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Royalty at The Regency
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Tim Baker/Herald

Marking Black History month with style

Students Elizabeth Casco Hernandez, far left, standing, Makaylaa Lea Chestnut, Eva Marie Lema, and Valantina Gissell Canales Aguilar, far left sitting, Letisha Justine Perkins, and Alyssa Nicole St. Eloi danced to notable Black musicians as part of Glen Cove High School's Black History Month celebration on Feb. 16. Story, more photos, Page 3.

Suozzi's win: examining the voting dynamics

By LAURA LANE

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This is the first in a series delving into the complexities of elections to provide a better understanding of one of Americans' most precious privileges, the right to vote.

commissioner of the Nassau County Board of Elections.

"It was definitely a decisive win for the party, a credit to the candidate and the ground game by the Nassau County Democratic Committee," Scheuerman said.

And although Pilip, 44, a Democrat from Great Neck, is a second-term county legislator

Democrat Tom Suozzi, the former three-term representative for the 3rd Congressional District, will be returning to the House of Representatives after winning the Feb. 13 special election. Suozzi left Congress in 2022 to run for governor, but lost in the Democratic primary.



representing District 10, prior to Election Day, many voters told the Herald they knew nothing about her. Her decision to rarely speak publicly, and to debate Suozzi only once — five days before the election — apparently did not win over many

voters. Although Suozzi, 61, is familiar to voters, a lifelong Glen Cove resident who served as Nassau County executive from 2022 to 2029 and as Glen Cove's mayor from 1994 to 2001, his name recognition did not lead to a landslide victory last week. But his 8-point win over Republican Mazi Pilip was impressive, according to James Scheuerman, the Democratic

And Pilip's comment that she would not support former President Donald Trump in his bid for re-election if he were convicted of a crime may have led some Republicans to vote for Suozzi, or not vote at all.

Tony Lagos, a Queens resident who voted for Pilip, said he didn't find the election

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Glen Cove Senior Center may lose nearby parking lot

By ROKSANA AMID

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For Ruth Yuen, the Glen Cove Senior Center is more than just a place to pass the time — it's a vital retreat where she finds companionship, engagement and support. Despite the challenge of finding parking nearby, the 89-year-old widow drives herself to the center from her Glen Cove home, and spends as much time there as she can.

But seniors like Yuen, who have used the center's resources for 21 years, could face a serious problem: the loss of 16 parking spaces at 115 Glen St., across the street from the center.

"It's very important for me to go to the senior center," Yuen explained. "I live alone, and the senior center is like a second home."

The city has leased the Glen Street lot for years, and allowed senior center users to park there, but the estate of the lot, Car Care Co., is considering terminating the lease, which would effectively end the arrangement.

Last June, the Glen Cove Board of Zoning approved the construction of a three-story apartment building with a total of eight studios, 16 one and five two bedroom apartments by the developer 115 Glen Street Property Owner LLC. The approval included a series of variances, and at a meeting on Feb. 6, the city Planning Board finalized the development's architectural plan.

Since the previous mayoral administrations of Reggie Spinello and Tim Tenke, 115 Glen Street Property Owner. has made several

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

The dual history of Quakers and abolition

February 22, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

By WILL SHEELINE

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The history of Quakerism has deep roots in the story of the United States, whether it be their influence on the colonial period or the key role Quakers played in the Revolutionary War, although their legacy is often overlooked by non-academics.

William Green, a senior at Friends Academy, a Quaker-run school in Locust Valley, has set out to educate history-lovers on the North Shore by giving a lecture at the North Shore Historical Museum in Glen Cove on another forgotten aspect of Quaker history: the religion's role in the abolition of slavery.

Amy Driscoll, the director of the museum, explained that when Green reached out to her about doing the presentation she was impressed by the depth of his research and his composure. She added that the presentation, which was held on Feb. 4, was the perfect way for the museum to kick off Black History Month.

"We try to be as welcoming as we can to young scholars and new authors and burgeoning artists," Driscoll continued. "We try to host as many people and lectures as we can, especially for those who might not normally get a public forum for their work."

Quakers, or more properly, the Religious Society of Friends, are members of a sect of Protestantism that broke off from the Church of England in the mid-17th century, and quickly settled throughout the early British colonies. While the majority went to Pennsylvania, founded by Quaker and landowner William Penn, Green explained that numerous Quaker communities were set up on Long Island, and George Fox, the movement's founder, even visited and preached in Oyster Bay.

However, Green pointed out, shortly after their new sect was created Quakers were already entangled with



Will Sheeline/Herald

William Green, a senior at Friends Academy, explained that Quakers like Lucretia Mott and John Woolman were active members of the abolitionist movement in the 18th and 19th centuries.

the economic tentacles of slavery, particularly in Barbados, the first Quaker community in the New World. Green explained that many early prominent Quakers, including Fox and Penn, had close ties with the slave trade and slavers on the island.

"It's important to note that while Quakers were later at the forefront of abolitionism, slavery was still a norm in the Quaker religion, and this is particularly reflected in Barbados," Green said. "During the 1600's, Quakers were frequently slaveowners, and often traded slaves to the Quakers in Pennsylvania."

Green emphasized the fact that despite their early involvement in slavery and the slave trade, numerous Quakers began speaking out against the practice of slav-

ery quite early on. He added that in 1688 Francis Daniel Pastorius, a young German attorney and Quaker from Germantown, Pennsylvania (now part of Philadelphia) wrote the "Germantown Quaker Petition Against Slavery," intended to raise the issue of the contradiction between slavery and the biblical golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

"(Pastorius) used this idea to expose slavery and how God does not approve of this institution," Green said. "He also prophesied a dark future for Quakers if they did not start to free their enslaved people."

While the local Quaker hierarchy rejected the petition, Green noted that this petition marked the first instance of Quakers speaking out against slavery. While many Quakers would continue to own and profit from enslaved people for decades, the petition marked the beginning of the abolition movement in the Society of Friends, and one of the earliest examples of abolitionist writing in history.

Green then spoke of several prominent Quakers in the early and mid-1700's who had spoken out against slavery, most notably Benjamin Lay, who in 1738 stabbed a hollowed-out book filled with fake blood during the Quakers' yearly meeting in Philadelphia, spraying the crowd and crying, "Thus shall God shed the blood of those persons who enslave their fellow creatures."

Green concluded by discussing slavery on Long Island, and how despite modern tendencies to blame the South for the atrocity of bondage, it was incredibly prevalent here as well. Long Island actually had the most slaves of any northern colony, and it would not be ended until 1827.

Despite these facts, Green added that even on Long Island many Quakers were prominent abolitionists. While slavery is an indelible stain on American history, Green emphasized that the Quakers consistently and actively tried to right the wrong.



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HERALD SCHOOLS



Tim Baker/Herald PHOTOS

The Mixed Chorus performed under the direction of Edward Norris III.

Teens honor Black History achievements

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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The auditorium of the Glen Cove High School buzzed with anticipation, as students, faculty, and community members gathered to pay tribute to the rich heritage and enduring legacy of African Americans. Allen Hudson, the high school's principal, a proud 1991 graduate and the first African American to hold the position, delivered a stirring address in honor of Black History Month.

"This month is not just a time to reflect on the struggles and triumphs of African Americans," Hudson said. "It is a time to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and the monumental contributions Black individuals have made to society."

Drawing from the annals of Glen Cove's own history, Hudson recounted the remarkable achievements of local luminaries. Dr. Chester Pierce, a distinguished Harvard graduate and senior consultant for Sesame Street, emerged as a beacon of inspiration. His contributions to education and mental health advocacy left an indelible mark on society, underscoring the transformative power of knowledge and compassion.

Similarly, William Joe Johnson, a member of the legendary Tuskegee fighter group, epitomized courage and valor. Raised on the streets of Glen Cove, he defied the odds to become a decorated war hero and a catalyst for change in his community. As president



Alyssa Nicole St. Eloi, left, Makaylaa Lea Chestnut, Valentina Gissell Canales Aguilar, Letisha Justine Perkins and Eva Marie Lema danced to hits from notable Black musicians like Rhianna.

of the Housing and Urban Development, his tireless efforts paved the way for affordable housing initiatives that transformed countless lives.

In 1915, in response to the lack of information on the accomplishments of Black people available to the public, historian Carter G. Woodson co-founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In 1926, the group declared the second week of February as "Negro History Week" to recognize the contributions of African Americans to U.S. history. Few people studied Black history and it wasn't included in text-

books prior to the creation of Negro History Week.

President Gerald Ford's endorsement in 1975, and subsequent presidential proclamations, notably by President Ronald Reagan in 1986, solidified the national recognition of Black History Month. The designation of February as a time to honor Black Americans coincides with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, emblematic figures in the African American struggle for freedom and equality.

Among the accolades and achieve-



Allen Hudson, Glen Cove High School's first Black principal, reflected on the historic achievements of Black Glen Cove residents.

ments, Hudson reminded listeners of the challenges and struggles that still loomed large. He spoke of the need to confront injustice and inequality head-on, and to ensure that the promise of equality and opportunity extended to all.

"Our legacy is rich with stories of resilience, innovation and leadership," Hudson said. "African Americans have played a crucial role in every sphere of life, from the arts to the sciences, politics to sports, and as a first African American principal of Glen Cove High School, I am a testament to our progress as a community and as a nation."

Seniors depend on the 16 parking spaces

February 22, 2024 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

requests for zoning variances for the half-acre site. The current zoning regulations in the central business district allow for mixed-use, residential-commercial development, but limit projects that are solely residential to properties of at least an acre.

