

GLEN COVE
HERALD
Gazette



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Courtesy Lissa Harris

THOM RUCKERT BEGAN teaching at Glen Cove High School when he was 24. He was considered cool, and people saw him that way throughout his life.

Beloved GCHS teacher Thom Ruckert dies at 72

By **LAURA LANE**
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Thom Ruckert was the epitome of cool. Tall and lean, he had long hair and wore round, wire-rimmed glasses. When he came to Glen Cove High School to teach English in 1969, he was 24. Teenage girls fell in love with him, but so did his colleagues and the administration.

Ruckert was 72 when he died unexpectedly on July 18,

collapsing in his Bayville home from an apparent blood clot.

An avid cyclist and kayaker and a former runner, Ruckert was always in great shape. "He was incredibly healthy," said his daughter Lissa Harris, 43, a former Locust Valley school board trustee. "That's why this is so shocking."

Doreen Hauser, 60, of Glen Cove, hadn't seen Ruckert since she was a high school senior, but she said she

remembers everything about him. "Mr. Ruckert was my favorite teacher and the nicest man you'd ever want to meet," Hauser said. "He looked like a hippie with his long ponytail and jeans. All us girls thought he was hot."

Bucking traditional learning methods, Ruckert would often take his classes outside, spreading a blanket out on the lawn. "He was very laid back, and made learning fun,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

G.C. finance committee seats unfilled

Council votes down appointees

By **ZACH GOTTEHRER-COHEN**
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After the Republican members of the Glen Cove City Council voted down two Finance Committee appointments at a council meeting on Tuesday night, a majority of the committee's five seats remain open nearly three months after the council approved its mission statement.

The appointees under consideration were retired math teacher Michael Swirnoff and Theresa Moschetta, an insurance executive and a 13-year member of the Zoning Board of Appeals who ran unsuccessfully for City Council in 2014 as a Democrat.

Councilwoman Pamela Panzenbeck was the only Republican

to vote in favor of the appointments, although she cast her vote after the resolution to approve them had already failed.

By voting down these qualified volunteers, council members have politicized this committee instead of doing what's right for the community.

MARSHA SILVERMAN
City councilwoman

Democrats Marsha Silverman and Mayor Tim Tenke both voted in favor of the candidates.

Councilman Michael Zangari later explained his vote to the Herald Gazette: "The people who were being put on [the committee] don't have a financial background." Of Moschetta, Zangari added, "We need new blood."

Councilman Kevin Maccarone echoed Zangari's point, adding that because the Finance Committee was specifically assigned to examine the city's procurement procedures, its members should have relevant expertise.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

Is taxing online retailers good for local business?

By **ANDREW GARCIA** and **ZACH GOTTEHRER-COHEN**
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Following a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, Glen Cove business owners are weighing in on possible upcoming legislation that would allow states to charge sales taxes on online retailers.

The high court's June 21 South Dakota v. Wayfair decision will allow states to mandate a sales tax for items purchased on-line from out-of-state retailers — and local retailers want New York to ensure that a sales tax is charged regardless of the sites that online shoppers buy from. First, though, state lawmakers must pass a measure requiring online sales taxes.

State assemblyman Chuck Lavine said, "It's understandable why South Dakota, a rural state, would bring this case. They've suffered as a result of internet sales." He added that New York State's businesses haven't been hit as hard, in part because local brick-and-mortars have themselves started to do business online, whether through their own e-commerce sites, or through other platforms like Amazon Marketplace, Etsy and eBay.

Lavine noted, however, that "implementation [of an online retail sales tax] would mean an addition \$115 million in sales tax revenue, split with the counties." That extra revenue, he said, would come at a good time, as lawmakers anticipate a reduction in revenue from the federal government.

Patricia Holman, executive director of the Glen Cove Business Improvement district, used to run a business selling vintage home products. She had a physical store location in Glen Cove, but would also use Etsy to sell to out-of-state buyers. Sometimes, she said, revenue from online sales outpaced in-store sales. Now that she's representing businesses in Glen

Cove, she said that people who run unofficial eBay-based businesses out of their own homes, who never officially organized as a business entity, had an unfair advantage in that they could dodge sales taxes. Of potential legislation that the Supreme Court decision has made available, Holman said, "It would certainly make the playing field more even."

As for the impact that it would have, Holman said that each business was different. Larry Ved, for example, who owns Shanti Ma, a cards and gifts store in downtown Glen Cove said that he hasn't noticed the impact of web-based competitors because his clientele are more of the "drop-in-and-browse" variety. But, he said, he uses his website not to generate sales, but to get people in the door. "We've got regular customers," he said, but often, "they want to see what I have in stock," before they pay Shanti Ma a visit.

Major national online retailers like Amazon and Wal-Mart have been paying NY state sales taxes since around 2008, according to Lavine. However, Amazon Marketplace users, whose products are their own but use the mega-corporation's e-commerce platform for sales, have been exempt from that arrangement.

Nassau County Executive Laura Curran said the ruling "gives a tremendous boost of confidence to local businesses that struggle to compete with internet commerce."

Eric Alexander, director of Vision Long Island, said, "It's time for customers to put their resources where their heart is and invest in these businesses."

James Gazzale, a representative for the state Department of Taxation and Finance, said last week that state officials are reviewing the Supreme Court decision.



Pixabay image

BECAUSE OF A recent Supreme Court ruling, states will now be able to charge sales taxes on purchases from online retailers like Amazon, even if the companies don't have a physical presence in those states.

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Officials mull temporary fix for Crescent Beach

By ZACH GOTTEHRER-COHEN

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The City of Glen Cove's and Nassau County's departments of public works are working together to determine whether filters could temporarily solve the contamination problem at Crescent Beach, which has been closed for nine years as the state's Department of Environmental Conservation works to identify and remedy the source or sources of the pollution.

The county agreed on Monday to spend \$200,000 to explore the possibility of installing filters. Mayor Tim Tenke said that the first step along that process would be to determine the optimal placement for a filter. "These filters can only treat so much water per hour," he said, adding "We're at the stage right now where we're trying to determine flow rates."

If the contaminated water is mixing with clean water before the stream flows out to the beach, it makes more sense to place the filter nearer to the source of the

contamination, Tenke said, to avoid redundantly filtering already-clean water. If none of the water is clean enough, the filter could be placed at the mouth of the stream, and filter all of the water that leaves the marshy area and flows into the Sound.

Two types of filters are being considered: a "helix" filter, which uses a spinning motion to remove contaminants from water, and an ultraviolet filter that uses electromagnetic waves to kill bacteria.

The plan comes as Tenke and County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton expressed frustration about the pace of the state's work to identify where the contamination is coming from. DeRiggi-Whitton said that the study was supposed to be completed by the end of June. "Here we are at the end of July," she said, and

the DEC has yet to publish its findings.

So far, the DEC has tried running cameras up the outflow pipes it believed could be contributing to the problem and "dye testing" — in which dyed markers are deposited into nearby homeowners'



OFFICIALS ARE EXPLORING the option of treating the polluted water running onto Crescent Beach as a temporary measure while work continues to find and fix the source of the contaminants.



Zach Gottehrer-Cohen/Herald Gazette

THE POLLUTED STREAM that runs into the Long Island Sound has kept the public segment of Crescent Beach closed for nearly a decade.

plumbing systems to determine if there are any leaks.

"DEC will finish dye testing this month," the state agency said in a statement. "To date, the investigation has not found a direct connection to any septic systems to the creek," nor did the camera investigation. In addition, DNA tests on the contamination are being conducted

"to inform the investigation's next steps and determine if the contamination is of animal or human origin."

DeRiggi-Whitton said she didn't know exactly what the state's delay was, but alluded to "a problem with the lab" that was doing the DNA testing. When asked to clarify that claim, representatives of the DEC declined to respond.

Council tables water rates amid new information

By ZACH GOTTEHRER-COHEN

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The City Council unanimously voted to table a resolution introduced by Councilwoman Pamela Panzenbeck, to raise the city's water rates by 15 percent, after both City Controller Sandra Clarson, and Mayor Tim Tenke, shared information pertinent to the discussion that had not been previously disclosed.

The question before the council has been whether — and if so, how much — to raise the city's water rates in light of recent and anticipated borrowing related to Glen Cove's water infrastructure. Tenke said that over the next five years, the city is projected to spend about \$10 million on filters to remove an organic contaminant, Freon 22, from the city's wells.

Earlier this year, three of the city's six wells had been closed due to high concentrations of the refrigerant, and another was closed for unrelated repairs. Two have since been re-opened as the Freon returned to undetectable levels, bringing the number of currently operating wells up to four of six.

Presenting the financial realities of the city's water fund to the City Council for the third time in as many regular City Council meetings, Clarson said that whereas in previous presentations she had projected total water-related debt service payments of



Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

A VOTE ON Glen Cove's water rates has been tabled as council members learned that the financial numbers they had previously reviewed were incomplete.

around \$656,000, there was another, prior round of borrowing that would bring that number up to \$973,000.

Councilmen Joseph Capobianco, Nicholas DiLeo and Kevin Maccarone, who had, in previous pre-council meetings, spent considerable effort going over Clarson's numbers to see whether the debt service payments could be addressed without raising water rates, expressed frustration over the fact that that this was the first time that they were hearing about the newly-discovered debt service payments. Tenke acknowl-

edged that he had only received notice of the additional payments that morning.

Additionally, Tenke disclosed that — during the period when the city was running on just two wells, and partially as a result of an intensive firefighting effort — the city had paid the Locust Valley Water District almost \$17,000 for 6,500 gallons of water.

DiLeo and Maccarone chastised the mayor for declining to share that information with the council, which voted unanimously, if reluctantly in April to borrow \$15,000 to repair the interconnecting pipes

that enabled the sharing of water between districts. That repair was part of an extensive water contingency plan that the city submitted to the county's department of health in response to what, at the time, was an impending water shortage related to the well closures.

After a lengthy discussion, Capobianco moved to table the motion until Clarson could come up with new projections, which she said was a possibility by the next council meeting on August 28.

Nassau 2017 financials: Bad news on time

By **TIMOTHY DENTON**
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The Nassau County Legislature received an unwelcome surprise last week along with the audited financial report for 2017, when it was revealed that the county's reserve fund showed a deficit of slightly less than \$69 million.

The report, which was delivered on time for the first time since 2011, according to County Comptroller Jack Schnirman, also showed tax certiorari liabilities topping \$500 million and litigation liabilities at nearly \$400 million. The county owes New York State Pension System more than \$200 million in deferred payments, and the deficit in the county's primary operating accounts rose to \$122 million, according to the report. After accounting for a \$6.6 million surplus in one fund, the county's total deficit amounted to \$115.8 million for the year, which represented a decrease of \$176 million from the previous year.

"I promised the public we would talk about the county's finances in an honest and transparent manner," Schnirman said in a statement. "Nassau County is in a state of fiscal crisis bordering on emergency, due to the previous eight years of fiscal mismanagement."

Tax cert. obligations were paid from operating funds instead of through the issuance of debt, the report said. Other factors contributing to the county's poor performance included less-than-expected

revenue from the Regional Off-Track Betting Corp.; higher police termination pay than had been budgeted; shortfalls in PILOT revenues; and lower contractual reimbursements for personnel services in the Sewer and Storm Water Fund.

These were partially offset by higher-than-projected growth in sales tax receipts; lower nonovertime payroll and fringe benefits, due to budgeted position vacancies; higher departmental revenue in the clerk's office; and implementation of the public safety fee.

Ending balance for all governmental funds was \$355.9 million, a decrease from \$471.7 million in the prior year. Of that, \$99.2 million was attributed to operating funds; \$81.1 million to the general fund; and \$24.1 million to the Sewer and Storm Water Fund. The Police District Fund showed a loss of \$6 million. The Capital Fund's closing balance was \$147.8 million.

Total assets for all governmental funds increased by a scant \$14.6 million, while total liabilities grew by \$116.8 million. For the three operating funds only, total assets and liabilities — including deferred inflows and outflows — were \$885.7 million and \$786.6 million respectively. This represents a decrease in assets of \$26.4 million and an increase in liabilities and deferred inflows of \$96 million from the year-ago period.

"The 2017 results illustrate a deterioration in the county's fiscal health [from] the prior year, with a depletion of 2016 year-end reserves and fund balance," the

report's executive summary concluded.

"We aren't going to play the game of using whatever set of books make the county look best," Schnirman said in his statement. "The county must operate from a consistent set of financial facts that is accessible to all."

Despite this grim picture, the county benefits from a very large and diverse tax base of approximately \$217 billion, according to an updated overview of the county's financial condition published in April by Moody's Investors Service. The tax base remains roughly 17 percent less than its 2008 peak, but it has grown approximately 8 percent since 2014.

The county has also been successful in maintaining its high investment-grade ratings from A- to AA, depending on the agency and the issue. The county issued 95.6 million in general obligation debt and 59.6 million in bond anticipation notes the same month. Fitch Ratings, Moody's and Standard & Poor's all assigned A ratings or their equivalents to the two issues.

It was not clear whether the rating agencies had access to 2017 financials in preparing their rating reports or were contemplating further rating actions.

