

HERALD



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Roksana Amid/Herald

Ready to take on the academic world

Mikayla Arias, left, and Peyton Cardenas had everything they needed for their first day of school at Deasy Elementary School on Tuesday. Story, more photos, Page 3.

New museum director to bridge the Holocaust education gap

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Mojgan “Moji” Pourmoradi, the new director of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, said she hopes to help bridge gaps in education about the atrocities against Jewish people during World War II. She believes that education is key to combating history’s cyclical tendency to tolerate antisemitism.

“I think that one of my jobs in life is to be a connector,” Pourmoradi said. “Teaching people, being part of their educational journey, is beautiful. So many of the volunteers here are children of survivors who honor their stories. For me to be a part of that, it’s an honor.”

The horrors of genocide in World War II aren’t an easy topic to discuss. Entire families and their

communities vanished, many were forced to flee their homelands, and others were detained in concentration camps. Pourmoradi knows that as time marches forward, connections to the past fade away, and history often forgets valuable lessons for humanity, unless people advocate for education.

Although she has a career in education with the Great Neck school district and has experience as a community leader for the district’s Parent Teacher Organization, the Iranian-born 55-year-old said she remembers feeling like an outcast as a child, and struggled to balance culture, identity and community. Pourmoradi came to the United States when she was 5 months old, when her parents sensed a rise in antisemitism and the start of political upheaval in Iran. She spent most of her

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City asks for revitalization suggestions

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Glen Cove’s downtown has thriving businesses, lush greenery, and string lights that blanket evening shoppers in a soft, warm glow. Although the ambiance, the diverse businesses and the Downtown Sounds summer concert series already attract visitors from other parts of the North Shore, the city is asking community members what improvements they’d like to see in the downtown area.

The survey, which is accepting responses until Sept. 14, will be part of the city’s grant application for the state’s Downtown Revitalization Initiative, which launched in 2016. The program, led by the Department of State, has awarded some \$700 million to 69 communities. It has also contributed to the creation of over 3,000 new housing units. Similarly, NY Forward, established in the 2019 budget has awarded \$100 million to 24 com-

munities in its initial round. Both initiatives are designed to generate investment, with every dollar committed estimated to spur an additional \$3 of investments.

To apply for the grant, municipalities throughout the state submit applications, which include community feedback from the Regional Economic Development Council, in the hope of transforming downtown neighborhoods into vibrant communities where the next generation of New Yorkers will want to live, work and raise families.

You need a community that you have an ongoing relationship with.

KATRINA MICHELLE
Founder,
Curious Spirit

John Robinson, a masseur with Glen Cove Massage, said he hoped to see a designated year-round, community-oriented space for the marketing of local produce and products, which he feels would uphold the spirit of local farmers markets.

Katrina Michelle, a holistic psychotherapist and the founder of the Curious Spirit, said she hoped to see a common

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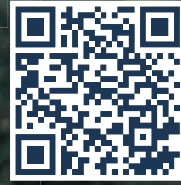
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City of Glen Cove schools back in session

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Students were ecstatic at Deasy Elementary School while waiting outside the large exterior sky-blue doors on their first day of the new school year on Sept. 5. For some anxious youth, it was their first day as students in the district, but Superintendent Dr. Maria Rianna was there, holding tiny uncertain hands, easing the worries of a few anxious parents and students at the start of their academic journeys.

The district is seeing some big changes this year for its 3,800 students between kindergarten and 12th grade in four elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. The buildings are undergoing the most extensive infrastructure improvements in decades.

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

Deasy replaced the courtyard curtain wall, and will also reconstruct heating and air-conditioning systems, replacing corridor lockers as well as tennis and basketball courts, a parking lot, and curbs and walkways at the high school.

The high school will also offer eight new classes in the arts, physical education and science to give students more diversity in their academic careers. In the personal training and fitness program, students will learn basic anatomy and physiology, proper form, how to use gym equipment and what exercises will be most effective to help achieve their fitness goals. This course will allow students to gain skills to pursue a career in lifelong fitness.

Their fine and performing arts department will offer courses such as foundations in dance, which will offer an introduction to dance and the fundamentals of movement. The focus will be on elementary techniques in ballet, modern and jazz dance.

For the sciences, students will have the opportunity to complete work on individual independent research projects. The final product of the research work will be an original scientific research paper. During the fall semester, students will submit their papers to science competitions such as Siemens-



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Families waited for the first day of school to begin at Deasy Elementary School, including Salma Haider, left, Mikail and Mukhtar Amiri.

Westinghouse, Intel, New York Academy of Sciences and the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. During the spring semester, they will present a research seminar and aid sophomore and junior research students

The changes stem from the passed bond vote from December of last year and the budget, which passed in May. Administrators touted such changes as costing no more than \$12.50 monthly for the city's average homeowner.

Construction began this summer and will continue on until the start of the 2025-26 academic year. The projected timeline, however, takes into consideration concerns such as supply chain issues and availability of materials and labor.



Many families walked to Deasy Elementary for the first day of classes.



Monica and Paisley Bujnowski were prepared for the first day of school with Paisley carrying new school supplies.



Courtesy Danielle Fugazy Scagliola

Louis Fugazy was excited for the first day of school. The new year holds the promise of new friendships, memories, and new subjects to learn.



Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

Students were met by friendly faculty and staff as soon as they stepped off the bus. The school district works hard to ensure their students come back to a safe and welcoming environment.



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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy Glen Cove Rotary

Sharon Tiberia, left, Lisa Carlisi, Lisa Lauricella and Jill Byrne enjoyed participating in the fundraiser to support 'Dress-A-Child/Project Warmth.'

Rotary fundraises for charity event

The Glen Cove Rotary held its first pickleball tournament at the courts in Stanco Park this summer to support the "Dress-A-Child/Project Warmth" charity event. Each year the rotary traditionally hosts a golf outing, but this year decided to have a pickleball tournament instead

due to the sport's recent popularity.

Each winter for over 30 years, the rotary donates warm, new coats, boots, hats and gloves to Glen Cove children most in need, collaborating with the city's schools to identify the children. Over 100 children are generally served.

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

Apart from the effect that diet and exercise have in extending healthful life are the mental and social aspects. As noted author Norman Cousins wrote, "Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss in life is what dies inside us while we live."

Robbins advises that the old saying "use it or lose it" applies as much to the brain as it does to muscles. Keys to cognitive health are engagement with life and having goals and things to look forward to.

"The elders most likely to experience dementia are those who spend their days watching television or wandering aimlessly around the mall. On the other hand, those who are contributing to the lives of others, who are engaged in some way in making the world a better or more beautiful place, not only more fully retain their cognitive faculties as they grow older, but often find themselves expanding into new levels of awareness and understanding."

Finally, the old Tina Turner song "What's

Love Got to Do With It?" comes to mind. The answer? A lot. Studies show that self-absorbed people are far less healthy. One doctor advises "Listen with regard when others talk. Give your time and energy to others, let others have their way, do things for reasons other than furthering your own needs."

One study of a group of women suffering from metastatic breast cancer showed that those who participated in a support group lived an average of 37 months while those who went it alone lived an average of 17 months. The women in the support group also experienced fewer mood swings and less pain and fear.