At a pre-City Council meeting on Feb. 20, council members Marsha Silverman and Kevin Maccarone discussed the process by which developers submit proposals. Maccarone explained that developers can request zoning changes or variances if their proposals are rejected by the City Council, leading to review by the planning and zoning boards. Silverman expressed concern about the lack of parameters for developers to proceed to the boards after a City Council rejection. Both suggested potential reforms to the process.

115 Glen Street Property Owner could not be reached for comment by press time.

For residents like Yuen, senior centers become more vital resources as people live longer. The Glen Street parking lot enables more seniors to take part in the center's programs, which are available Monday through Friday and include exercise, art and other classes, as well as social activities like games and music. The City of Glen Cove was named a Nassau County Age-Friendly Center of Excellence in 2017



Roksana Amid/Herald

The property owner at 115 Glen St. has been leasing 16 parking spaces to the Glen Cove Senior Center, which could lose access to them if the property is sold to a new developer.

by New York state, and is now one of five Centers of Excellence in the state.

"It's actually not just for this particular generation of seniors," Carol Waldman, Age Friendly liaison to Nassau County, said. "We're concerned about future generations, the aging population is growing, and the parking is shrinking."

Waldman said she is not opposed to the developer's proposed development,

but she hopes to negotiate parking spaces for the center with the developer.

In Nassau, the population of those ages 65 to 69 rose from 80,398 in 2020 to 81,776 a year later. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of U.S. residents 65 years and older will increase by 105.2 percent by 2060. New York state's 65-and-older population is over 3.5 million.

The senior center is funded by grants

from the United States Administration on Aging, the New York State Office for the Aging and the Nassau County Office for the Aging, as well as the county's Senior Activity Generational Endowment. But the facility's financial stability hinges on maintaining or increasing its membership, because higher enrollment potentially means increased financial support from the county. With over 2,000 members, the center also relies on the federal Older Americans Act.

City Councilman Michael Ktistakis, a member of the zoning board in 2023 who cast the only vote of opposition to the apartment project, emphasized the need for municipalities to bolster their defenses against developer-driven agendas, and maintain a more comprehensive evaluation process that considers long-term implications of proposed developments. He highlighted concerns about infrastructure strain, traffic congestion, and the preservation of community resources like emergency medical services — and the senior center.

"This project was totally wrong from the very beginning," Ktistakis said. "I never agreed upon it. We have to be a little bit more strategic; our defenses have to be a little bit more alert when it comes to developers. When any developer comes in, they should consider how they can give back to our city. This developer didn't do that."

CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

- A 70-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Feb. 4 for driving while intoxicated on McLoughlin Street.
- A 42-year-old Corona, Queens, man was arrested on Feb. 4 for driving while intoxicated without a license and numerous vehicle and traffic law violations on Glen Cove Avenue.
- A 49-year-old Glen Cove man was ar-

rested on Feb. 5 for aggravated family offense and criminal contempt on Kirkwood Drive.

- A 24-year-old Hempstead woman was arrested on Feb. 6 for burglary, criminal contempt and criminal mischief on Bryce Avenue.

- A 49-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Feb 7 for criminal contempt and harassment on Clement Street.

People named in Crime Watch items as having been arrested and charged with violations or crimes are only suspected of committing those acts of which they are accused. They are all presumed to be innocent of those charges until and unless found guilty in a court of law.

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Heeralal, new director for Age Friendly

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Melanie Heeralal, a 24 year old from East Rockaway, is the first full-time director of Glen Cove's Age-Friendly Program. Her journey to this role reflects a deep-seated passion for healthcare, community engagement and public health.

When Heeralal was 10 she was exposed to the healthcare environment when her father pursued a medical degree. She loved watching him navigate through his studies. His approach to learning greatly captivated her interest and helped her explore a potential career in healthcare.

"His way of studying was teaching me what he was learning in school," Heeralal said. "I really was interested in all of the science and everything he was learning. He saw it as a great opportunity for me to see if this is something I really wanted to do as a career."

Heeralal's journey of service began at 14, when accompanying her father to Northwell Health at Long Island Jewish Hospital in New Hyde Park, where he worked as a surgical technologist. Amidst the sterile halls and bustling operating rooms she spent her summers volunteering eight-hour days, roughly three times a week. As a reward for finishing her clerical work, Heeralal sometimes got to sit in operating rooms during surgeries. Volunteering alongside

her father, she was captivated by the intricate dance of medicine, the stories etched in each surgery, and the profound impact of healthcare on people's lives.

In the summer of 2019, Heeralal transitioned from being a volunteer student to fully shadowing surgeries, further deepening her understanding and experience in the medical field.

Heeralal's academic background is diverse and rich. She pursued a bachelor's in criminology with triple minors in biochemistry, forensic science, and Spanish at Hofstra University. During her undergraduate years, Heeralal transitioned from a biology major to the pre-med track, drawn by her fascination with understanding human behavior, which led her to major in criminology.

"I thought that was so interesting at the time, because criminology is really understanding why people do the things that they do in the world and what makes them do those things," Heeralal said. "I thought that could be applicable even in medicine, because it's a behavioral science."

The coronavirus pandemic piqued her interest in public health, which brought her back to Hofstra to study public health as a graduate student. She was particularly inspired by the concept of public health's role in ensuring equitable access to healthcare and health education for all individuals, regardless of socio-economic background or age.

"Public health is where everyone in a community, no matter what size of that community, everyone has equitable access to health care, and health education," Heeralal said. "It doesn't matter your background, your socioeconomic status, your age, none of those things should define whether or not you have access to adequate health care, or the knowledge to make better health decisions for yourself. That's what public health should be advocating for."

Carol Waldman, the Age-Friendly liaison to Nassau County and the former director of the Glen Cove Senior Center, said even though Heeralal's background is not in age-friendly work, she innately understands the need for communities to thrive through an age-friendly lens.

"I love her desire to connect with the community, and I really think she's the right person at the right time," Waldman said. "Having her be available full time is going to make all the difference in terms of getting a lot of the initiatives that we began off the ground and soaring."

In her new role as the director of Glen Cove's Age-Friendly Program, Heeralal aims to enhance socialization and resource accessibility for seniors and their caregivers within the Glen Cove community. She plans to expand existing programs such as time banking and "Walk with a Doc" to foster community engagement and bridge the gap between seniors and healthcare services.



Courtesy Melanie Heeralal

Melanie Heeralal, a 24 year old from East Rockaway, is the full-time director of Glen Cove's Age-Friendly Program.

"I find that a lot of young people tend to forget that just because someone is older doesn't mean that they don't have aspirations and things that they want to do," Heeralal said. "I think that's what drew me to this position because I get to have an impact. We're involving not just senior populations, but their families, their caregivers, and other people in the community. Age doesn't matter. You can still have fun, you should still be able to do things and enjoy life, enjoy what you're doing every day."



Courtesy the Regency

Love was in the air

Voting at the Regency was in full swing when residents and staff cast their ballots for their king and queen. Congratulations to newly crowned King Larry O'Rourke and Queen Emily Gugliotta. They were crowned by last year's winners, King Scott Whiting and Queen Mickey Jimenez. O'Rourke and Gugliotta will be riding in the Regency town car down School Street during the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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Artificial intelligence through the years:



OpenAI, an artificial intelligence and research company, publicly released ChatGPT-3 on Nov. 30, 2022. Now, a little more than a year later, the sophisticated chatbot — with more than 180 million monthly users — is seemingly developing faster than users can keep up. To understand how this language model became one of the most technologically advanced virtual assistants in the world, you have to go back nearly 75 years.

The term 'artificial intelligence' is coined by John McCarthy.

1950:

1952:
Computer scientist Arthur Samuel develops a program called 'Samuel's Checker Players' to play checkers, which is the first to ever learn the game independently.

Edward Feigenbaum and Joshua Lederberg create the first 'expert system' called Denral, which was AI programmed to replicate the thinking and decision-making abilities of human experts. The purpose of this program was to map the structure of molecules, and to help chemists identify unknown organic molecules.

1965:

1966:
MIT professor Joseph Weizenbaum creates the first chatbot called Eliza to simulate human conversations. The program was designed to mimic human conversation, utilizing words users entered into a computer, and then pairing them to a list of possible scripted responses.

Imagining classrooms — and a future

By Ben Fiebert, Parker Schug & Nicole Wagner

First part in a series exploring the presence of artificial intelligence in our schools, and over time, in society as a whole. Thoughts? Questions? Ideas? Email us at execeditor@liherald.com.

Artificial intelligence — it all starts with an idea. One developed by a computer programmer to mimic the human intelligence process through learning, reasoning and self-correction.

AI is already deeply ingrained in society. Whether it be smartphones with virtual assistants like Siri and Bixby, search engines making suggestions for what we're looking for online, to even the spam filtering and email categorization in email platforms like Gmail.

The fast-growing advancements of AI may be hard to keep up with, especially as more and more platforms develop that specialize in AI like ChatGPT and Canva. Television and news outlets focus more on how AI can turn your dog into a Muppet, or how it can instantly write a sonnet about someone's favorite desserts.

But AI is finding its way into more and more of our everyday lives — and it's something that has institutions like our public schools racing to find the best ways

to not only adapt, but to appropriately integrate AI into the classroom.

Ting Wang, a Stony Brook University associate professor who also directs its Algorithmic Learning, Privacy and Security Lab, describes the original conception of AI as "a feeble attempt to recreate intelligence and to help humans achieve specific tasks." He believes developers have come a long way in achieving success doing just that.