Weighing in on the county's annual report, Nassau Interim Finance Authority Chairman Adam Barsky said, "The comptroller's report confirms what we have repeatedly told the county: They must immediately implement a plan that reduces the deficit and is designed to achieve a GAAP balanced budget."

Nassau County 2017 financial highlights

Cash and cash equivalents	\$797,270,000
Investments	\$3,350,000
Restricted cash and equivalents	\$144,290,000
Sales tax receivables	\$136,970,000
Due from other governments	\$205,440,000
Accounts receivable	\$50,250,000
Real property taxes receivable	\$78,030,000
Other	\$109,990,000
Noncurrent assets	\$3,453,390



Accounts payable	\$306,910,000
Bond anticipation notes payable	\$139,300,000
Accrued interest payable	\$34,820,000
Other	\$1,162,980
Noncurrent liabilities	\$12,150,060

Graphic by Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

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CRIME WATCH

Arrests

- Male, 45, of Mill Neck, was arrested on Forest Avenue for driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident on July 16.
- Male, 55, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Glen Cove Avenue for carrying an open container of alcohol on July 16.
- Male, 44, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Mason Drive for fifth-degree criminal possession of marijuana on July 18.

- Male, 43, of Hempstead, was arrested on Mason Drive for fifth- and- seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance on July 18.
- Male, 36, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Glen Cove Avenue for third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle, and 12 counts of criminal possession of a weapon on July 19.
- Male, 21, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Charles Street for fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon on July 21.

GLEN COVE HERALD Gazette

HOW TO REACH US

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Nearby things to do this week

Mayor gives kids a look into Sea Cliff civics

On Aug. 2, Mayor Edward Lieberman will spend an evening with the children of Sea Cliff and teach them about the local government and those who work within it. Stenson Memorial Children's Library, 5 to 6 p.m., 281 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. Info: (516) 474-2450.



Emergency blood drive

During the summer months, blood banks often face shortages as schools are not in session and drives are not held as frequently. Help replenish local hospitals' blood supply on Monday, July 30, at Assemblymen Michael Montesano and Ed Ra's annual community blood drive. Gold Coast Public Library, 1:30 to 7:30 p.m., 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head. Info: (516) 759-8300.

Tinkergarden classes open children's eyes to the outdoors

What do kids love more than getting their hands dirty? Being encouraged to do so! On Thursdays through August Amy Singh will lead children in Tinkergarden. Using the outdoors as her classroom, Singh will allow children to explore, problem-solve, and create together. Glenwood Landing Life Center. 71 Grove St., Glenwood Landing. Info: amy.singh@tinkergarten.com.



Swinging tunes for a summer's eve

The acclaimed 1920s-era revival band Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks as part of its Picnic Pops series, on Wednesday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m. (gates open at 5 p.m.) Bring a lawn chair or blanket and some friends, and bandleader Giordano and his ensemble will provide the soundtrack for an enjoyable evening. Info: (516) 333-0048 or www.oldwestburygardens.org.

The beat goes on

The tunes will be lively at Heckscher Park, on Sunday, July 29, 12-10:30 p.m., at the 13th edition of the Huntington Folk Festival. Legendary folksinger-songwriter Tom Rush (accompanied by up-and-comer Matt Nakoa) headlines the popular event. An on-stage song swap featuring Long Island's own Miles & Mafale and Carolann Solebello will precede Rush's performance, with a lively lineup of artists showcasing their talents. Info: at www.AcousticMusicScene.com.



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HERALD SPORTS

Freeport's Harrison in PFL playoffs

BY J.D. FREDA

sports@liherald.com

Professional Fight League (PFL), formerly known as World Series of Fighting (WSOF), hosted its first event on Long Island using a new regular-season point format July 19 at NYCB Live Home of the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

"PFL 4", as it was deemed, delivered a night of exciting and technically skilled fights that a native Long Island crowd was enthused to witness. However, there was no one the crowd was more eagerly anticipating seeing and supporting than Freeport's own undefeated Andre "The Bull" Harrison, who clinched a playoff berth with a unanimous decision victory over Argentina's Nazareno Malegarie in the card's co-main event.

"They came out for me, it was cool" Harrison said of the fans after the fight. "I met a woman on the way over here who flew in from San Diego. People came from all over the place to come and watch me."

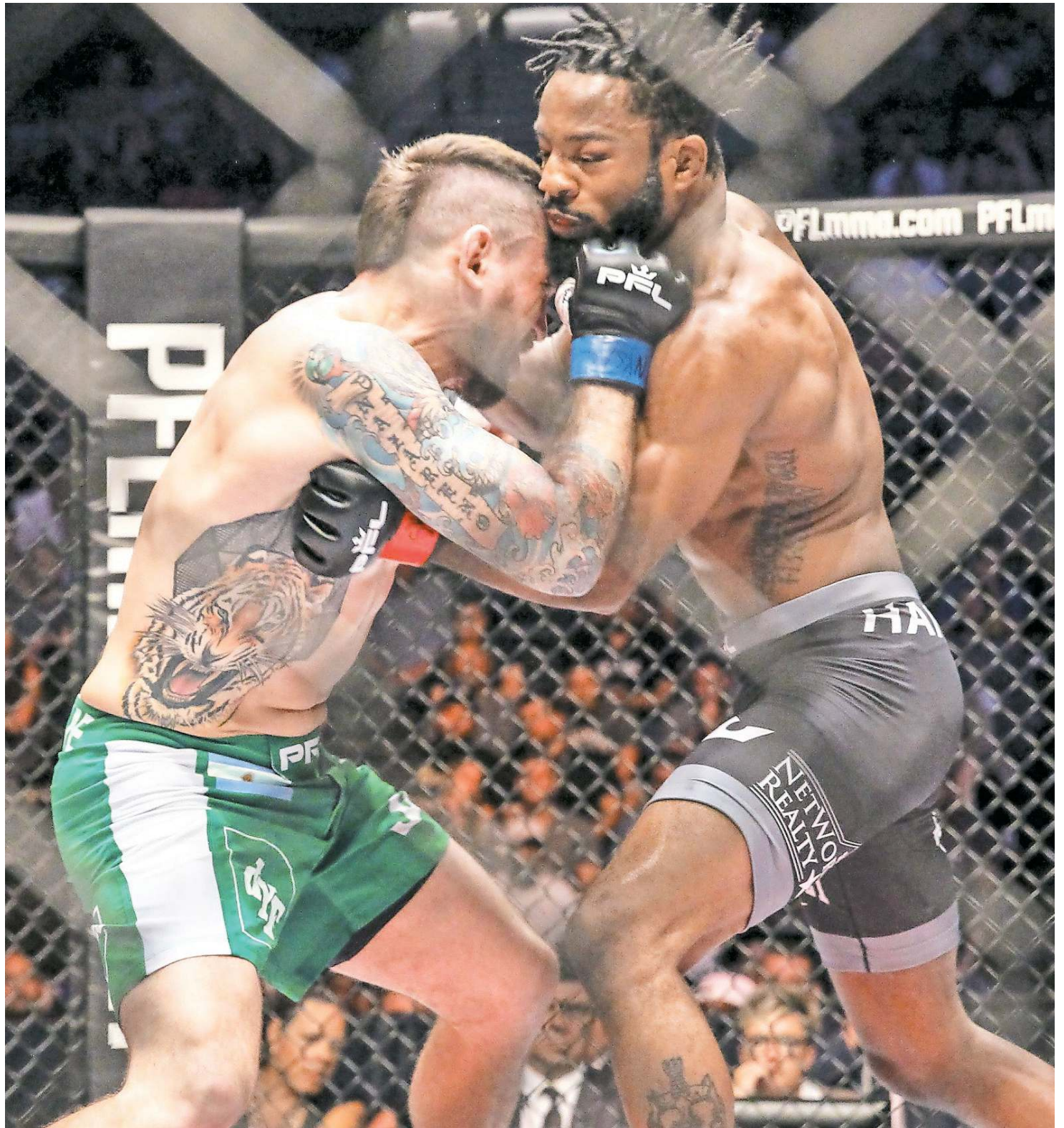
Harrison, the former WSOF World Featherweight Champion, soaked in the adulation during his walkout, but was quick to flip the proverbial switch and focus on a three-round fight with a game opponent. Harrison came out controlling the center of the cage and managed the distance well. The former Freeport High School wrestling standout, a 2006 graduate, stuffed takedown attempts repeatedly from the jiu jitsu-based Malegarie before riding out a front facelock. After throwing a few knees and controlling the Argentinian before returning back to the feet, "The Bull" had done enough to win the opening round.

Harrison opened up the second round with a stiff one-two combo before Malegarie answered back with a few stiff jabs and a left hook. Harrison threw a thundering leg kick before attempting a takedown that wouldn't land. Harrison soon found his back against the cage before reversing position and landing a big right hand on a break from the clinch. A big flurry ensued, and Harrison stayed poised with a well-timed head kick and kept Malegarie on the back foot, enough for the judges to award him the second round.

"I've seen guys get other guys hurt and then blitz in and get clipped...that poise comes with experience," Harrison said.

The third round saw Harrison fend off a few more left hooks from Malegarie and land some overhand rights of his own while controlling the pace. Harrison took the third and final round for a unanimous decision victory to seal his 19th win in as many fights.

The main event saw former Featherweight Champion and opponent of Harrison's, Lance Palmer, secure a win with a late third-round neck crank over Jumaieke Tuerxun and clinch a spot in the PFL playoffs.



Peter Fruttkoff/Herald

ANDRE HARRISON, RIGHT, remained undefeated in the Professional Fighters League with a victory over Nazareno Malegarie before a large cheering section from his hometown of Freeport on July 19 at NYCB Live.

Also, Kansas City's own Kelvin "Mama's Boy" Tiller may have stole the show, though, with an impressive array of jiu jitsu transitions to lock up a guillotine and finish former UFC heavyweight Jared Rosholt at 54 seconds of the second round. With constant flashes on the jumbotron of his mother supporting feverishly from the crowd, an elated Mrs. Tiller made her way to the cage. Tiller, along with his mother, fielded a wave of cheers and applause from the crowd and celebrated Tiller's second finish in as many

fights in the PFL regular season, clinching a playoff berth.

"Freeport" chants echoed throughout the arena during Harrison's fight, but the Long Islander was cognizant of more than just the fan's support.

"Crazy enough, I looked over at one point and said, 'there's Al Iaquinta, there goes Aljamain Sterling, wow it's Gian (Villante),' Harrison said. "Although we train at different gyms, if one of us fights, we all come out to support."

Harrison's gym, Bellmore Kickboxing,

celebrated its 20th anniversary of opening its doors. When asked if he could think of a better present to give coach Keith Trimble on the birthday of his gym, Harrison simply answered: "No."

The PFL and its brass are aware of the passion Long Islanders have for MMA. "The New York crowd, their chants...it's great being here," PFL President Carlos Silva said. Silva, along with President of Fighter Operations Ray Sefo expressed excitement for a return to Nassau Coliseum on Aug. 2 for PFL 5.

Music program stringing along in Sea Cliff

By **ALYSSA SEIDMAN**
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Below the high ceilings of St. Luke's Parish Hall, a clutter of half-open instrument cases created a maze on the linoleum floor. Power cords and colorful cables attached to amps and electric guitars snaked around chairs and music stands in a dizzying pattern.

With the point of a finger, the conductor signaled his orchestra to place their bows upon their strings. And with a sharp flick of a wrist, the students began playing a gloriously melody.

Members of the local music group Summer Strings were preparing for their annual concert that was to take place at Hofstra University's Adams Playhouse on Wednesday night. The Sea Cliff-based program offers aspiring area musicians as young as 7 an opportunity to practice, play and perform with middle and high school students and sharpen their stringing skills.

Summer Strings was founded by music teacher Matthew Schneider, of Sea Cliff after the financial crisis of 2008. Watching school districts make cuts to arts programs he knew he had to do something. "Every year they got pink slipped, so I decided to go on my own," he said. Schneider opened Summer Strings in 2012 with only two students. Within a year, it grew to 70 stringers.

The program offers classes for beginners in orchestral music, as well as two performance groups, the Sea Cliff Stringers and the Rockestra, that are featured in the annual concert.

The Stringers comprise younger students who perform a set of rock songs alongside their older peers. The Rockestra section rehearses a more advanced set and performs at the concert with a featured guest artist. Both groups are accompanied by a professional rhythm section and emerging young singers from the area.

"The idea was to make the kind of program I would've enjoyed as a kid," Schneider explained. "While I have experience in classical music, I also love playing in rock and jazz bands."

Rather than adhering to a "boxed-in curriculum" commonly found in an orchestral repertoire, the students learn a variety of pop, jazz and rock songs, which Schneider

arranges to fit each student's skill level. The selections expose students to a range of artists like Stevie Wonder, Dave Matthews, Tom Petty, John Mayer, and even Antigone Rising.

"It's a way for the kids to experience music differently," he said. "Everybody has a challenge in front of them, and each child is looking at music that's doable. It's challenging but they reach for it."

The most exciting thing about Summer Strings, Schneider said, is watching the students learn from one another. "You have these seven, eight, and nine-year-olds playing with teenagers; they learn from their peers' things they can't learn from adults," he said. "That aspect of it is very special."