Modern research is now repeatedly finding that your relationship with others is medically potent. Your connections with the significant people in your life — if they are positive and loving — can prevent stress-induced illness, greatly contribute to your health and healing, and add many years to your life.

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The Herald Remembers

9/11 Remembrance of Glen Cove residents

'We will never forget,' read a popular sticker following the World Trade Center attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Twenty-one years later we continue to honor those from the City of Glen Cove who lost their lives on that infamous day. We continue to heal, grieve and find hope for the future, while remembering an unforgettable day. The following four people will be remembered as fathers, sons and brothers who grew up here, lived here as adults or served in our local Fire Department.

Edward J. Lehman
Matthew T. McDermott

John F. Puckett
Joseph J. Zuccala

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'Moji' balances culture, identity, community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

formative years in Brooklyn, and her parents were the sole connection to her cultural identity.

Pourmoradi remembers struggling to connect with her classmates when she was 6 years old. They had trouble pronouncing the combined J and G sound in Mojgan, and it was a constant reminder of their differences.

"It was so unusual to them, and I remember coming home crying and being like, 'Mommy, I hate my name,'" Pourmoradi recalled. "We went to the principal to change my name, and the principal said, 'We can call her Marjorie.'"

But Pourmoradi wasn't fond of that name, either. She experimented with other Americanized names like Debbie. With her mother's guidance, she decided on Moji.

At 16, her family moved to Great Neck, where there was an influx of Jewish-Iranians emigrating to the U.S. after the Iranian revolution of 1979. It included eight of her father's siblings, who started new lives in the U.S.

"Until the revolution, I didn't know that there were other Persian people besides my family," Pourmoradi said. "Everybody thought that I was with the Persian people, but I didn't have any Persian friends. I didn't really connect with them, but I understood that my journey is to bridge both communities together."



Roksana Amid/Herald

The Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center has exhibits detailing the timeline and experiences of the Holocaust. Moji Pourmoradi, the center's new director, hopes to extend the museum's reach in educating the public on the atrocities of war.

As a teenager, Pourmoradi watched as Jewish-Iranians realized they couldn't go home. "They didn't want us back," she said of Iran. "... It's a very sobering coming into adulthood, because you realize things can change, and homes aren't forever."

After finishing high school in Great Neck, Pourmoradi attended New York University, where she majored in psy-

chology and Middle Eastern studies.

"It was my opportunity to learn about who I was," she said. "It was more of a rediscovery of my culture, my heritage, and what it means to me."

She earned a master's in teaching English as a second language, which led her to schools in Manhattan's Chinatown and Brooklyn. She eventually settled on teaching Jewish education to

teens after school in Great Neck's part-time while raising a family.

After 25 years, she became the Waxman Hebrew High School and Youth Houseschool's first Persian PTO president, and then, six months before the pandemic began, she became president of the United Parent Teacher Council. She helped her own children navigate the world of distance learning while also facilitating communication among parents, teachers and school administration during an uncertain period in education.

Pourmoradi retired from the district in 2021, but was ready for a new chapter in her life to further her roles as an advocate for education, especially with the rise in antisemitism. She hopes the Holocaust center will eventually become one of Long Island's top destinations for families and educators. She is currently working to fund an auditorium on the museum's property to encourage tourism and guest speakers.

"What we're watching right now is very frightening," Pourmoradi said, referring to recent acts of vandalism at the museum. "You feel your stomach going up and down, you feel your heart beating faster. That's literally what's happening to the Jewish community: We're holding our breath while our heart is beating faster, because we know something is coming, partly because we've been on roller coasters before."

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HERALD SPORTS

Hofstra seeks conference Three-Peat

By **ANDREW COEN**

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The bar has been raised for Hofstra men's soccer.

Hofstra repeated as conference champions last fall, but were unable to replicate its 2021 postseason success when the Pride reached the third round of the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history. The 2022 NCAA Tournament appearance was a brief one for Hofstra, with the Pride falling in the opening round at South Florida, 4-2.

"Expectations are much higher now," said 35th-year head coach Richard Nuttall. "Our aspirations are much higher than the NCAA first round."

The Pride was tabbed as favorites in the Coastal Athletic Association preseason poll collecting nine of 11 first place votes. Hofstra is aiming for its first CAA title three-peat since accomplishing the feat between 2004 and 2006.

Leading the charge to once again raise a CAA trophy and get Hofstra into the NCAA Tournament as the league's automatic qualifier are junior midfielder Eliot Goldthorp and senior forward Ryan Carmichael. Goldthorp, a native of Leeds, United Kingdom, was named the CAA Preseason Player of the Year after earning Second-Team United Soccer Coaches All-America honors last season. Carmichael of Northern Island was 2022 CAA Player of the Year after placing second in the conference with 24 points.

"They are exceptional players who are athletically blessed and skillful," said Nuttall of Carmichael and Goldthorp, who were both named to the 2023 Hermann Trophy Watch List.

The first goal of the 2023 featured Carmichael heading in a cross from Goldthorp in the second half of the Pride's 1-0 season-opening win against Marist on Aug. 24.

Other offensive players Nuttall is hoping produce goals this season include senior Oliver Svalander of Sweden, who tallied 21 points last season, and junior Teddy Baker, who transferred from Lake

Erie College in Ohio.

Senior goalkeeper Wessel Speel anchors a Hofstra defense that held opponents to one goal or less in 15 matches. The Netherlands native was a Third-Team All-CAA selection in 2022 with 45 saves and five shutouts.

The backline also features Merrick native Pierce Infuso, Stefan Mason of the UK, Nico Oberrauch of Rome, Italy and Björn van Gorkom from the Netherlands.

Infuso, a former Bellmore JFK High School standout, made strides last season as a Second-Team All-CAA selection.

"We believe he is probably as good as anybody in the country as a one-on-one defender," said Nuttall of Infuso. "His soccer IQ is getting better every year."

The defense also includes West Hempstead High School native Shane Salmon, a Kellenberg High School product, who is back for a graduate year after playing 16 games with seven starts as a senior.

Other local players on the Pride roster include graduate Andrew Weiner, a Mepham High School graduate who arrives at Hofstra this season after competing for four seasons at Albany. Sophomore goalie Gino Cervoni, an Elmont native and Carey High School alum could eventually end up seeing time in net during his college career.

Hofstra kicks off its CAA season on Saturday at home against Long Island rival Stony Brook at 7 p.m. The non-league schedule is highlighted by an Oct. 3 trip to ACC power Virginia, who the Pride tied 1-1 last season.

The success of the Hofstra men's soccer program the last two years, which included an 8-2 blowout win at Penn State in the 2021 NCAA Tournament second round, has given Nuttall an added boost in recruiting.

"We're known as an entertaining and an attacking team and I think a lot of young people want to come here and play an attacking style soccer," he said. "Our results are pretty impressive over the last few years so we're becoming a place that the top level recruits want to come to."



Courtesy Hofstra Athletics Communications

Pride junior midfielder Eliot Goldthorp was named Coastal Athletic Association Preseason Player of the Year.

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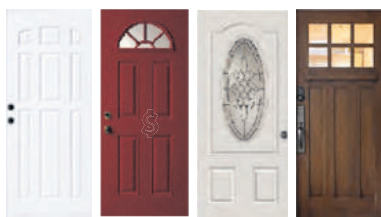
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County exec steps up school safety measures

By JUAN LASSO

jlasso@liherald.com

Bruce Blakeman and Patrick Ryder stood on the steps of Valley Stream Central High School, holding up a backpack.

