

HERALD



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Tab Hauser/Herald

Mixing it up with the band

Glen Cove resident Richie Cannata shared his love of music with his adoring fans at Morgan Park on Sunday when he played there with his band, the Lords of 52nd Street. More photos, Page 10.

Air Force vet announces bid against Santos

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Embattled Republican U.S. Rep. George Santos said he still plans to keep his seat in Congress in 2024, but now, he faces a third Republican challenger trying to block his bid for reelection — Air Force veteran and lawyer Greg Hach.

Hach will join fellow Republicans Mike Sapricono, a retired New York Police Department detective, and Kellen Curry, a veteran, who later worked for JP Morgan in the primary election.

Santos, a freshman member of Congress, faced controversy since winning the election in November 2022. In May, federal prosecutors charged him with 13 felony counts, including wire fraud, money laundering and theft of public funds.

“This man stole millions from regular people in a Ponzi scheme,” Hach stated in his campaign video. “He made up

stories about September 11, a mass shooting and the Holocaust to make people believe he is one of us. He is not one of us.”

Hach, a father of three, said he has never run for public office before, but believes his military background and experience in law make him the perfect candidate to unseat Santos.

This man stole millions from regular people in a ponzi scheme.

GREG HACH
Candidate for Congress

“I’m running in the spirit of what our framers intended,” Hach said. “The framers intended your neighbor to run, they intended the firefighter down the street to run, the teacher down the block or the lawyer across the way. They didn’t intend on professional politicians, and that’s what we have.”

The 52-year-old grew up in Hicksville. His stepfather, Michael Hach, was a business manager of operating engineers, and labor union leader. Hach said he’s proud of being raised in a “strong union

community.”

“He made up

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RFP is cause for concern

Community support for The View Grill strong

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Murmurs of “Jeanine,” “The View” and “RFP” echoed throughout Glen Cove City Hall chambers before Tuesday’s City Council meeting. Although some residents were there to discuss concerns about local laws and safety, others were there clutching bright pink signs reading “Save The View-Support Jeanine.”

The demonstration came in response to the news that local restaurant owner Jeanine DiMenna’s lease on The View Grill expires next February. A request for proposal for the city-owned property that houses the restaurant, at the Glen

Cove Golf Course on Lattingtown Road, was issued on July 10. Proposals are due Aug 30.

The city’s RFP, which Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said was similar to RFPs from the Town of Oyster Bay and Hempstead, is intended to attract experienced restaurateurs to operate an eatery at the golf course and park. It is seeking proposals that include renovations of the existing restaurant — with the potential addition of ground floor space and/or a second floor — that would facilitate catering for groups as large as 200, while maintaining restaurant service.

The RFP states that a teardown of the facility is not discouraged, and that the respondents will

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Republicans eager to replace Santos in 2024

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home.” He has already garnered support from the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 30.

He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1988 serving until 1991. He served abroad on the island of Crete, before returning home to complete his undergraduate education at John Jay College in criminal justice. Hach then went on to earn a law degree from Ohio Northern University’s Claude W. Pettit College of Law.

Months after Sept. 11, Hach co-founded Hach & Rose LLP and represented victims of the terrorist attacks at no cost. The experience changed Hach fundamentally, he said. “The feeling of security that was present in the U.S. before the attacks had vanished.

“My biggest concern is that authoritarianism is on the rise worldwide,” Hach said. “We’re being weakened by our enemies who enter our country who’ve seen impunity. There was actually an 800 percent increase in Chinese immigration at the southern border.”

He said the U.S. is on track for another illegal border crossing record again this year and the U.S. shouldn’t to be a sanctuary for illegal immigrants who he believes threatens public safety.

Hach is also a vocal proponent of providing aid to Ukraine during their ongoing invasion from Russia, arguing that the U.S. needs to be more aggressive with

countries like China, Russia, North Korea and Iran.

Hach took two trips to Ukraine after the Russian invasion to help interview refugees and identify war crimes by the Russian army. He said he wanted to make his own conclusions about the war, rather than just read about it in the news.

Safety is a top priority for Hach, who cited a poll from the Sienna College Research Institute, where findings indicated that three out of five New Yorkers believe that they will be a victim of a violent crime. He’s concerned with advocates who want to defund the police and get rid of cashless bail. Hach believes the “extreme shift to the left of the Democratic Party,” is a cause for concern to public safety.

“Sixty percent of our population are concerned about whether they’re going to be the victim of violent crime; that’s no way to live,” Hach said. “That’s no way to go to work, that’s no way to go to the store, without the security, we don’t have anything.”

If elected, Hach said he will also address the issues surrounding the economy. Under President Biden we have seen the highest levels of inflation since Jimmy Carter’s administration during the 1970s, he said. It’s Hach’s belief “hard-working families are forced to pay more for groceries and everyday necessities because of Joe Biden’s failed economic policies.”



Courtesy Greg Hach

Greg Hach has thrown his hat in the ring to run in the primary for Congress.

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Photos courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

Some of those who participated in the EOC's summer workshops took a Shakespeare workshop and were able to perform select scenes for one another.

EOC youth summer of learning and adventure

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Summer signals freedom for children and gives them a break from the structure dictated by the school day. It's a time for more play, making new friends, days at the pool and taking trips with family and friends. But many families struggle to keep their children healthy and occupied during the summer break because of financial limitations.

To help ease the lives of children and parents on the North Shore, the Economic Opportunity Coalition has stepped in to provide families with an eight-week program filled with engaging workshops that include trips to Splish Splash and a chance to work on experiments with scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to name a few. Thirty-seven youth, aged 5 to 13 experienced a fun summer their caretakers couldn't normally afford.

For over 50 years, the Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County has provided programs and services to low-income residents. The coalition was born out of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on Aug. 20, 1964, a signature legislation of Johnson's Act, "War on Poverty."

During the past year, approximately 14,000 low-income children, youth, individuals, and families accessed EOC programs and services.

Families, who qualify for EOC programs such as utility and rental assistance programs, must fall 200 percent



Youth with the city's EOC summer program enjoyed snacking on popcorn while they waited for the next fun workshop of the day.

below the state's poverty income threshold. For a family of five, that means the maximum income earned cannot exceed \$61,000, according to Irma Jeanty, director of Glen Cove's EOC program. Single parents are most likely to use the EOC's programs.

The 2023 national poverty level for a family of four is \$30,000, and the federal poverty rate is roughly 6 percent on Long Island. It's estimated that one out of five Long Island residents live below the poverty line.

"Without this summer program, a lot of the parents wouldn't know, what they would do with the kids because all the parents are working," Jeanty said. "So having a program like that helps the cli-

ent to have a community, to have a safe place, a safe environment for the kid for the summer and year-round."

One of the many engaging and educational experiences youth enjoyed was studying the works of William Shakespeare, an English playwright, poet and actor who wrote at least 37 plays between 1590 and 1613. The experience was led by Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, a professional performer with over 20 years of experience in stage plays, musical theatre, opera, and other forms of lyric theatre including stage productions of Shakespeare and Shakespeare's contemporaries.

"Voice, speech, and fun with Shakespeare is intended as an experimental



Eight-year-old Kevin Mojica preformed Richmond's speech to his troops from Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

journey, learning more about voice and speech and how it relates to imagery, emotion, and thought," Stevenson-Mathews said. "The tools learned will be used to joyfully discover just how much fun it can be to uncover the meaning of Shakespeare's words, his phrases, and his insight into human nature."

Construction begins at city's school district

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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When students, faculty and staff return to the classroom at the Glen Cove City School District this fall, they'll notice some pretty remarkable changes to their classrooms, athletic fields and the exterior of the middle and elementary schools, to name a few.

After two failed votes in 2019 and 2020, the 2022 bond that passed Dec. 6, 2022 is allowing the district to move forward with some long-overdue changes that go beyond simple maintenance and repairs. The \$30 million bond will now fund the most extensive infrastructure improvements in decades. The projects will be financed over a 15-year period and will ultimately be reimbursed through state aid.

