire Department won the game convincingly, but for those in attendance the game was secondary. “These kids are so courageous in their fight, so brave,” said Linden

Police Chief Dave Hart. “To see so many people come together and support them is really what this is all about.”

Thank you to all those who made this event possible, especially Firefighter Michael Jackson and Captain Jeff Vitrano for organizing the event, the teachers and staff of Linden Public Schools, the Linden High School NJROTC, and DJ Cole Pardi for providing the entertainment.



(above) Isabel Dominguez and Arion Mamudi were both presented with checks to help offset the costs associated with their treatments.

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## LINDEN LOGISTICS CENTER BREAKS GROUND

Greek Development, Advance Realty, and PGIM Real Estate in a joint venture project recently broke ground and began construction on the former Dupont and ISP properties, which will be called Linden Logistics Center. This is a 350 acre tract of land off South Wood Avenue in the Tremley Point industrial area.

Frank Greek, owner of Greek Development said, "The centralized location of New Jersey, the talented workforce that New Jersey has, and the transportation that New Jersey has to be able to serve the population in this whole part of the country has made New Jersey excellent for warehousing, distribution, manufacturing, and research."

"The eight building, 4.1 million square-foot site is the largest industrial development in the Port of New York/New Jersey and will consist of Class A warehouse building designed to meet the needs of logistics, distribution, fulfillment, manufacturing, last-mile-delivery and other industrial users. Also, the warehouses will offer superior access via a new bridge built directly into the project," said the developers.

Advance Realty Investors CEO Peter Coccoziello said in a statement, "As longtime leaders in New Jersey commercial real estate, we are very excited to be a part of a project this is unrivaled in not only scale, but also its modern and innovative design." He went on to say, "We are extremely thankful to the City of Linden and our project partners and look forward to attracting the kind of 21st Century employers who will create new jobs for this region and push its thriving economy to even greater heights."

Mindy Lissner, Executive Vice President of CBRE, whose company will be the exclusive leasing agents for the project, said, "We are extremely excited to lead the leasing efforts for one of the largest industrial and innovative developments in this region. Thanks to its unprecedented combination of access to a skilled workforce, vast network of highways, rail lines, air freight capabilities and one of the most active deep-sea ports in the country, this facility is a perfect home for companies searching for efficient access to New York, Philadelphia, and

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"This innovative project will create massive

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# BOE HONORS UNDEFEATED MIDDLE SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

The Linden middle schools boys baseball team "Black" was honored by the Board of Education on Thursday, June 27, 2019, for completing an undefeated season.

The team finished the season 11-0, the first undefeated season in decades.

"We are so proud of their accomplishments and they are to be commended for their performance," Acting Superintendent Denise Cleary told the audience at the Board of Education meeting. "They carried the good name of Linden throughout the county, and I know that's because of their dedication to the sport and

their commitment to our schools. The presented themselves very well throughout the season. All that hard work and dedication certainly paid off. That's something they should be very proud of."

Coach Michael Clark thanked the board and complimented his players for their effort.

"We had an excellent season. There were a few games that were very close but our team stuck it out to the very end," he said. "We just kept pushing along and getting hits and finishing games."

Clark also pointed out that all the players worked hard to maintain their grades and everyone remained eligible to play throughout the season. The audience gave this a large ovation. "More than the wins, that's a big accomplishment," he said.

The middle school baseball program expanded into two teams this year, named Orange and Black. The Black team that was undefeated was

made up almost entirely of eighth-graders.

"So we've got a nice core of really, really good student athletes coming up to the Linden High School," Clark said.

The team was made up of players from McManus and Soehl middle schools. They are Matthew Castillo, Daniel Ciprian, Jahson Correa, Ivan Cruz, Julian Cruz, Jimmie Jones, Connor Lewis, Carmine Meola-Dreissig, Michael Meola-Dreissig, Aleksander Nycz, Philip Orzechowski, Andrew Plummer, Lucas Prendez, Philip Principato, Robert Zack.

Cleary also thanked all the parents in attendance for their support throughout the season.

"It's hard when you have a student athlete, with all the back and forth to practices and games," she said. "It's a lot of extra commitment. The fact that all of you are there for them and part of that commitment, that speaks volumes."

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Photo by Linden Public Schools

(above) The undefeated Linden middle schools baseball team's players holding up their certificates after being honored by the Board of Education on June 27.

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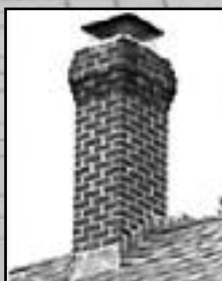
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## TWO NEW POLICE OFFICERS SWORN IN

The Police Department continued to grow as two new Officers joined the ranks. Members of the department gathered in the municipal courtroom with family, friends, and city officials to celebrate as officers Juan Smith and William Ingram took their oaths on July 16th, 2019.

“These men have done an exceptional job in their training thus far, and we are excited to welcome them to our family,” said Police Chief Dave Hart. “We would like to thank Mayor Armstead and the members of the City Council for their continued efforts to fully staff our department.”