No, this wasn't one of the many school supply giveaways that take place this time of year.

Instead, the Nassau County executive and Nassau County Police Department commissioner wanted to show a "go-bag." Filled with emergency response gear to deal with everything from school shootings to drug overdoses, these backpacks have been placed "in every county police vehicle and given to our village police department" stocked with emergency tools from a tourniquet to stop life-threatening bleeding, to Narcan, a lifesaving medication used in opioid overdoses.

These backpacks are yet another tool in a growing arsenal of existing school safety measures and protocols Blakeman said are critical in creating "an atmosphere of safety" at Nassau schools.

"There is no higher priority than the safety of our children in Nassau County," Blakeman said. "We are extremely serious about making sure that our kids, when they go to school, are in a safe environment free from any kind of violence or any kind of medical condition that would jeopardize their health."

With the creeping rise of school gun



Juan Lasso/Herald

In response to the worrying uptick in gun violence and overdose opioid deaths, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman joined Nassau County Police Department commissioner Patrick Ryder to unveil a series of new school safety tools and protocols to reduce the risk of active shooter threats.

violence and opioid deaths nationwide, Blakeman stressed the county's effort to ensure efficient cooperation between teachers, police officials, and local government. He also called on parents to be the first line of defense in spotting and reporting problematic behavior with their kids — especially as they grow into teens and young adults.

"Parents, know what your kids are up to," Blakeman said. "Know who their friends are. If some kid is acting weird or is doing something that can possibly

lead to violent activity — whether in-person or on social media — let school officials know."

Major strides have been made in the police's coordination efforts with schools, Ryder said, as ways to prevent active shooters and cut down on response times.

This is possible thanks to existing safety procedures and technology like security-wide assessments, mandatory police school visits, and the widespread installation of the Rave Panic Button

system in schools — a rapid alert apparatus designed to directly connect school administration to law enforcement and emergency dispatchers during a life-threatening event.

Other tactics include a dedicated team of officers who monitor the web for troubling social media posts or suspicious online behavior.

"If school officials do find something," Ryder said, "we immediately sit down with them, the student, and their parents and discuss it."

One instance that came to Ryder's mind was where a conversation led to a consensual search of a family's property, turning up weapons inside the home even the parents were not aware of.

"Since 2013, there have been 75 people killed in school shootings," Ryder said. "Roughly 75 percent of all active shootings end in five minutes or less. And 52 percent of that is over in two minutes."

Ryder noted that the county police's response time falls squarely within that window — averaging around three to five minutes. In the fast-paced chaos of a shooting, "closing that gap between two to three minutes" through quicker response times can save lives, citing the need for more trained officers on standby. And close to schools.

"The bad guy has to be right once," Ryder said. "We have to be right every single time, so we practice how we play and improve on everything we did before."

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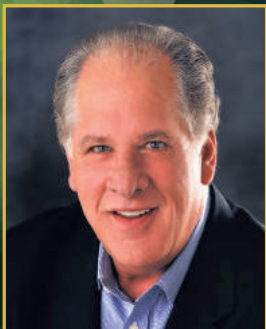
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Tickets are still available for the 2023 Soirée Under the Stars, featuring performances from Broadway stars Tony Yazbeck and Kate Baldwin. Both performers are Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critic's Circle awards nominees!

To purchase tickets or for more information, call the Development Office at 516-377-5360 or visit southnassaulifesaver.org.

Protecting families from catastrophe

September 7, 2023 – GLEN COVE HERALD

With hurricane season on the horizon, Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton and New York state hosted a New York State Emergency Preparedness Workshop at the Glen Cove Senior Center on Monday, Aug. 28. The event taught a crowd of 100 participants how to protect themselves and their families amidst a catastrophic event.

Presented by the state's Citizens Preparedness Corps, the workshops gave residents the tools and resources to prepare for any type of natural or man-made disaster, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions.

Each family participating received a free Citizen Preparedness Corps Response Starter Kit filled with emergency prep essentials.



Elisa Dragotto/Herald photos

Responding to an emergency can seem overwhelming, but Jean Johnson informed attendees how to overcome those challenges.



All participants of the workshop received a backpack with emergency supplies: radio, flashlight, batteries, fresh water packets, food packs, heavy-duty gloves, tarp, emergency blanket, water container, glow stick and a whistle.



Those who attended the event were able to ask specific questions about where to go in an emergency and how to properly shelter in place.



Preparing for emergencies requires attention to detail and a list of steps to follow in case of an emergency.



Seniors paid close attention on how to handle an emergency situation, including how to ration essential items like food and best use the emergency supplies provided.

STEPPING OUT

The pipes beckon *with spirit*

Irish pride is on full display at annual festival

By Karen Bloom

As the calendar turns to fall, it's time once again to share in the delights of all things Irish at the annual Feis and Irish Festival, presented by the Nassau County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

The annual spectacle is a beloved tradition that brings out visitors and participants to enthusiastically partake in a lively celebration of dance, music, piping, drumming, language, and athletics known as a *feis* (pronounced fesh).

The dancers are ready and the pipes are calling all to the 51st edition of the festival at Nickerson Beach on Sunday, Sept. 17, beginning at 9 a.m.

It retains the distinction of being a full feis in the traditional meaning of that term, according to Nassau AOH, in that it showcases not only Irish step dancing competitions (many hundreds of dancers are expected this year), but also a full menu of Gaelic bagpiping, traditional Irish music and song, Irish language activities, games, sports, and even Irish soda bread baking.

Sharing centuries of tradition

From as far back as 18th century Ireland, communities would come together for special festivals of dance and music — involving competitions, laughter and good times. That tradition continues here, where the AOH's eight strong divisions organize competitions of dance and piping, bestowing awards on the best.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians has presented Nassau County with its annual feis since 1972, celebrating Irish culture and history.

The Nassau AOH welcomes everyone to enjoy its traditional dance and piping competitions, along with an Irish Marketplace, featuring all sorts of Irish-related goods and treats for sale. And there's a special area for the kids. And since

it's a Sunday, Mass will be said at noon.

It's a day that highlights the always vibrant, age-old Irish traditions, with all eyes on those high-stepping lasses. The dance competitions make this the premiere feis in the New York metro region, a showcase of some of the finest Irish dancers in the area (and beyond), which also attracts pipers from all over to perform.

The sheer energy of the step dancers fascinates the many visitors who come just to see them being judged. The dancers perform intricate steps, often arrayed in dazzlingly colorful outfits, dancing jigs, reels, hornpipes and set dances. Winners move on to national competition and even international competitions.

This year's festival honors Tim Myles, a National Life Member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Division 14, in Lynbrook/Rockville Centre.

"I am honored and humbled to be chosen for this position, alongside many great Hibernians in past years, including a bishop and congressman who have been the honoree," Myles says. "I have been involved in the feis for over 30 years, but most proud of the 10 years I ran the dancing competition. I oversaw entries go from 240 competitors to over 800 dancers, thanks to Riverdance. Please come out and support Irish culture, because if we don't, who will?"

Myles, who retired from Long Island Rail Road 10 years ago, is devoted to supporting the Irish community at large. Among his many efforts, he



Young dancers step lively as they compete in the Irish step dancing programs in a demonstration of their training and talents.



