

HERALD



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Laura Lane/Herald

CARLOS VAZQUEZ WAS overwhelmed by the support he received from the Glen Cove Hospital staff when he was released on Tuesday. He was hit by a car on Oct. 6 while attending to his duties as a crossing guard for the Glen Cove City School District.

G.C. school crossing guard, a 'man of steel,' leaves hospital

By **LAURA LANE**
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Carlos "Charlie" Vazquez wiped away tears of gratitude on Tuesday when he saw the crowd of people waving colorful pompoms and heard clapping and cheering in the lobby of Glen Cove Hospital. He was leaving at last, after being hospitalized for over 100 days.

The accident he survived, in which he was hurled 20 feet in the air before landing on a cement sidewalk, might have claimed the life of someone else, but not her "man of steel,"

his wife, Elizabeth Martino, said. She and their daughter Bryana Vazquez, 27, never doubted he would recover, although it was touch and go for a good while.

Vazquez, 56, who lives in Glen Cove, is employed by the hospital in its environmental services department and is also a crossing guard at the Glen Cove City School District.

Vazquez had just crossed a group of children on Dosoris Lane outside Deasy Elementary School on the morning of Oct. 6 when he was struck from behind by an SUV driven by

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Celebrating King's legacy

By **ROKSANA AMID**
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Glen Cove city officials, the local community and faith leaders from across the North Shore gathered on Monday to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, as they have done for the past 39 years.

Beginning with a symbolic march from First Baptist Church of Glen Cove to Finley Middle School, the event served as an opportunity for the community to reflect on the principles of racial equality and nonviolent social change spearheaded by King. Glen Cove is one of two localities on Long Island that offer consecutive and annual community programs in honor of King.

King is remembered for his tireless civil rights work, which included leading marches throughout the segregated South in the 1950s and 1960s. He worked to end racial segregation on public transportation and in public schools and work-

places, and called for racial equality on the national level. He became the most influential leader of the civil rights movement, giving passionate speeches, risking arrest, and ultimately giving his life for a cause that continues to this day.

Even if it's a smile, even if you don't have a lot of money, your time can make a difference. Even if you don't know what else to do, listening to someone can make a difference.

BRENDA LOPEZ
Glen Cove

This year marks the city's first in-person gathering for the event since March 2020.

Once everyone arrived at Finley's Wunsch Auditorium on Monday, the commemorative program began. After several calls of "Harambe!" — Swahili for "all pull together" — led by M.C. Sheryl Goodine, the audience was reenergized for the occasion

after their march to the school.

"This is the first program when I can proudly introduce my friend, who I consider to be like a second son, as the principal of Glen Cove High School," Goodine said, before introducing Allen Hudson and inviting him to the stage. Goodine, whose father marched with

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Nassau County Republicans call on Santos to resign

By **MICHAEL MALASZCZYK**

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George Santos has faced stiff opposition from his colleagues since arriving at Capitol Hill last week. It looks like he won't be having an easy time at home, either.

Republican leaders from across the county gathered at GOP headquarters in Westbury Thursday and called on Rep. George Santos to resign after his trail of fabrications. The news conference was led by Nassau GOP chairman Joseph Cairo, Jr.

"He's disgraced the House of Representatives, and we do not consider him one of our congresspeople," Cairo said. "Today on behalf of the Nassau County Republican Committee. I'm calling for his immediate resignation."

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman stated all constituents who have Santos as a representative should refer to newly minted U.S. Rep. Anthony D'Esposito's office for assistance with their issues. Those that can't go to D'Esposito will be redirected to the offices of U.S. Senators Chuck Schumer or Kirsten Gillibrand — both Democrats.

"I am joined here with my colleagues in calling on George Santos's resignation, because he cannot serve anymore," Blakeman said. "My office will have no interaction with George Santos or his staff until he resigns."

Blakeman also called Santos a "pathological liar." D'Esposito is still in Washington but joined the news conference through videoconference.

"I think that what's most important as a public servant is treating the public with respect and gaining authority — something that all of you behind that podium have done," D'Esposito said, referring to his fellow Republicans. "George Santos does not have the ability to serve here in the House of Representatives and should resign."



Michale Malaszczyk/Herald

GLEN COVE MAYOR was among the Republicans who spoke demanding that George Santos resign.

All three of Nassau County's town supervisors attended and delivered remarks as well.

"I join with my colleagues, the town board, the elected officials in our community and all of us in Nassau County Republican team, when we ask Mr. Santos to resign immediately," said Joseph Saladino, supervisor for the Town of Oyster Bay, before looking directly at the cameras. "George, I'm speaking to you. It's time to step down."

"The lies George Santos told are too numerous to count," Jennifer DeSena, Town of North Hempstead supervisor, said. "And while I'm offended and disgusted at his deceit, my true concern is for the residents of the

third congressional district. The longer he remains in office, the longer the residents of the third congressional district will suffer. Mr. Santos, haven't you done enough harm? I call on Mr. Santos to immediately resign."

Glen Cove Mayor Pam Panzenbeck also said Santos should step down. "We need representation that we can count on," she said. "He's told so many lies he doesn't know what the truth is and he's making a mockery out of the entire congressional system."

Also attending were Senators Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick and Jack Martins, as well as Assemblyman Jake Blumencranz.

"It is a great stain on the Republican Party of Nassau County that he worked with us," Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick said. "I am particularly offended also, as a representative of the Five Towns and the Orthodox community. What he did regarding his religious status was exceptionally offensive. And for them, I stand here and ask that he step down."

Santos has been under fire since a New York Times report that challenged pretty much all the claims he has made about himself throughout this recent campaign, and his 2020 unsuccessful run against Tom Suozzi. Everything from education, employment, philanthropic activity, and salaries don't check out.

George Santos himself, as reported by CNN, is ignoring this call to resign. Asked by reporters mere moments after this news conference if he would, Santos made it clear. "I will not," he said, before declining to answer additional questions. But he did comment on Twitter:

"I was elected to serve the people of NY-03 not the party & politicians," Santos tweeted. "I remain committed to doing that and regret to hear that local officials refuse to work with my office to deliver results to keep our community safe and lower the cost of living. I will NOT resign!"

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Tab Hauser/Herald photos

MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr. day began with a march from First Baptist Church of Glen Cove to Finley Middle School, which served as an opportunity for community members to reflect on the principles of racial equality and nonviolent social change that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made his life's work.

City reflects on King's message of equal rights

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

King, is a former assistant principal of the high school.

In an interview with the Herald before the event, Hudson said the holiday is a day to reflect upon a man who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

"As an African American male, I believe it's my duty to make sure I'm involved in the event and pay homage to a man who gave his all," Hudson said.

The ceremony featured performances by Glen Cove High School's select chorale and drumline, young dancers from the Edge School of the Arts dance company and the First Baptist Church Adult Choir. The themes tying all performances together were the importance of speaking out about equality for all, and King's enduring legacy of community service.

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a man of deep faith, compassion and dedication," Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said. "He reminded us all that the time is always right to do right. He challenged us all to live up to the fact that we are all created equal and that we have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The message King gave so many years ago remains relevant today, Panzenbeck added — and although it's heard by many, it's not embraced by all. "We must all strive to do something good every day, to treat one another with dignity and respect and to help one another when we can," she said.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. For Glen Cove, the program recognized the efforts of the North Shore Soup Kitchen and NOSH, an extension of the soup kitchen. Both programs provide weekly hot and nutritious meals for community members in need.

One of the morning's speakers, Brenda Lopez, spoke of her experi-



NOSH HAD A table at the entrance to the middle school to collect food for those in need. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage Americans to volunteer in their communities.

ence as a single mother when she first moved to the city years ago during Thanksgiving.

"I was in a very difficult situation," Lopez said. "I was too proud to ask my family for food, for help or for anything."

Lopez said a good friend placed her on a list to receive food donations for the holiday. She was touched by the gesture and realized that Glen Cove was a community in which people care for one another.

"It was something that has stuck with me, it is something that I will never forget," Lopez said. "I am so thankful for people who decide to serve others because at one point it was me."

Lopez said she wants to encourage people in the community to make a difference. "Even if it's a smile, even if you don't have a lot of money, your time can make a difference," she said. "Even if you don't know what else to do, listening to someone can make a difference."