Sea Cliff resident Brendan Miller, 13, has been playing with Summer Strings since the beginning. He said that learning music outside of school with more advanced artists is a great way to grow as a musician. "It's good to have all that experience and people near you to help you out and give you advice," he said.

This year's guest artist was Troy Ramey, a former contestant on NBC's "The Voice." He moved to the village three years ago and was approached by Schneider to perform with Summer Strings.

"As soon as I learned about it I was on board immediately," Ramey said. "I grew up in Vermont in a town that really supported the arts, and I remember that being such an integral part of my life and kind of shaped the direction of my life."

Ramey said the skills students develop through Summer Strings could help them pursue music later in life. "If you have the knowledge as a youngster, it's going to be much easier," he said. "It's a really important way for kids to be creative and get that energy out and explore different parts of their minds."

Opening the students up to these possibilities also creates an emotional connection to the music as well. "Creating something that doesn't exist and making it successful is very powerful," Schneider said. "When they connect to other kids in the context of making music, they do things they were never able to do. I've seen that every year."

For more information about Summer Strings, visit www.seacliffmusic.com.



VIEWFINDER

By **SUSAN GRIECO**

THE QUESTION:

The video game Fortnite has more than 40 dances. What's your favorite?



"The Floss" because it's a funny dance and it's really fun to do.

RYLIN KENNEY
Age 8



I like the "Hype" dance because you get to jump up and down and wave your arms around a lot!

MATTHEW OVERS
Age 5



"Orange Justice" is cool. I really like to dance it with my friends.

BRANDON NEIDEMYER
Age 6



When you win a match in Fortnite, you dance the "Take the L" for all the losers! That's really fun!

CAMERON RODRIGUEZ
Age 7



"Reanimated" looks weird, like you're a zombie. It's really fun to do!

HENRY CORREA
Age 8



I like the dance moves in "Fresh." I like the music and dance it when I get a Victory Royale!

FINN AUGUSTIN
Age 8



September can be better... with Friends!

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Ruckert, students' silent hero, dies

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Hauser recalled. "I was big on cutting classes, but never his."

Born in Des Moines, Iowa, on August 31, 1945, Ruckert moved with his family to Bellerose when he was 11, but he always felt a connection to Iowa. When he was in his 40s, he began getting tattoos. "He got a tattoo that said, 'Made in Iowa,'" said his sister-in-law, Carol Varca. "He loved it there."

Ruckert had a difficult upbringing. His father, Leroy, moved the family often, and would disappear for months at a time. When he was home, he was abusive to his wife, Ruth. A womanizer, gambler and alcoholic, Leroy was everything that Thom swore he would never be. Although his father's failings inspired him to pledge that he would someday have a good, steady, nurturing home life, the abuse left a mark on him.

"He built a wall inside him from the pain he experienced during his childhood," said his wife of 50 years, Valerie. "He wanted a strong, stable marriage, and would never argue, because he was so afraid he would recreate what he grew up with. He rarely even raised his voice."

During his 32 years at GCHS, Ruckert was able to help students that other teachers had given up on. He persuaded many not to drop out of school. "He really understood troubled kids," Valerie said. "The former students that came to the funeral home — so many said that Thom took the time to know them and saw a spark in them, and then directed them."

Harris said that her father wanted to give students what he never received from his father — encouragement, and the confidence that came with it. "He liked to teach students about themselves," Harris said. "If you knew what kind of learner you were, he reasoned, you could do anything."

One of Ruckert's former students, Mike Albergo, 49, who purchases props for the Metropolitan Opera, said he might never have graduated from high school had it not been for Ruckert. "You hoped you were the one student he helped, but it seemed like he helped so many," Albergo said. "School wasn't easy for me. He was a mentor, and like a big brother to me. They should do a film on him and call it 'Silent Hero.'"

In 1978, Ruckert created GCTV, a student-run television station, and made working there an elective English class. He saw it as a way to reach students who had become discouraged with conventional teaching methods. "In the studio, Thom had the kids do active learning, and they



Photos courtesy Lissa Harris

THOM RUCKERT LOVED his family, including his wife, Valerie, and grandchildren Dexter and Hazel Harris.

wrote scripts," Valerie said. "He wanted the kids to believe that they could succeed. He believed everyone could."

Christopher Barry, GCHS's media communications teacher, who now runs GCTV, did his student teaching with Ruckert. "He was the best educator I ever came across,"

Barry said. "The kids loved him, and went the extra mile for him. When I saw him working with the kids, I'd say, 'This is how I should do this.'"

In the 1990s Ruckert selected a group of freshmen who didn't respond to traditional teaching and created a classroom that he believed would be more conducive to learning. "The classroom had couches and artwork," Barry recalled. "He was trying to save them. Seventeen kids graduated from that program that

would have never graduated."

Kimbel Martin, 48, Ruckert's oldest daughter, who lives in Glen Head, said that her father's belief in his students taught her how to be an effective manager. "He taught me about people in general," she said. "He'd say student A and student B can't be graded or judged in the same way.

We all have different abilities and skills."

Martin manages an ophthalmology practice, and uses her father's methods to benefit her employees. "I find myself thinking, 'Let's give them a chance, there's something out there that I see and can pull out of them,'" she explained. "I am always thinking that I just need to figure out what they need to make them fantastic."

Their experiences at GCTV led some of Ruckert's students to careers in the entertainment industry. Steve Yaconetti, 57, is a freelance camera operator who has worked for NBC News, and on two "Mission Impossible" films. He credits Ruckert with his success.

"I was one of the original TV geeks," Yaconetti said. "When I had off periods I'd go and hang out with him. Some of us weren't the best students, and he was a motivating force."

Valerie Lasser, a Manhattan film editor, graduated from GCHS in 1990. She credits Rucker with her success, too. "He helped me not to be afraid to embrace my passion," she said. "When you meet another of Thom's students, you immediately know you've both shared something special, electric even. Thom's soft timbre resonated with anyone who crossed his path, and his door was always open."

He also had an impact on his colleagues. Retired GCHS English teacher

Sally Zwiebach, of Roslyn, who knew Ruckert for 43 years, described him as extraordinary. "He's known for the TV studio, but what is lost is how much he did for the English department," Zwiebach said. "He helped us get better, always pushing the envelope."

Zwiebach said she was comfortable teaching traditionally, standing in front of her classroom, but Ruckert wanted her to do more. "I incorporated cooperative learning into my classroom, putting the chairs in circles and grouping the students," she said. "He was like a graduate course in the art of teaching."

Remembering Ruckert's good qualities is easy for his widow. Having met him when she was 19 and he was 20, she has spent most of her life with the man whom she said she isn't ashamed to admit she picked up at a Mineola bar. "He looked like Paul McCartney and was so handsome," Valerie said with a sigh. "We started out so young, and the odds were against us for success."

Asked what she will miss, she paused, her eyes filling with tears. "We did everything together, and I'll miss everything about him," she said, wiping her eyes. "We still loved each other and liked each other, too, and counted on each other. He was a solid guy — trustworthy, honest and caring."



IN LATER YEARS Thom Ruckert continued to wear his long hair in a ponytail.

The former students that came to the funeral home — so many said that Thom took the time to know them and saw a spark in them, and then directed them.

VALERIE RUCKERT
Bayville

HERALD NEIGHBORS



Photos by Tab Hauser/Herald Gazette

LOCAL MUSICIAN MATT Taft got ready to serenade the crowd at the family folk fest at Morgan Park.

Family folk fest at Morgan Park

Lovers of folk music were in for a real treat on July 22 at the Morgan Park Summer Music Festival when the Chapins brought their talents to Glen Cove. In a rare joint appearance, singer-songwriter Tom Chapin performed with his daughters Lily and Abigail, a duo known as The Chapin Sisters. Accompanied by Jon Cobert on piano, accordion and vocals, and Michael Mark, on bass, concertina, Irish whistle and vocals the group sang originals, as well as songs made famous by Tom's late brother, Harry.

Local talent was also there to add a little North Shore flare. Combining elements of folk, rock and blues, with lyrics influenced by Harry Chapin and Bob Dylan, Glen Cove's own singer/songwriter Matthew Taft performed songs off of his 2016 debut album, "Hungry for an EP."

The night also included the talents of singer/songwriter John Taylor, who added some new meaning to the concept of "going home" asking in his songs whether it's a place on earth, one's true self, or if it's somewhere beyond this earthly dimension. No one received a final answer by the end of his set, but they didn't need to. It was all part of the fun at the free music festival provided by the city, which Glen Covers are thankful to receive.



DEBBIE AND MICHAEL Miraglia, above, left, enjoyed the show with a picnic of cheese and cured meats.

THE CHAPIN SISTERS harmonized a crisp, country tune.

A GROUP OF Morgan Park Summer Music Festival volunteers, including Rep. Tom Suozzi, seated, left, were on hand.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, July 26

Chicken Head

Veteran's Memorial Park, 130 Prospect Ave., Sea Cliff, 7 to 9 p.m. As part of the village's Sunset Serenade Music Series, Chicken Head will perform. Bring a blanket or beach chair, a picnic and bug spray, and watch the sun set over Hempstead Harbor.

Long Island Harvest benefit event

Glenwood Life Center, 71 Grove St., Glenwood Landing, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Inside of us there is an infinite well of energy that vibrates at different levels depending on our emotional states. You can learn to access this energy to raise your vibration and achieve a greater sense of wellbeing. Begin your journey with this intensive two hour workshop as Dr. Scott guides you through a series of techniques to help raise your vibe. The cost is \$45. Tickets can be purchased at paypal.me/cairns.

Learn to make southwestern pizza

Gold Coast Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 6:30 p.m. Teens will have access to a taco bar to choose all the delicious toppings for their very own pizza. Chef Rob will cook the pizza or have it ready for you to take home and bake. Enter a raffle for a chance to win a boombox at the end of summer! Recommended for children grades 6 through 12. (516) 759-8300.

Frogs, bugs and animals

Glen Cove Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, 4:30 p.m. This exciting hands-on program, presented by Green Meadows Farm, features frogs, bugs, reptiles, a fluffy chicken, bunnies, chinchillas, baby animals and more. Recommended for children grades K and up. (516) 676-2130.

College essay writing workshop

Sea Cliff Village Library, 300 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff, 7 p.m. Teacher Lynda Aron will lead this workshop for all high school students interested in getting a jump on their college application. Registration required. (516) 671-4290.

Friday, July 27

Jason Liebman and the Firewhistles

Sea Cliff Beach, 96 The Blvd., Sea Cliff, 7 p.m. Every Friday night enjoy a variety of live music and beautiful sunsets all summer long, right on Sea Cliff Beach.

Beach science

Sea Cliff Beach, 96 The Blvd., Sea Cliff, 10:30 a.m. With the help of Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery, kids of all ages can learn about various marine life and the environment. All classes are free of charge. For more information, email poojavira@scmakeshop.com.

Candy xylophone

Gold Coast Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 4 p.m. Make a delicious edible instrument using Rice Krispie treats and twizzlers. Recommended for children grades K through 2. (516) 759-8300.



Photos courtesy Flickr

Downtown Sounds: 'Strawberry Fields'

The look-alike, sound-alike Beatles tribute band "Strawberry Fields" has been performing to audiences of all ages for over a decade, and is dedicated to bringing audiences as close to a real Beatles concert as they can get. On July 27, head to Downtown Sounds in Glen Cove to hear the timeless tunes of one of the greatest bands in music history. "Strawberry Fields" features true look-alike performers, handpicked from hundreds of auditionees, who speak in Liverpool accents and play the vintage instruments Beatles fans have come to recognize. Downtown Glen Cove, 7:30 p.m., 1 School St., Glen Cove.

Saturday, July 28

Math magic with MAKEshop

Stenson's Memorial Children's Library, 281 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. Join Sea Cliff MAKEshop for Math-based activities, puzzles and games for students in grades 3 through 7. Register at www.eventbrite.com. For more information, email poojavira@scmakeshop.com.

Sea Cliff Farmers Market

St. Luke's Church, 253 Glen Ave., Sea Cliff, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This open-air market offers a selection of locally grown vegetables, fresh baked goods, fresh pressed juices and micro-greens and sprouts. All products are grown or produced on Long Island, mostly right in Nassau County.

Sunday, July 29

Gun violence prevention rally

Breezy Park, Huntington, 12 p.m. Rep. Tom Suozzi will join local high school students for a second gun violence prevention rally to highlight the need for common sense gun safety reform. (516) 835-0495.

'Oh What a Night!' Jersey Boys tribute

Morgan Park, Germain Street, Glen Cove, 7:30 p.m. As part of the Morgan Memorial Park Summer Music Festival.

Monday, July 30

Luau celebration

Glen Cove Senior Center, 130 Glen St.,

Glen Cove, 12 p.m. Grab your leis and grass skirts and join us for our Luau with special guests. For more information call (516) 759-9610.



Game night at the library

Bring your favorite board games, card games, or even try some new ones that the library has. Play these games with your friends at the Gold Coast Library Annex, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, on Tuesday, July 21 at 6 p.m. Recommended for children grades 1 through 5. (516) 759-8300.

Tuesday, July 31

Movies at the library: 'Game Night'

Sea Cliff Village Library, 300 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff, 1:15 p.m. A group of friends who meet regularly for game night find themselves entangled in a real-life mystery when the shady brother of one of the players is seemingly kidnapped by dangerous gangsters. (516) 671-4290.