ChatGPT is a popular example of this. Launched in late 2022, the software describes itself as an online interface that is "like having a conversation with a very knowledgeable and helpful friend — except this friend is actually a computer program." It has been trained on swaths of data, making it capable of completing many different tasks ranging from gathering information, getting some helpful advice, or even looking to simply have a friendly chat.

"ChatGPT is designed for generating human-like text based on the input it

receives," ChatGPT responded when asked what it was designed for.

It's commonly used to answer a variety of questions, or brainstorm ideas. It can help draft emails and compose essays. It can help with extensive research, and even translate text from one language to another.

And for those looking to be a little less serious, ChatGPT can tell jokes, strike up a casual conversation, and even participate in storytelling and role-playing scenarios.

But it can also write term papers, or essays. Or complete homework. And detecting when AI is being used is virtually impossible. That has created some concerns for school administrators, while at the same time tasking them to redevelop curriculum that prepares future minds for a future where AI is prevalent.

"From the academic perspective, I think one of the challenges is that it's becoming harder and harder to obtain these AI models because they're super expensive, the training costs, and have a requirement of huge amounts of data," Wang said. "Those type of resources are not so accessible for the academia world."

Where is AI?

Google, Bing and other search engines have used forms of artificial intelligence for

years, but more recently began making its integration more obvious. Google integrated what it calls "generative AI" into its systems some 20 years ago, which typically predicts the next word in a search phrase.

ChatGPT also can edit certain articles, blog posts or other forms of writing. If someone asks ChatGPT to write an email with specific requirements, for example, the AI can handle it because its "training" has covered these sort of scenarios. What makes ChatGPT unique from other AI platforms, Wang said, is the massive amounts of data that "trains" it.

"You can see many artists, especially digital artists, using this program to create content that you cannot easily create manually," Wang said.

Brett Tanzer — a product management vice president for Microsoft's cloud platform, Azure — says models created by AI developers are installed in products like Bing and Microsoft Copilot, an



Nicole Wagner/Herald

A reporter asks ChatGPT to describe not only itself, but the artificial intelligence language model that powers it. AI has gone from science-fiction to science-fact, and schools are among a number of institutions around the world working to adapt.

AI companion technology which utilizes ChatGPT among other language models, to aid users in their day-to-day lives.

This helps users brainstorm alternatives for ideas on a given issue if they get stuck.

"It's already being applied to help people reduce workforce time," Tanzer said.

Creatives aren't the only ones utilizing AI for their work. Many in the health care industries are using AI products like those offered by Microsoft to accelerate medical research for advanced treatment and diagnosis of diseases.

"That's really helping practitioners and doctors in their day-to-day experiences with patients," Tanzer said.

Educators are utilizing AI in classrooms around Nassau County. In Franklin Square, for example, a robot named Milo interacts with students to help them hone their social and emotional skills.

Pamela Taylor, Franklin Square's pupil personnel services director, said at the time the school had done a lot of

training to bring Milo into the classroom.

While Milo is the first robot of its kind to be used in a Long Island classroom, its ability to work with students on their confidence in emotional skills is something Taylor is eager to spread throughout the district.

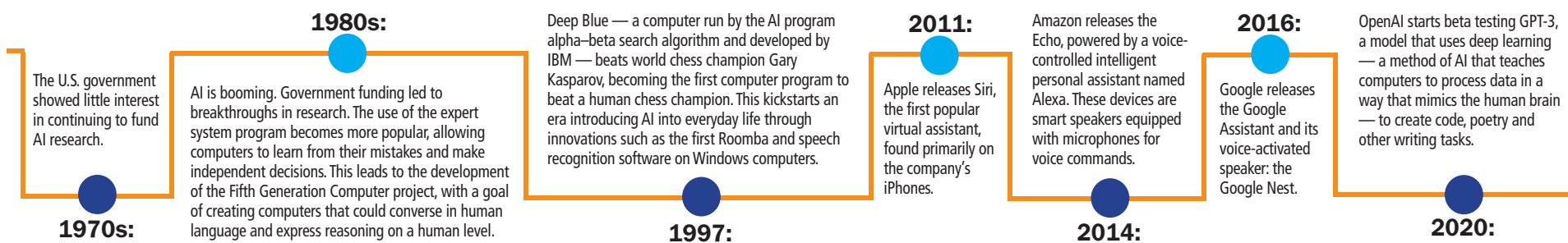
"We are looking to expand," she said, "because he's appropriate for all learners."

An artificial intelligence elective course at Bellmore-Merrick school district's Sanford H. Calhoun High School is teaching students about the basic principles of AI through exposure to machine-learning algorithms in Python computer programming language.

Danielle Caliendo, a math and computer science chair at Calhoun, says this course prepares students for careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"It also equips them with the skills necessary for today's world where artificial intelligence is shaping the way we live and work," Caliendo said, in a

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Seeing artificial intelligence in daily life?

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE recent interview.

What does the future hold for AI?

Overall AI research at Stony Brook is intended to maximize the practical impact of artificial intelligence. Wang works on AI's resilience against malicious manipulations, preserving privacy among users, and making the data written by AI more transparent and interpretable to users.

"People don't have a great understanding of what AI can and can't do," Wang said. "I think people use AI as a magical box, and it actually may not work as expected for normal users."

As AI models become more sophisticated, Tanzer said, Microsoft has its sights set on developing models with advanced capabilities

ties to transform power in engineering, productivity, health care and cybersecurity.

Wang envisions ChatGPT becoming even more customizable and personalized than it is now. Although it's already quite adaptable, users have their own individual requirements and writing styles that ChatGPT is not necessarily trained to understand.

You can see many artists . . . to create content that you cannot easily create manually.

TING WANG
associate professor
Stony Brook University

"You may want the program to draft an email in your own style and have your own specific writing requirements," Wang said, "and currently, the chatbot may not be able to do that."

"It's an ever-evolving landscape," Wang said. "I think from the perspective of classroom teaching, people are still trying to figure out what is the best way to harness the power of AI, and at the same time kind of limit and curve the harmful

impact of this technology."



Rei Wolfsohn/Herald file

Third-grade students at Franklin Square's John Street School learn how to hone their social and emotional skills with the help of Milo the robot. Equipped with adaptive artificial intelligence, Milo is designed to read facial cues from those around him to teach students techniques to cope with their emotions.



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Hundreds unite to remember Beckwith

By BEN FIEBERT

biefbert@liherald.com

Bob Beckwith rushed out of retirement as a New York City firefighter to help a friend find his missing son at ground zero, three days after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, that shook New York City — and the country — to its core.

This selfless choice turned Beckwith into a beacon of hope for the nation when he stood on the rubble at President George W. Bush's side — hope he embodied until the day he died on Feb. 4. He was 91.

Beckwith ultimately succumbed to a 9/11-related melanoma, and was remembered by family, friends, leaders and a large number of off-duty firemen during Beckwith's Feb. 10 funeral in Baldwin, before he was buried at Greenfield Cemetery in Uniondale.

Some will remember Beckwith for the iconic photo and video featuring him with Bush on Sept. 14, 2001, while others recall how Beckwith was a humble man who would sit in the back row of St. Christopher's Church in Baldwin every Saturday evening while still finding time to visit a Levittown diner with his friends each week.

Beckwith enjoyed playing the piano, fishing, watching "Jeopardy," spending time with his grandchildren, and attending their lacrosse games. He also took part Irish step dance competitions, and spent time at the Baldwin American Legion post.

Beckwith was an ordinary man, he would proclaim, who by chance was given the opportunity to uplift Americans during one the country's darkest times.

Beckwith was retired for more than a decade after 30 years of service with the New York City Fire Department when he learned the son of his old friend, Jimmy Boyle, was missing amid the ruins of the twin towers.



Christine Rivera/Herald

Firefighters salute the casket of Bob Beckwith as it is placed on top of a Baldwin Fire Department fire truck.

Having lost two sons of his own, Beckwith understood the grief Boyle was going through.

So, he sprang into action and headed to ground zero while the rest of the nation remained in shock.

Beckwith later described how he was just in the right spot at the right time. Bush was paying his respects to those lost at ground zero, and wanted to speak directly to those who were digging through the rubble looking for survivors.

The president spotted Beckwith, and had him stand next to him where, using a megaphone, Bush delivered

inspiring words, with his arm draped around Beckwith.

"America, today, is on bended knee in prayer for the people whose lives were lost here, for the workers who work here, and for the families who mourn," Bush said at the time.

Bush would remain close to Beckwith, and shared a statement for former U.S. Rep. Peter King to read at his funeral.

"Laura and I are saddened by the passing of Bob Beckwith," Bush said, explaining how the retired firefighter raced toward danger, showcasing the resilient spirit of all Americans during 9/11.

"I want to say that no one is indispensable," King said in his own eulogy. "Bob Beckwith is indispensable. He was one of a kind."

Beckwith was born April 16, 1932 in Astoria. After graduating from Rice High School in Manhattan in 1952, Beckwith joined the U.S. Navy in the tail end of the Korean war, before going on to study at LaGuardia Community College.

After graduating, Beckwith held various jobs like driving for UPS. But it was in 1964 Beckwith became an FDNY firefighter, kickstarting a 30-year career with the department.

Beckwith met his wife Barbara at a picnic in 1956. They were married a year later, settling down on Fairview Avenue in Baldwin, where they raised their six children.

Beckwith retired from the FDNY in 1994. He would find himself enjoying time at home, entertained by his two great-grandsons with a smile across his face.