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

JEREMIAH DOMINIQUE LED the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Sheryl Goodine was the emcee. Their voices entertained and inspired the crowd as it reflected on King's message.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

- Born: Jan. 15, 1929, in Atlanta
- Graduated Morehouse College, 1948
- Received a bachelor's degree in divinity from Crozier Theological Seminary, 1951
- Married Coretta Scott, 1953
- Became pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, 1954
- Received doctorate in theology from Boston University, 1955
- Received national attention for his role in organizing successful Black boycott of Montgomery, Alabama, buses, 1955-56
- Founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to educate Blacks in non-violent civil disobedience, 1957
- Delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, 1963
- Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, 1964
- Organized campaign for voter registration in Selma, Alabama, and the march from Selma to Montgomery, 1965
- Began work in urban slums of Chicago, 1965-66
- Organized Poor People's Campaign in Washington, D.C., 1968
- Assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968
- First national celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 1986
- Groundbreaking for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, 2006

— Roksana Amid

Crossing guard touched by children's support

January 19, 2023 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

an 82-year-old Bayville man. Vazquez, who has a prosthetic leg from an accident years ago, doesn't remember anything from the day of his recent accident until early November.

Vazquez suffered two cardiac arrests, one before being airlifted to Manhasset's North Shore University Hospital and an additional one in the emergency room. Rushed to the intensive critical care unit, he was diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury, fractured pelvis, and kidney failure. Stabilizing, he was admitted to Glen Cove Hospital's brain injury unit on Oct. 25. There, he continued what doctors said on Tuesday was a remarkable recovery.

Once outside the hospital, Vazquez wiped away even more tears when he was greeted by roughly 75 children, many waving homemade signs of support. His friends had also come, as did residents and members of Glen Cove's first responders who lined the walkway to celebrate Vazquez's survival and congratulate him on his ability to return home.

He and his family say they know he will recover. And doctors, are hopeful too. Although he left the hospital in a wheelchair, Martino said doctors think he will walk again.

"I'm excited for him to come home," she said. "You gotta have faith."

It has been a rough road for Bryana, too. A secretary at the hospital's brain

injury unit, she rushed to the site of the accident when a friend called her to say her father had been injured.

"My world just stopped that day," she recalled. "Dad and I are very close. When I got to the scene, I didn't care what he looked like. He needed to see me. To hear them say, 'Your dad won't make it,' it hits you hard."

Her mother quickly said they didn't know her husband, calling him a fighter, Bryana said.

"He and I both work on the floor where he recovered — the brain injury unit," she said. "We knew the nurses. He got wheeled into his room on a red carpet."

Vazquez made many friends among the nurses at Northwell as well, Bryana said. They would stop by to see how he was even if they weren't assigned to him.

Describing her father as her best friend, Bryana said the experience of seeing him recover — his tenacity and courage through it all — has led her to make some changes in her life. She now is training to be a bodybuilder and has returned to nursing school.

"I'm pushing to reach my goal," she said. "I want to show him how he inspires me. He's actually always been an inspiration to me. He might be competing again too."

Vazquez had his first accident in 1985 when he was hit by a 40-ton Mack truck. He underwent many surgeries, but his leg was amputated the following year on his 21st birthday and he was fitted for a pros-



Laura Lane/Herald

CARLOS VAZQUEZ WAS visibly touched on Tuesday by the support of dozens of children, who captured the moment on their phones.

thetic leg.

Prior to the accident, he had run the New York City Marathon and was training as a long-distance runner for the 1988 Olympics. Vazquez, a 1983 Glen Cove High School graduate, is among those honored at its Wall of Fame for his record for a mile — 4 minutes, 20 seconds.

Nothing has ever stopped Vazquez. Before his latest accident, he rode his motorcycle and his Jet Ski, swam and kite-boarded. He's not the type to give up.

Martino said her husband wants to return to being a crossing guard, though she and Bryana wish he wouldn't.

"Every day he'd come home and say, 'I almost got hit by a car,'" she said. "But he loves the job and the kids."

Vazquez often asked the children how they were doing in school, and they'd show him their report cards and test scores. If they did well, he would give them small

crossing guard badges and encourage them to continue to progress in school. He was popular among the children.

"We have 230 cards, posters, Christmas cards, all from the children," Martino said. "He knew some of the kids who made them. When he'd see them, he'd get very emotional. He didn't realize how many people cared."

Jefferson Thomas, 13, and Thanasi Averopoulos, 12, were among the children waiting for Vazquez outside the hospital. Holding a red sign, they hoped the message, "GC Strong," would inspire their favorite crossing guard to continue to get well.

"It's really sad what happened to him," Jefferson said.

"He's a good man," Thanasi added. "He's friendly and always used to say good things about us. I'm glad he's out of the hospital."

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Educating the city's youth on veteran histories

By **ROKSANA AMID**
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In recognition of the city's veterans, the Glen Cove Public Library and the Veterans Services Department are continuing their Glen Cove Salutes program, giving the community an opportunity to sponsor military tribute banners that will be displayed on lampposts across Morgan Park from Memorial Day through Veterans Day. They are also expanding the program to incorporate a commemorative website and an essay contest for middle and high school aged children who are Glen Cove residents.

Lydia Wen Rodgers, a librarian at Glen Cove Public Library and Anthony Jimenez, the director of the Veterans Affairs Office, presented the tribute banners at the City Council's pre-council meeting on Feb 2021.

"It will give them the honor that they deserve," Wen Rodgers said.

When she started the program last year, she learned quickly that veterans are humble and are hesitant to have their photos on display. But she is going forward anyway to be sure they are honored.

Fifty-two banners were sold last year. Because of the project's success, 92 banners

will be available this year. The price will remain the same — \$99 for a banner placed before March 1. The banners, purchased by families, is available only to sponsor Glen Cove veterans.

City historian Dave Nieri purchased banners for his father, Dante R. Nieri, who served in the Navy. He purchased a second banner for his father-in-law George Melchione who served in the Army Air Corps.

Author Gloria Respress-Churchwell, wrote the children's book, "Follow Chester," detailing the life of Dr. Chester Pierce, a 1944 graduate of Glen Cove High School, the class president and valedictorian. He studied at Harvard Medical School and played on the football team and was the first Black college athlete to play south of the Mason-Dixon line when Harvard visited the University of Virginia. Pierce was a commander in the Navy, surgeon general of the Air Force and a psychiatrist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for 25 years.

Respress-Churchwell was eager to contribute to the banner project given her detailed understanding of Pierce's life.

When the banner project started last year, Wen Rodgers didn't know how popular it would be or where they could be placed. At the time, she decided to position the banners at the lower portion of the park.

In addition to this project, a supplemental online exhibit was created to recognize veterans outside their respective holidays.

"If family or friends don't want to repeat buying a banner, we have an online presence for them," Wen Rodgers said.

Project coordinators asked the families and friends of veterans to write a reflection or provide more pictures. So far, there are nine submissions, including one from Niri. The site has been up since Memorial Day and was directly created by Wen Rodgers and the Veterans Affairs Office.

"We wanted to make the project a little bit better," Wen Rodgers said. "So this

coming year we will be working with schools and have two essay contests."

The first contest is the Liberties Torch titled "Lessons I Learned from a Veteran." This contest is available to six through eighth grade students who reside in Glen Cove, but do not have to attend the city's schools.

Respress-Churchwell said she hopes children learn that there are many sacrifices that were and are made by veterans.

"We're standing here because of those who helped to lift us up and the veterans have to get their due in that," she said.

"Echoes of Freedom," the second contest, asks students what it means to serve your country. This contest is available for students grades nine through 12. The deadline for contests is April 30 with a price of \$250 each.

"I hope they understand the level of commitment that people have made," Niri said. "I encourage anything like this which gets people to understand what people did in the past to serve their country or serve their community because we need to reinvigorate those ideas."

For more information and to pick up a submission form for the contests, applicants should email LWen@glencovelibrary.org.

I hope they understand the level of commitment that people have made.

DAVE NIRI
Glen Cove

Thank You

January 2023

To my neighbors,

Happy New Year! This is traditionally the time of year to look forward, but it is also a time to reflect and take stock of the past. For my family, this year is particularly special as it marks both an ending and a new beginning. As you may know, after serving for 34 years as your Glen Cove City Court Judge, I have reached mandatory retirement age.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you, my friends and neighbors in Glen Cove, for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your Judge.

As a community, we have made many great strides together. Throughout my career, my first priority has always been education, and helping to ensure that every young person has a bright future. Looking back, one of my proudest memories is working with the Teen Court program at Glen Cove High School, which I established in 2002 in conjunction with the Nassau County District Attorney's office and the N.Y.S. Office of Court Administration. The program was designed to teach young people about the justice system by participating in real court cases officiated by high school students.

I have dedicated myself tirelessly to unifying our diverse community in a quest to protect and nurture all of Glen Cove's young people, working with the school district to fight opioid addiction, volunteering for the youth and family programs at the YMCA, and providing a safe harbor for any of our residents who find themselves in trouble. Watching so many of Glen Cove's students grow up into responsible adults making their homes here in our city has been one of my greatest rewards.