Edible cookie dough cones

Gold Coast Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 4 p.m. Miss Kathy will show you how fun and tasty it is to make edible cookie dough with no eggs or flour. Mix in different candies and top with sprinkles and or whipped cream and place on an ice cream cone. (516) 759-8300.

Karaoke jam

Glen Cove Senior Center, 130 Glen St., Glen Cove, 1:30 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of singing and fun. There will be many songs to choose from, so don't be shy, and show us your talent. (516) 759-9610.

Veterans Affairs

Locust Valley Library, 170 Buckram Rd., Locust Valley, 1 p.m. Thought you knew everything the VA has to offer? Find out about new or improved Veterans Affairs programs. Sponsored by presenters from the Outreach at Northport VA Hospital, Nassau County Vet Center in Hicksville and Nassau County Vet Service Agency. Registration requested. (516) 671-1837.

Wednesday, Aug. 1

Valley Quilters and Love to Yarn Club

Locust Valley Library, 170 Buckram Rd., Locust Valley, 1 p.m. All levels of quilters, knitters and crocheters are welcome. Bring your #8 (H) crochet hook or knitting needles, 4 ply yarn, and your friends. Registration required. (516) 671-1837.

Thursday, Aug. 2

Teen Serenade/Steady Archer

Veterans Memorial Park, 130 Prospect Ave., Sea Cliff, 7 to 9 p.m. Every Thursday night throughout the summer, bring your blankets, chairs and picnics to beautiful Memorial Park overlooking Hempstead Harbor, and enjoy live music performed by local artists. Admission is free.

Friday, Aug. 3

Livestock

Sea Cliff Beach, 96 The Blvd., Sea Cliff, 7 to 9 p.m. Every Friday night enjoy a variety of live music and beautiful sunsets all summer long, right on Sea Cliff Beach. With the cool weather and the calm waters setting the mood, local musicians will continue the Friday Night Music series for summer 2018.

HAVING AN EVENT?

Submissions can be emailed to llane@liherald.com.

Seniors thank donors for garden

The Glen Cove SAGE Foundation, which was created in 2005 to help raise funds for the Glen Cove Senior Center, recently introduced Executive Director Carol Waldman and other senior center administrators to Roland Cabo and Tony Ranieri of Gold Coast Maintenance, Inc.

“Roland and Tony couldn’t have been more generous,” Waldman said. They gave us planters and filled them with flowers.

Around the same time, an anonymous donor gave the center a set of outdoor furniture and a decorative plaque to complete its

“garden space.” Thanks to their generosity, the Glen Cove Senior Center’s simple, cement backyard has been transformed into a beautiful space filled with flowers. It has been named, the “Gratitude Garden.”

“Thank you Gold Coast Maintenance, Inc.,” she continued. “You are now officially a part of our Senior Center family. And thank you to our anonymous donor who is one of our own members devoted to ensuring that our seniors are taken care of in the best possible ways. Together you represent true community spirit at its best.”



Courtesy Glen Cove Senior Center

SENIOR CENTER MEMBERS Christine Gunn, left, Nancy Whitfield, Kathleen Delessandro, Jean Ealy and Valerie Jackson gathered in the “Gratitude Garden.”



Courtesy Eric Erichsen

A win for the Wildcats

The Glen Cove Wildcats girls’ soccer team recently won its division championship. The team competes in the Long Island Junior Soccer League in the champion division where the competition is fierce. The Wildcats, coached by Castel Stone and Frank Fazzalari, finished with a record of 7-0-2 and scored 13 goals while allowing only 4. The key to success is playing great defense. Six of the seven wins the team allowed zero goals. The defense consisted of Lucy Costello, Chloe Johnson, Nicole Reyes, Karina Hernandez and Grace Magner. The Wildcats had eight different players score goals this season: Micaela Costello, Victoria Fazzalari, Ariana Greenberg, Grace Magner, Angela McCarthy, Livia Muzante, Claudia Scala and Aliyah Stone. The top midfielders were Erin Gambino, Alessia Rodriguez, Judith Tuifel, Alyssa Schmitt Ashley Erichsen and Charlotte Bolling. Goalkeeper Jaynise Espinal was excellent.



Mika Rose – My Home Favorites, Westbury

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Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

LONGTIME HERALD PUBLISHER Cliff Richner, center, with the Herald's Long Island editorial staff at a gathering in June to celebrate his retirement after 36 years in the news business. He will remain an owner of the company that was founded by his parents in 1964.

'It's been a fascinating career'

Cliff Richner, longtime Herald publisher, retires after 36 years in the news business

By **ANTHONY RIFILATO**

arfilato@lherald.com

"It's been a fascinating career — I feel very lucky to have lived it," said Cliff Richner, co-owner of Richner Communications and the longtime publisher of Herald Community Newspapers, who retired last month after 36 years in a family-run company that has left an indelible mark on local community news on the South Shore. "I think we've managed to do well, and do some good along the way and help people."

Richner, 66, remains an owner of the company with his brother, Stuart, which they joined in 1982 and '83, respectively.

"I started working there as a kid in 1964," he said. "I grew up in the business. Now seems like a good time to retire. I leave behind a strong, talented and energetic staff, and I feel like we accomplished a lot. I'm leaving primarily for personal reasons — I want to do some other things that the demands of the job won't let me do, while I'm young enough and healthy enough to do them."

Richner announced the move to the Herald staff before his retirement on June 30. His career spans an ever-changing media landscape that saw the company grow and adapt in a digital age where many other local publications struggled to stay afloat. He also played a lead role in saving the company after a devastating fire threatened to put it out of business in 2004.

Today, Herald Community Newspapers boasts the largest community newsroom on Long Island in its Garden City offices, which opened in 2006, and includes a chain of more than 30 weekly publications.

Joining the family business

A Five Towns native, Richner grew up working in a company owned by his late parents, Robert and Edith, which they purchased in 1964, starting with the Nassau Herald and Rockaway Journal, and operated out of the company's former office at 379 Central Ave. in Lawrence, where newspa-



Courtesy Cliff Richner

THE LATE ROBERT and Edith Richner, left, with their sons Cliff and Stuart in 1993, when the Richners were honored by the Five Towns Community Chest at the Red Feather Ball.

pers had been produced and printed for 77 years.

Leatrice Slote-Spanierman, the company's first executive editor, recalled a boy who was fascinated by the news business.

"I invited him to join me in covering a political campaign tour," she said. "He was an enthusiastic 12-year-old and I was on the cusp of being chosen for the top job at the company. I took him along on a lark, and was amazed that with his simple schoolboy camera, he hit the mark, shooting some solid photos. After completing his education, and pursuing a career in the law ... we were permanently linked by our shared philosophy that grass roots, community journalism is the purest and most rewarding branch of the media."

Richner earned a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, and

worked as an attorney at two large law firms in New York City for five years.

"I really wasn't enjoying working in a big firm environment, and I had considered other law options," he said. "But ... my father was at the point where he kept saying that if we weren't interested in the newspaper, he was going to sell it. So Stuart and I talked about it, and decided that we'd give it a try."

In 1987, Cliff and Stuart were named publisher and president of the company, respectively, and have continued to expand it from a small group of community newspapers to 32 weekly publications, a slew of niche and specialty print and mail products, and a high-volume, commercial print and mail house. The publications span from Long Island to the Bronx.

"If all you're looking for is a business

opportunity, there's easier ways to make a living," Cliff said. "It's a great opportunity to, as they say, do well and do good. Hopefully we mostly did good."

Richner was, and still is, involved in a number of community and industry organizations. He sits on the boards of ERASE Racism and Long Beach Aware, and is the former chairman of the Local Media Association and a past president of the New York Press Association.

Linda Weissman, the assistant dean at Touro Law School — where Richner has been a member of the Board of Governors for more than 20 years — first met him in 1989, when she was executive director of the Five Towns Community Chest.

"I realized how dedicated to the community he was, and he's a visionary in many ways," she said. "At Touro, he really understood the law students and wanted to help them, and it became a calling for him. He established a scholarship for Touro students."

A commitment to quality journalism

A commitment to quality journalism and hyper local news, Cliff said, turned the Herald into a chain of award-winning publications.

"We made a very conscious effort to invest in the product," Cliff said. "We spend a much greater percentage of our revenues on the editorial product than most local papers do. We certainly have been recognized for it, but we don't do it to win awards — we do it because it's good business."

As the business grew, Cliff played a lead role in the newsroom, where his legal expertise and talent as a writer informed the direction of countless stories, front-page layouts and other editorial and design elements of the paper, both current and former employees said.

"Cliff is incredibly hands on, but at the same time, he gives you the freedom to be a journalist," said Executive Editor Scott

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Herald publisher retires after 36 years

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Brinton, who's been with the company for 25 years. "He's also a brilliant writer – I think that gets overlooked. You'll write a whole editorial and he'll add three paragraphs, and you're like, 'Why didn't I think of that?'"

Richner regularly spent late-nights collaborating with the editorial staff, reading over stories, editorials and more as editors and reporters worked to put the papers to bed.

"Cliff has also always set an example in the newsroom that reflects the values that our parents instilled in us: truth, fairness, justice and transparency," Stuart said. "It's these qualities that make him such a respected leader in the industry. He's successfully captained our news team through the stormy waters of an industry being disrupted. He's been a great partner, and I'll miss not only his industry expertise but also the chance to work alongside a good friend each day."

Working at the Herald helped launch the careers of many young journalists, and Cliff was known as a mentor to reporters and editors.

"That's one of the best parts of the job," he said. "I think it's a great place to learn your craft because it's hands on and you have to get out there and learn on the job."

The personal trauma of 9/11

Of course, one of the Herald's biggest stories was the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. "We've had several big, catastrophic



Courtesy Cliff Richner Communications

FORMER TOWN SUPERVISOR Richard Guardino, far left, Town Councilman Ed Ambrosino, Stuart and Cliff Richner, and former Valley Stream Mayor Ed Cahill in 2007 at the grand opening reception of Richner Communication's new building in Garden City.

stories," Cliff said. "9/11 was probably the most persistent and longest-lasting, and it affected all of our communities. Everyone at the paper was covering an endless stream of memorial services and people who couldn't be found. The entire staff was traumatized. It was heartbreaking."

Just a few days after the attacks, Robert Richner died. "My dad added to the personal trauma of 9/11," Cliff recalled. "On 9/11, he was in the rehab unit on the fourth floor of Long Beach Medical Center — you could see the smoke from his hospital window. And in fairly short order, he was moved to

New York Hospital. Dad was kind of a news junkie, and he spent the last week of his life watching CNN replay all these horrors over and over. We were dealing with our own personal drama in the middle of that."

Rising from the ashes

In 2004, Richner faced the biggest challenge of his career when a fire destroyed the company's longtime headquarters in Lawrence, where newspapers had been published since 1927. The fire not only destroyed the paper's print and photo archives, including bound volumes from

1895, but also threatened to put the company out of business. Still, Cliff said, there was never any talk of giving up.

"First and foremost, at that point, we had an obligation to our employees," he said. "People needed to work, we needed to work and we wanted to continue."

The very next day, the Richners found a temporary warehouse space in West Hempstead, and the 150-person company didn't miss an issue.

"The fire presented all sorts of logistical problems," Richner recalled. "It was very traumatic but the staff really came through. When it counted the most, people all pulled together and we got the paper out that week. I'm very proud of the fact that we've never missed an issue."

Two years later, the company moved into a state-of-the-art building in Garden City, where the Herald's and other publications are printed.

Looking ahead

Both Richner brothers said they have confidence in the future of the company.

"Everyone on the staff works very hard and takes the responsibility of getting those papers out on time very seriously," added Cliff. "I really think we made a difference through a lot of stories. We've helped a lot of groups over the years — we've closed power plants and helped people preserve open space — and we try to make a difference in the things that people are passionate about."

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983329

Drill teams battle by the bay for a good cause

By ALYSSA SEIDMAN

aseidman@liherald.com

A cloudless sky stretched across scenic Centre Island Beach last Saturday at Bayville Fire Company's 7th annual Battle by the bay. Nine drill teams from across Nassau County attended the invitational, including the Sea Cliff Cell Crushers to compete in a series of service drills, all while benefiting local charities.

One by one, teams raced down the narrowed track to complete different tasks: footing ladders, connecting hydrants, replacing hoses, adjusting nozzles, hitting targets. The members sprinted along with determined speed, sounding back and forth to one another to ensure unflinching efficiency, as if the threat of a blaze was omnipresent.

"The tournament features old fashioned drills, and we compete mostly for bragging rights, but it's also good for morale and puts into practice a lot of skills we use every day," said Zachary Ney, a member of Bayville's drill team, the Oak Neckers.

"It's fun, but it's also making sure you can work together effectively as a team, communicate and dedicate the time to work on the drills."

The drill teams faced off in six races over the course of the tournament: efficiency, ladder footing, cart running, hose replacement, efficiency replacement and 2-into-1 hose replacement.



Photos by Alyssa Seidman/Herald Gazette

SEA CLIFF'S FINEST performed a running hose replacement drill to outdo the other drill teams.

