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A tribute to G.C. veterans
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Hooley a whole lot of fun
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Courtesy Glen Cove City schools

Glen Cove High School Senior Phoebe George hosted a panel after the school's production of 'The Laramie Project,' a play about the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay 21-year-old University of Wyoming student. With George were Dennis Shepard, Matthew's father, on a laptop Zoom call, Jared Ross, Marsha Silverman, Kayla Hogan and an English teacher at the high school, Rebecca Goldaper.

Blakeman's Transgender ban debated in Glen Cove

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

Rebecca Goldaper remembers standing in front of her mirror in 2021, wearing a short green skirt with yellow flowers that she had bought on Amazon. In that moment, she took her first step to becoming true to herself, confirming that the male gender she had been assigned at birth didn't match her outward appearance.

"Now that I had this realization, the alternative felt wrong," Goldaper said of dressing as a man. "It became harder for me to dress the way that I used to and be perceived the way that I used to. What I had been presenting as me for 29 years no longer felt like me, because I had seen that there was another

way."

The now 32-year-old English teacher at Glen Cove High School acknowledged fearing people's reactions when she began introducing herself as a trans woman and living openly as her authentic self. It took her a couple of months, she said, to do so, because of her fear of how others might perceive or treat her.

But her comfort with living in a socially progressive state is facing a major setback — an order by Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, signed on Feb. 22, banning transgender athletes from competing in girls' or women's sports at county facilities. While those born male will not be allowed to participate on female teams, Blakeman's order

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

New district maps shift party balance

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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This is the third story in a series exploring the complexities of elections to provide a better understanding of one of Americans' most precious privileges, the right to vote.

The State Legislature's approval of the revised congressional district map for New York's 26 congressional districts has marked a shift in the state's political landscape. Gov. Kathy Hochul signed off on the Democratic-drawn map on Feb. 28, and it has tilted the electoral balance in favor of the Democratic Party, especially in key battleground districts.

One notable change involves the North Shore's 3rd Congressional District, where the newly elected Rep. Tom Suozzi stands to benefit. By replacing GOP-heavy Massapequa with sections of Huntington and Huntington Station, Suozzi's prospects in this fall's general

election could see a benefit.

But these changes come with consequences for other districts in Nassau County. The 1st and 2nd districts are expected to lean slightly more Republican because of the redistricting process. Although Democrats drafted the new map, it primarily made modest adjustments to existing congressional boundaries.



A dozen Huntington residents told the Herald they didn't know about the new map, but Michael Berg, a registered voter unaffiliated with either political party, said the changes were justified.

"For whatever reason, it seems that the Republicans have been gerrymandering these lines for as long as I can remember," Berg said in a phone interview. "The gerrymandering that they do always contorts the lines to make the electoral votes in their favor. It's about time to get ahold of that so we can have a real election."

Democrat Cheryl Lynnblum,
CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

A spirited debate of county exec's ruling

March 7, 2024 - GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

does not require county facilities to ban females from playing on male teams.

"This is not precluding anybody from participating in sports," Blakeman wrote in his order. "What it is, is identifying that there are women and girls who spent a tremendous amount of time and effort to excel and compete in their sports that are women's sports — whether it's WNBA, whether it's college, whether it's high school, whether it's just a community league — and it is an unfair advantage for someone who's a biological male to compete against a biological female."

Blakeman wrote that an individual's gender is defined as the individual's biological sex at birth.

New York Attorney General Letitia James demanded that Blakeman rescind the ban, stating that it was a "discriminatory and transphobic executive order" in a news release on Friday. James described the order as a "clear violation" of state civil and human rights law that would subject all female athletes to "intrusive and invasive questioning."

Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck, a former high school teacher, voiced concerns about the participation of transgender athletes in sports, and particularly the potential impact on opportunities for young women athletes to secure scholarships. She emphasized the physical advantages that some transgender women might have over biological women, citing the stature and strength of her husband, who played high school basketball, as an example. Despite her concerns, however, Panzenbeck said she did not believe it

was necessary to propose a ban on transgender athletes at city-owned facilities.

"People need to understand what the issue really is," she said. "No matter what you do to your body, no matter what surgery, you're still physiologically a male, and you have an advantage. This isn't about banning them. They can play on a coed team; they just can't play on a solid women's team."

Sarah Kate Ellis, president and chief executive of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said in a statement that Blakeman's executive order would do nothing to help youth who live and play in Nassau County, or keep them safe.

"Transgender youth want the opportunity to play sports for the same reason all youth do: to be a part of a team where they belong," Ellis's statement read. "Excluding girls from playing sports with their friends, simply because they are transgender, sends a dangerous message to young people: that it is okay to exclude people simply because you do not understand them."

City Councilwoman Marsha Silverman said that as a girl, she was excluded from a softball team because of her gender. Her experience, she said, taught her to stand up for what she believes in.

"Elected officials have an opportunity to bring unity among diverse groups and act as role models and leaders," Silverman wrote in an email. "(The executive order) is simply a misplaced overly broad political ploy. It is meant to enrage and scare people rather than educate, and I find this very sad."

Phoebe George, a gender-non-conforming senior at

It made a place that I had always felt really safe to be in have a crack in it.

PHOEBE GEORGE
senior,
Glen Cove
High School



Courtesy Glen Cove City schools

Rebecca Goldaper, an English teacher at Glen Cove High school, acknowledged fearing people's reactions when she began introducing herself as a trans woman.

Glen Cove High, said they were re-evaluating the comfort they once felt as a county resident.

"I felt very helpless," George said of their reaction when they heard about the ban. "It made a place that I had always felt really safe to be in have a crack in it. People close to me are now being affected by this atrocious decision."

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Honoring vets through art and education

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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The sound of plastic bottle caps echoed in the community room of the Glen Cove Library Saturday morning as volunteers sifted through eight, five-gallon buckets, filled to the brim, to offer their hand for a unique art project aimed at honoring local veterans.

All in the name of creating “CAPS for HOPE,” this community-based mural, spearheaded by Glen Cove Librarian Lydia Wen, artist in residence Amanda Fisk, and veteran Mike Danchalski, aims to pay tribute to Glen Cove veterans through the transformative power of art.

The wood four-panel mosaic, crafted by Danchalski, and created from these bottle caps, which spells the word “hope” will serve as a traveling exhibit, with its first stop at the Glen Cove Public Library for a month before heading to the senior center. Wen highlighted the interactive nature of the project, which also encouraged the community to donate used bottle caps from January to the end of February. The project seeks to foster inclusivity and unity while raising awareness about environmental conservation.

But that’s not all. The Glen Cove Public Library and the Veterans Services Department are teaming up to offer additional avenues for recognizing veterans’ service to the country and Glen Cove. This year’s military tribute banners, which will adorn lampposts in Morgan Park from Memorial Day through Veterans Day, have already sold out. However, an online exhibit of previous banners remains available on the library’s website.

A third project the library is overseeing involves two essay contests aimed at middle and high school students. Last year marked the introduction of the two essay contests. The first contest, called Liberty’s Torch, was available to sixth- through eighth graders, who were tasked with writing about lessons they had learned from a veteran. Mia DiFrancisco, a seventh grader at the Finley Middle School, took first place. In the second contest, Echoes of Freedom, Glen Cove High School students wrote about what it means to serve their country, and freshman Michael Renga won first place.

This year, the tradition continues. The subject for Liberty’s Torch is, once again, lessons students have learned from a veteran, while Echoes of Freedom asks why the Pledge of Allegiance is important.

Submissions for both contests are due by April 30, and the first-place prize is \$250. The winning essays will be presented on May 26, when the banners are unveiled at Morgan Memorial Park.

Tony Jimenez, a Vietnam War veteran, expressed his enthusiasm for seeing the city’s youth and veterans collaborate on such inspiring projects. He believes these initiatives not only demonstrate appreciation for veterans but



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Lauren Greenberg and Tony Jimenez spend their Saturday morning helping to sift through nearly 40 gallons of bottle caps.



Amanda Fisk, artist in residence at the Glen Cove Public Library, helped design the preliminary concept of the mural.

also provide valuable educational opportunities for the city’s youth.

“It’s a can’t lose,” Jimenez remarked. “Hope for the future is universal.”