As the years have gone by, it has been my steadfast pledge to preside over the Glen Cove City Court with a firm yet fair hand. There have been so many kind and dedicated people who have been by my side to help me keep that promise, far too many to mention here.

None, however, is as important as my family, who have been my guiding light and inspiration. Their continued allegiance to my goals has helped me build a legacy of integrity, truth and service that I hope will endure many years into the future at the Glen Cove City Court.

Thank you again, from the bottom of my heart, for granting me the privilege of serving as your Glen Cove City Court Judge.

Sincerely Yours

The Hon. Richard J. McCord and Family



HERALD NEIGHBORS

January 19, 2023 – GLEN COVE HERALD



Tim Baker/Herald photos

AFTER THE EVENT was over, everyone said one last goodbye marking the day with a photograph. Sienna Quiroz, far right, made sure he wore his fire helmet to the event.

First responders at storytime

First responders are always there when you need them. They respond to the calls of their communities in times of crisis, but at the Glen Cove Library, they responded to the community in a different way.

On Saturday, Glen Cove police and firemen went to the library to read and draw with young children. While the children were drawing pictures of firemen, first responder vehicles and first responders putting out fires, they learned lessons in safety.

Police told children what to do in times of danger and warned them not to talk to strangers. Firemen talked to children about fire safety and what they should do if they're near one.

AVA BUCHHOLTZ AND Victor Perez got creative.

DETECTIVE TED KAROUSOS, far right, spoke to children about safety.



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Ana Borruto/Herald

EMMANUEL DEPAS, LEFT, Marie Pereira, Judith Hospedales and Nassau County Legislator Carrié Solages, gathered at the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building the day before the 13th anniversary of the 2010 Haiti earthquake to raise awareness for new immigration policy.

Migrating from Haiti, with a little support

By **ANA BORRUTO**
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It's been more than a decade since an earthquake devastated Haiti, killing more than 200,000 people, and leaving so many more thousands homeless. To this day, the Caribbean country continues to recover, all while facing other ongoing challenges such as limited access to health care, as well as poverty, political instability and violence.

While a lot of political talk in Washington is focused on what's happening at the U.S.-Mexico border, Nassau County Legislator Carrié Solages has joined immigration law professionals to share details of an expanded program under the Biden administration intended to provide legal pathways to America for migrants from Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela as well as war-torn Ukraine.

"This is a positive development, and a humanitarian way to allow people to seek asylum," Solages said. "We have witnessed so many people risking their lives in order to make it here in the United States."

This new policy allows up to 30,000 individuals from these four countries to come to the United States per month for a period of up to two years — all receiving work authorization. These individuals must have an eligible sponsor, and pass a series of vetting and background checks.

To reduce overcrowding and wait times at U.S. ports of entry, those who are legal immigrants or citizens of the United

States can apply for someone in Haiti to come to America through an online application called the I-134A form, which gives that sponsor a chance to provide a declaration of financial support.

"They are basically asking you how are you going to take care of this person you are legally sponsoring, the person who is now called the beneficiary," said Marie Pereira, founder of the Haiti Immigration Project. "Do you have the financial resources to take care of this person's needs, from health to housing to clothing? Everything."

This is something for a country that is suffering too much, and we have so much we can offer in this country.

ELSIE SMITH
Haitian Elmont resident

Once the sponsor is approved, the beneficiary is required to submit their fingerprints and undergo an extensive background check. They also must be vaccinated for Covid-19, have a valid passport, and proof they are a Haiti native, Pereira added.

Those younger than 18 have to be accompanied by an adult who is their parent or legal guardian.

Judith Hospedales, an immigration law expert and formerly of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, said with the influx of displaced migrants in various states, the administration is trying to cut back on the issues migrants face when they arrive to the border.

Many migrants are seeking asylum — meaning they fear for their safety, or they believe they could be harmed if they stay in their home country — and want protection from another nation, like the United States.

But there are many who may not qualify for asylum status. In that case, they can

Who can become a sponsor?

Anyone who has legal status to live in the United States can sponsor a Haitian immigrant to the United States by submitting a free I-134A application.

That legal status means being a U.S. citizen, green card holder, or someone with temporary protection status.

However, sponsors should be wary of trying to bring in strangers, said Judith Hospedales. The further apart

the relationship between the sponsor and the person looking to come from Haiti, the more difficult it will be to prove that a person can be a suitable sponsor and financially responsible for the beneficiary.

To learn more, visit tinyurl.com/SponsorHaiti.

— Ana Borruto

apply for temporary protection status, more commonly known as TPS. This status is for certain individuals who cannot return to their countries of origin because of circumstances within the country, such as those same countries not having the resources or capacity to take back their citizens at that particular time.

Emmanuel Depas, immigration attorney, founder and first president of the Haitian American Lawyers Association in New York, said prospective sponsors must take this process very seriously. Solages emphasized the importance of working with professionals like Depas when going through the sponsorship process.

"You have to say 'yes' with caution and understand what you're getting into," Depas said. "In those two years, you're going to have to support (beneficiaries) financially, socially and help them get them acclimated to U.S. culture.

"I implore you to develop patience throughout this process."

The Haitian American population is one of the fastest growing demographics in Nassau County, Solages said, with many living in communities like Elmont,

Freeport, Uniondale, Valley Stream and Hempstead. According to the most recent census numbers, the total Haitian population was just over 850,000 nationwide, with nearly 155,000 living in New York alone.

Haiti itself has a little more than 11 million people.

Elsie Smith has lived in the United States for 52 years, spending the last decade in Elmont. She wants to sponsor six family members who now live in Haiti — a widower father, his sister and his four kids, whose mother passed away five years ago. The children had to stop going to school last September.

Smith is grateful for the humanitarian relief program as it will give these children better opportunities in the United States.

"This is something for a country that is suffering too much, and we have so much we can offer in this country," Smith said, through tears. "I live in a house with six bedrooms all by myself — I will provide, (the father) can get his papers for work, and the four children can go to school."

STEPPING OUT



Monster trucks invade Long Island

By Karen Bloom

Monster truck madness is back on Long Island this weekend when for two action-packed days at Nassau Coliseum. In this version, families can watch their favorite Hot Wheels trucks come to life when the Hot Wheels 'Glow Party' lights up the arena, Jan. 21-22.

While geared to the younger generation of monster truck fans, there is nothing tame about this version. You'll still experience all the action of the 12-foot-tall, 10,000-pound machines will that bring audiences to their feet, racing and ripping up a custom-designed track full of obstacles to soar over — or smash through — delighting onlookers. A laser light show adds to the spectacle — the trucks maneuver their way through their stunts in a darkened arena.

Their names — Gunkster, Race Ace, Mega Wrex, Bone Shaker, Tiger Shark, Bigfoot and Demo Derby — reflect the outrageous mix of racing and showmanship that enthrall both the drivers and their fans.

"Big trucks, big engines, crushing cars, hanging out with the fans, I love it all," says Eric Steinberg, 22. "It's an indescribable adrenaline rush."

It's clear Steinberg loves his job. In fact, he doesn't describe his role as a "job." It's his passion — what he was born to do.

Like his fellow drivers, Steinberg became enthralled with the big trucks at a young age. Missouri-born and raised, he was 3 years old when he went to his first monster truck event. From that moment on he was hooked.

"I just knew this is what I wanted," he says. "Monster trucks are amazing, and caught my attention more than anything else. I looked up to the drivers as my heroes. I remember how I felt and that helped me transition to being a driver."

Determined to follow his dream, he enrolled in State Technical College of Missouri's Automotive Technology High-Performance Program. After his 2021 graduation, he hooked up with the Bigfoot team. Bigfoot, a name synonymous with the

WHERE & WHEN

- Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 21-22; times vary
- Tickets start at \$40 adult, \$24 child; \$10 additional for Crash Zone (prices are subject to change); available at HotWheelsMonsterTrucksLive.com or NassauColiseum.com
- Located at Nassau Coliseum, Uniondale



Courtesy Hot Wheels Monster Trucks Live



monster truck world, was Steinberg's entrée into the circuit. He debuted Gunkster, first created by Hot Wheels for its 2021 Monster Trucks Series collectibles, in 2022.

He'll be in high gear with all his tricks, driving Gunkster through all the non-stop action, which includes a wheelie competition, long jumps, freestyle, and even motocross. And if that is not enough, there'll be a special appearance by the car-eating, fire-breathing transforming robot Megasaurus.

Steinberg encourages everyone to come to the Crash Zone pre-show, Saturday, at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., and Sunday, at noon. Crash Zone gives fans access to the arena floor where they can view of the trucks up-close and meet the drivers, get autographs and take photos and, of course, check out some toy versions of the big trucks.