Ney explained that while the contending teams compete in similar tournaments year-round, Bayville's invitational tournament offers firefighters the opportunity to do more than show off.

Proceeds from this year's event will be donated to The Heather Pendergast and Chief Michael Hallquest funds, and sponsor scholarships for two Locust Valley High School graduating seniors, one of which was the Oak Neckers own Julia

Giannoutsos.

The Heather Pendergast Fund assists sick children of local firefighter or EMS volunteers to help cover the cost of medical bills, and the Chief Michael Hallquest Fund benefits the family of a former Sea Cliff fire chief who lost a battle with brain cancer earlier this year.

Sea Cliff's drill team captain William Koopmann, of Glen Cove, said the invitational's dedication to their fallen chief

meant a lot to them. "It was a little added incentive to run and do our best for our chief," he said. "We were happy to be there and happy to be a part of it."

Event emcee John Doyle, an ex-chief of the Bayville Fire Company, said the invitational helps bring attention to other aspects besides the fire service. "So many organizations throughout the community step up and support it. It tells us that we're on to something here, and it's something worth doing."

For Doyle, who has attended drill tournaments for the last 35 years — as long as he's been a firefighter — bringing firefighters together for a good cause and some healthy competition is great for the community to see, too.

"Competitions like this are a great eye-opener to the youth of the community," Doyle said. "There's so much more than answering alarms and training and going to school. There are days like this where the camaraderie of the fire service comes out."

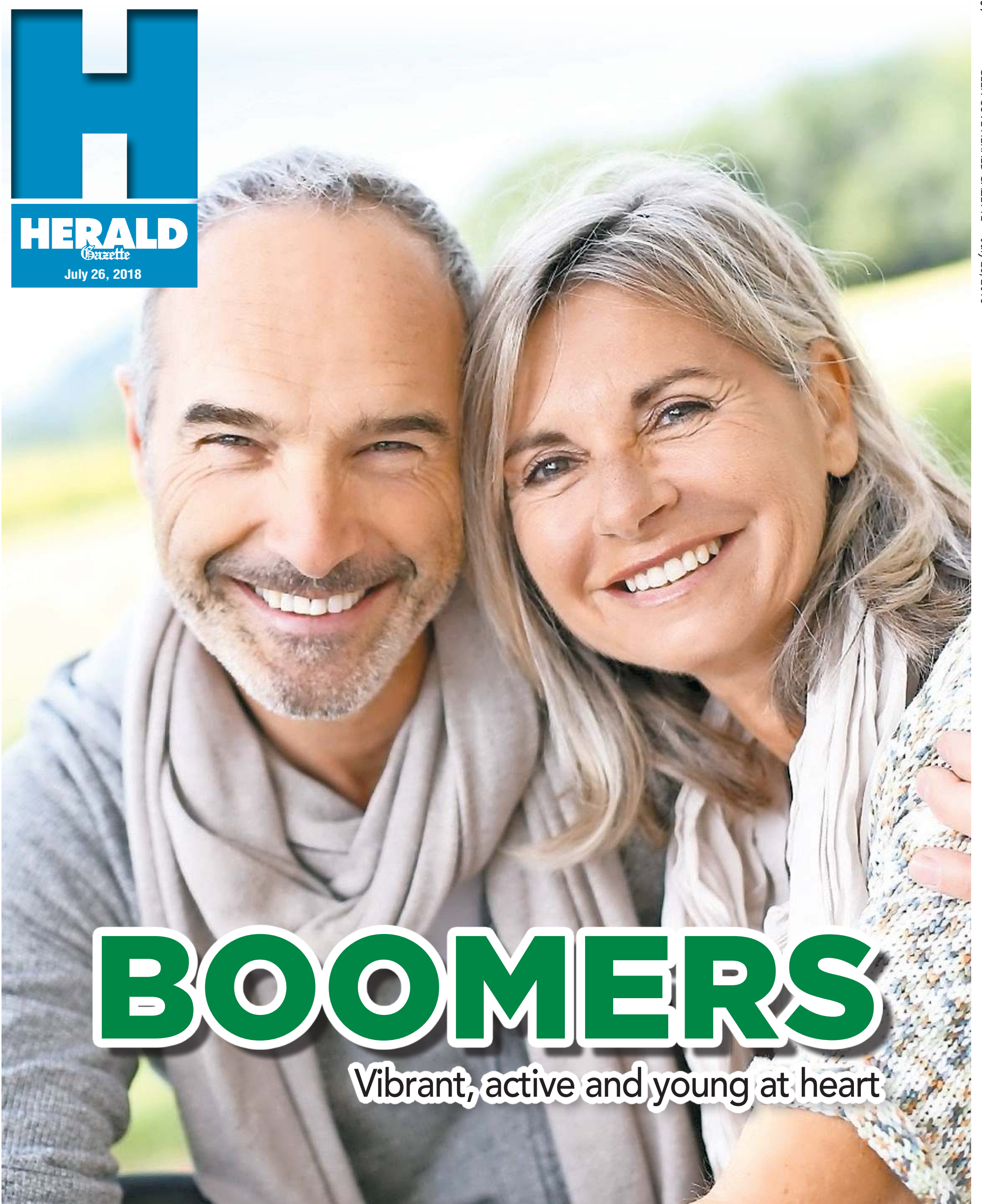
Ney, who's coming up on his tenth year as a volunteer firefighter, agreed. "We really love to give back to the community, and for them to know we're ready to go 24 hours a day and be as respectful and courteous as possible really means a lot to me," he said.

Both the Bayville Oak Neckers and the Sea Cliff Cell Crushers will compete in the New York State drill tournament next month.

Think Vaping is Harmless?



- **Throat cancer**
- **Popcorn lung**
- **Kidney disease**
- **Lung cancer**
- **Heart disease**
- **Sexual dysfunction**
- **Impedes brain development**



BOOMERS

Vibrant, active and young at heart

Re-evaluate your 'stuff'

Downsize your home without losing your mind

By Debbie Ginsberg

If it takes a village to raise a child, guess how much effort it takes to downsize your home to prepare for a move?

Whether you are the baby boomer moving to downsize your living space or it's your senior parent who needs to move to a smaller apartment, the first question that pops into one's head is — "Where do I begin?"

A super organized person may be able to tackle the job on their own, but often it comes at a physical cost since the job of downsizing is so laborious it can actually hurt!

The phrase "organizing a move" is very apropos to this discussion because it takes quite a bit of organizing to do this right and not waste money or time.

The other aspect to consider are the costs involved throughout the move process. If done properly, costs can be kept to a minimum. When requiring help from a professional there can be room for additional savings and you will benefit from their knowledge and expertise throughout this 'project'.

When should you start downsizing? The answer is that once you even consider moving you should begin the purging process. Sorting through your closets, one at a time, eliminating the items you absolutely don't need is not an easy process. You can invite a friend to help you through this selection or hire a Professional Organizer or Move

Manager. Both the National Association of Professional Organizers (Napo.net) and the National Association of Senior Move Managers (NASMM.com) are great resources for finding professionals in your local area.

Get your documents in order. Oh dear, it's been years since you organized your documents and they are all over the place. Rest assured that you are not alone in this disorganization.

The best thing to do is to create a shredding box and start putting documents (other than investment papers) that are more than six years old into the shred box. The documents you are keeping should be divided into categories; Accountant, Insurance, Banking, Auto, Investments, Retirement Funds, Doctors information and Medical History.

These are your vital records. There are fireproof and waterproof file tote boxes where you can store the most current information. This container should be placed in an area that is close to your front door so that in case of an emergency you can walk out the door with your vital information.

If you have this vital record system in place then you are ready to take it with you, in an organized fashion, for the move. For the other documents, consider buying banker boxes and placing documents divided by the categories listed above. Mark the boxes accordingly.

Organizers will be happy to teach you



Begin your preparations by creating a list of tasks that need to be achieved to accomplish every aspect of moving.

document management and set you up with an easy-to-follow organizing system. The heightened sense of feeling overwhelmed is often associated with the amount of documents that have been ignored over the years. This is a great time to begin a purging and organizing process of your documents. Included in downsizing is the need to shred items.

Even if you have sold your home and

are closing in less than three months, there's no need to panic. Three months is plenty of time to have your items properly sorted and your home completely cleaned out.

Many people can't tackle the enormity of the volume of their things and find this process overwhelming. Professional organizers recommend that you start in one small area of a room and stay in that room until done

Continued on page S-5



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Three-legged stool is wobbly

A look at sources of income in your later years

By Tom Margenau

I'm sure most people reading this column have heard the term, "the three-legged stool." That refers to the platform upon which your retirement portfolio is to be built. One of those legs represents your Social Security benefit. The second leg is savings and investments. And the third leg propping you up in retirement is a company pension.

Well, over the years, that stool has gotten a little wobbly, primarily because the company pension leg keeps getting whittled away. Earning a guaranteed monthly retirement pension from your employer is now about as common as getting your company CEO to offer you the use of his private jet and his vacation home in Maui.

But a fourth leg has been added to that retirement stool. It used to be a little stubby thing. But it keeps growing bigger and bigger. I'm talking about the leg that represents earnings from a job.

Yup, boomers find themselves, either out of necessity or just plain restlessness, working and earning money well into what were supposed to be their "retirement" years.

I've been tracking this development for years. And something just happened in the last year or two that is rather surprising. The earnings leg of the retirement stool is now the biggest and fattest leg of them all, surpassing Social Security!

I give Social Security talks around the country, usually as part of a larger retirement seminar. One of the slides in my presentation displays the aggregate income (by source) of senior citizens.

For many of the years the three biggest pieces of the economic pie of older folks were Social Security benefits, asset income and pensions — with Social Security always being the biggest piece. Social Security was always the biggest and fattest and sturdiest leg on that retirement stool. Job earnings was there, but as a little spindly fourth leg. Yet it kept growing and growing. And now it's gotten so big that it has finally surpassed the Social Security leg.

According to the Social Security Administration's Office of Research, Statistics, and Policy Analysis, here is a breakdown of the aggregate income of all senior citizens in this country:

√ Earnings: 34 percent



More and more boomers are working during their "retirement" years.

- √ Social Security: 33 percent
- √ Private pensions: 12 percent
- √ Savings and investments: 9 percent
- √ Government employee pensions: 8 percent
- √ Other income: 4 percent

In other words, for the country as a whole, the senior citizen retirement stool actually has six legs. Two of them — Social Security and earnings — are big and stout. The other four have morphed into little appendages. So it's a wobbly stool indeed.

Another way to look at that data is to determine the most common sources of income for the typical retiree (as opposed to the nationwide aggregate income illustrated above). When SSA's research office does this, here is what they find.

- √ 84 percent of seniors get a monthly Social Security check.
- √ 63 percent of seniors have asset income.
- √ 37 percent of seniors get a monthly private pension.
- √ 29 percent of seniors work and have earnings from their job.
- √ 16 percent of seniors get a government employee retirement pension.

What that second set of statistics tells us (when compared to the first set) is that although only about a third of seniors are working, for those who do, the money they make represents a substantial part of their income.

For 34 percent of all senior citizens in the U.S., their Social Security check represents 90 percent or more of their income. And for 62 percent, Social Security is at least half of all their retirement income. Another

number I've seen before, is that about 20 percent of elderly Americans are living on their Social Security check — and nothing else.

Those are shocking numbers. From the very beginning of the program, people have been told that Social Security should be just one egg in their retirement basket. And they certainly should not expect to live on their Social Security checks.

Obviously, and sadly, lots of people either didn't get that message, or economic or family circumstances forced them into relying too heavily on their monthly Social Security checks.

It seems that most of the people who are overdependent on Social Security are the 'very old' — those in their 80s and above. Younger folks, especially those retiring now, have gotten the message that you simply cannot depend on the government to support you in your old age.

For millions of seniors, Social Security checks are the meat and potatoes on our retirement plate. But for a growing number of younger seniors, their Social Security check is just the gravy.

Tom Margenau worked for 32 years in a variety of positions for the Social Security Administration before retiring in 2005. He writes the nationally syndicated column "Social Security and You." ■



Working into retirement offers opportunities for personal growth.

When it's not yet time to retire

Successfully transition to a new career

Many men and women reach their 50s and 60s and decide the adventure of a new challenge is simply too hard to resist. Oftentimes, this new challenge comes in the form of a second career.

A career change doesn't need to be huge. Maybe you want to be promoted to a different role in your company, or change departments, or work at another company in your industry.

Whatever your aspirations, you may not necessarily need to go back to college to make it happen. Alternatively, workshops, seminars and night courses are great opportunities to learn new skills and earn certifications to widen your job prospects. "Don't rely on your old skill set to move forward," says Kerry Hannon, career and retirement expert and author of "What's Next? Follow your Passion and Find Your Dream Job." "Lifelong learning is essential for well-being, as well as for staying in the job market." Plus, many institutions and schools offer senior discounts, making your new experiences more affordable, and therefore attainable.

Hannon advises testing out the job you want to pursue before making the official leap. "Volunteer at a company in that field and talk to people who currently work that job," says Hannon. "You may find that your dream job is not what you had in mind ... before investing in advanced education or cutting ties with your current place of business, it's important to experience what you will be getting into." It usually takes three to five years to make a full career transition and gain traction, so think about what you want to be doing for the next five years, not just now.