Photos courtesy John C. O'Connell

Judging the Irish Soda Bread contest is difficult work but these volunteers are proud to do it.



The marchers proceed in a proud salute.



- Sunday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- \$10 per person; children younger than 12 free
- Nickerson Beach, 880 Lido Blvd., Lido Beach
- Visit NassauAOHFeis.com for information

favorite, is also one of the most hotly contested events of the day. There are as many styles of Irish soda bread as there are bakers.

And, of course, the beach beckons. Bring a picnic lunch and settle in for a taste of Irish culture and hospitality.

serves on Rockville Centre's St. Patrick's Parade Committee and on the board of Molloy University's Irish Studies Institute.

Other festival enticements include Gaelic bagpiping, along with traditional music and song. Individual musicians demonstrate their talents and compete for prizes on a number of instruments — including the fiddle, tin whistle, flute, accordion, all forms of bagpipes, drums and keyboards, or any other instrument of their choice. Singers do the same, and judges have been known to award extra points for songs sung in the Irish language.

The Irish soda bread judging, a perennial favorite, is also one of the most hotly contested events of the day. There are as many styles of Irish soda bread as there are bakers.

And, of course, the beach beckons. Bring a picnic lunch and settle in for a taste of Irish culture and hospitality.



George Thorogood & The Destroyers

Since 1975, George Thorogood & The Destroyers have sold more than 15 million albums, played more than 8,000 ferocious live shows, and built a catalog of classic hits that includes 'Who Do You Love,' 'One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer' and 'Get A Haircut.' 'Bad to the Bone,' that definitive badass anthem deemed the most popular song for bikers by Spotify, celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2022. Now 'one of the most iconic bands in rock n' roll history' — the Rapid City Journal, among others — celebrates it all with their Bad All Over The World: 50 Years Of Rock tour. It's been very good to be George Thorogood & The Destroyers all these years, rock on with them. 'If you're content, you may as well be dead,' Thorogood says. 'I think everyone has thoughts about retiring, but the phone keeps ringing. 'You want me and The Destroyers to come to your town, set up our gear, wear some cool threads and play 'Who Do You Love?' Let's rock!'

Friday, Sept. 8, 8 p.m. \$89.50, \$59.50, \$49.50, \$39.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.



Anthony Hamilton

Spend an electrifying evening with soul storyteller and 'narrator of love' Anthony Hamilton. The Grammy winner (and 17-time nominee) is known for his singular style that mixes Southern soul with R&B swag. Over the last decade, he's produced platinum-selling albums and chart-topping hits like 'Comin' From Where I'm From,' 'Charlene,' 'You've Got the Love I Need,' and 'You Made a Fool of Me.' His recent album 'Love is the New Black' includes the solo single 'Mercy,' which launched his label My Music Box. The suave singer-songwriter entices everyone with a voice characterized as smooth as the glowing embers of a dying fire and a glass of pinot noir. Now considered the king of modern soul and R&B, he burst onto the scene in the early 2000s, after cutting his teeth as a background singer for the likes of D'Angelo and 2Pac.

Friday, Sept. 8, 8 p.m. NYCB Theatre at Westbury, 960 Brush Hollow Road, Westbury. For information/tickets, visit WestburyMusicFair.org or LiveNation.com.

THE SCENE

Sept. 23

Killer Queen

Queen-mania rocks on. Killer Queen visits the Paramount stage, Saturday, **Sept. 23**, at 8 p.m., with their homage to the beloved band. Formed in the UK in 1993, Killer Queen played their first public shows at London University where Queen themselves had played their first shows 21 years earlier. Fronted by Patrick Myers as Freddie Mercury, critics have described Myers' resemblance to Freddie Mercury as "spooky;" his uncanny likeness was further proven when he recorded a #1 hit single singing as Freddie Mercury on Fat Boy Slim's record "The Real Life." Of the band's success, Myers has remarked "It's been an amazing journey. We thought our band would last maybe a summer at the most but the concerts grew and grew and we've ended up playing and selling out the same arenas that Queen played at their peak." Their success has continued here in the States, with regular stops at prestigious venues on their U.S. tours. Their expert musicianship, extraordinary energy, and accurate portrayal of the world's greatest live band has rightfully earned them the title of Queen Royalty! Thrilling sell-out audiences across the globe the band recreates the high energy, powerful phenomenon that was Queen live. This quality, combined with Myers' powerful three-and-a-half octave tenor range, expert musicianship and dynamic stage presence, has captivated audiences the world over. \$49.50, \$39.50, \$35, \$24.50. 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.

Sept. 9

Bird walk

The South Shore Audubon Society welcomes all to join its members for a bird walk, at the Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, Saturday, **Sept. 9**, starting at 9 a.m. Walk leaders, other birders and nature enthusiasts are happy to share their knowledge and experience with you. Bring binoculars. 500 Slice Drive, off Waukeena Ave. To register, text your name and contact information to (516) 467-9498. Also text regarding questionable weather conditions. For more information, visit SSAudubon.org



Leaf Peepers

Celebrate fall and all the colors of the season with the family at Long Island Children's Museum, Saturday, **Sept. 23**, 12-2 p.m. Use your imagination to make animal art out of colorful leaf shapes, focusing on the seasonal shades of vibrant yellow, deep purple, and fiery orange, at the drop-in program. Suitable for ages 3 and up. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org

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H5 GLEN COVE HERALD MUST-READS

Richie Cannata ready to rock Morgan Park
[Read more](#)

Glen Cove nurse receives 'Cause for Applause' award
[Read more](#)

Nassau Library tours is a 'novel' idea
[Read more](#)

Level Up raises \$3,500 for cancer research
[Read more](#)

Chamber names their scholarship winners
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Public Hearings Announcement

The New York State Legislative Commission on the Future of LIPA

Suffolk County

September 12, 2023 • 10:00 am

Suffolk County Legislature Building

725 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Smithtown, NY 11787

Nassau County

September 14, 2023 • 10:00 am

Nassau County Legislature Building

Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building
1550 Franklin Ave, Mineola, NY 11501

The Rockaways

September 18, 2023 • 10:00 am

Rockaway YMCA

207 Beach 73rd St, Arverne, NY 11692

The East End

September 20, 2023 • 11:00 am

Southampton Town Hall

116 NY-27A, Southampton, NY 11968



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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.

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, **Oct. 19**, 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. 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

History in Miniature

Raynham Hall Museum invites everyone to a cocktail reception for its exhibition, "History in Miniature," Saturday, **Sept. 16**, 4-6 p.m. The exhibit takes a closer look at dioramas and miniatures, investigating our fascination with small-scale creations. The exhibition is drawn from the collection of Richard Schuster, treasurer of the Board of Raynham Hall Museum. Schuster has collected, researched, and painted historical miniatures for over 60 years and has amassed a collection of over 30,000 figures and scenics. 30 West Main Street, Oyster Bay. For information, visit RaynhamHallMuseum.org or call (516) 922-6808.

Author Talk

Meet author Heather Marshall at Glen Cove Public Library's virtual program, Tuesday, **Sept. 12**, 2 p.m. Her powerful debut historical novel "Looking For Jane," tells of three women whose lives are bound together by a long-lost letter, a mother's love, and a secret network of women fighting for the right to choose. It is inspired by true stories. Register at GlenCoveLibrary.org or call (516) 676-2130.