Photos courtesy Lydia Wen

The four-panel wood mosaic, created from donated bottle caps, which spells the word “hope” will serve as a traveling exhibit.



Donna DeJesu was one of the first volunteers eager to participate in the mural.

NEWS BRIEFS

Will Staples be leaving Glen Cove?

A large number of people attended a Planning Board meeting in City Hall on Tuesday night to witness a public hearing regarding the demise of the North Shore Triangle, which includes Staples. Several people spoke against the proposed development, saying it will contribute to a decline in the city's quality of life impacting traffic, responsiveness of emergency services and would contribute to gentrification.

KIR Glen Cove 025, LLC, a subsidiary of Kimco Realty Corporation, submitted plans to the city that they presented at the meeting. They are advocating a mixed-use development to "enhance the area's appeal by addressing its outdated design and lack of architectural interest, particularly along School Street."

The development is projected to have 148 residential units, 37,000 sq. ft. of commercial space for a restaurant and grocery store, and 370 garage parking spaces, with 10 percent of the residential units designated as affordable housing. Building heights will vary between 45 and 65 feet, with some architectural features reaching up to roughly 74 feet, harmonizing with the site's natural topography.

The project includes re-establishing the Highland Road traffic connection and creating 11,457 sq. ft. of public plazas and enhanced sidewalks along School Street.

One resident closest to the proposed development expressed concerns over traffic, saying that her home near the Highland Road Extension, which the development hopes to use for truck deliveries, has already seen an increase in traffic since the extension reopened. She said her two sons — both in their 20s — have experienced near accidents while trying to leave their home's driveway.

Join in the International Women's Day celebration

In Celebration of International Women's Day the city is offering a panel discussion with inspiring, groundbreaking women, moderated by Councilwoman Marsha Silverman.

The event will feature:

Geraldine Hart: The associate vice president of public safety and community engagement at Hofstra University, who is the first female Police commissioner of Suffolk County and former senior supervisory resident agent leading the FBI's office.

Capt. Cynthia Robson: A master mariner licensed to sail vessels of any tonnage on any ocean, and the first female master of a tank ship. She is also the first female master to command a ship through the Panama Canal, and professor at the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Dana Arschin: The first storyteller at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, and three-time Emmy award-winning journalist.

The event will take place on March 11, at 6 p.m., at Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen St.

Annual St. Baldrick's Foundation fundraiser

The Downtown Cafe will hold its annual St. Baldrick's Foundation fundraiser, in which participants have their head shaved to raise money for childhood cancer research and treatment. The event will be held on March 17, at 1 p.m., at 4 School St., Glen Cove.

CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

- A 39-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Feb. 25, for false impersonation and possession of an open alcoholic beverage on Glen Street.
- A 34-year-old Corona, Queens, man was arrested on Feb. 25 for aggravated unlicensed operation and operating a motor vehicle without stop lamps on Brewster Street.
- A 37-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Feb. 26, for criminal possession of a weapon, assault, menacing and resisting arrest on Stephen Oval.
- A 42-year-old Central Islip man was arrested on Feb. 27, for endangering an elderly, incompetent and disabled person, two counts of sexual contact, two counts of endangering the welfare of an incompetent and physically disabled person, two counts of forcible touching, two counts of public health physical and abuse, and two counts of willful violation of health laws on Dosoris Lane.
- A 49-year-old undomiciled man was arrested on Feb. 28 for trespassing on Glen Cove Avenue.
- A 26-year-old Finksburg, Maryland man was arrested on March 1, for one count each aggravated unlicensed operation and, suspended registration and driving without a license on Forest Avenue.
- A 67-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on March 1, for criminal contempt on Phillips Road.

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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Book Review: "The Gift of Years"

by Joan Chittister

Your writer was grateful to find author Chittister's book, subtitled "Growing Old Gracefully", written by her at age seventy, the same age your writer turns this year.

Inevitably, we come to see things differently as we age. In "The Gift of Years" these changes in the "capstone years" as she calls them, present the gift of becoming more fully alive than ever. Cicero notes that old age is richer in reflection, force of character and judgement. The maturity and mellowing of character allows the older generation to provide a behavioral model for younger generations showing them the way to a fullness of life.

Seneca said these years abound with pleasure if we know how to use them. Free of obligations and deadlines, there is freshness in these years. Understanding, enjoyment and love of life all increase, allowing for deeper, richer and more important experiences. The world looks different — more to be treasured, explored and enjoyed.

A certain serenity sets in.

Chittister writes "But we are here to depart from this world as finished as we can possibly become. Old age is...exactly the time to grow in new ways [making] sense out of all the growing we have already done. It is the softening season when everything in us is meant to achieve its sweetest, richest, most unique self".

Chittister calls it a damping-down time of life where anger, jealousy, envy, and pride subside to awaken another whole level of life. "As Agatha Christie put it, we 'bloom' as we grow. New abilities emerge, new insights arise. New vision is possible."

A certain urgency and intensity in living sets in as we become aware of the presence of time. With forty short chapters on subjects such as Regret, Joy, Possibility, Letting Go, Success, Wisdom, Time and Appreciation, "The Gift of Years" provides an indispensable guide to aging well.

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Starting big push for clean truck standards

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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To protect the delicate ecosystems on the North Shore and the quality of life, Assemblyman Chuck Lavine and other elected officials have been encouraging the Environmental Protection Agency and the Biden Administration to improve clean truck standards.

The transportation sector is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, primarily from burning fossil fuels in cars, trucks, ships, trains, and planes. Petroleum-based fuels, such as gasoline and diesel, account for over 94 percent of transportation fuel.

In April 2023, the Biden Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency unveiled draft standards aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from heavy-duty vehicles starting in the 2027 model year. If put into effect, these standards would curb air pollution from HD vehicles and hasten the production and sale of zero-emission trucks and buses. Recent studies, including one conducted by the American Lung Association, highlight the significant health benefits for New Yorkers resulting from the adoption of zero-emission transportation.

"We are as concerned, if not more concerned, than other areas here in the North Shore, because there is a general fear of what is happening to our environment," Lavine said. "That fear extends to concerns we have over the integrity of the aquifer, and that's our sole source of drinking water, to saltwater infiltration along our estuary and shoreline. We're worried about the purity and the quality of the air that we breathe, and we know that pollutants from non-electric, trucks and automobiles cause damage to bodies and to our lungs. We do want to protect our children and our grandchildren, and make sure that the water they drink is safe."

According to Christine Suter, the executive director



Herald file photo

Although residents living in the North Shore enjoy a variety of local beaches, they haven't been able to go to Crescent Beach since 2009 because of contaminants.

for Friends of the Bay, a nonprofit environmental organization based in the hamlet of Oyster Bay, emissions contribute to global warming and climate change, affecting water quality. Rising temperatures lead to a decrease in dissolved oxygen levels, which can result in fish kill and environmental degradation.

Recent improvements include a decrease in fecal coliform levels, attributed to the proper sewage treatment in areas like Mill Neck Creek. However, emissions indirectly increase water temperature, fueling harmful algal blooms due to excess nutrients like nitrogen and phosphate from failing septic systems and fertilizer runoff. While progress has been made in nutrient reduction and water clarity, the steady rise in temperature poses a challenge to maintaining water quality.

"Every time there are gains made with water quality,

you're fighting against climate change, because when the temperature raises, there are certain reactions that start to take place in the water," Suter explained. "There's this inverse relationship between the temperature going up and dissolved oxygen going down. So, when that happens in the water, there's a certain level that dissolved oxygen has to be to sustain life in the water and when it starts going down, then it starts contributing to things like fish kill, and just degradation of the environment."

Joan Bessette, chairperson of the Glen Cove Beautification Commission was skeptical and concerned about the practicality and effectiveness of current solutions for environmental issues. She acknowledges the appeal of concepts like electric vehicles and renewable energy, but highlights the significant costs and limitations involved, particularly in battery manufacturing and carbon emissions. Bessette expressed frustration with reliance on the oil industry and the challenges of implementing widespread change. She's worried also about the emissions associated with manufacturing batteries for electric vehicles, which often involve significant carbon output. Additionally, she mentioned the emissions generated by landfills.