Consider different ways to turn your passions into income opportunities. In this day of entrepreneurs and small-business ventures, you may consider starting an online business. Maybe you enjoy knitting or making jewelry. Hannon mentions a woman who makes pillows out of old wedding dresses and sells them online. This business model allows you to make your own schedule and have complete control over the product.

The point is that there is no single mold for a typical job, and there's certainly no single way to create a work life that works for you. When thinking about a new job, ask yourself: "Do I like to work with a team or by myself? Do I enjoy working outside of the house, or do I prefer working in the comfort of my home? Do I work best in the morning or at night?"

Retiring closes the door to your career chapter in life. If you decide to continue working into retirement, the opportunities for starting a new chapter abound. Take the time to seek out the ideal job that will improve your financial security and also your overall happiness and well-being. ■



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Karen Taylor

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See Evidence of Coverage for a complete description of plan benefits, exclusions, limitations and conditions of coverage. Plan features and availability may vary by service area.



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The fight against stress goes high tech at Glen Cove Fitness

Stress levels among Americans nationwide are higher now than they've been in years. However, a new dry hydrotherapy massage system installed at a Glen Cove Fitness has helped Glen Cove residents relax, relieve pain, and reduce stress in recent months.

According to the American Massage Therapy Association, 49 percent of consumers said they have considered a massage to help manage stress in the last year. Having seen the signs, Glen Cove Fitness realized that their members needed help, and turned to an unconventional piece of technology for relief.

Glen Cove Fitness found a solution in HydroMassage, a dry hydrotherapy system that's been used for over 20 years in locations such as the Mayo Clinic, the US Olympic Training Center, and Walter Reed Army

Medical Hospital.

Members get the benefits of a powerful, heated massage in as little as 10 minutes while remaining clothed and dry, making HydroMassage a convenient and affordable alternative to traditional massage therapy. A Glen Cove Fitness representative noted "people are just amazed at the relief they can get from one session, but the best part is that HydroMassage is affordable for everyone."

"Let's face it; people are really stressed these days. And, getting an hour-long massage can really help, but it's normally too expensive to do regularly. But with HydroMassage, we can really help people get relief everyday."

For more information on HydroMassage, call Glen Cove Fitness at 516-656-0515.

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PLAN AHEAD:

Protect your assets and your family

You know you should plan ahead to protect assets and you likely know about the five-year look-back, but what does this really mean and how should you plan ahead?

In order to protect assets for the next generation, those assets must be taken out of your name five years before you have a health care need that may require you to apply for Medicaid benefits. The best way to do this is by placing assets into an irrevocable trust.

Be careful—only an irrevocable trust protects assets, advises Jennifer B. Cona Esq., Managing Partner of Genser Dubow Genser & Cona LLP. A revocable trust does not.

Many people transfer title to their home into an irrevocable trust as that is often their largest asset. This can be done while preserving your right to live in the house for life and while keeping your real estate tax exemptions, such as STAR and Veterans exemptions. The value of a house held in trust will be protected after the five-year look-back passes. Should you decide to move, you can sell your house, buy a new house, or the trust can simply hold the cash proceeds from the sale. In either case, the



Jennifer Cona



whole value will continue to be protected. The only difference is that the trustee you name will attend the closing with you.

Any type of asset may be held in a trust, such as cash, bank accounts, CDs, stocks, brokerage accounts, mutual funds, annuities, etc. Once five years pass, the assets held in the trust are protected. Those assets will never have to be spent down on the cost of your care. Instead, those life savings will pass free and clear to your children or other beneficiaries, as you intended.

It is never too early to plan and establishing an asset protection trust is the first step toward protecting your assets and your family.



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Downsize your home without losing your mind

Continued from page S-2

and then you can move into the next room.

Here's the hitch; these are your items and you have an emotional attachment to your cherished treasures. This is where a third-party vendor comes into the picture.

A professional organizer/move manager doesn't have an emotional attachment and is trained to reason with you with regards to whether you should keep, donate or toss each specific item. They will offer suggestions such as inviting family and friends over to select from a table set up with your giveaways. The joy you will have from sharing your memorabilia is greater than simply donating your items.

Choosing a professional mover is another time consuming task. Typically people call two to three moving companies for estimates. The time to call in a mover is two to three weeks before the move.

Keep in mind that if you move on the first few days or the last few days of a month, this is considered peak time. You will spend more money during peak time, so if possible try to book in the middle of the month. Often, professional movers offer discounts. Call to learn how you can be eligible for their discounts.

Performing the minutiae involved with moving can now be delegated to someone else, making the move less stressful.

As with any home-related service, do your research when hiring an professional organizer/move manager. There are many variables and costs will vary.

Meet with several companies since you



Many people have filled their homes with items that were never used.

want to become familiar with the services each offer. It's not advisable to hire the person who charges the least, as it can cost you more in the long run. Try to get an estimate for the entire job during your consultation. Ask how they can save you money during the move process. Find out how long they have been in business and whether they have a staff or if

they work on their own. This can mean the difference in time, which may be a big consideration. Question whether they are licensed and insured and if their vendors are also licensed and insured.

Be careful about hiring vendors who move things in and out of your home who are not insured as damage can occur and can

very well end up being your expense. That 'bargain' of a vendor is no longer a bargain.

Debbie Ginsberg is a Professional Organizer and Certified Move Manager and has been in business since 2010. She can be reached at 516-984-9365 or Info@BestJunkRemovalServices.com. ■

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HERALD Crossword Puzzle

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Piquant taste
- 5 Winter ailment
- 8 Painter
Chagall
- 12 Thought
- 13 Arctic bird
- 14 Met melody
- 15 Slaughter
- 17 Vend
- 18 Type squares
- 19 Doctor's due
- 20 Any of 150 in the Bible
- 21 Doorstep item
- 22 Lemon meringue, e.g.
- 23 Sacrifice site
- 26 Spa fixture
- 30 The Red and the Black
- 31 Formal wear
- 32 Start a garden
- 33 Popular place to socialize
- 35 Heredity factors
- 36 Pick a target
- 37 Existed
- 38 Animal
- 41 Purse
- 42 Mauna —
- 45 Not pizzicato
- 46 "Manon" composer
- 48 Opposed
- 49 Pismire
- 50 Unaccompanied

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45					46			47		
48					49			50		
51					52			53		

- 9 Vicinity
- 10 Small stream
- 11 At peace
- 16 Somewhere out there
- 20 Snapshot
- 21 Chief who befriended the Pilgrims
- 22 Latin for "peace"
- 23 Fire residue
- 24 Zodiac cat
- 25 Tit for —
- 26 Stick out
- 27 Buddhist sect
- 28 Wye follower
- 29 Egos' counterparts
- 31 Male turkey
- 34 Fruit stone
- 35 Jokes
- 37 Squander
- 38 False god
- 39 Sea eagle
- 40 Performances
- 41 Poison
- 42 Door opener
- 43 Morays, e.g.
- 44 On
- 46 Crazy
- 47 Superlative suffix

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THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Love gone mad

Dear Great Book Guru,
Friday nights in the summer here in Sea Cliff are truly magical. From 7 to 10 p.m. music fills the sandy shores of Sea Cliff Beach; the sun begins to set, and the crowd grows mellow. I get there early, have dinner at the Beach Café and settle down with a good book as I wait for the music to begin. I haven't read a mystery this entire summer. Do you have one you would recommend?
—Friday Night Music Lover



**ANN
DIPIETRO**

sive love for Verity or V as he calls her. The two met in college. She is the daughter of a wealthy family, while he is the son of an abusive, alcoholic single mother. When the book opens, Mike is in prison for having killed someone and is discussing his defense. Nothing is as it seems as he recounts the details of his relationship with V over an eight-year period and its recent unraveling. Who is telling the truth, who has the most to lose, who are these people? Set in present day London, this novel is a beautifully written but devastating

description of love gone mad. Recommended!

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

Dear Friday Night Music Lover,

I just read a very unusual and compelling mystery noir: "Our Kind of Cruelty," by Araminta Hall. It's told from the unreliable perspective of Mike Hall, a young banker driven mad by his obses-

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STEPPING OUT

Where to go, what to do, who to see

The legend rolls on Go for a ride at Long Island Children's Museum

Get behind the handlebars and rev those engines. "Hands-On Harley-Davidson," Long Island Children's Museum's latest immersive exhibit, has taken up residence here for the summer, closing Sept. 2.

The interactive traveling exhibit, created by the Betty Brinn Children's Museum in Milwaukee, Wis., is a lively installation that enhances the lore of the iconic motorcycle brand.

"The roar of a motorcycle is a sound we associate with the season as many Long Islanders take to the highways to enjoy summer sights," says the museum's Director of Education Aimee Terzulli. "This exhibit lets children get up close with these fascinating vehicles and explore the science behind those exciting sounds."

Three theme areas take everyone from the drawing board to the open road.

Visitors can become design engineers and learn how acceleration, speed, friction and gravity affect a motorcycle in motion. Using a series of ramps, jumps and curves, families can build a custom test track and conduct experiments to see what happens when a rider throttles, leans into a curve or descends a mountain road. You can choose a "motorcycle tour" using an interactive world map to learn about the bike's mechanical systems, solve math challenges and see fascinating destinations.

In the "dealership" component, learn about engine parts and how they work together to create a smooth and safe ride. Step into one of the bays where you'll find kid-sized motorcycles inspired by a real Harley-Davidson Road King. There you can build your dream-ride using



Photos courtesy LICM

Live to Ride...Ride to Live...explore the Harley-Davidson mystique at a kid-size motorcycle dealership and engineering lab.

interchangeable custom motor parts and accessories, including magnetic flames, logos, saddlebags and a personalized license plate. Even get that engine revving to give the custom bike a test.

Safety is critical on the road. Role-play as a motorcycle-riding community service officer, complete with a "see yourself" monitor and videos that help visitors understand traffic safety, hand signals and preparing for a trip.

Also gear up with a vest and helmet and learn about protective equipment that keeps riders safe. Take a "ride" during the first-

person riding experience, which includes a throttle to control the speed of your bike, working turn signals, costumes, audio effects, and even the wind in your face.

A multi-level play space, created with real Harley-Davidson parts, accessories and sounds complements the "dealership." "The exhibit has a strong STEM [science, technology, engineering, and math] focus with a lot of opportunities for imaginative play," says Claire Flynn, the museum's youth STEM coordinator. "It's fun and engaging, and does a good job of breaking down complicated concepts."

She notes that the exhibit has an intergenerational appeal. "The different aspects are exciting and also informative. It's a loud exhibit that draws everyone in. People are excited to find out what's making all that noise."

As always, the museum's staff has planned themed activities to enhance the



It's time to hit the open road.

overall experience. Upcoming programming includes "Ready Set Go!" on Aug. 9. Examine how people have sought out adventure through different means of reaching foreign lands and undiscovered places. Discuss the first motorcycles and let those imaginations go using fun materials to create a travel machine for the future.

There's also a "Build-Your-Own Motorcycle workshop on Aug. 15, which focuses on customizing bikes. Design and create a one-of-a-kind motorcycle with paper, markers and moving wheels. And at "Zooming with Color and Friction," on Aug. 28, participants can explore friction, the force that resists motion between two objects when they come in contact with one another. Using ramps, different textures and rolling objects, experiment to see how friction works. Then create friction-inspired art to take home using paint and a variety of different sized balls.

"Kids are innately drawn to the look, sound and power of these vehicles," Terzulli says. "Adults like all those same things, as well as the fact that their children are being introduced to the laws of physics as they create a series of motorcycle ramps, jumps and curves. It's a perfect choice to combat concerns of a summer learning slide."

— Karen Bloom
kbloom@liherald.com

HANDS-ON HARLEY-DAVIDSON

Admission: \$14 for adults and children, \$13 seniors, free to museum members and children under 1 year old. Additional fees for theater and special programs apply. View the LICM events calendar at www.licm.org for additional information or call (516) 224-5800. **Where:** Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City.

IN CONCERT Patty Griffin

The acclaimed songstress has made her way to Long Island on her current tour. The folk sensation, lauded as one of the most consequential singer-songwriters of her generation, gives it her all in a dynamic evening of music making. Her wide-ranging canon incisively explores the intimate moments and universal emotions that bind us together. Over the course of two decades, the two-time Grammy award winner (and seven-time nominee) has crafted nine classic studio albums and two live collections. Her body of work in progress prompted the New York Times to hail her for "writing cameo-carved songs that create complete emotional portraits of specific people...her songs have independent lives



WEEKEND Out and About

that continue in your head when the music ends." Griffin's characteristic expressive vocals—equal measures passion and poignancy—and her potent songwriting blur the lines between the personal, the spiritual and the political. These songs move and persuade while they dive deep. She is joined by special guest Olivia Chaney. *Sunday, July 29, 7 p.m. \$58, \$53, \$48. Landmark on Main Street, Jeanne Rimsky Theater, 232 Main St., Port Washington. (516) 767-6444 or www.landmarkonmainstreet.org.*

SEASONAL SOUNDS Beech Tree Concert Series

Enjoy the glorious grounds of Old Westbury Gardens and listen to some stirring sounds at the concert series finale. Artist-in-residence cellist Suzanne Mueller and her Cross Island ensemble, featuring pianist Elinor Abrams Zyas, is joined by clarinetist Joshua Redman. The closing program includes music by Max Bruch, Tom

Jobim, Cole Porter, Franz Schubert, Igor Stravinsky, Cesar Cui, Richard Rodney Bennett, Roger Blanc, Arkadie Kouguell, Mark McCarron, Paul Reade, and Harvey Schmidt. As always, the repertoire mixes well-loved, familiar composers with unfamiliar works, often resulting from collaborations with composers and arrangers. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy another relaxing afternoon under the Gardens' historic beech tree, weather permitting. *Sunday, July 29, 3 p.m. Free with Gardens' admission. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. (516) 333-0048 or www.oldwestburygardens.org.*



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Coming Attractions

Performances/ On Stage



Newsies

Musical based on the 1992 film, inspired by the real-life Newsboys Strike of 1899 in New York City, Thursday, July 26, 2 and 8 p.m.; Friday, July 27, 8 p.m.; Saturday, July 28, 3 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, July 29, 2 and 7 p.m. John W. Engeman Theater, 250 Main St., Northport. (631) 261-2900 or www.engemantheater.com.