The projects include repairs to science rooms, the high school cafeteria and kitchen, and corridors. Exterior doors will be replaced, and restrooms reconstructed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Also planned is a replacement of the high school's courtyard curtain wall, reconstruction of heating and air-conditioning systems, replacing corridor lockers as well as tennis and basketball courts, a parking lot, and curbs and walkways. The athletic fields are temporarily closed during the construction period, which begin on Aug. 15. This district says closure is necessary to ensure the safety



Roksana Amid/Herald

Landing Elementary school will have a new elevator for students to access the upper and lower levels of the school. This will also help the district comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

of all individuals involved in the renovation process.

"At the end of June some of the projects already started," said Maria Rianna, the school district superintendent. "But we also have energy performance projects happening so there were new electricity and lights put into portions of the high school which resulted in new ceilings

being put into classrooms. The project started at the high school but it will continue to most of our buildings."

Rianna said that the construction will continue into the new school year, and most of the construction will happen after school and at night, which includes new doors in every classroom of the district. The district will go to bid on projects that will continue into next year.

"We're trying to ensure that the schools are ready for students to come back in," Rianna explained. "Construction will continue with understanding that as much as possible will be done after the school day so that we don't interrupt any instruction during the school day."

As of Aug. 11, the district wide-energy performance contract has replaced 1x1 foot ceiling tiles with a 2x2 foot grid including the installation of new 2x2 foot LED panels. New lighting will provide an increase in energy cost savings and decrease maintenance requirements.

Demolition began at Connolly Elementary School, of existing furnaces in mechanical spaces which was done by cutting the furnaces and bringing them out piece by piece. Weather stripping was

installed on exterior doors throughout the district to minimize draft as well.

As of July 7, at the Landing Elementary School, the JC Broderick and Branch have completed abatement in the stairwell in preparation for stairwell demolition. A temporary egress partition and stair tower is now in place. Site safety signage is complete as well as the interior egress signage. Work is ongoing with electrical and plumbing contractors for utility relocation, and equipment has arrived to start uncovering site utilities and remove asphalt to examine electrical conduits for the primary electrical feed. Completion of the extension is estimated for September 2024.

Deasy Elementary School has seen patio construction, which include handrails, and the retaining wall footing, which was exposed to prepare for new waterproofing. Concrete and asphalt sidewalk demolition has been completed, along with new patio drains and drainage piping installed after new waterproofing.

The elementary school is also getting a new elevator and stair tower, which necessitated chimney demolition because of previous cracks from water damage. Since this portion of the renovations was unexpected, the district is coordinating with engineers to restore chimney.

Funds from the bond will also focus on safety and security issues. As mass shootings become more commonplace in schools, campuses have upgraded to eliminate blind spots and design failings. Now, more than 20 years after the first school mass shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado, many holes remain in Glen Cove's security measures, officials have said. They have declined to offer specifics to maintain security.

"I think it's really important that people realize that when the bond passed in December, we had to go through the process of getting State Education Department approval for these projects," Rianna said. "So, we're very happy that these projects were approved in a timely manner so that the work that has been done this summer has been done in an appropriate manner. We look forward to continuing the projects that are in the bond for the next school year, and we're excited about some of the projects that will be happening in the next school year."

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Teen Idol winner sang her way to the top

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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In recent weeks, local teens have serenaded the Glen Cove community with their vocal skills as part of a contest for Downtown Sounds Teen Idol contest. The contest wrapped up its second year, naming Tatiana Andino-Mendez as the winner, who only auditioned for the contest after some encouragement from her friends and choir teacher Ed Norris.

But Andino-Mendez came close to not competing at all. Last April, Andino-Mendez came home feeling tired after visiting her doctor's office at the Glen Cove Hospital. She had just been diagnosed with diabetes, and wanted to unwind from her long stressful day, but she knew she had one night left to submit her video audition for the Downtown Sounds Teen Idol contest. She made two separate recordings for her audition, and after reviewing her audio, she submitted herself singing "The World Caves In," by Matt Maltese.

"The message is so heartbreaking but so real, but not in a sense that it's so tragic," Andino-Mendez said. "Nobody thinks about the end of the world, and I just gravitated towards it because of the lyrics; it's just such a beautiful song."

For more than 20 years, live music has been a staple of Friday nights in downtown Glen Cove. As part of the Glen Cove Business Improvement District's plan to revitalize the city's businesses, the Downtown Sounds initiative started in 1997 as a free concert series called Jazz in the Square, which was held every Friday in July, located at the intersection of Glen and School streets. The concerts traditionally showcase local musicians and businesses.

Throughout the years, the concert series has grown with the help of sponsors. To accommodate the various



Courtesy Tatiana Andino-Mendez

Tatiana Andino-Mendez won first place at the Teen Idol competition with the Downtown Sounds summer concert series.

musical preferences of the community and to attract a greater audience, the musical series evolved into Downtown Sounds, which was first coined by former BID executive director Francine Koehler.

Patricia Holman, the former executive director of the Glen BID, decided to create the contest to support the silver anniversary of the concert series.

When she started the contest, the intention was twofold — to offer something for teens and engage the audience.

"The contest not only gave our talented teens a platform to perform but the entire community is invested and can't wait to see what happens next," Holman said.

The Teen Idol contest featured four contestants ages 13 to 18 from the Gold Coast area. Every Friday at 7 p.m. before the Downtown Sounds concert series, attendees were treated to four performances as each contestant took the stage to perform. A panel of judges decided who would move on to the next week, along with the judges, each week audience members were encouraged to help by voting for who they believed should be this year's Teen Idol.

This year's contestants competing against Andino-Mendez were Charlotte Dilgard-Clark, a 14-year-old from Glen Cove's Robert M. Finley Middle School, Stasia Kulpa, a 16-year-old student at Our Lady of Mercy Academy, and Tammy Pattugalan, a 17-year-old from Our Lady of Mercy Academy.

Andino-Mendez has loved music since her childhood. She joined the children's choir at St. Patrick's church until her freshman year in the Glen Cove City School district, and fondly remembers the excitement she felt singing outside her church. As her talents blossomed, she became a first soprano just before graduating from the high school in June.

As the winner of the contest, Andino-Mendez received \$1,500 and four hours of recording time at Tiki Recording Studios in the city's downtown.

Andino-Mendez said she's wanted to create a YouTube channel for some time but was too nervous about it. Now that she has time available to her in the recording studio, she'll use that opportunity to springboard her channel.

Andino-Mendez said she's taking a small break from academia after graduation but is excited to resume classes at Nassau Community College next year where she will study art and criminal justice.

GLEN COVE HERALD — August 24, 2023

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Book Review: Healthy at 100 by John Robbins (Part One)

Subtitled "How You Can - At Any Age - Dramatically Increase Your Life Span and Your Health Span", Mr. Robbins' book is one that appealed to us for a very specific reason. So many of our clients over the years have said, "Oh no! I wouldn't want to live to 100", the assumption being that they would inevitably be infirm.

Our culture, in television and movies, reinforces this thinking by portraying the elderly as feeble, unproductive, and out of sorts. Elders are demeaned with stereotypes as being unworthy of consideration or positive regard, according to Robbins.

Baby boomers today range in ages from 63 - 78. It's time to shed these old myths. Author Robbins describes four cultures in the world as follows:

Abkhasia: Ancients of the Caucasus where people are healthier at ninety than most of us are at middle age.

Vilcabamba: The Valley of Eternal Youth where heart disease and dementia do not exist.

Hunta: A people who dance in their nineties where cancer, diabetes and asthma are unknown.

The Centenarians of Okinawa: Where more people live to 100 than anywhere in the world.

The major takeaway from these ancient cultures are the diets, physical activities, social ties and respect for the elderly these societies engender to account for their extended life expectancies.

Perhaps one of Robbins best lines is "the whiter the bread, the sooner you're dead". When whole wheat flour is refined into white flour here is just some of what is lost: protein 25%, fiber 95%, calcium 56%, iron 84%, vitamins, an average of over 70%. The long-term perils of eating too much sugar are discussed: obesity, kidney stones, osteoporosis, heart disease and diabetes.

It's never too late to change. As the book says "people don't grow old. When they stop growing, they become old"

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RFP leaves bitter taste among the community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be judged on a weighted scale, scoring their experience and financial ability to achieve the city's vision (a maximum 30 points), their redesign and renovation of the existing facility (20 points), an investment-recovery plan that will financially benefit the city (35 points) and a plan to accommodate patrons during construction as well as a reopening date (15 points).