"It's a lovely concept, but it's not practical. I don't see how it will ever happen," Bessette said. "It costs in money, and also costly to the environment to manufacture batteries for cars is overwhelming. If our reliance on batteries is not, you know, zero, there's still carbon emissions involved in the manufacture and the use of these things."

Despite her concerns with the financial and environmental cost of batteries, she is happy that Lavine is advocating for zero-emission vehicles. There are too many other politicians that are in favor of the oil industry, Bessette said.



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Fed Bank leader says Long Island is recovering

By MICHAEL HINMAN

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We've heard a lot about the economy in the years coming out of the coronavirus pandemic — and those conversations will only get louder as we head into what is expected to be a rather contentious presidential election.

But when it comes to the economy on Long Island — at least for now, it's rebounding. At least according to the man whose collection of gold in Manhattan far exceeds what's found in Fort Knox.

John Williams, president and chief executive of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, paid the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Uniondale a visit last week, sharing the state of the economy with members of the Long Island Association. And there's plenty to talk about.

"As business leaders, you all know all too well the impacts the pandemic had on our communities in our economy," Williams said. "In many ways, Long Island's economy mirrors New York City's, and both were hit especially hard in 2020. In fact, much harder than what we saw in the rest of the country."

Inflation was rampant, the job outlook was unstable, and the supply chain was struggling to regain its once super-efficient form.

But an important milestone was reached last year, Williams said: total employment numbers returned to what they were before the pandemic.

"Last year was also a turning point for the U.S. economy overall," Williams said. "The economy grew far faster than anyone expected a year ago, boosted by increases in the labor force and productivity."

The fact that the financial market has held for the past two years also is significant, Williams said, since that's the longest stretch in five decades.

And although inflation continues to be a concern, at least as far as personal consumption expenditures go,



Michael Hinman/Herald

John Williams, right, president and chief executive of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, joined Long Island Association president and chief executive Matthew Cohen for a discussion on Long Island's economy during a visit to the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Uniondale last week.

numbers are falling from the 40-year high experienced just a couple years ago to levels considered far more stable.

Williams visited with the LIA as part of an overall Long Island tour that included stops in Suffolk County as well as at Hofstra University. Although monetary policy itself is decided on Capitol Hill and the White House, the Reserve Bank of New York is where the nation's monetary policy is implemented as part of the larger Fed.

Williams visited Long Island at a time when the economy here has stabilized, according to LIA president and chief executive Matthew Cohen.

"Our gross domestic product is \$200 billion," Cohen said. "About 45 percent of adults have a college degree — which is higher, actually, in both New York City, and the state as a whole. And, as a region, we have a low unem-

ployment rate."

That's pretty significant for a region that is larger than 15 states. Which is why it's important businesses on Long Island work together, Cohen added, to lead the rest of the nation in the ongoing recovery.

"We need to work together — everyone in this room, everyone in our region — to create new good-paying jobs to support the growth of both legacy sectors and these emerging industries," he said. It's also important to "cultivate entrepreneurship so that the next Apple can be built here."

Over the decades, Long Island and the country has proven to itself it can weather a number of storms. But the economy is ever-changing, Williams said, and the pandemic proved it's important to strengthen the country's financial infrastructure.

"It's kind of a recognition of our limits to that resiliency," Williams said. "Supply chains have become extremely complex."

"That's one of the lessons — that when you have extreme movements in demand supply ... things can crack in that system. People are recognizing that, in terms of businesses, of having more resiliency."

Williams can't make predictions of what the economy will bring, but can say the world we live in now is already different, and will continue changing as we move forward. Like the movement of more and more people to continue working from home, or maintaining hybrid work environments where they may only be in the office a couple times a week.

A potential solution?

"To do office space in the modern world, you have to invest a lot to make that office space attractive," Williams said. "It's just one of those kinds of evolutions that is jarring that we go through in cities like New York where things have changed, and we need to adjust to that. I'm confident we will be able to do that."

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Projects, pros honored at REAL Awards

Long Island's most prolific real estate leaders highlighted at annual event

By Parker Schug

The diverse Long Island real estate scene includes industry experts from every niche specialty from construction and design, to insurance and sales. And the best of the best were honored last week as part of Herald Community Newspapers and RichnerLive's third annual Real Estate Achievement and Leadership Awards, or REAL Awards.

"It's a relatively small island, but a lot of things are happening," said Chris Kelly, the marketing vice president at Tritec Real Estate Co.

Held at The Heritage Club at Bethpage, this year's awards once again honored many leaders in the space who have been in the game for decades, as well as up-and-coming professionals — all with successful projects and happy clients to show for their work.

Antoinette Biordi, four-time Emmy Award-winning anchor and reporter for News 12, handed out a number of awards split into nearly 30 categories that included Broker of the Year, Construction Group of the Year, and the top residential and commercial broker.

Sara Gore, real estate saleswoman and four-time Emmy Award-winning television host for "Open House" and "New York Live" on NBC, was a keynote speaker and recipient of the special "Trailblazer" award.

"I've been in this business for a long time," Gore said. "But now to be on the other side of things — and be on the real estate side and really feel like I've solidified my place, my stake in this industry — it feels really good to be a part of it.

"I'm so proud to be included within this group of professionals that are here tonight."

Mel Pulatani and son Dan of MP Construction D — a general contracting company specializing in luxury residential and sophisticated commercial projects — were given the Father & Son Power Team special award.

"I mean it's obviously an honor to be honored at this event," Dan Pulatani said. "But I have to give all credit to my father. He's the real reason we're here. He's the guy that makes the dream happen. I'm lucky and honored to be his partner every day."

Eric Alexander, executive director of Vision Long Island, accepted the Not-For-Profit special award.

"The theme of our work is connecting to local communities," Alexander said. "And that's how real estate development is successful: When they work with local communities. It means a lot when a number of the other honorees, too, are connected to local communities. I'm in great company."

Steven Krieger, chief executive of B2K Development, was selected as Power Developer of the Year.

"Hard work leads to luck," Krieger said. "I've been so lucky to meet so many great people in this business."

Beth Donner, founder of Melville-based Beth Donner Design, was honored



The ballroom filled with guests ready for the ceremony to begin.



Tim Baker/Herald photos

Sara Gore, host of Open House NYC, was the keynote speaker for the evening.



Mark Stumer of Mojo Stumer Associates.



Kelly Heck accepts on behalf of Tritec.



Eric Alexander of Vision Long Island.



Beth Donner with her crystal award.



Christopher Robinson of R&M Engineering.

with the Interior Designer of the Year special award. Christopher Robinson, president of R&M Engineering, accepted the engineering special award, while also celebrating 25 years in the business.

Elisabetta Coschignano, of the Sahn Ward Braff Koblenz Coschignano law

firm, was among those honored in the commercial real estate category.

"I pride myself on being prepared in the Long Island real estate world, and especially as it relates to zoning and land use," Coschignano said.

Connie Pinilla, principal agent for the

Connie Pinilla Team at Compass, received the brokers' award in the residential category for her 21 practicing years.

"I love real estate," Pinilla said. "It makes me feel on top of the world."

Gold Sponsors of the event included B2K Development and Beth Donner Design.

Silver Sponsors were All State Abstract, Amazon, Anthony A. Nozzolillo Esq., Breslin Realty Development Corp., Brookhaven Industrial Development Agency, Brown Harris Stevens, Champion Elevators, Cronin & Cronin, Damianos Realty Group, Empire Electrical Corp., GC Advisory Group, Harris Beach PLLC, Long Island Board of Realtors, Men on the Move, Merritt Environmental Consulting Corp., Metropolitan Realty Associates, Mojo Stumer Associates, MP Construction D, PX4 Development, R&M Engineering, Sahn Ward Braff Koblenz Coschignano, Signature Premier Properties, Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency, the Connie Pinilla Team at Compass, the Crest Group and Tritec.



Honorees Marco Scarda, left, Daniel Scarda, Chuck Merritt and Cara Cronin at RichnerLive REAL Awards last week.



Holden Leeds/Herald photos
Julia Krispeal from Serhant.



Joseph Farkas accepting his special award for Real Estate Investment/Development Company of the Year.



Honorees Justin Breslin and Elisabetta Coschignano.



Steven Krieger of B2K Development



Jack Martins of Harris Beach PLLC.



Natasha Williams of LIBOR with her son.