Talking birds

The South Shore Audubon Society invites all to a lecture program, "Researching Cassowaries, the Deadliest Birds on Earth," with Dr. Todd Green, Tuesday, **Sept. 12**, 7:30 p.m., at Freeport Memorial Library. Most people have never heard of these large flightless birds native to Australia and New Guinea, which are critically important to the rain forest ecosystems they inhabit. They have dagger-shaped claws, crown-like structures and brightly colored heads and necks. They are so territorially aggressive; they are among the deadliest birds on earth. Paleontologists use them to help untangle the mysteries of long extinct dinosaurs. Dr. Green, a Postdoctoral Teaching fellow at NYIT, is one of the few cassowary researchers in the world. 144 W. Merrick Road (at S. Ocean Avenue) in Freeport. For more information about the program or South Shore Audubon, go to SSAudubon.org.

Job Fair

Nassau BOCES, in partnership with Nassau County School Districts, holds a Job Fair, Wednesday, **Sept. 20**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Freeport Recreation Center. It promises to be an exceptional opportunity for job seekers. Representatives from Nassau BOCES, SCOPE Education Services and several school districts will offer an exclusive platform for candidates to explore a wide range of exciting career opportunities within the field of education. Attendees can look forward to engaging with representatives from the participating school districts. Job seekers, whether seasoned professionals or fresh graduates, are encouraged to attend this event to explore positions as Teacher Aides, Bus Drivers, Security Personnel, Naturalists, Bus Dispatchers, Registered Professional Nurses, Maintainers, Food Service Personnel, Cleaners/Laborers, HVAC and Electrical technicians, Groundskeepers, Monitors and more. Each participating district, offering insights into their educational programs, work culture, and career advancement opportunities; face-to-face interactions with district representatives, allowing candidates to ask questions, discuss job openings, and showcase their skills; networking opportunities and on-site resources and workshops to help attendees refine their job search strategies, improve interview techniques, and create effective resumes. Attendees are encouraged to dress professionally, bring copies of their resumes, and prepare to make an impression. 130 E. Merrick Road, Freeport. Visit NassauBoces.org/jobfair for information.



Trivia show

Enjoy drinks and a free trivia show in a cozy atmosphere, **every Wednesday**, at 7 p.m., at Campground Craft Beer Market in Sea Cliff. Tango Time Trivia shows are fun and free to play, and the winner gets a prize. Hosts bring the energy, jokes, good music and fun to help unwind after work. Bring your friends, co-workers and family. Campground serves a wide range of delicious craft beers and warm finger foods to enjoy while competing for first place. 208 Sea Cliff Ave. Visit Campgroundbeer.com for information.

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.

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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THE WEEKLY LIST:

SIP ON LONG ISLAND'S BEST IN WINE & SPIRITS

Visit www.lichoiceawards.com to view all winners and finalists of the 2022 Herald Long Island Choice Awards presented by PSEG Long Island. Nominations for 2023 are coming soon!

BEST BAR/PUB:

Tap Room
Multiple Locations
TapRoomofNY.com

Tap Room founders James Bonanno and David Johnson from day one sought to take the warmth and personality that you can feel at a traditional local pub, and combine it with elevated pub fare that would stand on its own. Tap Room frequently rotates their draft menu, incorporating both national and local craft brewers. Discovering new beers, bringing back old favorites and encouraging adventurous customers to order beer flights instead of just pints, and allowing them to fully explore everything the Craft Beer menu has to offer is what they're all about.

BEST WINERY:

Pindar Vineyards
37645 NY-25 Peconic, NY
(631) 734-6200
Pindar.net

Pindar Vineyards was born of the vision of Dr. Herodotus "Dan" Damianos and his great love for wine. He is known as one of the original pioneers of Long Island Wine Country and started our story in 1979. The family-run vineyard/winery/tasting room combo grows over twenty varieties of grapes and produces a unique selection of wine styles - from bold red blends, to steel fermented, fruit forward whites. Pindar Vineyards encompasses more than 300 scenic acres. The Damiano-family grows 20 varieties of grapes, crafting them into some twenty three varieties and proprietary blends. They produce 70,000 cases of wine a year, making Pindar the largest vineyard on LI.

BEST SPORTS BAR:

Michael's Billiards
4060 Austin Blvd., Island Park
(516) 548-7707
MichaelsBilliardsNY.com

Pool, darts, food, drinks, and big screens – all the ingredients for a good time. Michael's Billiards is the perfect location to catch the game or be a part of one by joining an APA league or dart team. You can even start your own league with friends or family and make it a tradition. Have a classic night and make great memories!



BEST BREWERY & BEST LONG ISLAND CRAFT BEER:

Barrier Brewing Co.
3001 New St., A2, Oceanside
(516) 594-1028
BarrierBrewing.com

South Shore's Barrier Brewing Co. made their first batch in June 2010 and since then have grown to produce numerous brands and styles of beer available in cans, bottles, or draft. Plus, they offer specialty releases exclusive only to the brewery's tasting room. Discover the art of brewing beer with each sip, and admire the incredible, colorful artwork that goes with each label. The beer garden, and 3rd Rail Food Truck is open from Wednesday to Sunday; but Barrier Tap Room is open daily for curbside or takeout.

BEST PLACE TO BUY BEER & BEST BEVERAGE CENTER:

Freeport Beverage Propane Exchange & Ice
331 Guy Lombardo Ave., Freeport
(516) 379-1659
Freeport-Beverage-Center.business.site

At Freeport Beverage Propane Exchange and Ice, they've got your thirst, grilling, and chilling needs covered! Quench your thirst with a variety of refreshing sodas and beers, refill your propane tanks for a sizzling barbecue, and grab ice bags to keep your drinks and snacks cool. One-stop excitement and convenience await you here!

BEST LIQUOR STORE & BEST WINE SHOP:

Sip & Say Craft Wine & Spirits
2067 Merrick Rd, Merrick
(516) 992-8111
sipsay.com

Sip & Say Craft Wine & Spirits was inspired by owner very own certified Sommelier, Adam Schneider, and his 20+ year career in the wine industry. At Sip & Say, the family-run business, these stories come to life through taste and education. Their craft wines & spirits are hand picked to assure quality at every price point. Sip & Say will also engrave a special message, for free, on almost every bottle purchased! They also offer fully customized, engraved bottles, featuring the option for photographs, at affordable prices.



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Could state funding help improve downtown?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

area for people to meet, which she described as being surrounded by nature.

“A way to support people in their mental health is more community,” Michelle said. “Outside of getting professional help, you need a community that you have an ongoing relationship with.”

Such a space would be optimal for people who have just moved to the area, Michelle said, as opposed to meeting at a business-like Starbucks where there is the expectation to buy something.

Ann Fangmann, executive director of Glen Cove’s Community and Development Agency and the city’s Industrial Development Agency, said the city previously applied for the state’s NY Forward Initiative. After reviewing the application, the state suggested that the city apply to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative, because it is a larger municipality. The NY Forward program is meant to serve smaller communities and support local economies that often have a different feel and focus than larger urban centers.