"Fans love it," says Steinberg. "The kids are excited to see the trucks before the show. It's all for them. For me, I always wanted to meet the drivers as a kid. I always looked up to them as my heroes. And now I want to be that hero. Meeting the fans is truly special and encourages us."

Top photo: Gunkster, driven by Eric Steinberg, and other popular trucks, including Tiger Shark, will thrill fans with exciting car-crunching feats as they fly more than 35 feet in the air. Three stories tall and weighing more than 50,000 pounds, Megasaurus — at left — roars into the arena ready to chomp.



Branford Marsalis

After some scheduling delay — in part due to the pandemic — the renowned saxophonist makes his long-awaited appearance at the Madison Theatre with his quartet. The NEA Jazz Master, triple-Grammy Award winner and musical polymath with his stellar ensemble — pianist Joey Calderazzo, bassist Eric Revis and drummer Justin Faulkner — bring the brilliance that has made this quartet one of the most revered and influential in jazz. Marsalis is equally at home performing concertos with symphony orchestras and sitting in with members of the Grateful Dead, but the core of his musical universe remains the Branford Marsalis Quartet. After more than three decades of existence with minimal personnel changes, this celebrated ensemble is acclaimed for its uncompromising interpretation of a kaleidoscopic range of both original compositions and jazz and popular classics.

Friday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m. \$40-\$95.
Madison Theatre, Molloy University campus, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. (516) 323-4444 or MadisonTheatreNY.org.



Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company

The Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company welcomes the coming of spring, the Year of the Black Water Rabbit. It's a spectacular experience for all ages, combining traditional Chinese dance with modern flair. The Red Lions dance to a hip hop beat. The Golden Dragon brings good luck and fortune for the coming year. The ensemble also showcases a contemporary dance work, 'Ashes of A Dead Frog,' choreographed by legendary Polish Choreographer Jacek Luminski that was commissioned by Nai-Ni Chen almost a decade ago. Guest artists from the Chinese Music Ensemble of New York provide traditional and contemporary music on classical and folk Chinese instruments. Dancers, acrobats and musicians perform in festive costumes in red, gold, blue and purple colors symbolizing their prayer for a peaceful and harmonious New Year with plenty of prosperity and good fortune for everyone to enjoy and share.

Sunday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m. \$52, \$42, \$32. Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville. (516) 299-3100 or TillesCenter.org.

THE \$ SCENE



Jan. 27

Friends of the Brothers

Friends of the Brothers visits the Landmark stage with their dynamic tribute to the Allman Brothers, Friday, **Jan. 27**, 8 p.m. Their powerful celebration of the Allman Brothers, featuring musicians closely associated with the original band, continues the brotherhood with passion, committed to the ideals of every night being special and unique. Their first-hand experience with the Allman Brothers Band and their deep knowledge of the repertoire and the music's roots and heritage allows them to play with an unrivaled depth. Hear songs from every stage of the Allman Brothers' career, backed by a band of inspirational, veteran players. \$33, \$28. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. (516) 767-6444 or LandmarkOnMainStreet.org.

Feb. 23

Art talk

Grab your lunch and join Nassau County Museum of Art Docent Riva Ettus for her popular "Brown Bag Lecture" live, via Zoom, Thursday, **Feb. 23**, 1 p.m. She'll discuss the current exhibition, "The Big Picture: Photography Now." Participants are invited to ask questions at the end of the program. Register at least 24 hours in advance to receive the program Zoom link. Also Feb. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

Historic Spirits Tour

Stop by Raynham Hall Museum, at 30 West Main Street in Oyster Bay, Saturday, **Jan. 28**, to learn about three generations of Townsend family occupants with Samantha Lynn Difronzo, a spiritual healer. To purchase tickets for the event visit RaynhamHallMuseum.org or call (516) 922-6808.

A Donde Llega el Silencio

Visit Planting Fields Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Road in Oyster Bay, for a performance by Argentinian musician Jacinta Clusellas, Saturday, **Feb. 18**, 6-8 p.m. Hear tunes from her second EP, "A Donde Llega el Silencio," with a wine and cheese reception following. For more information, call (516) 922-9210 or email info@plantingfields.org.

Readicculus

Jan. 28

Pop by Still Partners, 225 Sea Cliff Ave. in Sea Cliff, for a tribute to Phish, Saturday, **Jan. 28**, at 8 p.m. Listen to Phish cover band Readicculus play the band's greatest hits. For more information call (516) 200-9229.

The Joy of Collage

Stop by the Bayville Free Library, 34 School Street in Bayville, for a one hour collage class Sunday, **Jan. 22, 2-3** p.m. The class is open to all skill levels, and every participant will learn collage techniques and create their own masterpieces in any style of their choosing. For more information, contact Kristy Fumante at (516) 628-2765 or adultprograms@bayvillefreelibrary.org.

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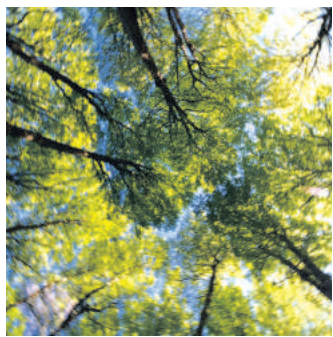
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Forest Bathing

Take a meditative Forest Bathing walk, led by certified guide Linda Lombardo, Saturday, **Jan. 21**, 2-4 p.m. Based on the Japanese tradition of Shinrin-Yoku, a wellness practice developed in the 1980s, the walk, on the grounds of the former summer residence of Howard Gould and later Daniel and Florence Guggenheim, inspires mindful connections with the natural elements of the woods for a range of healthful benefits. \$40, \$35. Pre-registration required. Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road. For information, visit SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901.

Senior Lunch Program

Enjoy visiting friends, with a delicious lunch and chair yoga, at the popular senior program hosted by Mutual Concerns, **every Tuesday**, at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, at 253 Glen Ave., in Sea Cliff. Those interested in joining the lunch program can call Peggie Como at (516) 675-7239.



Financial advice

Visit the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library, at 89 East Main Street in Oyster Bay, for an Investment Seminar Series, **every Wednesday throughout January**, 7 p.m. This program is presented by Vincent Sama, financial advisor from Edward Jones. Register online at OysterBayLibrary.org or call (516) 922-1212.



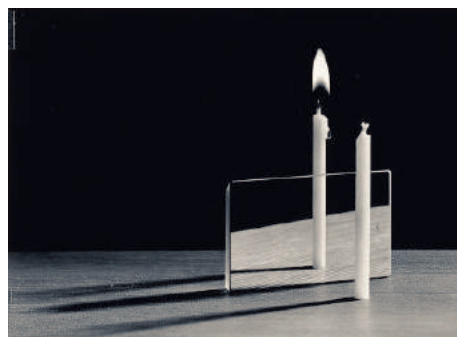
The Best of the Eagles

Get into the Eagles' groove when the tribute band visits The Paramount stage, Thursday, **Jan. 26**, 8 p.m. With special guest Fleetwood Mac. This authentic recreation features individual bandmates taking on the persona of the original Eagles members. \$39.50, \$29.50, \$19.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.



Deep Roots Indoor Winter Market

Start the New Year with a visit to Deep Roots Indoor Winter Market, Saturday, **Jan. 21**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The market, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 28 Highland Road, Glen Cove, offers locally grown vegetables, eggs, meat and dairy, as well as fresh baked goods, artisan cheeses, honey and more. For more information contact Amy Peters at amy@deeproofsfarmersmarket.com or call (516) 318-5487.



On exhibit

Photography's ascent in the art world is an international phenomenon. Nassau County Museum of Art's star-studded exhibition spans the historical roots of the medium. View works by Ansel Adams and his generation and the thrilling, large-format

color works of such contemporary masters as Cindy Sherman, Thomas Struth, James Casebere and Gregory Crewdson, among others. From the documentary to the painterly, images bear witness to the times. On view through March 5. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.



The Pigeon Comes to Long Island!

Step into activities pulled directly from the pages of Mo Willems' books, during opening weekend of Long Island Children's Museum's new exhibit, Sunday, **Jan. 22**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., in residence

through May 14. Step into activities pulled directly from the pages of Mo Willems' books, make art inspired by his work, engage in dramatic play and learn about the rich social and emotional lives of the author's characters. Interact with Willems beloved characters: best friend duo Elephant and Piggie, faithful companion Knuffle Bunny, and The Pigeon. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.

Having an event?

Items on The Scene page are listed free of charge. The Herald welcomes listings of upcoming events, community meetings and items of public interest. All submissions should include date, time and location of the event, cost, and a contact name and phone number. Submissions can be emailed to thescene@liherald.com.