Honoree Connie Pinilla, right, at the REAL Awards photo booth.



Kevin Leatherman of Leatherman Homes and president of LIBOR.



Michael Puntillo of PX4 Development.



Father and son power duo Dan and Mel Pulatani.

To see more photos, visit RichnerLive.com

Navigating New York's redistricting saga

March 7, 2024 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of Huntington, said she was hoping for a new map that would put her back in the 3rd District. She added that she was uncertain why parts of Huntington were not redistricted.

"I don't feel like my community belongs to C.D. 1, because we're much closer to the North Shore of Nassau County than we are to the towns further east," Lynnblum said. "I don't feel we have much in common with the Hamptons. We have much more in common with Oyster Bay, Great Neck and Port Washington."

The current redistricting cycle traces back to 2014, when voters endorsed an amendment to the State constitution aimed at overhauling the redistricting process by transferring the responsibility from the State Legislature to a newly established Independent Redistricting Commission.

After each census, the commission is tasked with drafting new maps of U.S. House, State Senate and Assembly districts, which are then presented to the Legislature for approval. If the commission fails to submit maps by a specified deadline, the Legislature assumes responsibility for drawing them. In 2021, following the 2020 census, the commission embarked on its inaugural map-drawing effort.

But the process encountered significant hurdles. Democratic and Republican members of the commission failed to reach a consensus on a unified set of maps, and instead released two conflicting versions. So, in February 2022, the Legislature, which was dominated by Democrats, took charge of the process, and drew district maps that Republicans roundly criticized, accusing the Democrats of gerrymandering to favor their party's candidates.

Democrats defended their actions by arguing that the maps accurately reflected the state's predominantly Democratic electorate. New York has 6.5 million registered Democrats, 2.8 million unaffiliated voters, or "blanks," and 2.7 million Republicans.

Areas included in 3rd Congressional District

- Bayville
- Centre Island
- Cove Neck
- East Norwich
- East Williston
- Farmingdale
- Flower Hill
- Glen Cove
- Glen Head
- Glenwood Landing
- Great Neck
- Great Neck Plaza
- Hicksville
- Huntington
- Huntington Bay
- Huntington Station
- Jericho
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- Lake Success
- Lattingtown
- Laurel Hollow
- Levittown
- Lloyd Harbor
- Locust Valley
- Matinecock
- Mill Neck
- Mineola
- Muttontown
- New Cassel
- New Hyde Park
- North Hills
- Old Bethpage
- Old Brookville
- Oyster Bay
- Parts of Queens east of the Whitestone Expressway
- Plainview
- Roslyn
- Sea Cliff
- Swedetown Village
- Westbury



Google map/illustration by Tim Baker

The 3rd Congressional District's boundaries are set to shift north and east, shedding Republican-heavy Massapequa while incorporating sections of Suffolk County's North Shore, including portions of Huntington and Huntington Station.

Following Hochul's signing of the new maps into law that February, Republicans promptly initiated legal action, filing a lawsuit challenging the maps' validity.

Over the subsequent weeks, a Steuben County judge heard both sides' arguments, and on March 31, 2022, the judge ruled against the Democratic-drawn maps.

Democrats took the matter to the state Court of Appeals, a seven-member panel entirely appointed by Democratic governors. That April, the court voted 4-3 to invalidate the Democratic-drawn maps, citing procedural unconstitutionality and asserting that they had been drawn with impermissibly partisan bias. Consequently, the court appointed a special master to craft new district lines, a scenario similar to New York's 2012 redistricting cycle.

In May 2022, the special master unveiled his final version of the maps. The upheaval in the redistricting process significantly disrupted primary races for Congress, which were just two months away. The consequences of the confusion were evident in the general election that November.

While Republicans nationwide secured victories in the House of Representatives, their performance was relatively lackluster. In New York, however, the GOP experienced remarkable success, winning five of the state's six competitive House races. Republicans flipped four seats previously held by Democrats, including that of Sean Patrick Maloney, the House Democrats' campaign chief.

Given the GOP's five-seat majority in the House, those four flipped seats played a pivotal role in shaping the current political landscape in Washington. Just three months after the rejection of the Democratic-drawn maps by the state Court of Appeals, its chief judge, Janet DiFiore, stepped down from the bench. DiFiore, who authored the majority opinion in the case, had drawn criticism from the state's progressives.

Reflecting similar sentiments, Democrats in the State Senate rejected Hochul's initial nominee to succeed DiFiore, citing concerns over his perceived con-



Courtesy Office of Tom Suozzi

The makeup of U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi's 3rd Congressional District is different from when he last served, because the lines have been redrawn. Suozzi was sworn back into Congress on Feb. 28 in Washington.

servatism. Hochul eventually nominated Rowan Wilson, an associate justice of the court who had opposed the court's decision in the redistricting case. In April 2023, Wilson's nomination was confirmed.

That same month, a group of voters initiated a challenge against the congressional maps crafted by the special master a year earlier. They contended that the existing lines should not be kept until 2030, the next census year, and insisted that the Independent Redistricting Commission had ample time to develop new maps, using the process outlined in the State Constitution.

Last December, the New York Court of Appeals ruled that the commission could have another opportunity to draw the state's district lines, setting a deadline of Feb. 28, 2024.

New York Attorney General Letitia James and Hochul released a shared statement after the ruling, saying the decision "will ensure all New Yorkers are fairly and equitably represented by elected officials. District lines should be drawn by the Independent Redistricting Commission. We will continue our efforts to protect voting rights for all New Yorkers."

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Electeds want to 'pump brakes' on electric buses

By CHARLES SHAW

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A number of state electeds are calling on the governor to slow down her plans to make school buses electric by 2035 — something they say could have a devastating impact on district finances.

Some like state Sen. Steve Rhoads and state Sen. Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick joined Assemblyman John Mikulin and other officials handling fire and safety at schools at the Levittown Public School bus yard in Wantagh last week hoping they can convince Gov. Kathy Hochul to extend the deadline for that mandate deeper into the future to ensure it's affordability for communities like those in Nassau County.

"There's nothing magical about this New York state school bus mandate," Rhoads said.

Citing the main character from the popular children's television animated series "The Magic School Bus," Rhoads said "even Ms. Frizzle herself would agree that this burdensome mandate takes chances, makes mistakes, and gets messy."

The state's current budget mandates all school buses must have no environmental impact through emissions by 2035, with districts only allowed to purchase electric school buses by mid-2027.

The idea, according to Hochul, is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 85 percent by 2050. The state's environmental conservation department blames the transportation sector overall as one of New York's largest sources of emissions, which contributes to climate change impacts such as increased heat waves, sea level rise and flooding.

"Old school buses are putting children's health at risk, spewing toxic fumes and pollutants into the air that are proven to have negative health impacts," Hochul's office said, in a statement. "After New York vot-



Charles Shaw/Herald

A number of local elected — like state Sen. Steve Rhoads, state Sen. Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick and Assemblyman John Mikulin — joined fire and safety as well as school officials in the Wantagh bus yard that serves Levittown Public Schools to 'pump the brakes' on a statewide transition to electric school buses.

ers approved an Environmental Bond Act that allocated \$500 million for zero-emission school buses, Gov. Hochul is working with communities across New York to allocate these funds and ensure they are fully utilized."

But Rhoads says the mandate does not account for the logistical and financial challenges that school districts, bus companies and power companies will face in implementing the plan. A new, full-sized electric bus costs as much as \$450,000 — triple the price of a conventional.

With some 45,000 school buses on the road in the state, Rhoads says the full conversion by 2035 would cost in the neighborhood of \$20 billion.

The Levittown school district — with a fleet of 80 buses — is in the beginning stages of the mandate. Superintendent Todd Winch said it would cost the district as much as \$32 million to replace their fleet, and will purchase its first electric bus this year.

"We don't replace a whole fleet for maybe 20 years, but now they're asking us to replace the whole fleet from 2027 to 2035," Winch said. "Now you're talking about a very short time period to replace the whole fleet, which would be very, very difficult."

In addition, the Levittown bus yard would require 40 charging stations, each one costing between \$30,000 and \$50,000, Winch added.

The state has offered to help, but Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick said the \$500 million offered would only cover a little more than 1,200 buses. The rest would have to be paid for by local taxpayers — and that's not even including infrastructure and charging stations.