Besides his wife, Beckwith is survived by daughter Christine; sons Bob, Richard and Stephen; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by sons Joseph and Tommy.

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New York and Federal Estate Taxes

The current exemption from New York estate taxes is 6.94 million, indexed for inflation. For most clients this presents no issue — their estates will never approach the exemption. However, for the fortunate few who have assets, including life insurance, that may exceed roughly seven million dollars, there is a significant tax liability. Changes in New York estate tax law in the last few years introduced a "fiscal cliff". Whereas formerly New York only taxed the amount over the exemption, if you exceed the limit today (by a mere 5%) they tax the whole estate. You're over the cliff!

The tax is surprisingly large. On a roughly seven million dollar estate, the taxes payable to New York exceed five hundred thousand dollars. An estate over ten million would owe over a million in estate tax.

These New York estate taxes are avoidable if you have a spouse and you create an estate plan using two trusts, which doubles the exemption. Another way to avoid the fiscal cliff is to use the "Santa Clause" providing that you gift to charities of your choice all amounts over the exemption. Gifts to charities are deductible

from estate taxes.

While the Federal estate tax exemption of 13.61 million is "portable", i.e. if the first spouse doesn't use their exemption or any part of it, it passes to the surviving spouse, New York does not allow for portability. It's use it or lose it.

The Federal exemption is expected to be reduced from the 13.61 million exemption, passed by the Trump administration, to the 6.94 million, adjusted for inflation, that New York uses, at the end of 2025. For larger estates, there remains a planning opportunity by making gifts while the higher exemption is in place. You may use any of your Federal estate tax exemptions to make gifts while you are living. These gifts are reported to the IRS and get subtracted from what you may give at death.

One added attraction to gifting is that New York does not tax gifts -- so that gifts may also be used to avoid onerous New York estate taxes at death. There is a minor exception that gifts made within three years of the death of the donor are brought back into the donor's estate for New York estate tax purposes.

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Thursday, February 29th -
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Unoccupied business spaces are an opportunity to help bring vitality to downtown areas. For George Karatzas, owner of James Cress Florist, staying downtown was a priority, but costs were prohibitive. Then George applied for our Vacant Space Revival Program, which has provided \$2,462 in bill credits to help offset his overhead.* And Smithtown continues to have a business that brings warmth and charm to the area. It’s a beautiful thing to see come together—just like George’s floral arrangements.



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Was win on issues, or Pilip's absence?

February 22, 2024 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

results surprising.

"I think she lost because a lot of people didn't hear from her," Lagos, the owner of Glen Cove's Burger Boys Bar & Grill, said. "And she didn't jump on that Trump wagon."

There were several challenges for both Suozzi and Pilip in the 3rd C.D., which encompasses all of the North Shore as well as Levittown, Massapequa and northeastern Queens. The first was that the election season was short — just 70 days — forcing the candidates to decide on their strategies quickly.

But an even bigger challenge was the nature of special elections, which are known for low voter turnout. And campaigning for one in the dead of winter made the outcome even more uncertain. Harsh weather could keep voters at home.

The candidates were hoping that district residents' dissatisfaction with expelled Republican Congressman George Santos would move them to vote for his replacement regardless of the weather.

Betsy Davidson, press secretary for Suozzi's campaign, said she didn't think there would be many obstacles to victory because of voters' disgust with Santos. But Davidson never underestimated the potential impact of, say, a well-timed snowstorm.

"Voter turnout even on a nice June day for a special election would be tough," she said. "So we really worked on early voting early." The Suozzi team encouraged early voting on social media, Davidson added, always including voting locations and their hours. "And on Friday, at the very hint of snow, we decided to go for it and get people to go out and vote."

And a commitment by the Suozzi campaign to get as many voters as possible to either mail in an absentee ballot or vote early clearly paid off. Early voting gave Democrats the edge when 24,196 party members voted before Election Day. Far fewer Republicans — 19,876 — did the same, Scheurman said.

Democrats were also successful in persuading voters to mail in absentee ballots, with 6,510 received by Election Day. Republicans counted only 3,426.

Dakota Leary, of Oyster Bay, who voted for Pilip, said he wasn't surprised that she lost, and attributed the result to the sheer number of Democrats on Long Island. Leary, a Republican and a construction worker, said he always votes for his party's choice.

"It makes more sense to me financially, as far as taxes go and things like that," he said. "As far as working in construction, there's generally a lot more work going on when there's Republicans in charge, as far as I've seen."

But not all Republicans voted for Pilip. Mark Hopkinson, of Laurel Hollow, cited Pilip's inexperience as one of the reasons he voted for Suozzi.

"And from what she's been saying, I think she toes the line for partisan politics, which is something that our country can't afford at this point," Hopkinson



Adrienne Daley/Herald

Tom Suozzi, who won the special election in the 3rd Congressional District on Feb. 13, ran a campaign that some Republicans have said they admire and might emulate.

said. "Tom Suozzi, on the other hand, has been a centrist; he's not on the extreme left or right. He's somebody who wants to get the job done, and that's why I voted for him."

Some voters attributed Pilip's loss to her stance on issues, including abortion and the banning of assault weapons. Pilip didn't define her position on assault weapons at the Feb. 8 debate with Suozzi on News12. She said only that she would ban automatic rifles, which has already existed for decades.

As for her stance on abortion, she repeatedly said that although she was pro-life, she would not push her beliefs on others or support a prohibition on a national level.

"She was against abortion," Roni Chastain, a Glen Cove Democrat, said. "As a retired registered nurse, I know that women's care isn't just about abortions. I wouldn't vote for anyone who is quote 'right to life,' because they're really not right to life, they're 'right to birth.' You know, they want to ban abortion, but they don't want to do a thing about the assault weapons, which kill more children in this country than in any other country."

Janet Viel, a Democrat who also voted for Suozzi, agreed. "Pilip was against abortion. And I'm totally against that," the Glen Cove resident said. "I mean, I have granddaughters, and I'd hate to think that if something happened with one of them and they needed to have an abortion, they'd be told that they couldn't get it."

Viel also said she wasn't surprised that Suozzi won, describing him as a "good person who knows what he's doing."

Lagos said that Pilip's stance on abortion wasn't the reason she lost. "She has no control over that," Lagos said. "She can't change the laws in New York."

Suozzi, who comes from a family of politicians, has a record, Lagos added, having been an elected leader for so many years.

"What is her record? She never had a



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Tony Lagos said he believed Pilip lost because she did not voice her allegiance to Donald Trump's re-election.



Tim Baker/Herald

The Republican candidate, Mazi Pilip, was relatively unknown before she entered the race for Congress. Her refusal to attend pre-election events and forums led voters to say they could not vote for someone they knew nothing about.

record," he said of Pilip. "You can't talk about something that you have no idea about."

But Leary said he believed her stance on abortion did hurt Pilip. "I think it was a lot of the focus and advertisements on the abortion issue," he said. "People feel very strongly about that."

Hopkinson confirmed what many voters are experiencing with elected leaders: party-based partisanship so ironclad that it pushes aside the electorate's needs.

"By and large, the folks in this particular district are sick and tired of people that aren't willing to work with both sides to get the job done," Hopkinson said. "So I think Tom's track record was something that was demonstrative — that he will do what he has to do to get the job done. That was his catchphrase during the campaign, and I think he's right."

Additional reporting by Roksana Amid and Will Sheeline.



Janet Viel, who has supported Tom Suozzi for years, said she could never vote for Mazi Pilip because she is not pro-choice.



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Friday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$60. Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com, TillesCenter.org or (516) 299-3100.



Become a bookish Bug

Discover Eric Carle's tiny world of insects in new sensory adventure

By Danielle Schwab

“In the light of the moon, a little egg lay on a leaf.”

That's how the journey started for Eric Carle's Very Hungry Caterpillar, the beloved character from his acclaimed picture book of the same name. Now, Long Island Children's Museum takes the magnifying glass to Carle's curious bugs in its newest exhibit, "Very Eric Carle: A Very Hungry, Quiet, Lonely, Clumsy, Busy Exhibit."

Created by the Pittsburgh Children's Museum and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, it's a follow-up of sorts to last year's popular Mo Willems exhibit, which also encouraged kids to step into the creative imagination of a beloved author-illustrator.

Visitors find themselves inside the pages of Carle's colorful books. His "Very" series — all illustrated in his hand-painted tissue paper collage technique — introduces five special insects who take journeys of discovery. Each story is a testament to Carle's love of nature along with his recurring themes of friendship, creativity, and the power of imagination.

The colorful picture books — more than 70 in all — have been captivating young children since Carle's first publishing effort, the counting book "1,2,3 to the Zoo," in 1968.

From there, his "Very" books took off the following year, beginning with the one that started it all, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," of course. Families were immediately captivated by Carle's little bugs with big emotions.

There's a deep-felt connection to the insects, according to Ashley Niver, the museum's education director.

"Children have a fascination with things that are even smaller than they are because they're usually the ones looking up at the world," she said. "I find that they have a lot of care and concern for these small living things. They enjoy the roleplay of being a friend of one or becoming one, like wearing the wings of a butterfly and flying around."

And, naturally, the insatiable caterpillar holds a special place in everyone's hearts.

"We've had parents mention that they read 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' as a child and now they are reading it to their child," Niver says. "The messaging is something that resonates."

The exhibit may be indoors, but the focus is fully on the outside world, exploring the diversity of the insect kingdom through Carle's imagination.