“We’re looking at our application from last year and making some updates,” Fangmann said. “We’re waiting to receive some additional feedback, both internally and from the public. A



Courtesy Downtown Business Improvement District

The City of Glen Cove is applying for a state Downtown Revitalization grant, which would help fund projects frequently requested by community members to improve the city’s downtown.

lot of the projects and ideas are things that have been spoken about for years here at City Hall and amongst the different downtown stakeholders. A lot of it builds on past planning efforts, and input that we’ve received for many years. When we put in our application last year, we felt that we had many years’ worth of planning studies and

input to draw from.”

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said that one of the city’s priorities is to improve the downtown’s sidewalks. Repairs need to continue, she said, to make the area more pedestrian-friendly.

Jocelyn Wenk, grant administrator for the city’s Community and Development Agency, said some of what was

suggested last year involved trying to expand the existing business mix in the downtown, and to fill some of the vacant storefronts with new businesses. There were also suggestions to work with existing businesses to increase their hours, and find ways to bring new businesses to the area. Streetscaping improvements were also proposed last year, including more trees along sidewalks, as well as beautification projects — the addition of sculptures, murals, and a performing arts theater.

In a news release, Gov. Kathy Hochul said that the downtown revitalization and NY Forward programs have created a wave of revitalization that is sweeping across the state.

“The programs are not only reinvigorating downtowns, but they are also making our regions and the state as a whole a world-class destination for businesses, families and tourists,” Hochul said. “The programs are fulfilling the original vision for the DRI of creating a critical mass of vibrant downtowns of all shapes, sizes and characters in each region to entice businesses to invest and locate in New York State.”

Comments about the future of the city’s downtown can be emailed to afangmann@glencovecda.org and jwenk@glencovecda.org on or before Sept. 14.

NEWS BRIEFS

George Santos’ court hearing delayed

Representative George Santos’ upcoming court date, scheduled for Sept. 7, has been pushed back to Oct. 27 at 10:30 a.m. according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York.

Both the prosecution and Santos’ defense requested the extension, in part because the prosecution had discovered a “substantial” amount of new information regarding the case which the defense needed time to familiarize itself with. At the previous court hearing, the prosecution presented over 80,000 pages of evidence against Santos.

The two legal teams also implied that they may be in discussions for a plea deal for Santos, with the prosecution stating, “that negotiations concerning a potential resolution of this case without the need for a trial are active and ongoing.”

Concerned Citizens of NY-03, a non-

profit group which has been outspoken in its opposition to Santos’ tenure following the New York Times’ article on his numerous lies, have released a statement expressing their concern that the plea deal would allow the fabulist congressman to remain in office. They argue that, as the constituency is the victim of Santos’ lies, its desire to have Santos removed should be considered in the structure of the plea deal.



GEORGE SANTOS

“The wishes of the victims here — Santos’ constituents — are that this conman be compelled to immediately step down from his role as a Member of the House of Representatives, which would allow for a special election for his replacement as soon as possible,” the statement read. “He is an imposter, elected based on premeditated lies aimed at appealing to specific sectors of the NY-03 electorate.”

Senior center seeking centenarians

Each year the City of Glen Cove honors the community’s centenarians and all senior citizens, who are the heart of the community, by throwing a party with music, food and prizes. This year, the date of the Senior Day Block Party

is Sept. 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 130 Glen St., Glen Cove.

To suggest a centenarian or for more information contact Anita at the Glen Cove Senior Center at (516) 759-9610 or email acocchiola@glencoveny.gov

Your move: checkmate hate on Sept. 10

A charity “chess in the park” tournament event is taking place at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. CHESSanity, is teaming up with the tolerance center to launch a new initiative aimed at putting an end to hate and bigotry and promoting tolerance and respect for all people, regardless of their background or religion, as the way forward for future generations of humanity. They hope to inspire a new generation of leaders who are committed to creating a more just and equitable world.

As part of this partnership, CHESSanity has scheduled this event that promotes the values of tolerance and inclu-

sivity, while also donating the proceeds to support HMTC’s mission to educate the public about the Holocaust and its lessons for today. They believe that through joint efforts, they can make a real difference in the fight against hate and discrimination, and create a brighter, more tolerant future for all.

The event takes place on Sept. 10, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, 100 Crescent Beach Rd., Glen Cove. There is a registration fee of \$15 per player, which includes a tour of the museum. For more information and to register contact CHESSanity@yahoo.com.

Library establishes Carol Rubin Award

The Friends of the Glen Cove Public Library have established the Carol Rubin Award to be awarded to a graduating Glen Cove High School senior. The award of \$500 is to be used for college expenses.

Carol Rubin, at 101 years of age, stepped down as president of the Friends of the Public Library, which she has served since the mid 1980s. The organization, founded in 1970, is a group of dedicated volunteers who raise money to benefit the library. Under

Rubin’s leadership, the organization has raised thousands of dollars for library programming such as movies, museum passes, enhanced collections, equipment and other items not included in the library’s budget.

Rubin, who worked tirelessly to strengthen and support the library for more than 25 years, plans to devote her energy to helping the Glen Cove Senior Center. Kate Csillag has been elected as the new president of the Friends of the Glen Cove Public Library.

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OPINIONS

When the press is under assault, so is the Constitution itself

An alarming trend is taking place that is undermining one of the pre-eminent tenets of our U.S. Constitution — freedom of the press. Faced with the prospect of bad publicity, people in positions of authority, in some cases with a particularly conservative political ideology, are using the legal system as a weapon



**CHARLES
LAVINE**

in a war with an institution once seen as a bedrock of democracy and now perceived as an enemy.

In Wisconsin, a small-town newspaper is on the verge of bankruptcy due to the expense of defending itself in a defamation suit filed by a now

Republican state senator. As detailed in a New York Times story in 2021, the Wausau Pilot & Review published an article reporting that a prominent businessman, Cory Tomczyk, referred to a 13-year-old boy as a “fag” at a public hearing. Tomczyk subsequently sued the paper for defamation, but the case was dismissed in April of this year because

he failed to meet the legal standard to establish a case. Tomczyk has appealed, resulting in more legal fees for the Pilot & Review. The Times reports that the paper’s publisher has no idea how she can afford to both fight both the legal case and pay her staff of four.

Meanwhile, in Kansas, one can’t help but see the link between the raid of a small newspaper’s offices and its investigation of the local police chief. As reported on NPR, on Aug. 11, the Marion Police Department confiscated computers, cellphones and a range of other material at the offices of the Marion County Record. While it had not published any stories, the Record had been looking into allegations of misconduct against the local police chief. The paper’s publisher told the Kansas Reflector that the message from police and the local political establishment was clear: “Mind your own business or we’re going to step on you.”

As in Wisconsin, the Kansas case is getting national attention. According to The Intercept, the raid was strongly condemned in a letter from the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press to the Marion County Chief of Police, which was signed by 36 news media and press freedom organizations. The letter states, “Newsroom searches and seizures

are among the most intrusive actions law enforcement can take with respect to the free press, and the most potentially suppressive of free speech by the press and the public.”

This accounting of recent instances of press intimidation, by the Philadelphia Inquirer, makes clear that those above are by no means alone:

■ An Oklahoma sheriff caught on tape earlier this year discussing ways to murder reporters.

■ A government official in Las Vegas charged last year with murdering an investigative reporter who wrote stories about his bullying tactics of subordinates and his relationship with an employee.