"Where's the rest of that money coming from?" the state senator asked. "You, from the taxpayers, because that's what the school districts will be forced to do to meet this mandate."

But the current high costs associated with electric buses are expected to come down over time, Hochul said. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority announced last September it believes the price of an electric school bus should be on-par with a gasoline-powered bus as early as 2027 thanks to advances in battery technology, more manufacturing, as well as lower fuel and maintenance expenses.

Rhoads calls Hochul's mandate a rushed plan.

"We all want to see a greener future," he said. "There is no question about that. But we have to make sure that if our goal is providing affordable, safe, and reliable transportation to our students, we have to make sure we have a plan which gets us to that future, but still accomplishes that primary goal."

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STEPPING OUT

(FOREVER A)

'JOKER'

Laughing along with Joe Gatto

By Karen Bloom

All roads lead back to Lynbrook it seems. Certainly for Joe Gatto.

He's stepped away from his comfort zone — "The Impractical Jokers" — to the dismay of many folks. His loyal cadre of fans came to know him from the popular improvisational hidden camera show, which he hosted with his buddies Brian "Q" Quinn, James "Murr" Murray, and Sal Vulcano, for nine seasons.

Fans were certainly disappointed when he moved on from Q, Murr and Sal in 2021 to focus on co-parenting his two kids, Milana and Remington (now 9 and 7).

But you needn't fret. Gatto is doing just fine — as is "Jokers," now in its 10th season.

Since leaving his pals to carry on "Jokers" without him, the jokes certainly continue as Gatto's taken his energy — and his comedic talents — to the stand-up circuit.

His tour, "Joe Gatto's Night of Comedy," arrives Friday at The Paramount in Huntington. Minus his friends, fans get an hour of Gatto, as he riffs on life, his family, and probably even his dogs.

"I'm extremely proud of this hour of comedy I've put together, and am so excited to film it at the first theater I performed on this tour back in February 2023," Gatto says. "It also happens to be one of my favorite theaters, too, which is nice since it's in my 'hometown' of Long Island."

Of course, there were some nerves involved in going solo.

"After my time with 'Jokers,' I needed to figure out the next step in my career," Gatto reflects.

"I needed to figure out different ways to make people laugh because that's what I love to do. Stand-up presented itself as a way to do that. My agents and managers were like, 'Why don't you give stand-up a shot?'"

And so he did, on a winter's evening in a small club in Appleton, Wisconsin, in January 2022, for a brief 35 minutes.

"I enjoyed it right from the get-go," he says. "It quickly graduated into an hour show, and I moved up to theaters. Fans were coming out, and we're having a great time. Telling stories of my life and thinking about different ways that I could express myself to get people to know me a bit better has been a really fun journey."

Gatto readily admits it's been a learning experience.

"It was a different format that I wasn't necessarily versed in, so I was a little nervous," he says. "The biggest thing for me was I had never performed live before. For 20 years, I was part of an ensemble, stand-up being its own art was a thing I needed to adapt to. I quickly took to it."

"The challenge of writing the hour, curating it, and thinking of what stories I want to tell and how to tell them and punch up the jokes, was fun to do."

Everyone's in on the fun right along with him.

"I've always been pretty open on 'The Impractical Jokers,'"

he says. "I was always myself. I didn't play a character, so when people watched it, they really got to know the sense of me, my personality. Even a lot of my personal life was in that show as well. People who come to my show know me already from that. But here I get to tell different stories. I talk about parenting, I've got lots of stories of my kids, also the craziness of animal rescue with my dogs, growing up with my crazy Italian mother on Staten Island, and of course, my friends, the Jokers. There's no shortage of stories."

Oh yes, about those dogs. There are nine of them in the Gatto household, all older rescues.

"It's like a pack mentality," he says, laughing, insisting his four-legged companions "pretty much follow the house rules."

Eventually the Gattos realized they couldn't rescue every dog in need. Hence their nonprofit Gatto Pups & Friends, which facilitates adoptions for mainly senior and disabled dogs, opened in Glen Head in November 2022.

"We wanted to do it in our neighborhood," he says. "We love being around here. We found a cool space for the storefront, right across the street from one of our favorite places for lunch. It just all aligned."

Although firmly ensconced in Glen Head, the South Shore still calls out to him. Gatto frequently visits Lynbrook, where he lived between 2014 and 2017, and where his sister still resides.

His family ties bring him frequently back to visit.

"I love Lynbrook," he says. "I had such a great experience there. There's always something special about your first home."

Plus, "Vincent's is still one of my favorite pizzerias," he adds.

You'll even find him hanging out at Lynbrook's Regal, taking in a movie with his niece and nephew.

"I go there all the time with them," he shares. "They're movie buffs like me, and that's our go-to movie theater."

In fact, a film may be in his future.

"I'm doing pretty good, enjoying my ride right now," Gatto says. "But I've always wanted to write and direct film. That's actually why I got into entertainment. So that's what I'm focusing on now. That's what's left on the bucket list, along with always creating and thinking of new ways to make people smile."

And as for his outing at The Paramount, it's being filmed for a comedy special.

"I've been working to two years on the thing," he says, "so I don't want it to just go away."

And there's always the possibility of another collaboration with his "Jokers" buddies.

"I never un-united with them," he says. "They're still my friends. We're just not 'friends from work' anymore. I love creating with those guys, so who knows what the future holds."



Photo by Jonathan Thorpe



Courtesy Joe Gatto

Joe lives his life by a code of pastry and family, loving his wife, two children, cannolis — and his dogs.



Janeane Garofalo

The comedian-actress, who reigns as the queen of the alt-comedy scene, is eager to speak her mind when she visits here with her latest stand-up tour. Considered by many as an American institution since she first burst on the scene in 1992, the outspoken activist has plenty to say, in her own inimitable comedic style. Known for her incisive cynical sense of humor, the SNL alum has branched out into film and television, including 'The Truth About Cats and Dogs,' 'Wet Hot American Summer' and 'Ratatouille,' among her memorable roles. Garofalo's informed opinions and unflinching honesty on topics ranging from everyday life to pop culture inspire laughs and strike a chord with audiences everywhere. Often a lightning rod for controversy, Garofalo finds a way to get her point across with her trademark sense of humor. Known and respected worldwide, Garofalo was also instrumental in the successful launching of the first liberal radio network, Air America Radio, where she hosted her own talk show, 'The Majority Report.'

Friday, March 8, 8 p.m. \$33, \$28. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Tickets available at LandmarkOnMainStreet.org or (516) 767-6444.



'Greatest Show On Earth'

The circus is back. The iconic Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey spectacle returns after a hiatus, re-imagined as a 360-degree experience that brings fans into the action. Packed with explosive excitement, 'The Greatest Show On Earth' begins and ends with a bang. Lauren Irving, Alex Stickels and Jan Damm join forces as Aria, Stix and Nick Nack, who serve as its soul, rhythm and funny bone. The trio, appearing as show guides, encounter never-before-seen stunts, acrobatic displays, and comedic acts along the way. An international cast of 75 performers take on a variety of enthralling circus acts, including new stunts like the Triangular Highwire, led by the Lopez Family, sixth-generation circus artists hailing from Mexico and Chile. There are also comic clowning, extreme sports, and acrobatic aerial feats — all enhanced with original music.

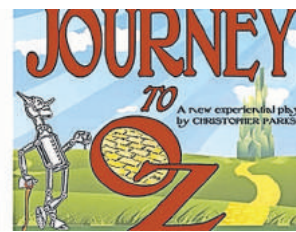
Friday through Sunday, March 8-10, times vary. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com, or Ringling.com. UBS Arena, 2400 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont.