At the public portion of Tuesday's meeting, Roni Chastain, who expressed concern about the RFP's criteria, asked City Attorney Tip Henderson about the points system, and whether it will "help Glen Cove business owners get more points."

Henderson responded by saying that the points won't be the only criteria used to rate the proposals, and that drafting the RFP was a "group effort" that included Panzenbeck as well as the city's deputy mayor, purchasing agent, comptroller and building department.

A committee of five to seven local business owners and others who are familiar with the property will recommend proposals to the City Council, which will approve the final contract.

At the pre-council meeting on Aug. 15, Panzenbeck suggested that the council email her recommendations for the committee, and said that she already had a list of 20 names she was considering. Panzenbeck added that Councilwoman Barbara Peebles had submitted suggestions, and that the committee would be formed next week.

In a Facebook post, Councilman Kevin Maccarone addressed rumors that the RFP was seeking a catering hall operator to run an establishment like the Mansion, the Swan Club or the Crescent Beach Club, on the North Shore, saying they were false.

"Whether you categorize the space as it currently stands as a restaurant, pub, tavern or catering hall, the fact of the matter is they provide catering services," the



Roksana Amid/Herald

Gracie Donaldson Cipriano, left, James Hallinan and Tim Dunn, who support The View Grill, voiced their concerns at City Hall. They believe the city's RFP is beyond the reach of the restaurant's owner, Jeanine DiMenna, a beloved member of the community.

post reads. "It's space that caters to small and mid-size private parties and events (i.e. golf outing luncheons, engagement parties, baby showers, reunions, etc.). Hence the terminology of the RFP referencing "catering."

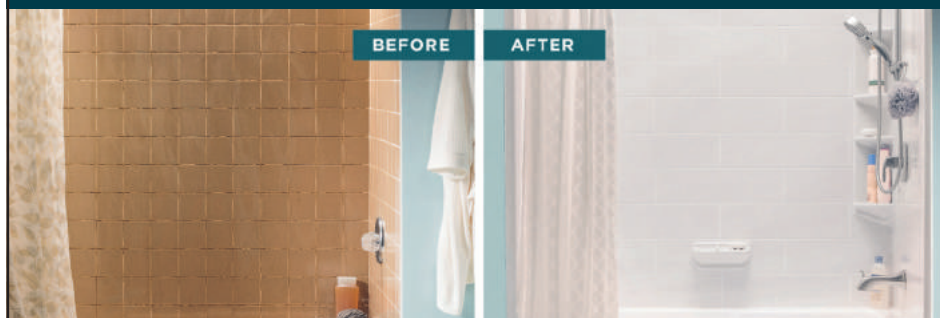
Maccarone said he could guarantee that the core focus in awarding the next lease, whether to DiMenna or someone else, would be on locals who frequent the restaurant or the golf course, specifically golfers, pickleball players and parkgoers.

Glen Cove resident Gracie Donaldson Cipriano addressed the council, saying she understood that drafting an RFP is required by law, but after reading the 39-page document with her father, a small-business

owner, she found that the requests for renovation were "astronomical," and speculated that DiMenna would not have the financial backing to fulfill the RFP's criteria.

"We have put our RFP together in what we feel that we can afford and accomplish," DiMenna said in a phone call to the Herald. "Aside from making it a 200-seat catering hall, which is not something we're interested in doing, we have ideas to really give it a nice facelift. We still want to keep it at moderate prices, and do more of our community service and community events at the restaurant. We're interested in making it a little bit larger, to accommodate a little bit more people, but not taking away from the quaintness of it."

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HERALD SPORTS

August 24, 2023 — GLEN COVE HERALD



Tony Bellissimo/Herald photos

Roosevelt's Kevon Hall, a Nassau County Thorp Award winner, is primed to lead Nassau Community College's backfield. William Pickett, a South Side High School graduate at right, takes over as the Lions' starting quarterback.

Nassau C.C. eyes return to title stage

By TONY BELLISSIMO

tbellissimo@iherald.com

2023 Schedule

Sept. 2	Monroe	Home	1 p.m.
Sept. 9	Navy Prep	Home	1 p.m.
Sept. 16	Hudson CC	Away	1 p.m.
Sept. 23	Lackawanna	Home	1 p.m.
Sept. 30	Hocking	Home	1 p.m.
Oct. 6	Army Prep	Away	7 p.m.
Oct. 14	Eric CC	Away	1 p.m.
Oct. 28	Hudson CC	Home	1 p.m.
Nov. 4	Louisburg	Away	3 p.m.
Nov. 11	Sussex CC	Home	1 p.m.

Getting back to the national championship stage and winning it are lofty goals, but Nassau Community College football coach Jamel Ramsay wouldn't have it any other way.

"Last season was a bit of a rebuild with some guys who hadn't played ball for two years," Ramsay said. "Our defense kept us close every week, but we didn't put everything together some games. We still finished ranked in the top five and now we're looking to get back to the championship game and win it."

The Lions went 6-4 with three one-score defeats in 2022. This year's schedule features many of the usual suspects and Ramsay is excited about the return of Navy prep and Army prep to the slate. "Those two games are really good tests and experiences for our guys," he said. "I like the schedule much more than last year's."

Four of Nassau's first five games are home at Mitchel Athletic Complex. The Lions open Sept. 2 against Monroe College and close the month Sept. 30 against Hocking College. The lone trip of September is to Hudson Valley C.C. on the 16th.

Some new key faces to the offense are former Nassau County high school standouts Kevon Hall (Roosevelt running back) and William Pickett (South Side quarterback.)

In 2018, Hall captured the Thorp Award, given to the most outstanding player in the county. He rushed for

over 2,000 yards and scored 22 touchdowns for the Rough Riders as a senior. "Everyone knows who Kevon is," Ramsay said. "He's a definite game-changer even though he hasn't played a snap in two years. He has a lot of tools and he'll be raring to go game one."

Pickett is a dual-threat quarterback who played one season at Cortland and was redshirted in 2022. Ramsay said he recruited Pickett out of high school and is "overly excited" to see him get to work. "He brings a combination of tenacity, speed and power," Ramsay said. "Most

people think of someone's legs when they talk about dual-threat quarterbacks, but Will can really throw the ball. He has big-time leadership qualities and the sky's the limit."

Ramsay believes the offensive line is one of the Lions' top position groups. It includes Jordy Garcia, Kasper Borawski, Matthew Blanco, Christian Sollecito, Ethan Bonachi, Kenroy Hutchinson and Max Adams. "They're all talented," Ramsay said.

Freshman tight end Alex Simmonds has turned heads in camp and at 6-6 with speed comparable to some wide-outs, Ramsay sees him as an "absolute factor" in the offense. "He's been a pleasure to watch," the coach noted. "He has tremendous blocking ability and potential to be something special."

At receiver, Isaiah Madrey is looking to make a splash after appearing in four games last season. Also expected to be a lead target for Pickett is former Uniondale standout Kayden Liddie.

On the defensive side, the work in the trenches will be led by Daeshaun Polk, who ranked among the team leaders in tackles for loss last fall and also had 2.5 sacks, and nose guard Cesar Villanueva. Glen Cove product Anthony Schettino heads the linebacker corps, while the secondary is likely to have Chris Hernandez and Miguel Lopez at corner, and Sonny Mayo and Kamari Maths at safety.

Kicker Tom Zabransky was a Second Team All-American selection last season, and newcomer Tommy Dellaporta will handle punting responsibilities.



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NassauBoces.org/barrytech

A key resource in the state, Nassau BOCES offers life changing state-of-the-art programs for students of all ages with any ability. It is a cost-effective way to gain an education in specific fields and gain hands-on experience that is useful for future careers. They also have a Long Island High School for the Arts, special education programs and even outdoor education.