■ The homes of two journalists in New Hampshire vandalized last year after stories detailed sexual assault allegations against the operator of an addiction treatment center.

■ Reporters threatened and harassed for covering the mass shooting at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

■ Some local governments have stopped paying to print public notices in newspapers because of unfavorable coverage.

■ Elon Musk banned several reporters from the X social media platform, formerly known as Twitter, who aggressively covered his company.

And then, of course, there is arguably the ringleader in this war against responsible journalism, former President Donald Trump, who has accused the press of being an “enemy of the people,” according to The New York Times. The Times also reports that Trump has filed numerous unsuccessful defamation lawsuits against news organizations, the latest of which, a \$475 million whopper against CNN, was thrown out by a federal judge for lack of merit.

This crisis has special significance for us Long Islanders. Marie Colvin was an award-winning hero journalist who lost her life covering war atrocities in Syria. She grew up in East Norwich. Marie used to say, “Be passionate, and be involved in what you believe in, and do it as thoughtfully and honestly as you can. ... Our mission is to speak truth to power.”

We need to stand up and fight for independent journalism. Let us all speak “truth to power”!

Charles Lavine represents the 13th Assembly District.

News porn, food porn and shopping porn

Really, the world outside is conspiring to corrupt us. The mindless chatter is deafening, the distractions are pervasive and the temptation to indulge ourselves on every level is highly seductive.

Yesterday I was standing on the train platform in Jamaica, and watched a young woman, earplugs inserted, texting



**RANDI
KREISS**

while her child toddled over the yellow line, way too close to the tracks. Only those of us not on our phones noticed and yelled a warning. The embarrassed mother started to scream at the little boy, who really had done nothing wrong.

People are moving around, believing they can walk and talk or walk and listen to music or drive a car and text or sit down to dinner with the family and also answer emails.

No news flash here. This isn’t a new cultural phenomenon, but it is becoming obscene. Walking through city streets yesterday, people were mentally AWOL as they sometimes moved along and sometimes just stopped and blocked the sidewalk while they texted a message. Pedestrians were oblivious to their immediate

surroundings, inattentive to people standing within earshot.

On the LIRR, a woman was offering telephone therapy in a ridiculously loud voice to her daughter, who apparently was having issues of a personal nature with a boyfriend. Personal? Everyone in the train car had to listen to her advice on birth control.

Gradually, this public sharing of the personal and private has become acceptable behavior for many. Facebook and Snapchat and Instagram users publish details of their lives that might have been kept within the family before the internet. Are we losing any sense of discretion?

Who among us is able to carve out islands of silence or solitude in the midst of this public havoc?

The food we eat was once a private part of our lives. Now everyone takes pictures of their lamb chops and posts recipes, some for the most excessively fattening foods imaginable. And when we put down the phone or the computer, we turn on the TV and watch “Diners, Drive-ins and Dives” and watch really unhealthy-looking people gorging on fried food and barbecued everything.

If you turn to the news for a reasonable roundup of the day, you’re assaulted by the repetitive “breaking news” hyste-

ria that has replaced intelligent coverage. If you watch the news while you flip back and forth to the food channel, it’s a perfect storm of excess and grease.

Since President Trump was elected, news porn has subsumed what used to be

reasonable coverage of events. It’s a chicken-and-egg kind of thing. Did the chaotic nature of the administration make the news crazy, or is the crazy coverage affecting the White House?

We find excess in every arena. Once upon a time, when you wanted to go shopping, you went. It was a considered, proactive choice involving walking or driving to a store, selecting merchandise, checking out and coming home. I was never a motivated or skilled shopper, so online shopping serves me well. Still, what disturb me are the excessiveness and intrusiveness of it all.

I buy a pair of shoes online, the next time I try to do some research, I’m harassed and enticed and tempted by visual streamers on the screen, offering me more shoes and different shoes and cheaper shoes and even used shoes. Enough!

Perhaps I’m reacting to my own susceptibility to the dazzling online displays of goodies, from super-rich chocolates to rhinestone earrings that look like baby

In these cases, ‘porn’ suggests something different: lurid and excessive indulgence.

**Randi is on a brief leave.
This column was originally
published Sept. 7-13, 2017.**

chandeliers. It’s all visual, but it feels noisy to me.

I use the word porn for these excesses in news, food and shopping because porn doesn’t necessarily suggest sexual material. In these cases, it suggests lurid and excessive indulgence.

This isn’t an all-or-nothing problem. By all means, we need to enjoy our food and follow the news and buy what we need to buy. The tricky part is keeping it all reasonable and appropriate and private. Dare I use the word “moderation”? It sounds so boring. Still ...

To save our sanity, each of us, in our own lives and own spaces, must find time to think. That’s it, just think, with no external input. Sit in a park or in the house or take a walk and leave the devices behind. You’ll see and hear things you haven’t seen in a long time, such as the flash of a bird’s wing in the distance or the humming of late-summer insects.

Since Hurricane Harvey, there’s much talk about sheltering in place. The media intrusion into our lives is another kind of storm, and we need new skills to survive. We must give the gift of quiet observation to the next generation, or they will never learn how to take shelter in their own space.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Make room for school buses

They called them the most dangerous stretches of road on Long Island. No crosswalks. Speeding cars. Pedestrians literally running for their lives simply to get from one side of the street to the other.

A survey conducted last year by Vision Long Island — a group of community leaders from Nassau and Suffolk counties committed to advancing more livable, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible growth — found these trouble spots in six neighborhoods, including Baldwin and Hempstead village. The study came on the heels of more than 6,000 accidents reported in the Town of Hempstead involving pedestrians.

“There’s a need in the area,” Vision Long Island executive director Eric Alexander said. “And we can do better.”

As schools open their doors for the fall once again, all of us *must* do better — at least do our part to ensure that our young folk can safely make it to their campuses. That means keeping an eye out for kids crossing streets, walking along roads where there might not be sidewalks, or simply standing and waiting for a bus.

Every morning — and every afternoon — hundreds of bus drivers are tasked with getting our children to and from school. But that task isn’t easy. Especially with impatient car drivers who might try to speed around slowing or stopped buses.

But even the most well-meaning car drivers can be a headache for school buses. The yellow behemoths have a number of blind spots, take longer to stop, and require far more room to maneuver, according to the state transportation department.

Because of that, it’s important to keep your distance from buses, especially when they stop. When you’re behind them, stay at least 20 feet back.

And always be alert. Not just to kids getting on and off the bus, but also anyone waiting at a bus stop or running to catch a bus. They might not be paying attention to what’s around them, and could dart into traffic — right in front of your vehicle.

And what about when you see flashing red lights and a stop sign extended from the side of the bus? Are there any times you don’t have to stop? The answer is simple: no.

State law requires you to stop for a school bus with flashing red lights and the extended stop sign whether you’re on a two-lane road, a multi-lane road with a paved median, or a divided highway. That’s right — even a barrier in the middle of a street separating you from a school bus in traffic going in the opposite direction isn’t enough to excuse you from stopping for the bus. You still have to stop. DOT says many of the accidents

involving buses occur when car drivers try to pass stopped buses, or when they don’t stop because of poor visibility in rain, snow or fog. Some are caused by bus drivers waving cars through, unaware that a child is crossing the street. What does that mean to you? If a bus driver waves you through, don’t move forward until you’ve checked for yourself the road in front of you is clear.