THE \$ SCENE

March 16

JigJam
When virtuoso Irish playing jumps the pond running

through the wide open fields of Bluegrass and Americana, JigJam is born. This Offaly and Tipperary-born band has started the Irish invasion of Americana with a brand new band member from Glasgow injecting the magic of Scottish folk music. The lads bring their foot-stomping sound to the Landmark stage, for a St. Patrick's Day celebration, Saturday, **March 16**, at 8 p.m. Described as 'The best Irish band in bluegrass' and 'sparkling, infectious' these gents have been hailed as 'Ireland's answer to New Grass Revival'. Founding members from Offaly Jamie McKeogh (lead singer and guitar) and Daithi Melia (5 string banjo and Dobro) were joined by Tipperary-born Gavin Strappe (mandolin and tenor banjo) in 2016. They've since added Glasgow native Danny Hunter (fiddle) to make up this iGrass (Irish Bluegrass) quartet. They've been hailed as "Ireland's answer to New Grass Revival," with a sound that has its roots in Irish music and Irish immigration. iGrass and JigJam is what happens when the Irish find their prodigal son. \$38.14-\$49.48. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Tickets available at LandmarkOnMainStreet.org or (516) 767-6444.



Family theater

Inspired by L. Frank Baum's stories, this clever adaptation puts the audience front and center, literally, on the Long Island Children's Museum stage, Friday, **March 8**, 10:15 a.m. and noon, Sunday, March 10, 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, March 13-14, 10:15 a.m. and noon. Kids become cast members, singing dancing, and acting on stage alongside the professional cast.

One of our most interactive shows at LICM Theater, this production received rave reviews in its prior run. Going beyond the traditional telling of the Oz stories, "Journey to Oz" uses personal journal entries and historic newspaper headlines to bring the history of author L. Frank Baum and illustrator W.W. Denslow to life. Dorothy, the Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Cowardly Lion take the audience with them on this lively, playful trip down the yellow brick road.

\$10 with museum admission (\$8 members), \$14 theater only. Long Island Children's Museum, 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. 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.

Art explorations

Converse, collaborate and create at Family Saturdays at Nassau County Museum of Art, Saturday, **March 9**, noon-3 p.m. Get inspired by the art and objects in the galleries and then join educators at the Manes Center to explore and discover different materials to create your own original artwork. Kids and their adult partners connect while talking about and making art together. A new project is featured every week. \$20 adult, \$10 child. Registration required. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.



Bird walk

See some birds with the South Shore Audubon Society. All are welcome to join members for another in its series of bird walks, at Massapequa Lake, Sunday, **March 10**, starting at 9 a.m. Massapequa Lake is at the south end of Massapequa Preserve, between Lakeshore Boulevard and Ocean Avenue. Use street parking on the westbound side of Merrick Road.

Walk leaders, other birders and nature enthusiasts are happy to share their knowledge and experience with you. Bring binoculars. The group will meet at the gazebo. To register, text your name and contact information to (516) 467-9498. No walk if rain or snow. Text regarding questionable weather. For more information, visit SSAudubon.org.

Movie matinee

Enjoy a movie on Gold Coast Public Library's big screen. See the Oscar-nominated "The Holdovers," Friday, **March 8**, 2-4 p.m. Paul Giamatti stars as a curmudgeonly New England prep school instructor who is forced to remain on campus during Christmas break to babysit the handful of students with nowhere to go.

Eventually he forms an unlikely bond with one of them, a damaged, brainy troublemaker (newcomer Dominic Sessa), and with the school's head cook, who has just lost a son in Vietnam (Da'Vine Joy Randolph). 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head. Visit GoldCoastLibrary.org or call (516) 759-8300 for more information.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Everyone loves a parade, Watch the marchers step lively or participate in Glen Cove's St. Patrick's Day Parade, Sunday, **March 17**. It starts at 1 p.m. at Finley Middle School, on Forest Avenue, north of Dosoris Lane, and will end at St. Patrick's Church.

In concert

Icon and superstar Whitney Houston, has left a lasting legacy that is celebrated an exhilarating spectacle. "Queen of the Night, A Musical Tribute to Whitney Houston," Saturday, **March 9**, 8 p.m., at NYCB Theatre at Westbury. An exhilarating tribute to Houston's remarkable musical repertoire, the electrifying production, which premiered on London's West End, honors her timeless songs with sensational vocalists and a full live band.

Named after the swaggering hard rock single from "The Bodyguard" soundtrack, the show celebrates 30 years of hits sung by the superstar, from "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" and "Saving All My Love for You" to "How Will I Know," "Greatest Love of All" and, of course, "I Will Always Love You." With the accompaniment of a dynamic band, backing vocalists and dancers, "Queen of the Night" fully conveys the essence and persona of Houston in a captivating production has been described as "a powerhouse performance that delivers on every level." NYCB Theatre at Westbury, 960 Brush Hollow Rd., Westbury. Tickets available at LiveNation.com or call (516) 247-5200.



Forest Bathing

Take a meditative Forest Bathing walk, led by certified guide Linda Lombardo, Sunday, **March 10**, 2-4 p.m. Based on the Japanese tradition of Shinrin-Yoku, a wellness practice developed in the 1980s, the walk, on the grounds of the former summer residence of Howard Gould and later Daniel and Florence Guggenheim, inspires mindful connections with the natural elements of the woods for a range of healthful benefits. \$40, \$35. Registration required. Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road. For information, visit SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901.

Best of Broadway

Adelphi University Performing Arts students celebrate the music of Broadway during their semi-annual Best of Broadway concert, Sunday, **March 10**, 4 p.m.

The theme of this season's concert is a royal one, paying tribute to the kings, queens, "Aladdin," "Camelot," "Six," "Frozen," "Anastasia," "The Little Mermaid," "Cinderella," and more. \$30, with discounts available to seniors, students, Adelphi alumni and employees. Adelphi University Performing Arts Center, 1 South Ave., Garden City. (516) 877-4000 or Adelphi.edu/pac.



Having an event?

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



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Photos courtesy Roni Jenkins

Robert Lynch led a line of bagpipers who provided some entertainment at the hooley.

Christine Rice, right, will serve as the grand marshal for this year's parade in Glen Cove on March 17 and Patricia Victoria will serve as her aid.



Hooley happiness in City of Glen Cove

Christine Rice, the grand marshal of the 2024 Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade, was installed at a grand Irish party, traditionally called a "hooley" on Feb. 17 at St. Rocco Parish Hall as was Patricia Victoria, the aide to the grand marshal. Both received Irish sashes from Lisa Forgione, the parade chairwoman, on behalf of the Glen Cove parade committee.

A hooley is a word associated with a lively, informal Irish house party. It's a tradition that dates back in Ireland and Irish America to the days before radio and TV and still exists today.

The party centers around the idea of

presenting a "party piece," a form of entertainment, which can be a song or a tune on an instrument, step dance, poem, recitation, joke or a story.

All proceeds from the hooley in Glen Cove went to support the Glen Cove Sage Foundation, benefitting the Glen Cove Senior Center and NOSH Delivers, a non-profit organization that brings food to local families that struggle with food insecurity.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade takes place Sunday, March 17 at 1 p.m. with an after-party at St. Patrick's Church starting at 2:30 p.m.

Let us Know

News Brief items including awards, honors, promotions and other tidbits about local residents are welcome. Photographs may be emailed as well.

Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday, week prior to publication.

Send to llane@liherald.com

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 Bilibioteca, 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 estimaados propuestos para ser votados estara disponible en la Bilibioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, Nueva York, entra las 9am y 5pm todos lod dias, except los sabados, domingos o festivos durante los catorce dias anteriores a dicha reunion.

SE DA AVISO ADICIONAL, que la Junta de la Bilibioteca Publica de Glen Cove realizara una audiencia especial sobre el presupuesto el 26 de Marzo 2024 en la Bilibioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, Nueva York. a las 7pm

SE DA AVISO ADIACIONAL, 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 officina del secretario de Distrito de la Bilibioteca 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 Bilibioteca 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 Bilibiotecs y la Votacion de Presupuesto se puede solicitar en las oficinas del Secretario del Distrito, de la Bilibioteca 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 enviar 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 Bilibioteca 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

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

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OPINIONS

Writing climate change into the K-12 curriculum

We are living in the midst of a climate emergency, with the expectation that conditions will significantly worsen in the near future. In January, NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration confirmed that 2023 was the hottest year ever recorded. In New York state, climate change is impacting the environment, society and the economy as extreme weather events increase in frequency and intensity. Floods are more frequent, and the growing season for crops is changing. Climate disasters have cost the northeastern United States over \$80 billion since 1980.