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Five Towns is one of the oldest child care centers in Nassau County, established in the 1930s as a private care center. The center has cared for the children of working parents for well over 70 years, providing stimulation, education, breakfast and afternoon snacks and so much more. They have also created a scholarship fund with the support of the local community

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BEST LEARNING CENTER / TUTOR:

Cornerstone Behavioral Services
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(516) 569-0808
cornerstonebehavioralservices.com

Cornerstone Behavioral Services was started by Nicole Iannarone, a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Nicole has worked with a wide array of learners and has been successful in treating challenging behaviors as well as helping learners develop language skills. Their team of Bachelors Level Behavior Therapists, Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs), and Board Certified Behavior Analysts possess a well rounded understanding of behavior analysis and techniques.

BEST NURSERY SCHOOL:

Bellmore United Methodist Nursery School
2657 Clarendon Ave, Bellmore
(516) 221-1220
www.bellmoreumc.org

Bellmore United Methodist’s goal is to provide an environment that is stimulating and engaging that way children develop socialization skills and confidence. Children are meant to feel good about themselves and want to go to school. The faculty focuses on ensuring that their first school experience is positive and enjoyable. For pre-kindergarten students there are additional enrichment classes from language and literature to science and math and more.



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HERALD NEIGHBORS

August 24, 2023 — GLEN COVE HERALD



Tab Hauser/Herald photos

Concertgoers at Morgan Park rocked out at the 64th annual Morgan Park Summer Music Festival with Glen Cove's Richie Cannata & the Lords of 52nd Street.

Cannata rocks big crowd at Morgan Park

Hundreds of concertgoers enjoyed the "The Music of Billy Joel" by Richie Cannata & The Lords of 52nd Street at the 64th annual Morgan Park Summer Music Festival. Rallye Motor Company was the lead sponsor of the evening's concert, donating \$1 million.

"It's important that we give back to the community that has been so good to the Rallye family for so many years," said Juliana Terian, president and CEO of Rallye, in May. "I appreciate that the Morgan Park Summer Music Festival is completely run by volunteers and that no tax dollars are spent putting on these concerts, so we are happy to make this important contribution."



During the concert, Sue and Bob Miller waved to the music of 'The Music of Billy Joel' by Richie Cannata & The Lords of 52nd Street.



Former Congressman Tom Suozzi, center, and Matt Carlton, enjoyed the music at Morgan Park with Carlton's grandchildren Joseph and Gina Tritti.



Debbie Miraglia danced with her granddaughter Charlie during the festival.



Before the concert, Stacey and Larry Forur, left, shared a picnic with Sharon and Ted Albert.

STEPPING OUT

ROBIN WILSON

joins Long Island's most elite musicians

Gin Blossoms frontman inducted into the Hall of Fame



By Daniel Offner

Robin Wilson, the iconic voice of the multi-platinum selling Gin Blossoms — and current frontman for The Smithereens — will join the ranks of Long Island legends Billy Joel, Joan Jett, Carole King, Twisted Sister, Public Enemy and countless others when he is inducted into the Long Island Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame on Friday.

"I'm very gratified and surprised and amused by the whole thing," Wilson said. "It's kind of funny to have ended up on Long Island and to receive this cool honor."

As the principal songwriter and lead singer/guitarist of the Grammy-nominated Gin Blossoms, Wilson — who calls Valley Stream home — is responsible for such '90s-era radio hits as "Hey Jealousy," "Follow You Down," "Til I Hear it from You," "Until I Fall Away," "As Long As it Matters" and "Allison Road."

Wilson grew up in Tempe, Arizona, and moved to Long Island in the '90s to be with his now ex-wife, Gena Rositano. He still lives here, raising his son, Grey Wilson, an aspiring musician and songwriter.

"It took me a long time to get used to being on Long Island," he says. "It was a tough transition. I'm probably the only guy on Long Island who flies the Arizona state flag on his front porch."

He met Rositano in 1993, who was working at MTV at the time, when Gin Blossoms were invited to appear as a musical guest on the first episode of "The Jon Stewart Show." Three years later, they were married, and had Stewart — by then the host of Comedy Central's "Daily Show" — ordained as a minister in order to officiate the ceremony.

Apart from spending time with his family, music is still the most important thing in his life.

"It's the only thing that makes it worth it," he says. "It's cool to make a living and earn money, but the thing that makes it worthwhile is performing original music."

Wilson is excited to be going back on tour with Gin Blossoms, who will perform at The Paramount in Huntington on Sept. 12, with guests Fastball, Tonic and Sugar Ray.

In 2017, following the sudden death of The Smithereens' frontman Pat DiNizio, Wilson was invited to join the New Jersey alt-rock group on tour.

"The Smithereens have always been an inspiration to me," he says. "If I could go back in time and tell my 19-year-old self that I would be performing with one of your all-time favorite bands, I'd probably ask if that was even possible."

When all concerts and live performances were canceled at the height of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Wilson — like many of his counterparts — started to livestream performances from his home studio in order to give himself something to apply his energy and skills toward.

And when it finally was warm enough, he decided to bring his livestream outside, where he would perform music for his neighbors in Valley Stream.

"It was really cool to provide a much-needed distraction during that weird time in everybody's lives," he recalls. "It's kind of cool to be the rock singer on my block in Valley Stream."

During the upcoming Hall of Fame induction ceremony, he'll hit the Exhibit Hall stage for a special performance featuring son Grey and special guests, including members of The Smithereens.

WHERE & WHEN

- Friday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m.
- \$40 general admission/\$35 members available at LIMusicHallOfFame.org, or by calling (631) 689-5888
- Space is limited
- 97 Main St., in Stony Brook

Courtesy Long Island Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame

Robin Wilson, frontman of the alternative rock/power pop band Gin Blossoms, has settled comfortably into his life on Long Island.



Voyage

The popular band takes everyone back to the '80s when Journey's timeless music ruled the airwaves. Hailed by fans and critics alike as the world's top Journey tribute band, this group performs their music with chilling accuracy. Fronted by Hugo — a dead ringer for Steve Perry — who continues to delight fans with his miraculous resemblance, exact mannerisms and identical voice to Steve. Fans agree that Voyage delivers an experience to the original Steve Perry-fronted lineup. The band also features world class New York musicians: Robby Hoffman, Greg Smith, Lance Millard and Dana Spellman, who along with Hugo, have brought the show to critical acclaim. They play all the hits, including, 'Don't Stop Believin', 'Faithfully', 'Separate Ways', 'Any Way You Want It', 'Open Arms', 'Wheel in the Sky', 'Lights', 'Oh Sherrie', 'Stone in Love', 'Send Her My Love', 'Lovin' Touchin' Squeezin', 'Who's Crying Now?' and 'Only the Young.'

Friday, Aug. 25, 8 p.m. \$40, \$35, \$30, \$25. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000, or Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.



Southern Rockfest

The Allmost Brothers Band headlines a rockin' night at Eisenhower Park, joined by Freebird and Brothers & Friends. Allmost Brothers fully honors the tradition of the legendary Allman Brothers Band. Working within the framework of the incredible and vast songbook of the legendary Allman Brothers, the band injects something new, fresh and exciting into the material. They stand out with high-level musicianship, authentic improvisational interplay, and dedication to the high-octane performance and power that established the original ABB back in 1969. These dedicated musicians thrive on chemistry and improvisation, bringing a unique fire to Duane Allman's vision of spreading the gospel of American blues, R&B and jazz music everywhere. As always, bring seating.

Saturday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m. Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. For information, visit NassauCountyNY.gov/parks.

THE SCENE

Aug. 31

Max Weinberg's Jukebox

In the middle of the Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band tour — which breaking box office records all over the world — the heartbeat of the E Street Band, the Mighty Max Weinberg is taking time between Springsteen shows to perform with his Jukebox band. He visits the Paramount stage, on Thursday, **Aug. 31**, 8 p.m. Max Weinberg's Jukebox is a truly interactive experience. Weinberg invites the audience to create the set list, in real time, that he and his crack four piece group will play that night. Performing songs from the glory days of rock n' roll your guests choose from a menu of over 200 songs. Everything from the Beatles to the Stones to Bruce and The E Street Band's biggest hits — and hear the group play 'em the way the way the audience wants to hear them played! That's right, the crowd yells out their choices and Weinberg plays them. This unique approach brings the audience right into the action for the evening. Every show is different because you — the audience — are choosing the songs. How many times have you attended a show where you yearned to hear your favorite performer play your favorite song? With Max Weinberg's Jukebox your dream will be realized. \$59.50, \$39.50, \$29.50, \$25. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.