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Sands casino coming to Nassau Coliseum?

By JEFFREY BESSEN

jbessen@iherald.com

A touch of Las Vegas could soon make its way to Uniondale's Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum with hotels, performance stages, and even a casino.

The Las Vegas Sands, a resort company founded by late billionaire Sheldon Adelson, wants to develop what it calls a "multibillion-dollar flagship hospitality, entertainment and casino project" at the former home of the New York Islanders off the Hempstead Turnpike near the Meadowbrook Parkway. But the acquisition of up to 80 acres of the site would require state approval.

"The plan would include a casino accounting for 10 percent of the total project, outdoor community spaces, four- and five-star hotel rooms, and a world class live performance venue honoring the legacy of live music at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum," Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman shared on Twitter.

There also would be celebrity chef restaurants, convention space and ballrooms, along with a luxurious day spa, a swimming pool, and a health club.

"We strongly believe Long Island can be home to one of the region's great entertainment and hospitality developments," said Robert Goldstein, Las Vegas Sands chair and chief executive, in a news release.

Sands, which is worth more than \$42 billion on the New York Stock Exchange, says it wants to collaborate with the surrounding communities to create a plan as a way to maximize economic opportunity while protecting the quality of life. Part of that plan would include creating 12,000 construction jobs, and then employing 5,000 people.

But making such a collaboration work will require Sands to listen, County Legislature Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams said.



Herald file photo

THE LAS VEGAS Sands resort company is considering the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum property as a site for a new upscale casino. It's championed by Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, but being met with cautious optimism by others, like County Legislature Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams.

"It is imperative for Sands resorts to conduct extensive community outreach, and then incorporate the feedback they receive into their proposal," Abrahams said. That means not only talking to the people who live in the area, but also talking to officials at Hofstra University, Nassau Community College, as well as both Hempstead town and village.

Sands also needs to reach out to local fire departments, school districts, civic associations, chambers of commerce and others as a "necessary first step for addressing concerns and identifying opportunities."

Scott Rechler is optimistic about a Sands development after nearly two decades of working to overhaul the Coliseum site.

"The plan envisioned by Sands is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create the kind of world-renowned entertainment and hospitality destination that has been

sought after by Long Islanders," said Rechler, chief executive and chair of RXR Realty, in the release.

But not everyone shares that enthusiasm. Protesters have gathered outside the Coliseum opposing the casino component, which they say promotes multiple addictions. Others believe such a development would add to the existing traffic logjam while creating a blight on the environment.

And then there are people like Jay Goldmark from Woodmere who is OK with the plan.

"Surprisingly I have no absolutely no issue with them building a casino as long as they have absolutely no exemptions granted under any circumstances as far as any construction, sales or use taxes," Goldmark posted on social media. "If they can afford to build for millions of dollars and fees etc., they surely can afford to pay the sales taxes. It will also create hundreds of jobs."

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The Medicaid Asset Protection Trust ("MAPT")

For those who don't qualify for long-term care insurance or can't afford it, the Medicaid Asset Protection Trust ("MAPT") can protect your assets from the high cost of long-term care in your home or in a facility.

The MAPT sets up two roadblocks that Medicaid cannot break through. First, you cannot be your own trustee. Usually, one or more of the adult children act as trustee.

Secondly, you, as the creator of the MAPT, are entitled to the income only, not the principal. If you don't have access to the principal (your home or other assets in the trust), then Medicaid doesn't have access to the principal. The MAPT makes good sense for assets you're not going to spend - like your home and investments you're not using. As we often say, if you don't need it to live on, then why not protect it for your family instead of losing it to pay for long-term care.

When you apply for Medicaid for nursing home care, if you've transferred any assets in the past five years, you are ineligible. The full protection of the trust only takes place five

years after you establish the trust. This is why you want to plan ahead. Under new rules to take effect in the next year or two, you will also need to have the MAPT in place two and half years in advance to be eligible for care in your own home.

The MAPT does not affect your lifestyle. You still receive your pension, social security checks, minimum distributions on your retirement plans, interest and dividends. You have the exclusive right to use and enjoy your home. You keep all your property tax exemptions. You can sell your house, buy a new one, or invest the proceeds, which remain in the trust, still protected.

The MAPT is also flexible. You can change trustees and you can change who you leave it to.

Although the MAPT is an irrevocable trust, not only does it have the flexibility mentioned above, but in New York there is a mechanism to revoke an irrevocable trust. All that is required is for all parties, you and your children, to sign. We even have a workaround just in case one of the children refuses to sign.

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Santos says he will resign if 142,000 demand it

By **WILL SHEELINE**

wsheeline@liherald.com

As more and more allegations and horror stories come out against Republican, New York Representative George Santos, the embattled conservative has doubled down and refused calls from constituents, Democrats and members of his own party to resign. While appearing on Steve Bannon's podcast "War Room," hosted by Florida Representative Matt Gaetz on Jan. 12, Santos said he would only step down if every single person who voted for him asked him to.

"I wish well all of their opinions, but I was elected by 142,000 people," Santos argued, "and until those same 142,000 people tell me they don't want me we'll find out in two years."

Santos subsequently claimed that he was elected by the people and for the people and continued to say that his goal is to serve the people of New York's 3rd Congressional District. Despite his assertions, however, almost universally residents and business owners in the district appear to be united in their condemnation of him, and demand that he

step down.

Nicholas Galatro, a resident of Oyster Bay and a registered Republican, explained that although he hasn't read too much on the Santos scandals, it was clear to him that Santos couldn't be trusted to represent the people of his district. Galatro continued to say that although he did not vote for Santos, he would happily tell the congressman to resign if given the opportunity.

"I'm not too familiar with him, but it's hard to trust someone who constantly twists their words and lies about something, especially concerning the general public," Galatro said. "Many politicians at that level have lied, but it's hard to take someone at their word when they lie as much as him."

Numerous petitions have been started across the internet calling on Santos to resign. One of them, on change.org, already has more than 15,000 signatures attached to it.

Others are reaching out to Santos' office directly to call on him to

resign, such as Michael Amendola, who lives in Northport but owns the Village Wine Merchant in Sea Cliff. Since the news broke about Santos' lies, Amendola has called the congressman's district offices twice to demand the step down.

I think Mr. Santos is a complete fraud.

MICHAEL AMENDOLA
Sea Cliff

"I think Mr. Santos is a complete fraud," Amendola said. "I personally feel that anybody who has misrepresented so many things about their past isn't someone that you can trust and isn't someone who has the constituents' best interests at heart."

Even people who voted for Santos, such as Stacie Locascio, of Glen Cove, have expressed disgust for his extensive lies and subsequent behavior and have joined the call for him to resign. Locascio also expressed optimism that 142,000 people would be willing to demand he step down.

"I think he should step aside. Resign. Go back to whatever place he came from and not run for office again," Locascio wrote on Facebook

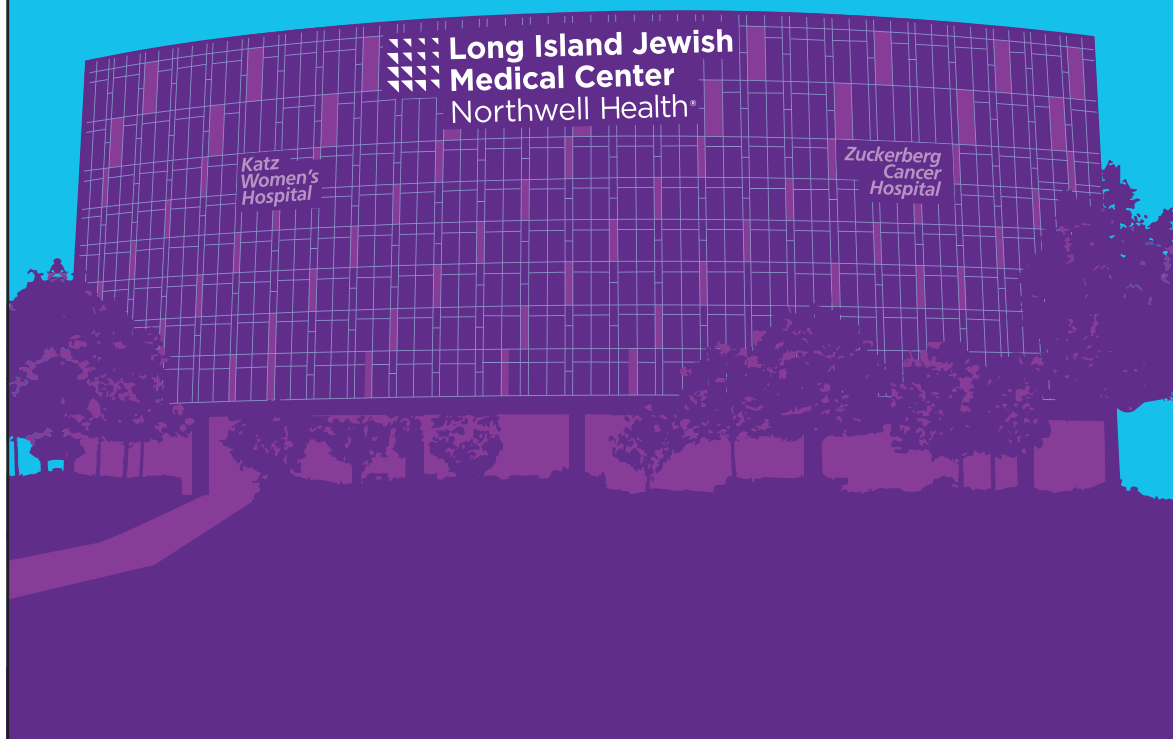
messenger. "If we don't get him out, it speaks to the lack of a moral compass in politics overall."