"A lot of people relate to 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar,'



Photos courtesy Long Island Children's Museum

From caterpillar to butterfly, spider and cricket beetle, Eric Carle's insects hold a special place in everyone's childhood. Each element in the gallery relates to specific books in the 'Very' series.



- Now through May 12, Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- \$17 museum admission, \$16 seniors 65 and older; additional fees for theater programming
- View the events calendar at LICM.org for additional information, or call (516) 224-5800
- Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City.

but there are a lot of other lovely stories," Niver says. "I don't think that everyone is as well-versed in some of his other books, so I'm happy that this features some more of them."

Tumble in the grass, weave a web, find a friend, and even become a butterfly during your visit.

Upon arrival, visitors can follow the Very Hungry Caterpillar's path on a journey through larger-than-life pages of the book, eating foods on the way to becoming a butterfly. Once the end is reached, you're now ready to spread your wings.

The Very Busy Spider component includes a giant, web-like structure to step through. This activity tests dexterity, strength and flexibility as kids move across the challenging surface.

At the Very Busy Spider's Weaving Wall everyone can try to spin their own web on the large wall, experimenting with a variety of stringy materials.

Master new skills at the Very Clumsy Click Beetle Playscape. Here, visitors rummage across a pile of pebbles, crawl through tall blades of grass, step across

stepping stones, and walk across the stem of a poppy flower in this playful landscape. Step up to the challenge and persevere like The Very Clumsy Click Beetle.

Also try to catch some light at the Very Lonely Firefly "Find Your Light" interactive station. Move hands and body to lure a firefly toward you. Even work with others to attract multiple fireflies and try to form a group of the beautifully lit insects.

At another component, kids can touch The Very Quiet Cricket and his friends on a relief mural to trigger a sound and create a one-of-a-kind musical composition. The various insect sounds harmonize together to make a "symphony" comprised of rhythms and sounds found in nature.

The exhibit's studio portion offers up facts about Carle's life and artistic process.

"Yellow was his favorite color," Niver says. "Yellow was always the most challenging for him, which I thought was a cool fact. He only mastered four shades of yellow."

After all that busyness being a bug, families may want to relax by taking a moment to read some books. The nook area is a cozy spot where everyone can nuzzle up in a reading cocoon and read the "Very" stories together.

Through his stories, Carle reminds us: "Simplify, slow down, be kind. And don't forget to have art in your life — music, paintings, theatre, dance and sunsets."



Flogging Molly

Celtic-punk rockers Flogging Molly have hit the road with their 'Road to Rebellion' tour, sure to rouse audiences with their anthemic odes to the Emerald Isle. Formed in L.A. in 1997 by Irish expat Dave King, the band got its start (and its name) from local bar Molly Malone's, where they performed, grew their following, and laid down the blueprint for eventual success. Their infectious Celtic-tinged reels are perfect for dancing along to, for those who love their Irish heritage, and those who just want a good time. Expect an eclectic mix of old favorites, sing-a-longs, rare acoustic numbers and new material — all strung together by King's cheeky tales and jokes and first-rate musicianship. With numerous late-night television appearances, a sold-out Salty Dog Cruise through the Caribbean, and a yearly St. Patrick's Day Festival in L.A., the band's juggernaut continues.

Sunday, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. \$79.50, \$49.50, \$39.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.

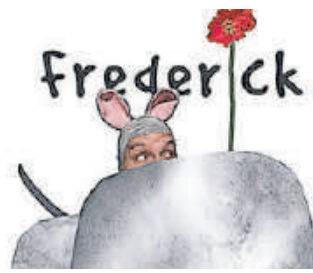
THE SCENE

March 1

Tusk

Tusk goes their own way, visiting the Landmark stage with their dynamic tribute

to Fleetwood Mac., Friday, **March 1**, 8 p.m. Since forming in 2008, Tusk has prided themselves on being the ultimate tribute to '70s supergroup. No fancy tricks, no gimmicks, just five musicians recreating the music of Fleetwood Mac to perfection with note for note renditions. With Tusk it's all about respect and authenticity. A group of seasoned musicians that go back some 25 years, their attention to detail, talent and reverence of their subjects has been critically acclaimed, resulting in their accolades as the premiere purveyors of 'Mac. Time, trust, and close friendship have cultivated an intimate familiarity with each other's musical nuances, shaping each performance with such precision that even the slightest variation, virtually imperceptible to all but the five musicians sharing the stage, is met with a wink and a nod, and usually an inside joke. Tusk is more than a band; they are a family. So if you're jonesing for your fix of Fleetwood, you're in the right place! Made up of Kathy Phillips (as Stevie Nicks on vocals), Scott McDonald (as Lindsey Buckingham, guitar and vocals), Kim Williams (as Christine McVie, keys and vocals), Randy Artiglere (as John McVie, bass) and Tom Nelson (as Mick Fleetwood on drums) the five-piece band will transport you back to the group's glory days with a set list including hits such as the "The Chain," "Dreams," "Go Your Own Way," and more, alongside rare gems fans will love hearing again. \$63, \$53, \$45. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. (516) 767-6444 or LandmarkOnMainStreet.org.



Family theater

It's a beautiful sunny summer day in the meadow. Leo Lionni's beloved children's books come to life once again, in "Frederick," on the Long Island Children's Museum stage, Friday, **Feb. 23**, 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 6:15 p.m. (sensory-friendly performance); Saturday, Feb. 23, 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Mouse friends Nellie, Sunny, Baby, Ernest, and Frederick are playing their musical instruments and having fun singing, until a leaf falls from the sky — autumn is here! Winter will be coming soon. All the mice get to work gathering supplies for winter, except, where is Frederick? He is gathering supplies, too, in his own unique way.

With toe-tapping Americana music inspired by bluegrass, gospel, and folk, this is an engaging tale about the power of the arts, community, and that no mouse gets left behind. \$10 with museum admission (\$8 members), \$14 theater only. Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.

On exhibit

Nassau County Museum of Art's latest exhibition, "Our Gilded Age," examines the appearances and the realities of an era that mirrors our own in many ways. Like the nation's economy, American art and literature flourished during the Gilded Age. The art of John Singer Sargent, Childe Hassam, Louis Comfort Tiffany and others adorned palatial residences designed by Stanford White and Ogden Codman Jr., architect of the museum's own quintessential Gilded Age mansion.

Drawing heavily upon the local literary history of Long Island, including William Cullen Bryant, Mark Twain (who named the Gilded Age), Walt Whitman, Edith Wharton and others, the exhibition will include paintings, fashion, decorative arts including period silver and china, photographs, manuscripts, first editions and other historic memorabilia.

The "Upstairs, Downstairs" approach to the life of a country house brings to life not only the storied conspicuous consumption for which the Gilded Age was infamous, but also the real lives of these many individuals who maintained the palatial estates where that lifestyle was enjoyed. On view through **March 10**. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

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Artist showcase

Sea Cliff Arts Council member Kaylin Burger's paintings are on view at Sea Cliff Village Library, through April. Meet her at an opening reception, Friday, **Feb. 23**, 6-7 p.m. She embodies a distinctive perspective shaped by the diverse cultural landscapes of both the east and west. Enriched by her experiences, Burger integrates elements from both worlds into her work, creating a harmonious fusion of influences that captivates the viewer. Immersed in the familiarity of coastal living, Burger finds boundless inspiration in the ebb and flow of the sea, inviting all to experience a sense of calm. 300 Sea Cliff Ave. Visit SeaCliffArtsCouncil.org.

Nellie McKay performs

The effervescent multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriter returns to My Father's Place with music from her recently released album, "Hey Guys, Watch This," Friday, **March 1**, 8 p.m. Recorded in Charleston, West Virginia with The Carpenter Ants and a roving retinue of musical compadres, her album traces the haunted sounds of Appalachia to a renaissance of revelry.

Doors open at 6 p.m., concert is at 8 p.m. 221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. For tickets/information, visit MFPProductions.com or call (516) 580-0887.

AARP Tax Assistance

Free tax help is provided by AARP trained volunteers at the Glen Cove Public Library on 4 Glen Cove Ave, Glen Cove. Wednesdays, through **April 10**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Be sure to bring your tax package, W-2 forms, your real estate property tax bill, a copy of your tax return and any other information that might be helpful in correctly filing your tax return. Both spouses must be present for married couples filing joint tax returns. Masks are required to be worn while receiving tax assistance regardless of vaccination status. 4 Glen St. Visit GlenCoveLibrary.org or (516) 676-2130.

Chamber networking

Join Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce for a networking luncheon at Tocolo Cantina, Wednesday, **Feb. 28**, 12:30 p.m. \$25 per person; cash bar available. 120 Village Square. Visit GlenCoveChamber.org for information.

Feb.
25

Art talk

Join Scott Defrin, owner of European Decorative Arts in Greenvale for Nassau County Museum of Art's exhibit related program "Collecting Decorative Arts During the Gilded Age; Connoisseurship vs. Decoration," Sunday, **Feb. 25**, 3 p.m.

New York was the center for collecting during the Gilded Age. More money was spent on fine art, decorative art and interior decoration than at any time in American history. From Carnegie to Frick, and Morgan to Vanderbilt, Defrin discusses the different approaches to collecting among these magnates and how their fortunes helped establish the permanent collections of today's museums.

Limited seating with registration required. 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.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.