Benny & The Jets

The Elton John tribute band in concert, Thursday, July 19, 8 p.m. Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park, Oyster Bay.

Chicken Head

The local band in concert, as part of the Sunset Serenade series, Thursday, July 26, 7 p.m. Veterans Memorial Park, Sea Cliff.

Darla

The progressive funk band in concert with indie rockers Ritual Talk, Thursday, July 26, 8 p.m. My Father's Place at the Roslyn Hotel, 1221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. 625-2700 or www.myfathersplace.com

The Liverpool Shuffle

The popular Beatles tribute band in concert, Thursday, July 26, 7 p.m. Vanderbilt Museum, 180 Little Neck Rd., Centerport. (631) 854-5579 or www.vanderbiltmuseum.org.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Shakespeare's beloved comedy, Friday, July 27, 8 p.m.; Sunday, July 29, 7 p.m. Carriage House Players, Vanderbilt Museum, 180 Little Neck Rd., Centerport. 557-1207 or www.vanderbiltmuseum.org.

Hot Jazz Jumpers

The eclectic jazz band in concert, Friday, July 27, 7 p.m. Planting Fields Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Rd., Oyster Bay. 922-9210 or www.plantingfields.org.

Jason Liebman and the Firewhistles

The singer-songwriter and his band in concert, as part of the Summer Music Series, Friday, July 27, 7 p.m. Sea Cliff Beach, Sea Cliff.

Open Mic Night

Local talents perform. Friday, July 27, 7 p.m. The Commons, Bayville.



Voyage

The popular Journey tribute band in concert, with special guest The Cringe, Friday, July 27, 8 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.



Glenn Tilbrook

Glenn Tilbrook, the voice and face of Squeeze, brings his acoustic tour to the reincarnated My Father's Place, with his son Leon Tilbrook as special guest, on Friday, Aug. 17, at 8 p.m.

It was 1973 when Tilbrook and Chris Difford first formed the band that would see them dubbed 'The New Lennon and McCartney'. Decades later they continue to tour in Squeeze, together as a duo, or as solo performers.

Tilbrook's solo shows have continued to rise in popularity with Squeeze fans. His concerts are combination of a consummately professional, yet distinctly personal performance, the familiarity of those wonderful Squeeze songs (both new and old), and the occasional spontaneous interpretation of a respected song by another artist.

Tickets are \$62; available at www.myfathersplace.com.

My Father's Place at the Roslyn Hotel, 1221 Old Northern Blvd. Roslyn.

Strawberry Fields

The Beatles tribute band in concert, part of the Downtown Sounds summer concert series, Friday, July 27, 7:30 p.m. Village Square Plaza at Glen, School and Bridge St., Glen Cove. Visit www.glencovedowntown.org for more information.

Arlen Roth

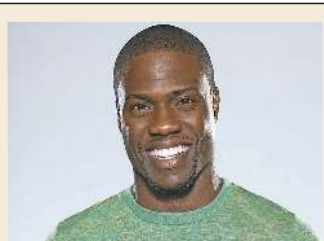
The renowned guitarist in concert, with a Guitar Summit, Saturday, July 28, 8 p.m. My Father's Place at the Roslyn Hotel, 1221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. 625-2700 or www.myfathersplace.com.

Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band

The singer-songwriter and his blues band in concert, Saturday, July 28, 8 p.m. With the Beth Hart Band. The Space, 250 Post Ave. Westbury. 800-745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.theespaceatwestbury.com.

Wild Child

The tribute band in concert, with a Jim Morrison Celebration, Saturday, July 28, 8 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.



Kevin Hart

The actor-comic showcases his standup routine, with his "Irresponsible" tour, Sunday, July 29, 7 p.m. Nassau Coliseum, Uniondale. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.nycblive.com.

Oh What a Night

The Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons tribute band in concert, Sunday, July 29, 7:30 p.m. Morgan Park, Germaine St., Glen Cove. 671-0017.

Brit Floyd

The popular Pink Floyd tribute band in concert, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 8 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com

Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks

The acclaimed jazz band in concert, as part of the Picnic Pops concert series, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 7 p.m.; with dance lessons, 6:30 p.m. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. 333-0048 or www.oldwestbury.org.

Steady Archer

The local band in concert, as part of the Sunset Serenade series, Thursday, Aug. 2, 7 p.m. Veterans Memorial Park, Sea Cliff.

For the Kids

Frogs, Bugs and Animals

Get up close and personal with a variety of animals, presented by Green Meadows Farm, Thursday, July 26, 4:30 p.m. All animals can be safely touched. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the Chicken Dance and laugh with a surprise character. For grades Kindergarten and up. Registration required. Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. 676-2130 or www.glencovelibrary.org.

Think Up: Think Up!

Old Westbury Whodunits
Investigate the wonders of nature and history's mysteries at Old Westbury Gardens,

Saturday, July 28, 10:30 a.m. Go on fact finding hunts through Westbury House and gardens to uncover clues and solve riddles. For ages 8 and up. Free with admission. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. 333-0048 or www.oldwestbury.org.

Storytime at the Beach

Enjoy a story, craft and song, presented by Sea Cliff Library, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 10:30 a.m. Sea Cliff Beach, Sea Cliff. 671-4290 or www.seaclifflibrary.org.

Crafty Kids: Clouds

Read Tom Lichtenheld's "Clouette" and Charles Green's "It Looked Like Spilt Milk," Thursday, Aug. 2, 4 p.m. Then make 3-D cloud pictures using cotton balls, glue, shaving cream and other supplies. For grades K-2. Registration required. Gold Coast Public Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head. 759-8300 or www.goldcoastlibrary.org.

All Things Harry Potter

Talk trivia about the famous sorcerer, Wednesday, Aug. 1, 4 p.m. Design magician's wands and more. For grades 5-12. Registration required. Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. 676-2130 or www.glencovelibrary.org.

Fool the Eye Art Workshop

Create a faux ice cream spill with modeling clay, Thursday, Aug. 2, 7 p.m. Make your own ice cream sundaes follow the program. For grades 6 and up. Registration required. Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. 676-2130 or www.glencovelibrary.org.

Movies By Moonlight

See "Cars 3," the latest installment of the Disney/Pixar animated series, Thursday, Aug. 2, 8 p.m. Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park and Beach, Oyster Bay.

Museums/Galleries and more...

Coast Guard Art

An exhibit depicting the mission of the U.S. Coast Guard, including search and rescue and boat patrols, along with buoy tending and training exercises. Artists on view include James Consor, Karen Loew, and Glen Head residents Susanne Corbelletta and Charles Van Horn, among others. Through Sept. 15. North Shore Historical Museum, 140 Glen St., Glen Cove. 801-1191 or www.northshorehistoricalmuseum.org.

Heavy Metal:

Photographs by Jan Staller

An exhibition of Staller's large-scale photographs that transform the industrial environment. Found industrial objects are presented as sculptural artifacts of the post-industrial age. Through July 29. Heckscher Museum of Art, Main St. and Prime Ave., Huntington. (631) 351-3250 or www.heckscher.org.

True Colors

A full range of color's magic is on display in this exuberant show of over 100 works from the 19th century to the current hot talents. From Monet and Matisse to Mark

Rothko and Frank Stella, and onward to the huge Color Field canvases and pulsing neon sculptures of today, color as a means of expression is the keynote for this exhibition. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. 484-9338 or www.nassaumuseum.org.

Urban Pop

An exhibition of artists who bring a myriad of visual cultural influences to their fine art practice. Some hone their skills on the street, others working in the studio find their own version of pop urban art, some having unique language of their own, that can't be categorized within a specific movement. Through Sept. 8. Gold Coast Arts Center, 113 Middle Neck Rd., Great Neck. 829-2570 or www.goldcoastarts.org.



Movie Time

See, "Hurricane Heist," the thriller about a plot to rob a U.S. Mint lying in the trajectory of a quickly approaching Category 5 hurricane, Thursday, July 26, 2 and 6:30 p.m. Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library, 89 East Main St., Oyster Bay. 922-1212.

Film Showing

See the 1950 film noir classic "Woman on the Run," Friday, July 27, 2 p.m.; also "Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool," a drama about the May-December romance between English actor Peter Turner and aging movie star Gloria Grahame, based on his memoir, Tuesday, July 31, 2 p.m. Gold Coast Public Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head. 759-8300 or www.goldcoastlibrary.org.

Sketching in the Galleries

All ages can express their creativity and sketch in the museum's gallery space, Sunday, July 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Help yourself to a variety of drawing supplies, grab a seat and create. Free with admission. Heckscher Museum of Art, Main St. and Prime Ave., Huntington. (631) 351-3250 or www.heckscher.org.

Afternoon Movie

See "Game Night," the black comedy about a weekly couples game night gone wrong, Tuesday, July 31, 1:15 p.m. Sea Cliff Library, 300 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. 671-4290 or www.seaclifflibrary.org.



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Tab Hauser/Herald Gazette

REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF the Glen Cove City Council voted against the appointment of two Finance Committee members.

Committee appointments blocked

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

After the meeting, Maccarone said, two members of the public who have such experience approached him and said they would be interested in joining the committee, and would have expressed interest sooner if they had known that the council was accepting resumes.

Silverman, meanwhile, said, "By voting down these qualified volunteers, council members have politicized this committee instead of doing what's right for the community."

During the public comment section of the meeting, Barbara Peebles, a former deputy mayor under Mayor Reginald Spinello, suggested that if the council were allowed to vote on the appointments separately, one of the candidates might have been approved.

At a pre-council meeting a week earlier, when the appointments were brought up for discussion, none of the council members raised concerns about either Swirnoff or Moschetta. Maccarone told the Herald Gazette that the appointees' resumes were presented at that meeting, but members did not have time to read

them thoroughly before the discussion.

The council had already appointed three members to the committee: Kitty Stewart, Joseph Panetta and Cynthia Kubala. Panetta has since resigned, citing a health condition.

The committee's mission statement — which the council approved in May — authorizes it to "evaluate, generate and recommend financing strategies, both short and long term." The statement specifically cites the city's procurement procedures as a subject the committee should tackle. No other topics are mentioned, although an "including, but not limited to" clause suggests that the committee may explore other issues at the direction of the mayor and council, and "under the guidance of the City Controller."

The controller, Sandra Clarson, citing her 13 years of experience conducting audits in the New York City comptroller's office, said that procurement has been a top priority for her, adding, "I have proactively discussed many initiatives with both [former] Mayor Spinello and Mayor [Tim] Tenke, and implemented improved procurement policies with our employees to ensure quotes are received and docu-

mented." She also noted that she was looking into obtaining software that would "expedite the purchase requisition process."

Clarson said she had discussed with Tenke the possibility of hiring a purchasing agent, clerk and attorney, which would "allow us to continue improving our procurement efforts for the benefit of Glen Cove taxpayers."

Tenke agreed with Clarson on the importance of procurement, but said that the existing policy — which Clarson implemented in March 2017, detailed in a three-page document — was not "adequate." "The state has [a procurement policy] that's, like, 25 pages," Tenke said. "I don't know how long ours is going to be, but it'll be at least comprehensive enough to make sure that it's sufficient going forward in the future."

In the 2017 election, Silverman won her seat in part because of the aggressive financial reforms she campaigned on. Since her inauguration in January, she has pushed the council in working meetings to establish a finance committee.

Silverman said that the committee's limited scope concerned her. Procure-

ment, she said, is "a reasonable place to start," adding that she hoped the committee would eventually be authorized to address financial practices she frequently brings up at council meetings, including a multi-year financial plan.

Asked whether he would like to see the scope of the committee's work expanded down the line, Tenke said, "Probably, yes, but I won't know until I see what kind of product they put out."

The committee's limited scope was a result of the concerns, he said, of the Republican-majority council "that the Finance Committee was going to overstep its bounds and move into areas that either the mayor or the controller are responsible for."

Asked whether committee members could be given access to the city's computers to avoid having to use Clarson as an intermediary — a role that she has said in the past would create more work for her already stretched-thin staff — she replied that that was not an option, and that "the integrity and security of our system is my first concern."