With the recent news that Santos has been assigned to two Congressional committees — Small Business and Science, Space and Technology — it appears that until the numerous investigations into his personal and professional finances show clear examples of fraud, Santos is here to stay. However, Santos has yet to show his face in the Third Congressional District since he was elected, prompting the creation of such movements as #Where'sGeorge? by Nassau County Legislator Josh Lafazan.

As more and more stories continue to come out about Santos, who has gone by other names such as "Anthony Devolder" in the past, it will be harder and harder for the congressman to continue to claim that he's here to serve his constituents. One recent story by Patch even alleged that he stole \$3,000 from a disabled, homeless veteran who was trying to save his sick dog's life, which Santos denied according to Fox News.

Additional reporting by Roksana Amid

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THE TOP 3 FINALISTS* IN ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Congrats to all the Top 3 Finalists in the 2022 Herald Long Island Choice Awards presented by PSEG Long Island! Check back each week for the Top 3 Reveal in each category leading up to the Oscar-style awards ceremony in April 2023. Did your favorites make it to the top? Visit www.LiChoiceAwards.com! *Finalists are listed alphabetically, not in order of placement.

ART GALLERY:

Central Galleries
The Heckscher Museum of Art
LaMantia Gallery

BOWLING:

AMF Wantagh Lanes
Maple Lanes RVC
Woodmere Lanes

CONCERT VENUE:

Barnum Ballroom
Northwell Health at Jones Beach Theater
The Paramount

ESCAPE ROOM:

Can You Escape? LI
Epic Escape Rooms LI
Just Escape

FAMILY AMUSEMENT:

Epic Escape Rooms LI
Just Escape
Long Island Children's Museum

MINI GOLF:

Crow's Nest Cove Mini Golf
Five Towns Mini Golf & Batting Range
Monster Mini Golf

NIGHT CLUB:

Barnum Ballroom
Mulcahy's Pub and Concert Hall
Southampton Social Club

PERFORMING ARTS VENUE:

Madison Theatre at Molloy University
Nassau Community College Theatre
Tilles Center

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ON THE ROAD WITH A TAKEOUT QUEEN

Stretching takeout meals for days

By Cathi Turow

Whenever I'm enjoying a delicious takeout meal, taking the last bite is always an excruciatingly sad moment. To make the experience less traumatic, I had an idea. I ordered new dishes from local eateries and created ways to stretch each one over several days. Yes, I had to open cans of vegetables and beans to make it work, but it was worth the torture. Here's where to go and what to do if you're up for making some of the latest and greatest takeout dishes in town last longer.

■ **I Am Nacho Mama** (Coming to 42 Main St., Port Washington this month) Local newspapers name this Mexican family cafe one of the best on Long Island. So, though a new branch will be opening in Port Washington any day now, I just couldn't wait. Last week, I tried I Am Nacho Mama in Hicksville. There are traditional Mexican dishes galore. I couldn't resist trying the chef's new Mexi-Cola Cauliflower Wings. Each floret is lightly fried in batter consisting of Mexican Coca Cola (made with organic cane sugar) and a variety of international spices. I could have gulped down the whole container in one sitting. Instead, I divided it into thirds and used it as a topping on different vegetable, bean, and grain bowls for three nights.

■ **Hunter** (1053 Oyster Bay Rd., East Norwich) There are five new dishes on the menu in this French/Mediterranean gourmet restaurant. They include endive salad with trout; clams casino with bacon, bell peppers and parsley; and chicken paella with chorizo and runner beans. I couldn't wait to taste the paella because the chorizo is made in the kitchen from

scratch. I also ordered an amazing linguine dish mixed with endive, Chablis, and a savory surprise — beet greens. Since I was served a generous portion, I decided to turn the linguine dish into two different dinners. First, I combined the linguine with pre-cooked shrimp. The next night, I combined it with shredded, pre-roasted chicken from Holiday Farms in Glen Head.

■ **Maldon & Mignonette** (243 Glen Cove Ave., Sea Cliff) I always marvel at the creative combinations the chef offers in this authentic American bistro with a rustic flare. Sometimes I go online just to read the menu. The winter menu includes scallop sando with garlic, jalapeno, bacon, and bricoche; and winter salad with shaved brussel sprouts, almonds, parmesan and pomegranates. I ordered my favorite newbie: beef stew with carrots, onions, parsnips, and polenta. It's comfort food on steroids, so I divided my takeout container into thirds. I made beef stew the topping for vegetables and beans three nights in a row.

■ **Orwashers Bakery** (377 Willis Ave., Roslyn Heights) I've been waiting for this Manhattan-based bakery to open for months. It's finally here! There are amazing artisan breads including a loaf made with quinoa, raisins, sunflower seeds and honey. Challah is baked in a loaf pan so it's crisp on the outside and soft on the inside. Desserts include raspberry rugalach dipped in chocolate, lemon tarts to die for, and my favorite: the sticky bun babka muffin. I couldn't stop eating it long enough to divide it into parts.

Here's to making great foods last!
See you next month!

Cathi Turow can be reached at:
cturowtakeout@gmail.com

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy of the Office of Assemblymember Charles Lavine

SHARON SPRUNG WAS presented a joint proclamation at her Brooklyn studio on Dec. 15. The proclamations were awarded to Sprung by Assemblymember Lavine and Senator Gaughran.

Native Glen Cove artist Sprung recognized for Obama portrait

Sharon Sprung, an artist who grew up in Glen Cove, painted the official portrait of former First Lady Michelle Obama. Assemblymember Charles Lavine and Senator James Gaughran visited Sprung's Brooklyn studio to present a joint proclamation in recognition of her incredible achievement. Sprung believes

her upbringing in Glen Cove was a major factor in her being selected for the prestigious honor.

"Growing up in Glen Cove, in such a diverse community, I was exposed to people of all different ethnic groups and that was part of the beauty of Glen Cove," Sprung said.

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18 inches above grade,
and the installation of a
new boulder revetment
approximately 184 linear
feet. 1026.46 cubic yards
of bluff material will be
excavated and

redistributed on site to
improve slope stability.
Additional alterations to
the site include the
installation of jute mesh
stabilization matting and
native planting which will
increase the stability of
the bluff. The project is
located at 10 Soundside
Lane, City of Glen Cove,
Town of Hempstead,
Nassau County, NY.
NCTM#31-64-37 & 529
Availability of Application
Documents:
Filed application
documents, and
Department draft permits
where applicable, are
available for inspection
during normal business
hours at the address of
the contact person. To
ensure timely service at
the time of inspection, it
is recommended that an
appointment be made
with the contact person.
State Environmental
Quality Review (SEQR)
Determination
Project is not subject to
SEQR because it is a Type
II action.
SEQR Lead Agency: None
Designated
State Historic

Preservation Act (SHPA)
Determination
The proposed activity is
not subject to review in
accordance with SHPA.
The application type is
exempt and/or the project
involves the continuation
of an existing operational
activity.
Availability For Public
Comment
Comments on this project
must be Submitted in
writing to the Contact
Person no later than
02/03/2023 or 16 days
after the publication date
of this notice, whichever
is later
Contact Person
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SUNY @ Stony Brook, 50
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Vickie, LLC. Articles of
Organization filed with
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New York (SSNY) on
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Nassau County. SSNY
designated as agent for

service of process on LLC.
SSNY shall mail a copy of
process to: Victoria
OShea; 12W William St.
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Glen Cove, NY to discuss
Local Law 01-2023,
amending Chapter 111,
Article II, adding Section
111-11.1, Construction
Site Safety Training, to
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Code of Ordinances
All interested parties will
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to be heard.
Tina Pemberton
City Clerk
136812

OBITUARIES

Robert J. Kormoski

Robert J. Kormoski, 79, of Glen Cove, died on Jan. 11. Beloved husband of Virginia "Ginny," loving father of Kathleen Schirmacher (Chris), Robert (Stephanie) and Brian. Dear brother of Helen Robson. Proud grandfather of Kyle, Collin, Mason, Avery, Riley, Brayden and Brooke. Proud Police Officer with the Glen Cove Police Dept. for over 30 years. Member of the Glen Cove Volunteer Fire Dept., member of the Glen Cove Anglers Club and Carlisle Rod & Gun Club. Robert was very active in the Glen Cove community. Visitation was at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home.