On exhibit

View the landmark exhibition "Modigliani and the Modern Portrait," at Nassau County Museum of Art. Devoted to the way that Modigliani powerfully re-defined the art of portraiture, the show includes his masterworks along with paintings and drawings by his Parisian contemporaries (Picasso, van Dongen, Laurencin). Modigliani's enduring influence on artists even in our own time is shown in a selection of Contemporary paintings by such important figures as David Hockney, Eric Fischl, Elizabeth Peyton and others. The exhibition is being curated by Dr. Kenneth Wayne, founder of The Modigliani Project, which authenticates paintings and drawings (two of the works in the show have been recently approved by the committee). Through Nov. 5. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

Civil War Encampment

Experience life at a Civil War encampment at Old Bethpage Village Restoration, Saturday and Sunday, **Aug. 26-27**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Members of the 14th Brooklyn Living History Association and friends from other units demonstrate various daily routines of soldiers who were part of 14th Brooklyn New York State Militia during the Civil War years. Old Bethpage Village Restoration, Round Swamp Rd., Old Bethpage. For information, visit OldBethpageVillageRestoration.org.

Dramatic Play

Theatre Playground returns to Long Island Children's Museum with "Dramatic Play!," Monday, **Aug. 28**, 1 p.m., taught by Lisa Rudin, Director of Theatre Playground (who visitors may already know from her role as "Piggie"!). In this interactive, theater-inspired workshop kids will act out an original story and help choose how it unfolds. Music, props, and sound effects create a theatrical world where participants are immersed in the story. Children are encouraged to express themselves as they create characters, explore different worlds, stretch their imaginations and build self-confidence. This week's theme: Silly Monsters. Costumes encouraged. Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.

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Illustration: JJ Harrison

Sept. 10

St. Jude Run/Walk

Registration is open for the St. Jude Walk/Run Long Island, presented by Tweezerman International during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Sunday, **Sept. 10**, 9 a.m., at Marcum Corporate Offices & Park. The St. Jude Walk/Run offers everyone a chance to walk or run and gather in-person or virtually to raise funds and awareness for the St. Jude mission: Finding cures. Saving children. Besides the walk/run, the event features entertainment, food and activities for the whole family to enjoy. Participants will even have the opportunity to connect with St. Jude patients and learn firsthand how their support makes a difference. 10 Melville Park Road, Melville. Register or learn more at StJude.org/walklongisland.

Senior scam workshop

Recognize the types of scams target to senior citizens and learn ways to protect yourself, Tuesday, **Aug. 29**, 2 p.m., at Locust Valley Library, 170 Buckram Road. Register at LocustValleyLibrary.org. Call (516) 671-1837 for more details.



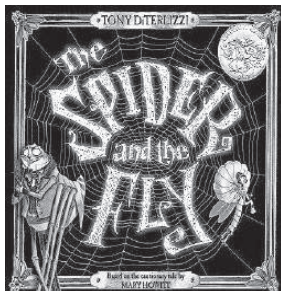
Get your GED

Maximize the possibility of obtaining your High School Equivalency diploma by taking classes, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-7 p.m., at Glen Cove Public Library. Classes are offered in person. \$180 Registration fee, cash or credit card non-refundable. 4 Glen Cove Ave. Visit GlenCoveLibrary.org or call Maria Fernanda Pardo at (516) 676-2130.

Crystal Candle Workshop

Pour soy wax, add crystals, and blend essential oils to create a scented candle. Join in Saturday, **Sept. 2**, at 1 p.m., at the Locust Valley Library, 170 Buckram Road. Register at LocustValleyLibrary.org. Contact the library at (516) 671-1837 for more details.

Sept. 2

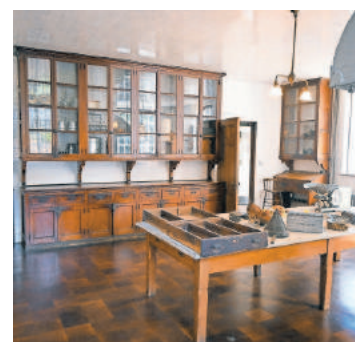


Storybook Stroll

Bring the kids to Old Westbury Gardens for a storybook adventure, Saturday, **Sept. 2**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stroll the gardens and open your ears to Mary Howitt's classic tale *The Spider and The Fly*. Later create a unique take home craft. For ages 3-5. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information visit OldWestburyGardens.org or contact (516) 333-0048.

Westbury House Tour

For many years visitors to Westbury House at Old Westbury Gardens asked what was beyond the first floor corridor. Now go beyond the door and discover "secrets of the service wing," during a 60-minute guided tour, Friday, **Aug. 25**, noon; also Sunday, **Aug. 27**, 1:30 p.m.; Monday, **Aug. 28**, noon; Wednesday and Thursday, **Aug. 30-31**, noon. Be introduced to the intensive labor required to create the lifestyle experienced by the Phipps family and their guests; tour the many rooms that were "behind the scenes" to create the formal dining experiences of early 20th century. Go along the corridors to the butler's pantry and silver cleaning room then descend the 17 steps to the kitchen, scullery, and wine storage rooms located on the ground floor. Reservations required. 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information contact (516) 333-0048 or visit OldWestburyGardens.org.



Sept. 7

Art talk

Grab your lunch and join Nassau County Museum of Art Docent Riva Ettus for her popular "Brown Bag Lecture," now back on-site at Nassau County Museum of Art, Thursday, **Sept. 7**, 1 p.m. Enjoy an in-depth presentation on the current exhibition "Modigliani and the Modern Portrait." Participants are invited to ask questions at the end of the program and to join the 2 p.m. public tour of the exhibit. Also Oct. 19. 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

Library Walking Club

Participate in Glen Cove Public Library's at-your-own-pace hour walk, **every Thursday**, at 9:15 a.m. All fitness levels are welcome and attendees are encouraged to walk at their own pace, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. Register at GlenCoveLibrary.org or call (516) 676-2130 for more information.

Morgan Park Summer Music Festival

Enjoy the closing concert of Morgan Park Summer Music Festival, Ted Vigil's Tribute to John Denver, Sunday, **Aug. 27**, 7 p.m., at Morgan Memorial Park. Germaine St., Glen Cove. For information, visit MorganParkMusic.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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Santos' fundraiser indicted, identity theft

August 24, 2023 – GLEN COVE HERALD

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@iherald.com

George Santos' tenure as representative for New York's 3rd Congressional District has accomplished nothing for his constituents, but the freshman does continue to attract controversy. He made headlines again on Aug. 16 when one of his campaign fundraisers was indicted for allegedly impersonating a top aide to House Speaker Kevin McCarthy while attempting to get donations for Santos.

Samuel Miele, who had previously raised money for Santos' 2020 and 2022 campaigns, faces four charges of wire fraud and one count of aggravated identity theft. The 27-year-old fundraiser's alleged crime is believed to have been motivated by financial gain, as Miele received a 15 percent commission for each donation solicited for the Santos campaign.

The six-page indictment against Miele also alleges the fundraiser sent a letter to Santos on Sept. 26, 2022, in which he admitted to faking his identity but claimed that it was "high risk, high reward." The fundraiser allegedly claimed in emails and phone calls that he was Dan Meyer, McCarthy's chief of staff while he was serving as house minority leader.

Miele was arraigned on the indictment in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, pleading not guilty. He was released on bail, set at \$150,000. Santos himself was not named in the indictment, and it appears that there is no evidence that he colluded with Miele in his scheme.

Democrats in the House of Representatives have lambasted McCarthy for his continued protection of Santos, with Daniel Goldman of New York referring to it as "pathetic and shameful." While McCarthy did remove Santos from committee assignments, he has



Herald file photo

U.S. Rep. George Santos' problems continue.

continued to protect the fabulist, refusing to remove Santos from the House despite continued protests from district residents.

Of course, that isn't the only scandal that Santos has been involved in this week. The day before his fundraiser was indicted Santos made headlines for failing to file his annual financial disclosure report.