On stage

Princesses and other enchanting heroes and heroines take to the stage, when Plaza Theatricals presents its Winter Princess concert, Friday and Saturday, **Feb. 23-24**, 11 a.m. Take part in an interactive sing-a-long featuring an array of everyone's favorite winter characters. \$15. See it at The Showplace at Bellmore Movies, 222 Pettit Ave., Bellmore (Friday) or at Elmont Memorial Library Theatre, 700 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont (Saturday). For tickets, visit PlazaTheatrical.com or call (516) 599-6870.



Historic Spirits tour

Explore Raynham Hall, and three generations of Townsend family occupants, with spiritualist healer Samantha Lynn Difronzo, Friday, **Feb. 23**, 7:30-9 p.m. Robert Townsend, a central member of George Washington's Culper Spy Ring, and British officer Col. John Graves Simcoe, previously occupied Raynham Hall during the Revolutionary War.

Transformed into a Victorian villa in the 1850s, the house offers two eras of interpretation, with the front showcasing the period of the Revolution, and the back preserving a late 19th century aesthetic. Reservations required. 20 West Main St., Oyster Bay. Visit RaynhamHallMuseum.org for reservations and information.

Book talk

Christopher Minty, of the University of Virginia, examines the origins of the American Revolution in New York City through the lens of political culture and the development of loyalist networks, Thursday, **Feb. 29**, 5:30-7 p.m., at Raynham hall Museum. He'll discuss his recent book, "Unfriendly to Liberty: Loyalist Networks and the Coming of the American Revolution in New York City." 30 W. Main St., Oyster Bay. Visit RaynhamHallMuseum.org for more 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. Jumpstart your New Year's resolution of better wellness or take the first steps to improving fitness. 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. Register at GlenCoveLibrary.org or call (516) 676-2130 for more information.

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6:00PM

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LEGAL NOTICE
AVISO LEGAL
AVISO DE UNA REUNION ESPECIAL DE LA BIBLIOTECA DEL DISTRITO EL 26 DE MARZO 2024, DE LA BIBLIOTECA PUBLICA DE GLEN COVE PARA VOTAR EN EL PRESUPUESTO DE LA BIBLIOTECA PUBLICA Y PARA ELEGIR A UN JUNTA DE FIDEICOMISARIO DE LA BIBLIOTECA POR MEDIO DEL PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA que se llevara a cabo una reunion especial de los votantes calificados de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove en conformidad con lo dispuesto en la Seccion 260 y 270 de la Ley de Educacion de Estado de Nueva York, en dicho Distrito el 26 de Marzo 2024 entra las 9am y las 9pm Dicha reunion sera de ayunda para los siguientes fines:
Para votar sobre las siguientes prosiciones: **SE HA RESUELTO** que el presupuesto propuesto de la Bilioteca Publica de Glen Cove, Deistro Escolar de la Ciudad de Glen Cove segun lo preparado por los Fideicomisarios de dicha Biblioteca publica para el ano 2024/2025, y segun se haya modificado, se apruebe por la presente; y que la cantidad de los mismos, menos los recibos, se aumenta mediante la recaudacion de un impuesto sobre bienes inmuebles gravables en dicho Distrito Escolar.
Con el fin de elegir; un (1) Fideicomisario de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove por un (5) mandato de cinco anos.
La votation sobre los asuntos mencionados se emitira mediante urnas. **POR FAVOR, TOME NOTA** que la junta de la Biblioteca, en conformidad con lo dispuesto en la Seccion 260 y 270 de la Ley de Educacion, convoca dicha reunion Especial de Distrito.
SE DA AVISO ADICIONAL, que las peticiones que nominan al candidato para el cargo de administrador de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove deben presentarse al secretario entre las horas de 9am y las 9pm., a mas tardar el 23 de febrero de 2024, el trigesimo dia anterior a la eleccion, momento en el cual sera elegido el candidato asi nominado. Cada peticion de nominacion debe dirigirse al Secretario del Distrito, debe estar firmada por al menos veinticinco (25) votantes calificados del Distrito, debe ondicar la residencia de cada firmante y debe indicar el nombre y la residencia del candidato.
Los formularios de muestra las peticiones se pueden obtener del Secretario de Distrito en la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove

Ave., Glen Cove, Nueva York
SE DA AVISO ADICIONAL, que una copia de los gastos estimados propuestos para ser votados estara disponible en la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, Nueva York, entra las 9am y 5pm todos los dias, except los sabados, domingos o festivos durante los catorce dias anteriores a dicha reunion.
SE DA AVISO ADICIONAL, que la Junta de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove realizara una audiencia especial sobre el presupuesto el 26 de Marzo 2024 en la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, Nueva York. a las 7pm
SE DA AVISO ADICIONAL, que los votantes calificados del Distrito pueden inscribirse entre las 9am y 4 pm. La fecha final para inscribirse en la reunion que se celebrara el 19 de marzo es el 5 de marzo. Si un votante ha votado en alguna eleccion en los ultimos 4 anos (2019) o si es elegible para votar conforme al Articulo 5 de la Ley Electoral, el o ella es elegible para votar en este eleccion. Todos las demas personas que deseen votar registrarse. La lista de registro preparade por la Junta de Elecciones de Condado de Nassau se Archivaran en la oficina del secretario de Distrito de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave, Glen Cove, Nueva York, y estara abierta a inpeccion por cualquier votante calificado Del Distrito entre las horas de 9am y 4pm hora vigente cualquier, dia despues del martes 19 de Marzo de 2024 y cada uno de los dis anteriores a la fecha establecidos para la Eleccion de la Biblioteca y la Votacion de Presupuesto, except los sabados, domingos o dias festivos, incluida la fecha establecida para la reunion.
BOLETAS AUSENTES POR FAVOR, TOME NOTA, que las solicitudes de boletas de votacion en ausencia. Para la Eleccion de la Bibliotecas y la Votacion de Presupuesto se puede solicitar en las oficinas del Secretario del Distrito, de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave, Glen Cove, Nueva York. Tales solicitudes deben recibirse al menos (7) siete dias antes de las elecciones si se va a envir la boleta al votante. Ninguna boleta de votante ausente sera votada a menos que haya sido recibida en la oficina de Secretario de Distrito, en la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, Nueva York a mas tardar a las 5:00 pm hora del dia, en el Fecha de la eleccion.

Gina Rant
Oficinista
144804

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LEGAL NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT MEETING ON MARCH 26, 2024 OF GLEN COVE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO VOTE ON THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET AND ELECT ONE TRUSTEE OF THE GLEN COVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special meeting of the qualified voters of the Glen Cove Public Library will be held pursuant to the provisions of Section 260 and 2007 of the Education Law of the State of New York at the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York, in said District on March 26, 2024 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Said meeting will be held for the following purposes:
To vote on the following proposition:
RESOLVED that the proposed budget of the Glen Cove Public Library, Glen Cove City School District, as prepared by the Trustees of the said Public Library, for the year 2024/2025, and as the same may have been amended, be and hereby is approved; and that the amount thereof, less receipts, be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable real property in the said School District.
For the purpose of electing; one (1) Trustee for the Glen Cove Public Library. For a (5) five-year term
The vote on the aforesaid matters will be cast by ballot in a ballot box.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Library Board pursuant to the provisions of Section 260 and 2007 of the Education Law hereby calls said Special District Meeting.
FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that petitions nominating the candidate for the office of Trustee of the Glen Cove Public Library must be filed with the Clerk of the District between hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., no later than February 23, 2024 the thirtieth day preceding the election, at which time the candidate so nominated is to be elected. Each nominating petition shall be directed to the Clerk of the District, must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District, shall state the residence of each signer, and must state the name and residence of the candidate.

Sample forms of the petitions may be obtained from the Clerk of the District at the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York.
FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the proposed estimated expenditures to be voted upon shall be made available at the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day other than Saturday, Sunday or holiday, during the fourteen days preceding such meeting.
FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Glen Cove Public Library will hold a special budget hearing on Tuesday March 19, 2024 at the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York at 7:00 p.m.
FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the District may register between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York. The final date to register for the meeting to be held on March 19, 2024 is March 5, 2024. If a voter has voted in any election within the last 4 years (2019) or if he or she is eligible to vote under Article 5 of Election Law, he or she is eligible to vote at this election. All other persons who wish to vote must register. The registration list prepared by the Board of Elections of Nassau County will be filed in the Office of the District Clerk of the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the district between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. prevailing time, on any day after Tuesday, March 19, 2024, and each of the days prior to the date set for the Library Election and Budget Vote, except Saturday, Sunday or holiday, including the date set for the meeting.
ABSENTEE BALLOTS PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that an application for an absentee ballot for the Library election and budget vote may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk, of Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York. Such application must be received at least (7) seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. No absentee voter ballot shall be canvassed unless it shall have been received at the office of the District Clerk, Glen Cove Public Library, 4

ON THE ROAD WITH A TAKEOUT QUEEN

Dessert before dinner to go

Sometimes I think we should rename the main course during our meals “the waiting for dessert course.” I always feel I should eat something substantial before having dessert. But why? Why not eat dessert first and get it over with? With this in mind, I recently enjoyed takeout in new restaurants and fun eateries around town where the main courses were delicious, but the new desserts were the stars of the show. If you have a meal in any of the places below, eat the dessert first, then the entrée.

creamy Japanese dashi sauce, topped with sesame breadcrumbs. It's such a fun dining adventure.

Mill Creek Tavern (275 Bayville Ave., Bayville) Begin your dinner with the rainbow cookie cheesecake—which will be available for a limited time. It's a slice of rainbow cookie cake with a thin layer of cheesecake in the center, topped with raspberry sauce. Choose your next course from a group of comfort foods on the Sunday supper special menu. I plan to float through February with the Hungarian goulash (featured only on Sundays), chicken potpie, and MCT meat loaf. My choice this week was a very generous portion of shepherd's pie. I ate most of it for dinner, then combined the leftovers with vegetables the next day.