The officers were hired in January, and graduated from the Mercer County Police Academy on July 18th.



(above) Mayor Armstead, Ofc. Smith, Ofc. Ingram, and Chief Hart.

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# LINDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 1ST ANNUAL JR FIRE ACADEMY

This year the Linden Fire Department held its 1st Jr Fire Academy. It was open to students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. During the week-long Academy these young men and women experienced what it is to be a firefighter. They had lessons and seminars at the training center in Fire House 3, on E. Elizabeth Avenue, and did their hands on training at the Union County Fire Academy on Lower Road.

On Monday, July 15th, 2019, the Linden Fire Department's Jr Fire Academy began its week-long academy by receiving a generous donation from Phillips 66 and Rotary Club.

At a recent Linden Rotary Club meeting, it

was brought up that the Linden Fire Department was going to hold its first JR Fire Academy and they were in need of safety goggles for their recruits. Rotarian Mansi Sanghvi who works at Phillips 66 went into action and reached out to the Public Affairs Manager Nancy Sadlon, Community Relations Coordinator Mary Phillips and Phillips 66 Fire Chief Anthony Muccia. Phillips 66 was more than happy to exercise their core values of "Safety, Honor and Commitment" and donate the safety goggles not only to the Jr Fire Academy recruits this year, but for future Jr Fire Academy recruits as well.

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(above) The Fire Department Jr Fire Academy Recruits, Mayor Derek Armstead, Mayor's Assistant Rebecca Tattoli, Linden Fire Chief's Assistant Sandy Jackson, Phillips 66 Fire Chief Anthony Muccia. Linden Jr Fire Academy Instructors, Rotarian's Mansi Sanghvi, John Samsel, and Michael Johnson.

Photo by City of Linden

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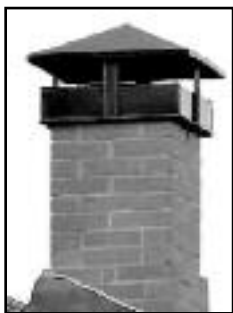
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# COSMETOLOGY CLASS ACHIEVES PERFECT PASSING RATE ON STATE EXAM

*Submitted by Gary Miller*

For the third year in a row, every senior in the Linden High School cosmetology class passed the state licensing exam.

“I am so proud of each and every one of my students’ hard work and commitment on passing the State Board of Cosmetology examination,” said teacher Maria Fabre, who is in her 14th year at LHS.

Students in the three-year program must accumulate 1,000 hours of instructional time, then pass a written exam and a hands-on test. They submit their test results along with their high school diploma to the state to become licensed to perform hairstyling and cosmetology

in New Jersey. Earning a license in a similar private school program could cost \$17,000.

This year’s seniors are Rosibell Arias Peralta, Ambar Moraga, Alexa Martinez, Biankah Osborne, Keya Davis and Angela Lopez. Five seniors passed the exam in 2018 and seven in 2017.

“Congratulations to Ms. Fabre and our cosmetology seniors for once again achieving a perfect passing rate,” said Acting Superintendent Denise Cleary. “These students have shown a commitment to the program for three years and now it’s paying off. They are prepared to enter the workforce immediately after graduating.”

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(above, l-r) All six seniors in the Linden High School cosmetology class passed the state licensing exam: Rosibell Arias Peralta, Ambar Moraga, Alexa Martinez, Biankah Osborne, Keya Davis and Angela Lopez.

Photo by Linden Public Schools

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# WALES PARK RE-OPENING CELEBRATION

The City of Linden held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the re-opening of Wales Park on Sunday, July 7th, 2019. Last year the park was vandalized and set on fire. First Ward Councilwoman Lisa Ormon, whose ward this park is a part of, was grateful that the park is finally opened again. Residents came together

and volunteered their time in helping put this re-opening together. It was a fun time for everyone. There were free hot dogs, popcorn, cotton candy, a bicycle raffle for children, and prizes for all the kids. Wales Park is located on Curtis Street just off of Wood Avenue.

Photo by City of Linden



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# LINDEN AUTHOR DONATES BOOKS

The City of Linden and the Linden Public Library would like to thank Judy England-McCarthy for the donation of her new paperback children's book "Amazing Petunia's Adventures" to the Linden Public Library. As a long-time resident of Linden she wanted to give back to

the community. Judy decided to give a copy to the Library and all the K-5 schools in Linden. It is her hope that the children of Linden will be inspired by the story and begin to follow their dreams no matter where they lead.

Photo by City of Linden.



(above, l-r) Linden Library Director Denis Perves, author Judy England-McCarthy, and Mayor Derek Armestead.

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## AUGUST IS "1939 REVISTED" AT THE LINDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Monday, to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, Closed

One of the greatest years in motion picture history was 1939. Linden Public Library will revisit that famous year of film making on its 80th anniversary, showing many of its greatest movies. They will also present more recent films which are set in 1939: 12 films in total! We begin with the most-seen film of all time, movie that defines what a classic movie is.