Of more than 100 fatal accidents reported in a recent year by the state education department, nearly 70 percent of those killed were children in kindergarten, first, second or third grade. That’s despite the fact that those kids account for less than 35 percent of the school population.

No one should ever feel unsafe going to school — whether they’re walking or taking a bus. Ensuring children’s safety is all the incentive any of us should need. But just in case it’s not, the penalties for not stopping for school buses are fines of up to \$400 and potentially 30 days in jail for the first offense, increasing to \$1,000 and six months in jail for repeat offenses.

With school back in session, our children, the future of our neighborhoods — our world — need to get to class to learn everything they can. Stay alert. Stop on red.

Do your part to make sure they get there safely.

LETTERS

Support Jeanine

To the Editor:

Jeanine DiMenna is a superb chef, an incredible person, and someone who is always ready to give back to the community. Her restaurant, The View Grill, is the perfect eatery for birthday celebrations, graduation parties or a comfortable night out. Not only is the food outstanding, but the character and warmth of the restaurant also make it a true jewel here on the North Shore. This is thanks to Jeanine, her vision, and her hard work and caring.

Through the pandemic, and through other difficult times, Jeanine has supported our city and our residents. She is a good tenant, and a friend to so many. We need to stand with her, and support keeping The View Grill, and the character of the restaurant we have all come to love and appreciate. It is good business to cultivate good relationships with good tenants and businesspeople. I urge all to do everything we can to support Jeanine and our View Grill.

GAITLEY STEVENSON-MATHEWS
Glen Cove



OPINIONS

New housing on L.I.? Not in my backyard.

A poll conducted by nextLI/Newsday discovered a not-so-puzzling contradiction. A majority of Long Island residents want more local housing options, probably because their own children, just starting families, can't afford to buy homes in the communities in which they grew up and their parents live. On



ALAN SINGER

the other hand, a majority also oppose "dense housing options" like those proposed by Gov. Kathy Hochul.

Opposition to "dense housing options," a euphemism for low-cost apartments near transportation hubs, comes from both Republicans

and Democrats, because support for such developments could be the kiss of death in local elections. There is deep-seated fear in the metropolitan area suburbs that less-expensive housing will bring ethnic and racial minorities into previously predominantly white communities.

So far, low-cost housing options on Long Island are targeted for communi-

ties that are already primarily Black and Latino. A four-story building with 42 units and a 228-unit development are going up in Hempstead, an 81-unit project is planned for Wyandanch, and a 55-unit building is being built in a blighted area of East Patchogue. Hempstead is 46 percent Black and 45 percent Latino. Wyandanch is 60 percent Black and 18 percent Latino. Patchogue is majority white, but the area where the housing will be built is increasingly Latino.

The State Legislature, which is controlled by Democrats, adjourned for the year in June without passing legislation to address the state's chronic housing shortage, as lawmakers failed to even introduce any housing legislation. Democratic legislators wanted to boost the housing supply by offering developers tax credits that are supposed to promote construction of affordable housing and turn unused office space into apartments. The Democrats also wanted to include protection against evictions and spiking rents.

Hochul, a Democrat, was unhappy about pairing new construction with

rent controls. She proposed a broader housing plan that would add over 800,000 units of new housing by requiring that suburban communities meet construction mandates, including expanding their housing stock by 3 percent every three years and building 50 homes per acre within a half-mile of Long Island Rail Road stations.

Democratic legislators were leery of Hochul's plan because last fall, Republican candidates on Long Island won three Assembly seats and three Senate seats previously held by Democrats.

While Democrats shied away from Hochul's proposal to mandate affordable housing in the suburbs, Republicans were in virulent opposition, accusing her of imperial ambitions, and of trying to transform Long Island communities in a plan to alleviate New York City's housing crisis. Hempstead Town Supervisor Donald Clavin, a Republican, denounced the Hochul plan as "ill-conceived." State Sen. Steven Rhoads, a Republican from Massapequa, called the governor's proposal "a reckless and irresponsible attempt to defy both local government's right to control local zon-

ing and the right of each and every Long Islander to preserve their safety and suburban quality of life."

Massapequa is 94 percent white and less than 1 percent Black. Over the past 10 years, less new housing has been built in metropolitan New York's suburban communities than in most major metropolitan areas in the United States.

Racism remains such a potent political force in New York suburbs that the Democratic leaders in the State Legislature, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, both African-American, were unwilling to support affordable housing mandates, fearing that white opposition would cost Democrats majority control of both houses. Look for opposition to "dense housing options" to join attacks on critical race theory as Republican rally points in the 2024 election cycle to stir up white voting support.

Alan Singer is a professor of teaching, learning and technology and the director of social studies education programs at Hofstra University. He is a former New York City high school social studies teacher and an assistant editor of Teaching Social Studies, a joint publication of the New York and New Jersey Councils for the Social Studies.

There's opposition in both parties, because support can be deadly in local elections.

LETTERS

We need to know more about LLCs

To the Editor:

Citizens have a right to know who they're dealing with, whether it be in government or private enterprise. But that's not the case when it comes to limited liability companies, or LLCs.

LLCs can own property, apply for grants, operate as landlords, and donate to political campaigns. But discovering who's behind the curtain isn't easy. Cruise through your local property tax rolls, or the state's campaign finance disclosure database, and you'll see plenty of LLCs, but you won't see plenty of names.

Anonymous shell companies have been a popular vehicle for money laundering, tax evasion, organized crime, terrorism, and other forms of corruption for decades. Yet establishing an LLC requires less personal information than getting a library card.

That's why it's important for Gov. Kathy Hochul to sign the Limited Liability Companies Transparency Act, passed by both the Assembly and State Senate, which would require these business organizations to publicly identify their owners to the state.

A wide variety of businesses — from pizza shops to mall developers and property buyers — use LLCs as an organizing business structure. The approach, sanc-

tioned by state law, provides the owners some limits on liabilities the companies could face.

As a practical matter, LLCs also allow the people who actually own the companies to remain anonymous. Under current reporting requirements, LLCs need only supply a company name, county of operation, and an address where legal documents should be sent.

Sometimes that address is a post office box. Sometimes it's an attorney's office or a registered agent. For anyone interested in knowing more, the information is often frustratingly nondescript — and consequently useless.

But we all have a well-established interest in this information, and the State Legislature should be commended for recognizing this by including solid public-disclosure requirements.

The lack of transparency for campaign donations is just one of the reasons the LLC Transparency Act has the support of good-government groups such as Common Cause and the League of Women Voters. While a 2019 law change required LLCs making political donations to disclose their owners, many are ignoring the requirement, the groups say.

The Business Council of New York State opposes the law, saying it will violate the privacy of law-abiding businesses — including thousands of small businesses organized as LLCs — and put their security at risk. There are some provisions in

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



Don't go, summer! — Malverne

the legislation for public disclosure to be waived when "a significant privacy interest exists." The law's efficacy will be determined in part by how waiver requests are handled.

Given the benefits that state law confers on LLCs, it's not too much to ask that they at least let us know who they are. This is a good step toward much-

needed transparency.

JUDY PATRICK

Judy Patrick is vice president of editorial development of the New York Press Association, a statewide media advocacy group whose members include the Herald Community Newspapers.

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