CATHI TUROW

Honey's Bistro (6 Railroad Ave., Glen Head)

As you enter this new, bright, and inviting bistro, you'll be greeted by counters filled with daily store-baked peanut butter and cherry jam mud pies, vanilla cream Italian doughnuts, lemon berry croissants, pistachio tiramisu, and much more. Follow it with salads, sandwiches, bowls, and soups. To name a few, there are harissa chicken sandwiches, bowls of hoisin glazed jerk shrimp, and my favorite: the Caesar salad with Cajun cauliflower florets and crispy chickpeas hiding beneath lettuce leaves. Great bonus: Since the bistro is located next to the Glen Head LIRR train station, order your meal while you're on the train and pick it up as soon as you get off.

Subway (Glen Cove, Sea Cliff) There are new one-foot-long desserts. Since you won't want to be too full to eat them, start your lunch

with the foot-long chocolate chip cookie. Your server will warm it up, so it will be toasty, soft and chewy. The warm foot-long pretzels and churros are yummy, too. Follow your sweet treat with the usual Subway favorites.

Foster (39 Roslyn Ave., Sea Cliff) In this popular farm-to-table style restaurant, begin your meal with the dessert of the century — chocolate chip bread pudding. Follow it with two new entrees: house-made linguine with Peconic Bay scallops, fennel and onions and the udon hot pot with mushrooms, bok choy and chili crisp. The creamiest cauliflower soup ever is also amazing.

With menus like these, who in their right mind would ever cook again? See you next month!

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

HERALD PUBLIC NOTICES

Glen Cove Ave., New York, not later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on the date of the election.
Gina Rant
Clerk
144802

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LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the following projects will be received by the Purchasing Agent of the City of Glen Cove, located at City Hall, rear entrance, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York no later than 10:00 a.m. prevailing time on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at which time they will be opened and read aloud at 11:00 a.m.:

On-Call Fencing Services
Bid No. 2024-003
Emergency Response to Water Main Breaks
Bid No. 2024-002
Specifications are available for download at <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/cityofglen Cove>. Registration is free and instructions are available on <https://glencoveny.gov/bid-rfps/>
Each proposal must be submitted on the forms

provided in the bid package, in a sealed envelope with the name of the bidder, the bid name, and number marked clearly on the outside of the envelope.
Yelena Quiles
Purchasing Agent
City of Glen Cove
February 14, 2024
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OPINIONS

It's time we find common ground on 'Raise the Age'

Long Island has become the center of New York's — and the nation's — political conversation. In recent elections, state and local policies have had an enormous influence on Nassau and Suffolk County campaigns that ultimately played a decisive role in determining control of Congress.

But while politicians and party operatives struggle to find a political advantage in laws passed by Albany or our County Legislature, real people affected by these policies are waiting for those of us in office to find common ground on issues that should bring us together, not divide us.



CHARLES LAVINE

Look at the Raise the Age law, for example. In 2017, I was proud to join both my Democratic and Republican colleagues in support of ending New York's shameful status as one of the last two states to prosecute all 16- and 17-year-olds as adults. Today, thanks to the law, a large majority of young people's cases move through family court, where the goal is rehabilitation through effective intervention rather than criminalization.

Raise the Age is a crucial component in building a healthy, sustainable future. It allows young people to get the services they need to get their lives on track. It also allows them to access quality jobs and fully contribute to our society without convictions from when they were teenagers holding them back.

Contrary to false claims labeling family court a "slap on the wrist," young people may face mandatory programs, supervision by law enforcement, pretrial detention, and placement in residential facilities. But when the system is working well, they are connected with a range of community-based services and resources, which aim to address the underlying factors that led them to commit crimes. And they can use of those services — and the opportunities they provide — without the burden of an adult criminal record.

One such service is the SNUG Street Outreach program, which uses a public health model to reduce gun violence throughout the state by mediating conflict, mentoring youth, and working with local partners to make our streets safer. The 13 communities that are home to the program — including Hempstead — reported a 36 percent reduction in shoot-

ings with injuries from 2021 to 2023.

As a former public defender, I know firsthand how crucial services like SNUG are to the health and safety of our young people and their communities. By targeting the crux of the issue, they reduce

recidivism and help struggling youth become well-functioning, productive members of their communities.

Since Raise the Age took effect, thousands of young people who would otherwise have spent months or even years of their childhood in adult jails and prisons have had access to services designed to help them improve their lives and avoid future interactions with the criminal legal system. For some, this is the first time they have had trusted adults whom they can rely on and turn to for guidance.

In recent years, I've been disappointed by how many of my misinformed colleagues have attempted to blame Raise the Age for an increase in crime on Long Island, especially when the data say otherwise. This should be a law that unites us.

From the law's implementation in 2018 through 2022, according to the state Division of Criminal Justice Services, serious crimes perpetrated by those under 18

decreased by 12 percent in Nassau County and a stunning 57 percent in Suffolk. These statistics demonstrate the efficacy of, and critical need for, community-based programming to make our neighborhoods safer.

Despite Raise the Age's success, its implementation has received a mere fraction of the funding state leaders promised. It's been reported that as of 2022, only \$270 million of the \$800 million that was appropriated for it had been invested in community-based programs and services for young people around the state. Think of how much *more* successful Raise the Age could be if the state adequately funded it, and community-based organizations and service providers could apply for and receive that funding directly.

It's high time that we rise to the occasion and demand more for the most vulnerable members of our communities, and that starts by calling on Albany to invest in our youth by fully funding Raise the Age and supporting evidence-based strategies that create pathways for our young people's rehabilitation, growth and opportunity. Let's not let fear-mongering and political mudslinging talk us out of public policy that is proven to work — and that lifts all of us up.

Charles Lavine represents the 13th Assembly District.

It's Library Lovers Month — borrow a book

I read "Lady Chatterley's Lover," my first banned book, when I was 12. My friend lent me the book, and I found the good parts by the dog-eared pages. The experience did not compromise my moral compass or corrupt me in any way I can discern. I am not recommending the book for today's 12-year-olds, because it's a pretty boring read, but I am advocating that a broad

spectrum of books be available to students who choose to read them.

This month, Library Lovers Month, I want to push back hard against the self-appointed literature vigilantes across our country, who are removing books from school library shelves



RANDI KREISS

and banning them from classrooms under the guise of protecting children from inappropriate subject matter.

It's called censorship, and the problem, of course, is who gets to decide what is appropriate or not. In the past, librarians have had full discretion in selecting books. They are trained for the job and trusted in their choices. In the best

libraries, the books reflect all the ways that children and teenagers can be in the world, including gay or trans or identified with any race or religion or socioeconomic group.

For some young people, the school library is the only place they can read about kids just like themselves. They can learn that others share their confusion or anxiety or fear of being different.

I don't believe that a teenager can "catch" being gay or trans from reading about it, the underlying prejudice being that there is something wrong with that identity. We can't scrub young adult literature for references to slavery or minority struggles or even violence, because the best writing reflects real life.

A couple of weeks ago, The New York Times told the story of a librarian in Idaho who organized a "Rainbow Squad," welcoming children of different backgrounds to read and talk about books. A local church group protested, and the community is battling over whether the Rainbow Squad should be banned, along with the books they're reading.

I wonder how this group threatens anyone, even as it creates a support net-

work for vulnerable kids.

I don't know if a book has ever saved someone's life, but I know for sure that battles over books are endangering lives by keeping young people from information and stories that might validate their choices in important ways.

In The Washington Post last week, columnist Kate Cohen wrote about the school board in her hometown, Rockingham, Virginia, deciding to ban 57 books in the school library. One-third of the books feature gay or trans characters. Cohen wrote, "Freedom to read is the closest thing we have to freedom to think."

This month, there can be no more pressing public business than to guarantee age-appropriate, open access to all kinds of books by all kinds of writers, for students across the land.

What can we do? Each of us can become familiar with our school and community libraries, stay informed about the books available to teens and oppose efforts by any groups of book police to decide what teenagers should read. In some communities in Florida, a single parent's complaint about a book in a school library can get it banned.

As Cohen wrote, "The books on any

book-ban list, by definition, express feelings, experiences and political views that the prevailing culture prefers to pretend do not exist."

I think how lonely and desperate teenagers trying to figure out their lives without access to books must feel. Well-written books on racism or sexuality or addiction are a far better source for our kids than TikTok.

We read books for many reasons beyond wanting to be entertained — to solve the mysteries in our lives, to be dazzled or outraged by the way others live. Sometimes we can find our beliefs and lives affirmed in the pages of a new book.

The reason authoritarian entities, be they runaway school boards or governments, ban books is to limit access to ideas that might challenge their power.

We resist by reading and sharing.

The New York Public Library is offering free access to banned books for teenagers anywhere in the country through SimplyE, its e-reader app. The latest banned book pick is "All American Boys," by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. It is available to all readers ages 13 and older.

There are worlds out there to be explored. I have had this joy in my life, and I want the same for every reader.

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Students need open access to all kinds of books by all kinds of writers.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Thank you for the snow day

In the past couple of weeks, we've been getting a lot of something we haven't seen much of over the past couple of years: snow.

So much, in fact, that schools in our communities had no choice but to close. And because of that, we have just one thing to say to our school districts in Nassau County: Thank you for the snow day.