The filing is not normally considered an attention-grabbing detail, but Santos, who had already received

a 90-day extension from the initial May 15 deadline, managed to do so. It is unclear why he failed to file on time.

The disclosures are normally received and reviewed by the House Committee on Ethics, to provide the public with their representatives' financial information. Santos' disclosure could help explain the source of the \$700,000 he lent to his 2022 campaign, which he continues to claim was earned through his company the Devolder Organization.

However, federal prosecutors claim that Santos falsified his disclosures when he ran in 2020 and 2022, adding that the embattled congressman misrepresented his income from the Devolder Organization. For reference, the Devolder Organization allegedly acted as a paid go-between in business deals involving wealthy people.

Federal prosecutors claim that Santos also failed to report money he earned while defrauding the unemployment system during the coronavirus pandemic, allegedly taking more than \$24,000 in unemployment benefits.

Despite this, the penalties for missing the filing date are less than a slap on the wrist. According to the New York Times, late fees for missing the deadline are \$200, and only assessed if the report is filed over 30 days beyond the due date.

Santos isn't the only New York representative to miss the deadline. Santos' fellow first-term Republicans Anthony D'Esposito and Brandon Williams missed the initial May 15 deadline, although they have subsequently filed their disclosures.

While it is unclear what the future holds for Santos, if he fails to file his disclosure, he could face a civil penalty of over \$71,000. His next court date is on Sept. 7 in Central Islip.

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LIRR changes become effective Sept. 5

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Commuters on the Oyster Bay Branch of the Long Island Rail Road can expect a lot of changes come Sept. 5. But what the LIRR is touting as simplified trips will be expensive for commuters like Jeffrey Brown. A CEO of a company in Manhattan, he is trying to convince his employees to return to work in person, which would require for most taking the Long Island Rail Road. Brown wrote in an email to the Herald that the changes will cost him an additional \$120 a month for a municipal parking permit to use another station which he will need to do because of the LIRR's changes. Although public policies should encourage people to take mass transit, the proposed changes will do the opposite for the Greenvale commuter.

"The core issue is this: the MTA LIRR do not have any idea of the actual addressable market for passenger service on the Oyster Bay line," Brown wrote. "If they do the market research work, they will undoubtedly find there is a lot of demand but many people who would use the Oyster Bay line go to Manhasset or Hicksville. The Oyster Bay line product offering is garbage. The current Oyster Bay trains belong in a museum."

When service was changed in February after the launch of the new LIRR schedules adjusted to accommodate service to the second Manhattan terminal at Grand Central Madison, commuters



Roksana Amid/Herald

faced longer commutes, and train times were drastically adjusted. Starting Sept. 5, the express trains on the Oyster Bay rail line will run on a skip-stop basis. The 6:55 a.m. train from Oyster Bay will now depart at 7:01 a.m. and will no longer stop at Glen Cove, Sea Cliff, Greenvale, Albertson, or Mineola. Riders on the 7:17 a.m. train from Oyster Bay who are traveling to Penn Station will transfer to an empty train that originates at Jamaica, reducing crowding.

Although commuters like Brown are discouraged by the changes, MTA officials have declared it as a win by the

LIRR and elected officials as a service improvement. Long Island Rail Road interim president Catherine Rinaldi joined Assemblyman Charles Lavine and Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck at the Glen Street station on Aug. 22 to celebrate the forthcoming service changes, which Rinaldi said, "came as the result of a lot of conversations and in-person meetings" with Oyster Bay commuters and representatives.

"We are so thrilled to be able to make these improvements for our Oyster Bay Branch customers," Rinaldi said. "Despite our operational challenges and limitations, these improvements show a willingness to work with our riders and make adjustments wherever possible to improve their commutes. This marks the very first time in modern history that we will be offering a.m. peak service on the branch."

Panzenbeck said she's happy the MTA responded to the needs of the Glen Cove community.

"They've been asking for this for a long time," Panzenbeck said. "If it doesn't work out I'm sure they'll adjust as we go along, but we have to give everything a chance."

Since the first week of April, the Long Island Rail Road's 5:56 a.m. train from Oyster Bay to Penn Station, and the 6:22 p.m. train from Penn to Oyster Bay have not been stopping at Mineola. Two Mineola stops were eliminated after discussions among MTA officials, Assemblyman Lavine and Glen Cove City Council-

Assemblyman Charles Lavine, left, LIRR interim president Catherine Rinaldi and Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck spoke are hopeful the changes to the Oyster Bay branch will improve commutes for those who depend on the train's service.

woman Fugazy Scagliola, who sent a joint letter to MTA chairman Janno Lieber earlier this year. The letter indicated that while the MTA's East Side Access megaproject "is a game changer for many, the riders on the Oyster Bay line are being disadvantaged."

Fugazy Scagliola suggested removing the two Mineola stops as a first step to improving the line. Since then, she has heard feedback that commuters are saving six minutes per trip since the two Mineola Stops were removed. Fugazy Scagliola said she understands that omitting the two Mineola stops isn't as big a change as most commuters would like, but she believes it's a step in the right direction for improved service.

Earlier this year commuters started a petition on change.org, requesting that the MTA create schedules that reduce travel time on the Oyster Bay line to Penn Station and Grand Central Madison during rush hour, among other suggestions.

"We started the petition a few months ago, not knowing where it will lead and not knowing the support we would receive, which has been overwhelming," the creators of the petition wrote in a statement. "Over 2,200 citizens signed the petition and we have engaged in countless discussions with riders, businesses and elected officials and MTA leadership. We believe the changes announced today including the modified express pilot are a step in the right direction for the Oyster Bay line."

THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Man overboard

Dear Great Book Guru,
My friends and I take our children every week to Storytime at Sea Cliff Beach, and we stay afterwards for lunch on the pavilion. Last week one of the parents mentioned a new book about a cruise gone terribly bad. She called it a psychological thriller and recommended it to us. Any thoughts?

-Fan of Sea Cliff Beach

Dear Fan of Sea Cliff Beach,

I just finished reading "The Anniversary," by Stephanie Bishop and it is quite the thriller. The novel opens with J.B. Blackwood, a 40-year-old Australian author receiving news that she has received a major literary award — think the Booker — but she is cautioned not to tell her much older husband Patrick, a famous filmmaker because Blackwood tells us "he can't be trusted to keep secrets."

J.B. has planned a luxurious cruise to celebrate their wedding anniversary and its final destination will be the award ceremony. The couple had met years before when she was his student at a prestigious university while he was married with an infant son.



**ANN
DIPIETRO**

The opening chapters recount their blissful courtship and travels around the world. A few pages in we learn that a storm breaks out onboard the ship and Patrick is thrown overboard. Gradually, we begin to suspect there is more going on in the marriage than our narrator has suggested. Ultimately, we realize that

nothing we have been told, from childhood memories to present day events, is to be trusted. A disturbing albeit compelling tale. Recommended!

Would you like to ask the Great Book Guru for a book suggestion? Contact her at annmdipietro@gmail.com.

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OPINIONS

Thank God for the writers' strike

On May 2, the Writers Guild of America ceased its activities and went on strike. After years of stagnating compensation and job insecurity due to AI, the hand of Hollywood writers was forced as upper management refused to ratify a new bargaining agreement in time. On July 14, the WGA was joined by SAG-AFTRA, the actors' union. The members of both unions voted over 97 percent in favor of a strike; frustration with production companies had reached a tipping point.



MATTHEW ADARICHEV

The dismissal of workers' concerns and open cruelty by Hollywood bosses has been shocking, but not surprising. One executive quoted in Deadline Hollywood said, "The endgame is to allow things to drag on until union members start losing their apartments and losing their houses," a tactic described as a "cruel but necessary evil."

The audacity. The CEOs, who do not do the acting, the writing or the editing, yet somehow take home most of the money,

would sooner make people homeless than provide better working conditions. They admit their actions are cruel and evil, but they are not at all disturbed. The only thing that disturbs them is a drop in profits.

Let's not forget that better working conditions are indeed what these workers are striking for, because the anti-union mainstream media is out to paint them as nothing more than a mischievous cadre of banditti. Fox News quoted a Paramount CEO as saying that the strikes would cause the "absolute collapse" of Hollywood. On the other side of the spectrum, the putatively liberal The Week magazine described striking workers as "No shows" on the cover of its July 28 issue, lambasting striking film workers for not doing the work they *should* be doing.