**ALAN
SINGER**

In response to the threat of a climate catastrophe, there is a renewed push to include climate awareness in the K-12 school curriculum. New Jersey was the first state to mandate climate change lessons in its public schools. New York State Senate Bill S278A would amend state education law, “establishing a course of instruction and learning expectations on climate education in all public pre-kindergarten, elementary and secondary schools.” There is a companion bill in the

Assembly, A1559A.

Over 200 educational professionals and organizations representing tens of thousands of members have signed a letter in support of the state legislation. It reads in part:

“New York State has set ambitious climate change adaptation and mitigation goals under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). This Act commits the state to 100% zero-emission electricity by 2040, and a reduction of at least 85% below 1990-level (greenhouse gas) emissions by 2050. The CLCPA implementation plan recognizes that actions to address climate change will be needed at scale and across all sectors of the state, including ‘the need for P-12 curricula to include climate change education,’ as well as ‘a coordinated effort on outreach and education across all sectors of the economy.’ Addressing climate change is an educational project, and we stand ready as educational professionals to assist New York State as it addresses the challenges and opportunities presented by the rapidly changing climate.”

The National Wildlife Federation is already asking teachers to pledge to teach at least 10 hours a year to promote climate change awareness. Its website includes a

guide for teaching about climate and climate change. The Climate and Resilience Education Task Force offers a toolkit for supporting climate action and education.

While New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and California want to expand stu-

dent understanding of the threat of climate change to the world as we know it, a number of states governed by Republican Party climate change deniers, including Florida, Texas and Virginia, are committed to ignorance and obfuscation. In Connecticut, Republican State Rep. John Piscopo is demanding that lessons on climate change include unsupported challenges to the scientific consensus that

human action and the emission of fossil fuels into the atmosphere are the primary engine of global warming. Piscopo charges that scientists and teachers who want a climate-awareness curriculum are trying to indoctrinate students.

The New York City Department of Education isn’t waiting for legislative action. Last summer, 39 city elementary-school teachers took part in a four-day training on “Integrating Climate Education in N.Y.C. Public Schools.” The workshop included children’s literature that teachers can use in their classrooms at different grade levels, such as “Rain

School,” by James Rumford, a picture book for kindergarten through third-grades about children living in the town of Kélo, in the Central African country of Chad. Every year their school must be rebuilt because the building is destroyed by powerful storms.

Monica Pagan-Guzman, who teaches third grade at Public School 83 in East Harlem and took part in the program, started a lunch club in which students discuss climate change.

This month, the Department of Education and the United Federation of Teachers co-hosted a climate change training session for up to 500 educators.

Since the start of the Industrial Revolution, human-caused climate change has impacted the globe with the burning of fossil fuels. The debate in classrooms and the political realm should not be over whether climate change is happening, or to what extent it puts human civilization at risk, but rather how societies and individuals should respond. On my website, alansinger.net, I have high school-level lesson material aligned with my book “Teaching Climate History: There is No Planet B.” The package includes documents for use in both science and social studies classes.

Dr. Alan Singer is a professor of teaching, learning and technology and the director of social studies education programs at Hofstra University.

For Democrats, Suozzi’s victory is nothing to brag about

Democrats were understandably elated when former Democratic Congressman Tom Suozzi won the special election in New York’s 3rd Congressional District on Feb. 13, but they shouldn’t be popping any champagne. In truth, Suozzi’s victory over the Republicans’ candidate, Mazi Melesa Pilip, was a lot closer than it

should have been.

Suozzi won just under 54 percent of the vote. Doesn’t that seem a little low? After all, he’s a former mayor of Glen Cove, a former Nassau County executive, and a former three-term representative of the district in Congress. Pilip, meanwhile, is a



**MATTHEW
ADARICHEV**

sophomore county legislator.

An alarming sign for me is the money spent by each campaign for each vote. Suozzi spent \$2.36 million and won roughly 91,300 votes, meaning he spent almost \$26 per vote. In comparison, Pilip spent just \$714,000 and won roughly 78,200 votes, or just over \$9 per vote.

That means that Pilip needed on average one-third the cash to bring her vot-

ers out to the polls. That indicates to me that Pilip’s voters were more excited and zealous. Suozzi, on the other hand, had to fight to bring Democrats out.

If Pilip and Suozzi had had the same fundraising numbers, and the cash-per-vote numbers held, Pilip would have garnered over three times her vote total. Even if we halved Suozzi’s advantage (to make the comparison a bit more realistic), Pilip still might have won, with over 58.5 percent of the vote, if she’d spent as much money as Suozzi.

To top it off, state Democrats are going to get another chance to draw district lines this year, meaning that Suozzi is almost certainly going to be redistricted into a safer, more heavily Democratic district. Why sink millions into an election that you most likely would have won more easily in nine months?

I read the election results this way: A Democratic political veteran with high name recognition and a 3-to-1 fundraising advantage won an election with the second-worst margin he’s won his House seat with, against a neophyte opponent no one had ever heard of, whom he probably would have more easily defeated in nine months.

So, Democrats, is this your grand victory?

Aside from that lingering question, Suozzi ran a good campaign. He attacked Pilip where he needed to and worked hard in just the couple of months that he had, barnstorming through the district. He held a large event in my native Westbury, which I appreciate. The difficult fight he had, and the difficult fight many Nassau Democrats have, was beyond his control.

For one thing, the political landscape on Long Island is shifting against Democrats. For years in Nassau County, the number of new voters registering as Democrats outpaced those registering as Republicans, but that is changing. In the towns of North Hempstead and Oyster Bay and the City of Glen Cove, which account for most of the population of the 3rd District, voter registration data for the past year confirms that the ratio of Democrats to Republicans is shrinking.

Area Democrats have also been suffering from guilt by association. The Nassau GOP has successfully associated local Democrats with their more left-leaning colleagues in New York City. The Long Islanders are branded with nega-

He spent nearly three times as much campaign money as Pilip for each vote.

tive labels like “radical” and “socialist,” or worse, “radical socialist.”

Finally, local Democrats continue to be hammered on bail reform, affordable housing and crime. These attacks are nonsense, but they stick because there is no apparatus in place to respond. None of this is Suozzi’s fault. Rather, the problem lies squarely with the Nassau and state Democratic committees, which have poor fundraising operations, abysmal organizing capacity, and virtually nonexistent communication with voters.

The party is failing to recruit new members, and cannot adequately defend its candidates, let alone go on the offensive. The state Democratic Party continues to fail candidates like Suozzi and the voters that make their existence possible.

That’s why I don’t consider Suozzi’s victory any kind of Democratic renaissance. His hard-fought win doesn’t portend more party wins in Nassau, because a successful two-month campaign can’t fix a state Democratic Party that has lost almost every position of power on Long Island in the past eight years.

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

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Support the Local Journalism Sustainability Act

As objective and independent news writers and editors, we have an imperative to cover the issues most important to you, the people of our community.

Every day, our team of reporters is on the ground questioning elected officials, uplifting the stories of community changemakers, and uncovering truths that some would rather keep hidden.

But, amid industry challenges, it is no longer unfathomable to picture a future when New York state is completely without local newspapers and other local news outlets.

According to the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, 2.5 newspapers now close each week in the United States. More than 3,000 newspapers have shuttered across the country since 2004, and New York has been particularly hard hit.

In 2004, New York boasted 501 newspapers. Today, it's only 260. In 2022 alone, 30 newspapers closed across the state.

A quarter of New York's counties are news deserts — down to their last newspaper. Orleans County recently became the first in the state to have none. These closures have also resulted in thousands of lost journalism and newsroom-supporting jobs.

Local news matters. Studies show that when a community loses its source of local news, it experiences decreased voter turnout and civic engagement. Increased municipal borrowing costs that lead to higher taxes. And decreased transparency among government and business officials, leading to increased waste, fraud and abuse.

As newspapers shutter, communities become more polarized, leaving us stuck in a never-ending doom loop where we lose sight of our shared values. During this era of intense national partisan-

Let these elected officials know that we need to save local news

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■ Contact State Sen. Jack Martins:
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■ Contact Assemblyman Charles Lavine:
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Our newspaper is a proud member of the Empire State Local News Coalition. Support the coalition at SaveNYLocalNews.com.

ship, local news offers a path forward.

The time to act is now. That is why the Glen Cove Herald has joined with more than 150 other New York local newspapers to launch the Empire State Local News Coalition.