Yes, education works best when it's rigorous and on a schedule. If the young minds loading buses each day were robots, then we'd probably be hesitant to interrupt the routine. Thankfully, our children are living, breathing people. And all of us can use a break from time to time — especially one we didn't expect.

Anyone who grew up in a climate susceptible to winter almost assuredly experienced at least one snow day in their life, if not several. They go all the way back to the 19th century, when schools became gathering points children would flock to — and where safety would become paramount.

In places like Long Island, where crews are adept at clearing roads, even the best can be overwhelmed by significant storms and heavy snowfalls. And while it might feel like a free day off for many of our young learners, nearly all school districts have built snow days into the schedule — meaning any unexpected days off will be made up later in the spring.

We here on Long Island understand

the value of snow days, but not everyone shares those values. In fact, there is a growing contingent of education leaders right in our backyard who have been working hard to wipe snow days from existence.

It's not that New York City has it out for an occasional unscheduled school closing. It's just that the city's education department has capitalized on the expansion of technology necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic, which made remote learning for all not just possible, but practical.

For the 1.1 million students who attend more than 1,800 schools in the city, instead of sitting inside a classroom to learn on days when it snows, they are sitting in their living rooms and bedrooms instead. All while other people their age, living just a few miles away, grab their snowsuits and sleds and enjoy the winter beauty Mother Nature has delivered.

Learning is important, but snow days are valuable. Quite valuable, in fact. Beyond safety, they provide a much-needed mental health break — not just for students, but also for the adults responsible for their learning.

The pressure of academic demands and extracurricular activities can be intense. That can lead not just to stress, but even to burnout.

Snow days give all of us a chance to recharge and relax with some unscheduled playtime outdoors. And that's important, too. We hear too much about

how video games, computers and television keep so many of our kids indoors. But freshly fallen snow is irresistible, and will almost assuredly get them outside to have some fun. It's good for their physical health in a way that sitting in front of a computer, watching a teacher on Zoom, just can't provide.

And a snow day is a chance to build community. Families come together to shovel sidewalks, or maybe help neighbors in need. Children get together, working to build snow forts, or even a snowman, complete with a carrot nose and a top hat.

And who doesn't love an impromptu snowball fight?

All of that comes with many parents still working remotely, which helps mitigate child-care issues and costs that might otherwise accompany snow days.

Just remember that these days are not breaks for everyone. Let's not forget the municipal workers who wake up early to plow the snow, as well as the brave souls at utility companies, hospitals, and fire and police departments who, as first responders, are always prepared for the worst.

Each one of our children will spend more than 1,200 days in class through high school. Let them have a break. And let's show New York City yet another reason why more and more people choose to live and work here on Long Island.

Because on Long Island, snow days are cool.

LETTERS

In fighting fires, amateurs are pros

To the Editor:

We are professional firefighters!

I take exception to the comment made by writer Brandon Cruz in his article "Long Island needs more volunteer firefighters" (Feb. 8-14) that our volunteer firefighters are not "professionals." Cruz reports that if new volunteers don't join local fire departments, communities will need to hire "professional" firefighters.

Our volunteers are professional firefighters, just not paid for what we do for our communities. We, as volunteers, don't just put on turnout gear and rush into a burning building without the needed, required and constant training provided by the Nassau County Fire Service at its training facility in Bethpage, and here in Lynbrook, our own department's training and drills at our training facility in Wilcox Alley.

Back some 44 years ago, the Lynbrook Fire Department was facing a firefighter shortage, and formed the Lynbrook Junior Fire Department for youngsters 12 to 17, to interest them in firefighting, with the goal of becoming firefighters when they turned 18.

During their time as juniors, the youngsters learn basic firefighting methods without actually fighting fires. When they turn 18, they join one of our fire companies,



OPINIONS

Honoring indigenous legacy, without appropriation

The history of America's relationship with the indigenous peoples who lived here before the arrival of European settlers has been fraught with sugarcoating, obfuscation, and downright ignorance.

On Long Island — where so many of our communities still bear the names of the native tribes that were here for millennia — that history continues to remain hidden and untaught, despite the fact that numerous municipalities still claim to “honor” the legacy of these tribes through school team and village logos that feature stereotypical headaddresses and depictions of Native Americans.

Before the Italian explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano first saw what would become known as Long Island in 1524, there were tens of thousands of indigenous peoples living here, largely in peaceful co-existence among 13 tribes along the coasts of the island. These were the Canarsee, Corchaug, Manhasset, Marsapeague, Matinecock, Merrick, Montaukett, Nesaquake, Rockaway, Secatogue, Setauket, Shinnecock and Unkechaug.

They inhabited the land for more than 10,000 years, and were expert fishers and clambers who relied on the abundant fish, lobsters, clams and even whales to supplement the food they got through

hunting and the harvesting of corn.

The various tribes had different names for the island they called home: Paumanok, Lapanehoking, Sewanhacky and Wamponomon — the last two referencing the abundance of wampum, or shells, from local clams used for decoration or currency.

The tribes themselves were closely related to several different nations from the surrounding land, with the majority of the western Long Island tribes speaking Algonquian dialects. The Algonquian people, at their height, stretched up and down the northeastern United States and into Canada. Their people, traded goods and culture traveled from Lake Superior to the Long Island Sound.

The indigenous people of eastern Long Island spoke a Lenape-Munsee dialect, showing their connection to the Lenape communion, a group of hundreds of tribes stretching from Delaware to the Hudson Valley.

Through their Lenape heritage, the eastern Long Island tribes were linked to the Powhatan Federation, famous for the daughter of one of their chieftains, Pocahontas, and their relationship with the Jamestown colonists.

In addition to the sustenance they acquired from the animals and crops of the region, the various tribes were also accomplished artists and musicians, particularly with the use of wampum shells for decorative pieces, and weaved elabo-

rate and finely made clothing and blankets. They also made ornamental pottery, stamped with decorative designs, and traded these goods across the Sound and along the East Coast.

Since the beginning of white settlement on Long Island, roughly 90 percent of native people have been killed — either intentionally or incidentally — by colonists, through everything from violence to disease to loss of native wildlife and land displacement. The majority of tribes disappeared before the Revolutionary War, and in the centuries since, a number of American historians have attempted to whitewash the presence and impact of

Native Americans here.

Despite this, they still played a key role in Long Island's early history, particularly in the close relationship between the Montaukett and the English settlers of what is now Suffolk County. When Long Island became a center for the whaling industry in the 18th and 19th centuries, many natives were hired for their bravery, strength and long history of whaling in their respective cultures.

A Shinnecock man named Eleazar was the first Native American to enter Japanese territory while serving as a crewman aboard the whaling vessel Manhattan, which anchored in Tokyo Bay while on an expedition in 1845.

Nowadays, there are only two reservations for indigenous tribes on Long Island

— the Shinnecock Reservation, in Southampton, and the Poospatuck Reservation, in Mastic. The descendants of many of the tribes still live throughout the United States, forced to occupy reservations as far from their homeland as Oklahoma.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of native Long Island history and culture. The best way to honor them and their legacy is by educating ourselves on their history and finding ways to support the descendants of these tribes, whose land we now live on.

Anyone interested in preserving and honoring native culture can promote and patronize indigenous-owned businesses and places that educate on the history of the local tribes — such as the Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center and Museum, in Southampton — and support increase funding for local school districts to include academic courses and cultural opportunities so our children understand the peoples who lived here before their ancestors.

While we may not have been taught much about them, the native tribes of Long Island are an integral part of our communities' history. It is our duty — as both Americans and human beings — to not only honor their heritage, but also to uplift their voices and educate ourselves on their proud history and tradition.

Both because it is the right thing to do, and because there is still so much for us to learn.

Will Sheeline is a senior reporter who writes for the Glen Cove, Oyster Bay and Sea Cliff/Glen Head Heralds. Comments? wsheeline@liherald.com.



WILL SHEELINE

It's our duty, as Americans and as human beings, to honor native tribes' heritage.

LETTERS

begin formal basic training at the county Fire Service Academy and are considered probationary firefighters for one year while they complete additional training.

Yes, we always need more volunteers, but our junior program is helping to fill our ranks.

Many area fire departments have also formed junior programs, based on ours, to help fill their own ranks. Admittedly, the juniors aren't always enough, and some years are better than others. Lynbrook's chief of department and three assistant chiefs came through our junior program. This isn't the first time that all four chiefs have been former juniors. Many of our current volunteers came through our junior program.

There are now 30 youngsters in the Lynbrook Junior Fire Department. Two former juniors joined fire companies last month alone when they turned 18. It is estimated that over 40 percent of our juniors go on to become Lynbrook firefighters.

STEVE GROGAN
Lynbrook

Grogan is a 56-year member of the Lynbrook Fire Department and an ex-captain and honorary chief. He

co-founded the Lynbrook Junior Fire Department, and is the department's public information officer.

We need more governance, less politics

To the Editor:

Re County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton's column “Stop playing petty political games with county resources” last week: The difference of opinion between the legislative minority leader and the majority leader illustrates the difference between governance and politics. Nassau would benefit from more of the former and less of the latter.

The millions of dollars in American Rescue Plan Act funds at issue, having not been spent as intended, present a “wind-fall.” Shall we have Bruce Blakeman billboards or firehouse funds? Are we improvident grasshoppers or prudent and ant-like? Shall we squander millions on a 125th-birthday party or prudently invest in libraries, cybersecurity and clean water?

BRIAN KELLY
Rockville Centre

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



A snowy morning on the Southern State Parkway, near Wantagh Avenue.

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