That's the first reason I'm so grateful for this strike: It has exposed the entitlement that so many in society, especially those with means, feel when it comes to entire sectors of labor. It is taken for granted that certain workers cater to our needs. Firefighters must put out fires, delivery drivers must bring us food, and actors

must entertain us — and when they refuse to, anger and disrespect for these workers is justifiable.

The reality is, their labor was never ours to take for granted. It will always be the case that "essential workers" are offering their labor in exchange for just compensation and fair treatment, and that at any moment that labor could be withdrawn. There is no "required labor," and the strike has brought this into focus.

The second reason that I'm grateful for the strike is that it offers all of us a refreshing break. Media consumption has been on the rise in recent years, and my question is, are we watching these media for entertainment, for enlightenment, for enjoyment? Or are we trying to numb the pain? The perpetual rewatching of old clips already seen; watching our fifth identical dating show. Are we truly immersing ourselves in entertainment, or are we immersing ourselves in audio-visual stimuli to cut off the volume of our brains?

I think too many of us, myself included, have fallen into the second category. This cultural tsunami is the 21st-century equiv-

alent of cocaine and alcohol, to distract us from the difficult questions confronting us.

Your boss yelled at you again today. You don't think it's fair, but it's easier to click on the remote. You don't like the news, so you indulge in fantasies. All around you, it seems, the world is swirling. Deep down, you feel it may be best to confront it, but snuggling up in your sheets sounds good, too.

It's comforting to retreat. It's also mollifying, and when you're mollified you cannot shape your world. When many people are mollified, you cannot band together and face the tasks that require the efforts of many people. The good striking workers have said, "Enough of that!" and plunged us into cold water. We are afforded a short respite to unplug and consider the world around us.

Keep at it, Hollywood workers. I'm with you, and so are others. You are fighting for a good cause, and in fighting for yourselves you fight for us. You have given us all much to think about. Our TVs may be dark for some time, but it is the darkest skies that have the brightest stars.

Matthew Adarichev is a public policy major at Hofstra University, a political activist and an aspiring journalist whose work has appeared in the Hofstra Chronicle and the Anton Media Group.

A gold-plated hydrant for a pet's Valentine's Day?

As Valentine's Day approaches, I'm obsessing about how to impress, and basically ingratiate myself to, my domestic partner. Admit it: A certain anxiety fuels the hysteria over finding the perfect roses or just the right jewelry to meet expectations.

Feb. 14 triggers a commercial and emotional frenzy, with us trying to please



RANDI KREISS

someone when we have no idea what that someone wants. Worse, we feel obligated to buy a gift because we've been brainwashed by advertising, soppy postings on social media and reruns of "Pretty Woman," "Sleepless in Seattle" and "Out of Africa."

Note to husband: The striped umbrella was not an inspired gift two years ago. Neither were the polka dot pajamas last year. Think 18 karats. Or, if funds are short, I'm a sucker for the written word. Pen me a pretty Valentine.

As for *my* gift giving, I've been living with my husband for decades, and I'm not a bit concerned about being able to make him happy on Valentine's Day. A glass of his favorite Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, a homemade crab cake and he's mine.

My deep, deep concern is my other

housemate, Lilly Bee, our one-year-old Malagasy Coton de Tulear. As dogs take over the country, from airlines to restaurants to department stores, we need to hone our gift-giving skills to meet canine desires and fantasies. Very soon, our four-legged friends will rule the world. (This is a fake fact, but that's OK, right?)

According to recent statistics, there are 323 million people in the U.S. There are also 90 million dogs kept as pets in American households. (These are real facts. Doesn't it get confusing?) That doesn't count the street dogs, wild dogs and shelter dogs that are conspiring to get a leg up on humanity.

You think I'm kidding? Barking up the wrong tree? The 90 million dogs we know about are increasing in numbers exponential. Visit any dog park and see for yourself what happens when male and female dogs get together: They aren't exactly discriminating in their romantic encounters.

I don't know exactly when (because I'm making this up), but pretty soon there will be more dogs than people in the U.S., and we humans better be ready to please them. We already see signs of a dog-centric culture. When did the dog stroller become ubiquitous? Why do we see water bowls for dogs outside restaurants when homeless people have to scrounge to get a drink?

And airlines? The rules state that "emotional support" dogs take priority over humans with allergies or aversions to the smells and potty problems that sometimes come with canine passengers. Dogs are born with all the clothes they need on their

backs, yet the dog clothing industry is a multi-billion-dollar business.

Guess what other dog-centered biz is booming? Products for overweight and obese pets. And they aren't fat because they patronize food courts. They're fat because their owners feed them the same way they feed themselves: too much.

According to the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention, an astounding 94 percent of owners of fat dogs

think their pets are a normal weight. When advised that their pups are putting on pounds, humans buy lower-fat dog food and other slim-down products. Thus a new industry is born.

And this is just the beginning. Come the day that dogs outnumber people, they're sure to organize. Since poodles are reputed to be the brainiacs, they will no doubt seek the vote. A poodle president? I understand that poodles can identify a number of individual toys by shape and color. I'm not making comparisons, but that could be awesome in a president.

A dog majority would change food-buy-

**Randi is on a brief leave.
This column was originally
published Feb. 18-24, 2018.**

ing habits, demanding raw-meat menus and a reduction in the current consumption of smoothies and veggies. Veterinary schools would proliferate. We might see grooming taken to a new level. Aging dogs would demand hair color, and even a bit of "work" when their jowls droop.

Canine candidates would promise hydrants in every public park and a chicken in every doghouse. Puppy classes would become passé, and higher education would be available to all dogs, regardless of breed, shape of ears or length of tail. I imagine my Lilly Bee might follow the tried-and-true advice to study what she loves: Stiffies.

In a dog-dominant America, there would be a lottery for any mutt with a dollar and a dream.

Once the dog population tops the human population, the balance of power will tip in favor of Fido. We've all seen those paintings of Rover and Lassie and their friends sitting around a poker table. Fanciful, you say? I say, stay tuned.

In the meantime, I'm hedging my bets this Valentine's Day. A box of genuine goat bones is on its way to Lilly Bee.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

American Sign Language opens many doors

For many of us growing up, high schools offered so many different languages we could learn beyond English. Everything from Spanish and French to German and Hebrew. Even Latin.

But a growing number of public schools — including many here in Nassau County — are offering something many wish they had years ago: American Sign Language. And even if you're too old for public school, it's never too late to learn a language that, for more than a half-million Americans, is the primary — and sometimes the only — way to communicate.

Many of us mistakenly believe ASL is a language only for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. But effective communication requires both sides — the transmitter and the receiver — to clearly understand what's being shared. ASL, like any language, is only good if the people being communicated to understand what is being shared.

And that's the problem so many who depend on ASL face time after time. They speak through a complex series of gestures, but so few people understand. It makes everything from social experiences to school, and especially trying to function in a work environment, more difficult, if not impossible.

Making ASL fluency more widespread

is the difference between someone who depends on ASL just fitting in, or thriving. That's the argument Ariana Molina made in an opinion piece published last year for Cal State-Fullerton's student publication, the Daily Titan.

"ASL is not only a practically useful language, but can also remove stigmas surrounding the deaf and hard of hearing community," Molina wrote. "ASL courses are necessary for people to better understand the struggles of the Deaf community."

The New York State Education Department promotes ASL as one of its key languages when it comes to awarding schools its Seal of Biliteracy. Yet on Long Island, the vast majority of students choose Spanish as their second language, while only a relative handful chose ASL.

That's not for lack of trying by schools. Finding ASL educators isn't as easy as it is to find those who teach Spanish, French or even Italian. But schools are looking, and they are making an effort to promote American Sign Language to the broader population, no matter what their hearing status is.

Nassau County's emergency services also have worked hard to broaden access to its services, not necessarily by adopting ASL, but by offering the ability to text 911 once the new custom interface in which it invested more than \$100,000 goes live.