Giovanni Sacchetta

Giovanni Sacchetta, 88, of Glen Cove, died on Dec. 22, 2022. Beloved husband of Lina, loving father of Luciano (Susan) and Gianmarco (Lisa). Dear brother of Michele, Palmina and the late Antonio. Cherished grandfather of Corinna (Alex), Alexa (Brian) and Giovanni. Adored great-grandfather of Marco, Angelo and Vito. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

He was an avid gardener who loved to spend his spare time tending to his vegetables and flowers. Visitation was at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home.

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OPINIONS

The Republicans have sent in the clowns

One of my all-time favorite comedians was Groucho Marx. He always had the right response to the question of the moment. He used to say, “No matter what you ask for, the answer is no.” That describes the crazy new Republican majority in the House of Representatives.



**JERRY
KREMER**

For decades, the federal government has been providing funds for Social Security, Medicare, Homeland Security and the Department of Defense. Most rational people will tell you that these are crucial parts of the government, but various members of the new majority have targeted these programs for extinction.

When asked why they would seek to end one of these key programs, the individual Republican members would answer, “Because I don’t like it.” The idea that many members of the new majority want to bring government to its knees should be a warning sign to every American.

The Republican effort to dismantle American government is nothing new to political observers. Hundreds of Republi-

can candidates who have run for Congress have campaigned on the promise to make government smaller. They made it a point never to explain which programs they were after, because they knew specifics would kill them.

Eliminating programs goes along with the entire package of rules that were just adopted by the House of Representatives under the leadership of its new speaker, Kevin McCarthy. McCarthy has wanted to be speaker for over a decade. In 2015 he lost the job to John Boehner, and Boehner gave it to Paul Ryan. This year, for McCarthy, the speakership was now or never.

To avoid never, he agreed to a set of rules changes that at best could be described as insane. At the top of the list is a rule that will allow any one of the 435 House members to make a motion to take away the speakership from McCarthy.

Another rule allows members to single out any federal agency and vote to eliminate its budget. Because the House is empowered to craft the government’s spending plan, this rule could wipe out the entire budget of the Defense Department or the allocation for Medicare, with little or no debate in the House. The

Democratic Senate will no doubt vote against such changes, but that would leave the country without a budget.

What spells more trouble is a requirement that any increase in the debt ceiling must be matched by reductions in federal spending, which could target Social Security and Medicare. What is the next ugly byproduct of McCarthy’s failure to give into the far-right mob?

Spending limits, counterbalanced by cuts in programs, would create the possibility that Congress would default on its requirement to pay the nation’s debt. A debt default could lead to a global meltdown and a downgrading of America’s credit rating. The Republican House majority threatened debt default under President Barack Obama, but in the end, the Republicans came to their senses and approved the borrowing to keep the government functioning.

Apparently, rules changes weren’t enough for the 20 or so fringe House members as McCarthy sold his soul. In addition to giving in to them on rules, he agreed to appoint them to key committees, including the powerful Rules Committee. In effect, the group of 20 will have more power than the other 202 members

of the House majority.

It is important to explain the significance of the appointment of troublemakers to the Rules Committee. The committee has the authority to do virtually anything during the course of consideration of a measure, including deeming it passed. It can rewrite parts of a bill, or the entire measure. House members such as Lauren Boebert, of Colorado, can hold the committee hostage. It’s a recipe for disaster.

Some readers might call these observations partisan, but any student of government will tell you that *all* of these changes are a recipe for disaster. As an example of the thinking of this power cluster, Rep. Jim Jordan, of Ohio, was asked why he favored cuts in the Defense Department, and he answered that there are too many generals in the military, and we have to get rid of many of them.

When all of these so-called reformers announced their plans, I thought of the word “clowns,” and then the song “Send in the Clowns” popped up in my thinking. Clowns are funny, but not this group of them.

Jerry Kremer was an Assemblyman for 23 years, and chaired the Assembly’s Ways and Means Committee for 12 years. He now heads Empire Government Strategies, a business development and legislative strategy firm. Comments about this column? jkremer@liherald.com.

Twenty fringe House majority members have more power than the other 202.

Playing hide-and-seek with top secrets

Imagine my surprise when I opened my toaster oven to slide in a meatloaf and found a bunch of classified documents inside. Wow, I thought, secret docs are really popping up all over the place.

The papers were in a folder that said Top Secret, so I read them immediately. Showing up in my oven makes them



**RANDI
KREISS**

mine, right? Also, I took the extra precaution of declassifying them by chanting the order of the planets according to their distance from the sun, even Pluto, which is officially a nano planet. I mean, I don’t want to break any laws.

Just a few months ago, everyone was talking about a former president possessing bundles of classified documents, which he or someone close to him stuffed in various cabinets and closets in and around Mar-a-Lago, his golf club and happy place. The Justice Department, not known for leaping into action, actually raided the premises — that’s how worried it was that secrets may have fallen into the hands of spies. The former prez said

the documents were his because, well, just because. His team resisted turning them over, although the law demands that important papers get returned to the government after a president leaves office.

People wondered if spies were hanging around Mar-a-Lago, hoping to read our nuclear codes over the dessert buffet. Or maybe someone was thinking about selling information to the other side, a kind of monetizing of the outgoing presidency.

A special counsel was appointed by the DOJ to investigate the case of the purloined papers. Think: a kind of Wizard of Oz operating behind a screen.

Starting in early November, more secret documents were discovered, this time in offices and homes owned or formerly occupied by President Biden. He said he was surprised that classified material turned up under his watch, and his people did move with alacrity to give the paperwork back to the proper authorities in the government. Still.

Who is minding the store? How do secrets get passed around and land in somebody’s garage? A second special counsel was appointed. Now we have two

wizards.

Let me retreat a bit. After all, I did lose my most precious Covid-19 vaccine card just a week after I got the jab in January 2021. I awoke in the middle of the night and couldn’t remember where I had put it for super-safekeeping. I began to toss the room and the closet.

After two days of misery, I tried to contact someone at the vaccine location. Someone there told me I had to appear in person, and even then I might not be successful. So I started all over again, searching my room and closets and, in case I really misplaced it, the fridge and the inside of my sneakers. On Day 4 I found the card exactly where I had

put it originally, in a drawer. So I understand these lapses, but my vaccine card isn’t a nuclear code.

Biden apparently set down some papers and then forgot where they were, or when they needed to be returned to the government archives. More likely, he didn’t think about it all, and it was his staff that messed up.

Not so much with the other guy, who claimed possession of what were clearly classified papers and hired lawyers to

Hell, I did a better job of hiding my diary from my sister when I was 12.

fight the government’s request to return the papers to safekeeping.

I once forgot to turn off the stove. Another time, I misplaced the code for my bicycle lock. Nearly every day I forget why I jumped up to run upstairs.

But shouldn’t the Secret Service, Homeland Security, the FBI, the president’s briefers and the CIA do better? Hell, I did better hiding my diary from my sister when I was 12. No way MI-5 or the code breakers of Bletchley Park would have stashed spy secrets under a cushion.

I was surprised, but not really shocked, to find the eyes-only documents in my toaster oven. How to get rid of them? Roast? Convection bake? Air fry? I tried them all, and now I have a pile of ashes in my oven that I probably have to bake into another meatloaf, for security reasons.

This may not be the end of the story. All the president’s men and women somehow thought it was OK to store spycraft information in POTUS’s sock drawer or the ottoman at Camp David. Our government, bless its confused leaders, apparently subscribes to a special protocol for keeping secret documents secret, known as L.G.

That would be Loosey Goosey.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

We don't need Albany's concrete fist in Nassau

New York has lost Oyster Bay. Well, more accurately, the state has lost 300,000 people — the town's population — in just a single year.

Only California lost more people from domestic migration in the past year, and it wasn't by much. But at least according to census numbers, New York can only watch as an average of 820 people move to another state. Each day.

Those are the kinds of numbers you'd expect from a state that's struggling financially. But New York is anything but. In fact, it's hard to find a time when New York was more prosperous. It's just a prosperity that far too many people can't afford to take part in.