### The Wizard of Oz

(PG; 1939. 102 mins)

August 2 at 1:00pm

MGM's movie magic makers turn this month's 'Book-to-Film' entry from the pages of L. Frank Baum's popular books into the most widely viewed film in cinematic history.

### Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

(NR; 1939. 129 mins)

August 6 at 2:00pm

This film about an honest man's appointment to the Senate is a Frank Capra classic about politics and corruption in the federal government. Jimmy Stewart stars.

### Stagecoach

(NR; 1939. 96 mins)

August 6 at 6:00pm

This classic western paired director John Ford and John Wayne for the first time.

### The King's Speech

(R; 2010. 118 mins)

August 9 at 1:00pm

This 2010 Best Picture Oscar winner features Colin Firth as George VI and Geoffrey Rush as his speech teacher, leading up to his war declaration speech in 1939.

### Ninotchka

(NR; 1939. 110 mins)

August 13 at 2:00pm

American audiences were first introduced to Greta Garbo in this Billy Wilder hit.

### Wuthering Heights

(NR; 1939; 104 mins)

August 16 at 1:00pm

This Emily Bronte novel gets a fabulous treatment in this Oscar winning film.

### Goodbye, Mr. Chips

(NR; 1939; 114 mins)

August 20 at 2:00pm

Robert Donat won an Oscar for his portrayal of an aged boarding school headmaster.

### Hyde Park on Hudson

(R; 2012. 94 mins)

August 20 at 6:00pm

This film highlights the visit of the King and Queen of England to Roosevelt's New York home in June 1939. Bill Murray portrays FDR.

### Stan & Ollie

(PG; 2018; 98 mins)

August 23 at 1:00pm

The story of one of the greatest comedy teams of all time is told in this 2018 film.

### Gone With The Wind

(NR; 1939. 238 mins)

August 27 at 1:00pm

This Best Picture Oscar winner takes Margaret Mitchell's 1936 best seller of the Civil War to the silver screen in grand style.

### Young Mr. Lincoln

(NR; 1939. 100 mins)

August 29 at 2:00pm

One of the greatest performances Henry Fonda ever gave us was as a young Abraham Lincoln in this Oscar-nominated movie.

### A Star Is Born

(NR; 1937. 111 mins)

August 30 at 1:00pm

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The Linden P.A.L. has been a safe haven for our youth for many years. The P.A.L. plays a

major role in the development of our youth by teaching social skills, the value of teamwork, and the fundamentals of sports. Most importantly, the P.A.L. allows the youth to build long lasting friendships.

Currently, the P.A.L. offers Winter Basketball, Spring Baseball, and Summer Basketball. We are also offering a free Baseball clinic to those that registered for any sport during the calendar year. Please feel free to follow our Facebook and Instagram pages to see all the wonderful activities going on at the Linden P.A.L.

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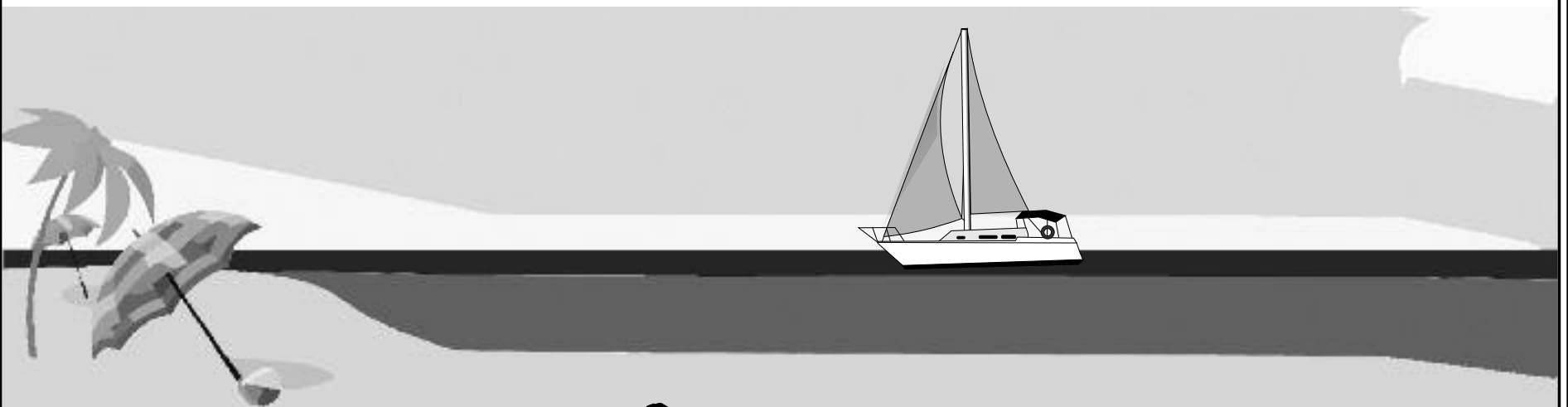
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