But opening the world even wider to our friends in the Deaf community is something each of us can do as well. Nassau BOCES offers two courses — a six-week instructor-led course, or a self-paced course with no instructor — for just over \$100. Nassau Community College offers its students a number of courses, from four levels of ASL to communication and culture in the Deaf community.

Also offering a significant program for its students is Hofstra University — a 160-hour experience that immerses them in the world of American Sign Language.

And for those who don't mind the drive to Nesconset, the Cleary School for the Deaf offers American Sign Language classes for anyone 12 and older.

There are a number of other programs offerings ASL — many of them a simple online search away.

George Bernard Shaw once said, "The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." We tell ourselves that everyone who can be communicated with is being communicated with, but the reality is that so many people are being left out.

Making ASL a part of all of our lives — whether we are part of the Deaf community or not — will ensure that more than a half-million of our friends, family members, fellow students and coworkers are never left out.

LETTERS

Withdraw The View's RFP

To the Editor:

The Herald's front-page story in the Aug. 10-16 issue was appropriately titled "The View Grill's uncertain future" due to the request for proposals issued by the City of Glen Cove. The RFP is requesting a newer and larger catering facility with an approximate 200-seat capacity for events, plus additional seating for a restaurant with potentially 100 more seats.

I don't disagree with the city issuing an RFP, or the city's desire to improve the facility to realize more revenue. However, the likely outcomes from this RFP's requirement for such a large catering facility may be the exact opposite, and therefore not to the benefit of the city and the community.

The large capital investments that will be required of the vendor that is selected, based on willingness to satisfy the ideals defined in the RFP, will likely lead to higher prices and possibly less patronage by our Glen Cove residents, and particularly seniors. Consequently, there is no guarantee that such a large catering facility will be successful. Importantly, should it fail, the city will lose all potential revenue, and the community will lose the enjoyment of the facility until another vendor who is willing to operate the facility can be found.

It is doubtful that environmental impact studies have been done to determine if the proposed bigger catering facility will have adequate parking and won't "squeeze out" golfers or adversely affect similar local businesses like the Glen Cove Mansion and Metropolitan.



A better vision for The View should be for a more modernized facility, operated by a family or tenant with a modest catering operation that is complementary to, not competitive with, the Glen Cove Mansion and the Metropolitan. Not only has this approach proven successful and served our community well over the

years, but it minimizes risk to the city and opens the door to greater revenues for the facility with reduced capital costs — a combination that stands to benefit every Glen Cove taxpayer.

For these reasons, I recommend that the city withdraw the current RFP and issue a revised proposal after public input

OPINIONS

It's time to deliver on our promise to never forget

We all remember where we were that day. I remember every detail.

We all knew someone who was killed — a neighbor, a friend, a sibling, a parent.

On Sept. 11, 2001, New York, the nation and the world experienced one of the darkest days in history. Nearly 3,000 people lost their lives, including hundreds of first responders. Now those who survived need our help, and I am fighting to ensure they get it.



ANDREW GARBARINO

With toxic ash filling the Manhattan air and countless victims buried under the rubble, Long Islanders answered the call, setting out en masse to help with rescue and cleanup efforts — acts of heroism that many are paying dearly for today. Every year, more survivors and first responders fall ill with cancers and other 9/11-related illnesses. Nearly 22 years later, Americans are still getting sick. More first responders have died since Sept. 11 than on the actual day.

The men and women who ran into crumbling buildings to save others, and the survivors who lived through one of the worst experiences imaginable, are suffering from illnesses and injuries that resulted from an act of terrorism. We owe it to them to make sure they receive the medical attention — screenings and treatment — they need to fight back and have the best chance of surviving.

That access to health care is now in danger due to the impending funding shortfall in the World Trade Center Health Program. That's why I have made it my mission to close the shortfall and make sure that our heroes and survivors never have to worry about losing health care coverage again.

Congress established the health program in 2011 to provide medical treatment and monitoring for 9/11 responders and survivors suffering from the effects of the toxins at ground zero. The program covers the lifespans of all who were exposed, including responders and survivors of the attack on the Pentagon as well the crash in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and the children who were in schools in downtown Manhattan on 9/11

and during the cleanup. Today it provides services for over 120,000 people in all 50 states.

No one could have foreseen just how many people would fall ill, how sick they would get, or how aggressive the cancers would be. Given the rising cost of health care, the funds originally authorized for the program didn't go as far as intended. This issue is deeply personal to me, as it is for so many New Yorkers. I have friends fighting for their lives right now. I have spoken to countless firefighters and other first responders going through the same thing. If more money is not appropriated, those who need it most will

face cuts in services, and those who may begin experiencing 9/11-related illnesses in the future will not be able to receive the care they deserve.

I introduced the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act of 2023 earlier this year, with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, which, if passed, would eliminate the funding shortfall of the World Trade Center Health Program and ensure that it remains financially stable for years to come. While this legislation has yet to be brought up for a vote in the

House or Senate, I am doing everything possible to gain funding for the program in the meantime and push off any potential program cuts.

I recently fought to have funding for the program included in this year's National Defense Authorization Act. Whether the provision will pass as part of the final package remains to be seen. Although this would only be a partial fix, it would provide another cushion for the program before cuts are necessary, and allow us time to secure the full funding needed. I, along with my fellow New Yorkers in Congress, will fight like hell to get this funding through the final stages of the legislative process and ultimately signed into law.

We all collectively promised to never forget, but it seems that too many have turned a blind eye to the ongoing suffering of our 9/11 heroes, survivors and their families. But I haven't forgotten, and I know that no Long Islander has forgotten. Together we will deliver on America's promise by securing the funding needed to safeguard the World Trade Center Health Program in whatever way we can.

Congressman Andrew R. Garbarino represents the 2nd District, and sits on the House Committees on Homeland Security, Financial Services and Ethics.

LETTERS

and environmental impact studies have been performed to determine the best options.

GEORGE MARAGOS
Democratic candidate for mayor, Cove Mayor

Glen Cove police, EMS saved my life

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the Glen Cove Police Department and the Emergency Medical Service team for their help in saving my life on Aug. 17.

I was hiking with three friends in the Welwyn woods when I was forced to go off trail due to a downed tree that was felled during a storm. As I detoured to get around the obstruction, I stepped on a nest of yellow jackets, released a swarm of bees, and I was stung 25 to 35 times.

I was lucky to have my friends Janice, Monique and Nicole with me, and we decided to get out of the woods and try to make it back to my car. It wasn't long before I started to have a severe allergic reaction and was going into anaphylactic shock. I couldn't move, and began having trouble breathing.

My friends called the Police Department and EMS, and one went to the road to flag down the first responders and guide them to where I was. They needed to administer an EpiPen and give me oxy-

gen. Then they carried me a half-mile on a stretcher to the ambulance.

I was taken to Glen Cove Hospital, where I received further lifesaving treatment. I believe that we sometimes overlook how fortunate we are to have our own police force as well as an EMS, which is manned by professionals and volunteers. I salute them for the great work they do!

MICHAEL MILLER
Glen Cove

The RFP should be revised

To the Editor:

In recent days, there has been a lot of discussion about the request for proposals related to the future use of the facility that currently houses The View Grill in Glen Cove. The current RFP calls for any future contract to expand the facility to include a 200-seat catering hall in addition to the current restaurant use.

I am particularly concerned about the quality-of-life impacts associated with the addition of such a large catering hall. Any facility that is designed to accommodate hundreds of guests will inevitably cause parking issues, and we need to also remember that there are homes nearby. The likely later hours associated with a catering hall could result in those residents being negatively impacted by increased noise.

We can't let the World Trade Center Health Program run out of money.

FRAMEWORK by Emma Bellissimo



The view is only half of the thundering thrill — Niagara Falls

Most of all, this is an issue of priorities. In the past, we have given generous payment in lieu of taxes, or PILOT, agreements to billion-dollar companies that have come into Glen Cove. But in this case, through the hospitality and stewardship of Jeanine DiMenna, The View has become a beloved part of the fabric of our community. I believe we must have some

level of consideration for a successful small business that means so much to so many people.

For those reasons, I believe the scope of the RFP should be reconsidered and revised.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR DERIGGI-WHITTON
Glen Cove

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