"Over the last 10 years, our state had created 1.2 million jobs, but only 400,000 new homes," Gov. Kathy Hochul said in her recent State of the State address.

Without a robust supply of homes, prices remain high. That's great for developers and landlords, but bad for everyone else. The simple fact is, if our family members, friends and neighbors can't afford to live in our communities, they'll find a neighborhood where they can.

"Many forces led to this state of affairs," Hochul said.

"But front and center are the local land-use policies that are the most restrictive in the nation. Through zoning, local communities hold enormous power to block growth."

There are certainly benefits to such power, like preserving neighborhoods' suburban single-family feel. But that feel isn't cheap. The median sales price of homes in Nassau County in 2021 was \$620,000, according to the state's taxation and finance department. Outside New York City, the closest counties are Rockland, at \$550,000, and Suffolk, at \$510,000.

To afford a home like that, you'd have to

make at least \$45 an hour — nearly three times the minimum wage. A typical salary in New York pays a little less than \$25.

But you can't work in New York if you can't live in New York. And with the dearth of truly affordable housing, that just isn't happening. It's not that our local government officials don't want affordable housing. It's just that many don't like the best way to create such housing: apartment buildings.

"Between full-on bans of multifamily homes, and onerous zoning and approval processes, they make it difficult — even impossible — to build new homes," Hochul said. "Think about that. People want to live here, but local decisions to limit growth mean they cannot. Local governments can — and should — make different choices."

Those choices need to begin here. Between 2010 and 2018, the governor said, counties like Nassau granted fewer building permits per capita than virtually all suburban counties across New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Northern Virginia and Southern California.

"With less supply, demand drives up prices," Hochul said. "And who gets squeezed? Middle-income families and low-income families."

Yet, not to fear, Hochul has a plan to fix it. She calls it the New York Housing Compact, and its intent is to build 800,000 new homes in the state over the next decade, setting "clear expectations for the growth we need, while at the same time giving localities plenty of tools, flexibility and resources to stimulate growth."

Doing that requires downstate localities like Nassau to increase their housing stocks by 3 percent every three years. That can happen through redevelopment of dilapidated sites like old malls and office parks, incentivizing new housing production, or simply updating zoning rules.

In return, Hochul said, the state will offer new funding for schools, roads and sewers while removing some of the bureaucratic barriers standing in the way of new housing.

But failure to meet these goals on Hochul's timetable means facing the governor's mighty concrete fist. Albany will override local authority, and implement what she calls a "new fast-track approval process" to get home construction under way.

That's one step too far. Forcing such change by trampling local government not only makes a bad mess worse, but also sets a bad precedent for the kind of power the governor wields over these communities.

What the concrete fist needs is a velvet glove in the form of incentives, as well as good education on what properly planned housing can bring.

There is a constant fear of city encroachment on our suburban way of life, but even a good suburb finds room for everyone from every walk of life.

How often do we hear friends talk about how much they enjoy visiting the vibrant town centers of places like Rockville Centre, Long Beach and Farmingdale? All of that is thanks to multifamily housing done right — not just for those who don't necessarily make a lot of money, but for our young neighbors, who are just starting out in the world, and our older neighbors, looking to downsize and enjoy a simpler life.

This can happen by shining light on these successes, and how housing diversity grows neighborhoods rather than destroying them.

But let's do it without the threats, without the negativity. Let's provide the right incentives to make housing more affordable in our communities, and show why our Nassau County neighborhoods are indeed the best places to live.

LETTERS

Next week, a nationwide focus on school choice

To the Editor:

You likely don't need me to tell you that children all over the country are suffering the academic consequences of the pandemic, and New York is no exception.

A 2022 survey revealed that 52 percent of American families were looking for a new school. To put it in personal terms, in a classroom of 25 students, 13 families are not satisfied with the education their children are receiving.

A great K-12 education for every child is no small undertaking, and we know there are many learning environments that help different students achieve their potential.

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OPINIONS

Pence can persuade America he's the president it needs

One thing I should have learned from my 28 years in Congress and the 15 years before that in the maelstrom of New York politics and government is that political life is very tough and all-consuming — especially at the national level.

Now that I'm away from the incessant turbulence of campaigning, and can



PETER KING

wake up in the morning knowing I can go back to sleep and not have to worry during the day about prying reporters or angry constituents, I am increasingly aware of how unnatural the political world can be — and usually is.

This was reinforced for me during a recent meeting and subsequent radio interview with former Vice President Mike Pence. The meeting was in the fifth-floor Manhattan office of the Red Apple companies headed by John Catsimatidis, one of New York's most successful entrepreneurs and business leaders. Among John's companies is 77WABC Radio, which has

become a major political force in New York.

(Full disclosure: I am a 77WABC contributor and co-host, and consider Mike Pence a good friend.)

The meeting with the former vice president was the latest of many that Catsimatidis has had with prospective national and statewide candidates and political heavyweights. Joining him were a number of executives, staff members and Sid Rosenberg, who hosts the station's most popular show.

It went well from the start. Though his questions about a possible presidential candidacy were probing, Catsimatidis made clear his admiration and respect for Pence. As did the participants. Pence's demeanor was calm and relaxed, and his answers were thoughtful and coherent.

Following the 50-minute meeting, John, Mike Pence, Sid Rosenberg and I took the elevator down to the 77WABC studio on the second floor to record interviews with Sid for "Sid and Friends," and with John and me for "Cats at Night." On both floors, there were the

requisite photos with staff members, studio workers and technicians. Mike Pence handled it all with smiles and good humor. Then he was off to his next engagement with his four staff assistants.

He should claim credit for his contributions while disclaiming Trump's excesses.

All of this sounds calm and rational. But think of how many times Mike Pence must go through this drill. How many business and political leaders, how many special-interest advocates and former politicians must Mike Pence meet, and how many radio and television interviews must he do, realizing that one word or expressed thought taken out of context could endanger — or

even torpedo — his possible campaign?

How many big cities, suburban centers and small towns must he visit? How many early mornings and late nights will he have?

How will he keep to his endless schedule? I couldn't help but notice the understandably tense looks on the faces of the Pence assistants trying to keep him at least reasonably close to his schedule without offending anyone at these meetings, while thinking about how they

would explain his lateness at the next meeting, and the meetings after that.

Mike Pence's real challenges, though, as he thinks through a presidential run, are:

■ Figuring out how to claim justifiable credit for his real contributions to the Trump-Pence administration while disclaiming the Trump excesses — particularly the shameful events of Jan. 6, 2021, when Pence acted with courage and honor.

■ Understanding how, in a time of political anger and rage, such a sharply divided nation can be persuaded to get behind a candidate of experience, knowledge and calm demeanor.

These challenges must be met while enduring the exhausting rigors of endless travel, interminable meetings, raising campaign funds, and unexpected news stories about the latest misadventures of Donald Trump. It won't be easy. It will certainly be difficult. But I, for one, hope that Mike Pence stays in the arena, perseveres, and makes the run.

Peter King is a former congressman, and a former chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security. A version of this essay previously appeared in The Hill.

LETTERS

York, families need the flexibility to choose the school that will set their child up for success — whether it's a traditional public school, a public charter school, a public magnet school, a private school, online learning or home-schooling.

If it's been a while since you had school-aged children, you may not realize just how different the landscape of options is than it was even a decade ago.

A 2022 survey by the Harris Poll revealed that since the pandemic, home-schooling and public charter schools were the first and second most popular options for parents who decided to switch their children's schools.

What's more, some six in 10 parents said their children were happier with the change.

On the other hand, interest in open enrollment in traditional public schools, as well as magnet schools, remains high. Private school choice programs have expanded in many states in the last few years, and learning pods and micro-schools are a new and growing option.

But time is of the essence. Due to the explosion of education options in many places, application deadlines often fall as early as

January for the next academic year.

The upcoming National School Choice Week — Jan. 22-28 — will streamline things for parents through a national public awareness campaign and thousands of events hosted by schools around the country.

Parents who have chosen a school they love can also empower others by sharing their own experiences.

All families can help their kids achieve academic success.

The first step is to choose the perfect school fit, and the best way to do that is by being aware of the local options and regulations.

To learn about the academic alternatives in New York, parents can visit SchoolChoiceWeek.com/new-york.

While parents in New York and across the country are exploring and choosing schools next week, I hope they can count on all of our support.

SHELBY DOYLE
Nashville, Tennessee

Doyle is vice president of public awareness of the National School Choice Awareness Foundation.

FRAMEWORK by Carol Vallone



Catching Cinderella up on the news 1,100 miles away — Walt Disney World, Orlando



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