Comprising both print and online local newspapers, this coalition is advocating for sound public policy that ensures the important work of local news organizations can continue in our state. Through our independent journalism, we aim to serve, inform, uplift and protect New York residents.

Our coalition cares deeply about our local communities as well as the future of New York's free press. However, market forces are making it nearly impossible for us to survive. So, together, we are sounding the alarm bell for our leaders in Albany to hear.

At the heart of our advocacy is the Local Journalism Sustainability Act. Sponsored by state Sen. Brad Hoylman-

and Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner — with the bipartisan support of 55 co-sponsors — this bill provides tax credits to local news outlets for the employment of local news journalists. News organizations are incentivized to actually add jobs, returning reporters to many of the state's newsrooms, which are becoming increasingly desolate.

Importantly, the bill is also content-neutral, meaning that any legitimate local news outlet — left, right or in-between — can benefit from this bill. The objectivity of the bill's eligibility requirements means the legislation cannot be weaponized to penalize news organizations critical of government officials.

As New York loses talented journalists, lawmakers must act to ensure the industry is allowed not only to survive, but also to thrive. Only local news outlets — with boots-on-the-ground journalists — can deliver the hyperlocal updates and investigations necessary to sustain a community's civic and financial well-being.

Imagine no stories about the village or town board meeting, or the school budget debate. No pictures of your granddaughter's first soccer goal. No obituary of your friendly (and eccentric) neighbor. No investigative reporting to hold public officials to account. And no trusted institution to convene the community around a family in need.

We need your help to save local news in New York. To get the Local Journalism Sustainability Act across the finish line, lawmakers need to hear from you about why our newspaper matters and why this bill is important to you.

If you would like to help, reach out to Gov. Kathy Hochul and your local state representatives to let them know you stand with local news.

LETTERS

Bruce Blakeman bans trans athletes

To the Editor:

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman's recent signing of an executive order banning transgender girls from playing sports in county facilities was a disingenuous performance to ingratiate himself with the cruel anti-LGBTQ movement. These kinds of orders and bans do more harm than good, setting a dangerous tone that can send the message that hateful acts against the LGBTQ community are justified. Nex Benedict, the non-binary 16-year-old from Oklahoma who died last month after an altercation in a high school girls' bathroom, comes to mind.

Sadly, by targeting transgender young people, Blakeman chose to use his executive power to sacrifice a very vulnerable group, already struggling for acceptance and facing far greater rates of depression and suicide than their peers, for his own political gain. Instead of doing something to help the transgender community in Nassau County, he decided to put them at further risk.



OPINIONS

Our communities need more doctors who look like me

I'm 26, and have lived virtually my whole life in Hempstead. I've seen a lot of health-related issues — low-income people of color, like me, suffering from chronic conditions like asthma, diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, and untreated mental illness. Often they haven't been able to receive proper treatment for their conditions. I wanted



SHAKIA MILLER

to do something about it, and soon I will be able to, because I'm on my way to becoming a doctor.

There was a one-in-a-million chance that I would ever reach this goal. I'm an African-American woman from a low-income neigh-

borhood, raised in a single-parent household. My father was incarcerated by the time I knew what it meant to have one, and remains imprisoned to this day — though he's using this time to reflect and to continue his education. My mother, a crossing guard, worked extremely hard to provide for my brother and me, but

there were days when the money she made didn't seem like enough to put food on the table, or ensure that we would keep a roof over our heads, or keep us from falling victim to the violence that plagued our community.

I had to fight every step of the way to become the person I wanted to be. I graduated from Hempstead High School in 2015 in the top 1 percent of my class, and then, thanks to Stony Brook University's Economic Opportunity Program, I graduated in 2019 with a double major in biology and psychology, and went on to earn a master's in physiology and biophysics. I was the first person in my family to go to college, so there was no blueprint to follow but the one I created along the way.

I got jobs in the health care field, but becoming a doctor seemed out of reach until I was selected for the Diversity in Medicine pipeline program sponsored by Associated Medical Schools of New York. This post-baccalaureate program at SUNY Buffalo's Jacobs School of Med-

icine and Biomedical Sciences is life-changing. There are classes to prepare me for the rigors of medical school, and a stipend I can use for living expenses so I can focus on my studies. I have mentors to turn to for help.

Most important, if I successfully complete the one-year program, I will go to medical school in the fall, and could be selected to receive AMSNY's Diversity in Medicine Scholarship to help defray the cost. This amazing program is 100 percent state-funded.

Pipeline programs like this are needed to help diversify the physician workforce. Research has shown that patients are more likely to visit and follow the instructions of doctors who understand their language and culture, resulting in better health outcomes. Yet in New York state, where more than 30 percent of the population identifies as Black or Hispanic, just 13 percent of the state's doctors come from those groups.

Physicians from racial and ethnic groups that are underrepresented are

more likely to go into primary care and practice in under-served communities, where they are desperately needed. I have seen 30 to 40 people waiting, endlessly, to see a doctor; minor symptoms that were left untreated develop into chronic disease; and people with mental illness who are homeless, unable to pay for the care they need and jaded by past interactions with the health care system. People in these communities do not trust that system. I want to be a doctor who can change that, and earn their trust.

Growing up, I never saw a doctor who looked like me. Now I am one of 24 future physicians in this year's AMSNY program who want to give back to our communities. I am immensely grateful to our state representatives and Gov. Kathy Hochul for making that possible.

In the past two years, the state's investment in Diversity in Medicine programs has tripled. This funding must continue, and even increase, so more people like us can become doctors and leaders of change for our communities.

Shakia Miller is scheduled to complete the AMSNY Diversity in Medicine program in May.

LETTERS

Blakeman claims that “boys” are bullying their way onto girls’ teams, but he’s the real bully here.

KARIN JOHNSON
*RVC Pride
Rockville Centre*

It was obvious why Republicans chose Pilip

To the Editor:

I read the Herald's coverage of the special election between Tom Suozzi and Mazi Pilip. You didn't mention that Pilip was a registered Democrat when she ran against Suozzi. She didn't change her party affiliation until a few days ago.

Right from the beginning, Pilip didn't want to take many questions from the press, and showed she didn't know very much about the issues. The Republicans had her run because she was pretty, black, and Jewish, with an interesting background.

MYRON MARINBACH
Lynbrook

Immigrants make our economy stronger

To the Editor:

It's time to cut through the noise and tell the truth about immigration:

Our economy and community is stronger because of it. Some leaders would have us think it's a zero-sum game when our country takes in immigrants, but that's not true at all.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that the U.S. economy will grow by an extra \$7 trillion over the next 10 years thanks to immigrants!

But we don't have to wait for the future to see how they are strengthening the economy. In 2021, immigrants paid \$524.7 billion in taxes. That's money that helps fuel our nation's schools, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security programs. Immigrants help support our communities as consumers and taxpayers.

Don't believe it? Even former President Donald Trump's appointed Federal Reserve chair, Jerome H. Powell, recognized the massive contributions immigrants make in an interview on “60 Minutes,” saying, “A big part of the story of the labor market coming back into better balance is immigration returning to levels that were more typical of the pre-pandemic era.”

So let's give credit where credit is due, stop the anti-immigrant rhetoric and end the zero-sum mindset. Immigration truly is essential for our economic growth and our communities' prosperity.

JOSEPH M. VARON
*Long Island chapter, Bend the Arc
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Eileen Heimer
c.516.606.6077



For Rent
Glen Cove, NY
96 Valentine Ave.
LP: \$3,900/mo.
Eileen Heimer
c.516.606.6077



For Rent
Roslyn, NY
1667A Northern Blvd.
LP: \$3,800/mo.
Pinar Ogeturk
c.516.754.3162



Rented
Port Washington, NY
34 N Maryland Ave. #C
LP: \$2,800/mo.
Sandi Lefkowitz
c.516.816.3461



Rented
Sea Cliff, NY
3 Daniel Pl. #2
LP: \$1,650/mo.
Linda Brown
c.516.650.9145



Pending
Sea Cliff, NY
299 Prospect Ave.
LP: \$1,299,000.
Kathy Wallach
c.516.353.4318



Pending
Glen Cove, NY
42L Glen Keith Rd.
LP: \$295,000.
Kathy Wallach
c.516.353.4318

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