OBITUARIES

Thomas L. "Thom" Ruckert

Thomas L. "Thom" Ruckert, 72, of Bayville, N.Y., died on July 18, 2018. Beloved husband of Valerie; loving father of Kimbel Martin (James) and Lissa Harris (Dana); cherished grandfather of Tamber Neumann, Jaidyn Martin, Addison Martin, Hazel Harris, and Dexter Harris; dear brother of Luann Kreitzer (Robert); loving brother-in-law of Charles Varca (Carol); proud uncle of Philip Varca, Julie Varca, Zeke Kreitzer, and Jesse Kreitzer. Also survived by many loving relatives and friends. Visiting will be held at Oyster Bay Funeral Home, 261 South St., Oyster Bay, on Saturday and Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. A funeral service will be held at Oyster Bay Funeral Home on Monday, July 23 at 11 a.m., followed by a private interment. In lieu of flowers donations to North Shore Sheltering Program, P.O. Box 415, Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542, would be appreciated.

Lester McFaddin

Lester McFaddin, 78, of Glen Cove, N.Y., died on July 21, 2018. Loving father of Leslie, Lester (Yvette), Laurie and Lorna; proud grandfather of 13 and great-grandfather of 11; also survived by many nieces and nephews. Lester was a professional Welterweight Boxer during the Mohammed Ali Era, and enjoyed playing cards. Visitation at at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Interment private.

Frank T. "Fafie" O'Regan

Frank T. "Fafie" O'Regan, 49, of Glen Cove, N.Y., died on July 19, 2018. Attorney for the NYS Unified Court System; beloved and devoted husband of Claudia; loving father of Victoria and Veronica; cherished grandson of the late Lena and

Attilio D'Ambrosio; adored son-in-law of Donna and the late Richard Colombo; dear brother-in-law of Richard Colombo and Francine Colombo; special uncle of Richie and Cullen; also survived by many loving family and friends. Frank was a member of the Nassau County Bar Association, Glen Cove Hibernians, Sons of Italy Glen Cove Loggia 1016, and former Knights of Columbus. He was also the former Trustee of the Church of St. Rocco, and served as St. Rocco Feast Chairman. Visitation held at the Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Mass at the Church of St. Rocco. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a Go Fund Me: <https://www.gofundme.com/helpfrankbattlebraincancer>

Florence M. Cocks

Florence M. Cocks, 95, died on July 6, 2018. A life long resident of Glen Cove, she passed away peacefully. She is a veteran of

World War Two WAVES and served from May 1943 - Dec. 1945. She retired from the Glen Cove Public Library at age 89 and moved to Florida to be with family. She is predeceased by her parents James and Rose and twin brother James Jr.(Liz); she is survived by nephew Stephen and Great nephew Allen (Kellie) and caring friends. She was laid to rest at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery with Military Honors.

ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLE Solution time: 21 mins.

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OPINIONS

Mr. President, press Putin to tear down your wall

As readers of this column know, I have been generally supportive of President Trump's policies since his election. I agree with him on reducing America's tax and regulatory burdens and his push for fairer trade, for more effort from our NATO allies and for stemming the flood of illegal immigration to the U.S.



**ALFONSE
D'AMATO**

But even when I agree with him, his hardheadedness can make him tough to take. His performance in Helsinki was a case in point. Not since Franklin Roosevelt's attendance at the post-World War II Yalta Conference, which ceded all of Eastern Europe to the dicta-

tor Josef Stalin's Soviet Union, has an American president come home to more vituperation and questioning about U.S.-Russia relations.

What Trump needed to say to Russian President Vladimir Putin was, "My intelligence agencies tell me your intelligence agencies tried to meddle in the 2016 election, which has built a wall around my presidency and made it harder to work with you when and where we should. So please, Mr. Putin, tear down this wall and stop trying

to undermine American democracy. Russians have little to fear from a free America, and much to gain from a freer Russia."

If the president had said these words, he would have come home a hero, like JFK and Ronald Reagan after their famous Berlin Wall trips. Instead, Trump came home a pariah in his own land, with his enemies crying treason and even his friends crying foul.

Of course Russia tried to meddle in the 2016 election. That's what intelligence services do, just as the U.S. maneuvered in favor of the pro-U.S. Boris Yeltsin as the Soviet Union disintegrated, and as we did in Ukraine when we helped push out a pro-Russian president who had actually won an election.

Trump's mistake was triggered by his outsized ego and his fear of acknowledging Russian meddling in 2016, because he wants to believe he won entirely on his own. The reality is, it was Hillary Clinton's deep flaws as a candidate and her awful campaign that cost her the election, not Russian meddling at the margins. Her campaign couldn't have been much worse if Putin had run it for her.

In the meantime, the Trump campaign figured out how to precisely target the key swing states that shifted the Electoral College vote to Trump. And he won those states

because the U.S. political establishment had lost touch with the hardships of the American heartland. It wasn't Russia that eviscerated our industrial economy and left millions of Americans out in the cold. Our clueless leaders did it, and they were roundly rejected in 2016. Trump just deftly caught that wave.

And despite the President's namby-pamby performance in Helsinki, we should remember that the U.S. has stronger sanctions on Russia today than during any previous administration. And let's also understand that Russia is a second-rate economic power, held back by Putin's authoritarian regime. If the country ever becomes more democratic, its great people

will enjoy greater freedom and prosperity than they do now. Russians must decide to cast off their authoritarian past and their comfortableness with strongmen, and embrace freedom.

In the meantime, Trump should work hard to turn this lemon into lemonade with a new press on Putin. After getting a virtual pass from Trump on U.S. election meddling, Putin owes him some help with defusing tension in Ukraine and the Balkans. Russia could also help with Syria, Iran-sponsored terrorism, Mideast peace and North Korean denuclearization. And we should restart talks to reduce the dangers and burdens of

America's and Russia's sizable nuclear arsenals.

Here at home, there are legitimate concerns about the size and scope of our intelligence community. U.S. intelligence is bloated, with too many overlapping spy agencies tripping over themselves. Do we really need 16 different agencies, with 800,000 government employees and outside contractors holding secret security clearances? When everybody knows the secrets, are there really any secrets?

Until recently it was the American left that was complaining loudest about the "dark state." Is the U.S. intelligence community collecting too much information about Americans? It's a legitimate question. We should also recognize that U.S. intelligence has had some major failures, including in Iraq, where its misinformation created chaos.

And while we're at it, it's worth taking a hard look at the West's post-Soviet policies, which pumped up NATO even as the Russian threat receded, and the turmoil we helped foment in Ukraine that threatened Russia's only warm-water naval base in Sebastopol. Meddling has consequences for both sides.

Al D'Amato, a former U.S. senator from New York, is the founder of Park Strategies LLC, a public policy and business development firm. Comments about this column? ADAmato@liherald.com.

Tense? Whip up an Anti-Trump Nut Cake

When the president of the United States appears to take Russia's side on the seesaw of world events, what is a person to do?

As observers, readers and voters, our options, unfortunately, are limited. We rage and rant. So what? We process the news of the day and we commiserate with like-minded friends.

Still, we suffer because deep in our heart of hearts, we know that this president is a unicorn of the worst kind. No leader of the U.S. has ever consorted with our enemies the way Donald Trump does. No president has ever raised questions about his own loyalty to our country.

No leader of the free world has ever lied to his countrymen as obsessively and consistently as this one has. No American president has ever attacked and undermined the common goals and security of our longtime allies the way Trump has.

We know something is very wrong; we just don't know all the details yet, and we don't know how to fix it. When a president

goes rogue, who has the moral authority, the legal precedent and the courage to challenge his decisions?

We speak with our votes, and we must get out for the midterm election. We can encourage others to vote. Some of us have a bully pulpit, and we must keep resisting the Trumpian push toward authoritarianism.

But how to deal with the 4:00-in-the-morning fears that the bad guys could actually win this fight for America's destiny? How to stay reasonably calm while summoning the confidence that this desperate and dysfunctional president can be stopped from stepping over a line or making a mistake that can't be undone. He walks back his comments nearly every day, but he cannot un-push a red button or bring back to life soldiers who die in his service.

For people like me who worry about our direction and our integrity as a nation, there are coping mechanisms we can employ during this time of national angst. Some folks exercise, running off their anxiety. Some friends meet to talk endlessly about the tangled web of political intrigue. Others find themselves hyper-focused on TV news.

I have stepped up my cooking and bak-

ing, and I urge readers to do the same. It is basic, it is available to all of us and it is therapeutic. Just because it's obvious doesn't mean it isn't viable.

There's something about preparing food that comforts the heart and mind. It's a perfect anxiety-reducing activity in that it requires focus and attention to detail and process, and there is a big payoff at the end — a delicious treat or meal or dessert.

I have been heavy into summer soups, room-temperature minestrone and spicy bean soups. I cook nearly every day, some meal that forces me to read a recipe, move about my kitchen and put together something that we will enjoy at dinner time.

Try it, even if you're among the majority of readers who don't cook on a regular basis. You have it all there in your house: the stove, the oven and the fridge. No expensive equipment or special clothing is necessary.

Choose a reasonably complex recipe that looks inviting to you, and go for it. Get lost in the butter and eggs. Knead some bread dough or whip up an interesting cake. It's good good.

Want to try a foolproof recipe, which I have renamed for our moment in history?

Preparing food comforts the heart and mind. It's a perfect anxiety-reducing activity.

Have a go at Anti-Trump Nut Cake.

Ingredients

- 1½ pounds blanched whole almonds
- 1 pound Brazil nuts
- Half-pound walnut halves
- Half-pound pecan halves
- 1½ pounds pitted dates
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Directions

Preheat oven to 275 degrees. Line two 5 x 9-inch loaf pans with greased parchment paper. Combine the almonds, Brazil nuts, walnuts and pecans; mix well.

Sift together the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Combine with nut mixture and mix well. Beat eggs and vanilla, add to nut and flour mixture and mix well.

Press into two lined loaf pans and bake for 1½ to 2 hours. Set aside for five minutes and remove from pans. Completely cool on wire rack.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

For everyone's sake, Nassau needs more bike trails

Nassau County should take note of what neighboring Suffolk County is doing. The Suffolk County Legislature voted to approve the borrowing of \$8.82 million to build a 14-mile-long “rails to trails” bike and jogging path from Port Jefferson to Wading River at its July 17 meeting.

According to the most recent numbers, Suffolk has 370 miles of bike lanes (excluding trails confined to parks), while Nassau has just 11. A 2017 New York Times article stated that daily bike trips in New York City, where there are 425 miles of bike lanes, had increased to 450,000, up from 170,000 in 2005. Similar numbers for Nassau County weren't available, however.

The absence of bike lanes along most of the county's major roads makes it evident that the cycling revolution has skipped Nassau, which clearly needs more trails.

To paraphrase “Field of Dreams”: If you build them, they will come. With summer in full swing, many residents are looking for every opportunity to get outside, which can be difficult for those who work 9-to-5 jobs. Bicycling to work or while doing errands presents an opportunity to make the most of the warm weather.

Beyond that, the health benefits of cycling have been well documented. According to Harvard Medical School, not only does riding a bike promote a

healthy heart and brain through aerobic exercise, and build muscle in the legs, shoulders and core, but it can also increase bone density and is easier on lower-leg joints than walking.

In fact, bicycling more could save American lives. A 2015 study by the American Journal of Public Health found that in the Netherlands, where about 27 percent of all trips are made by bike, cycling prevents about 6,500 deaths a year — a total economic health benefit of about 19 billion euros, or \$22.1 billion.

Transform Scotland, a group that campaigns for more sustainable transportation options, found that in 2012, bicycle tours contributed over 2 billion pounds, or about \$1.3 billion, to the economy of the United Kingdom. Nassau County is home to some of the most popular beaches in the world, where there is no shortage of bike racks. Investing in infrastructure that supports bicyclists headed to and from the ocean — and elsewhere across the county — could pay for itself, should the cycling scene take off here.

In October 2017, the New York State Department of Transportation announced its intent to build a bike lane along Ocean Parkway on the barrier island. It would pick up where the Ellen Farrant Memorial Bikeway ends, at Jones Beach, on the Wantagh State Parkway, and extend for 10 miles to Tobay Beach. Some cycling advocates have argued that that still isn't enough, and

the lane should continue to the Robert Moses Causeway. It could then either turn south, to Robert Moses State Park, or north, to Montauk Highway, where it could connect Nassau County to Suffolk's many paths.

A whole new world of bicycle paths and trails could be opened to Nassau riders — a world that's much safer, too. According to the state Department of Health, from 2012 through 2014, the most recent years from which data is available, an average of three bicyclists were killed in traffic accidents each year. Giving cyclists their own spot on the road would protect them, and ease the commute for motorists as well.

Creating safer situations for bicyclists would surely encourage more people to use two wheels, diminishing their dependence on their cars. Even if the prospect of riding to and from work is untenable, think of all the small trips that could be made without polluting the planet by burning fossil fuels.

A ride to the gym, a ride to the store, a ride to the beach. They all add up. According to the federal Environmental Protection Agency, a typical passenger vehicle emits about 4.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. Reducing that number could be instrumental in slowing down climate change.

Nassau County should embrace the power of pedaling. A more welcoming environment for cyclists could create a healthier environment for all.

LETTERS

Charter commission works hard

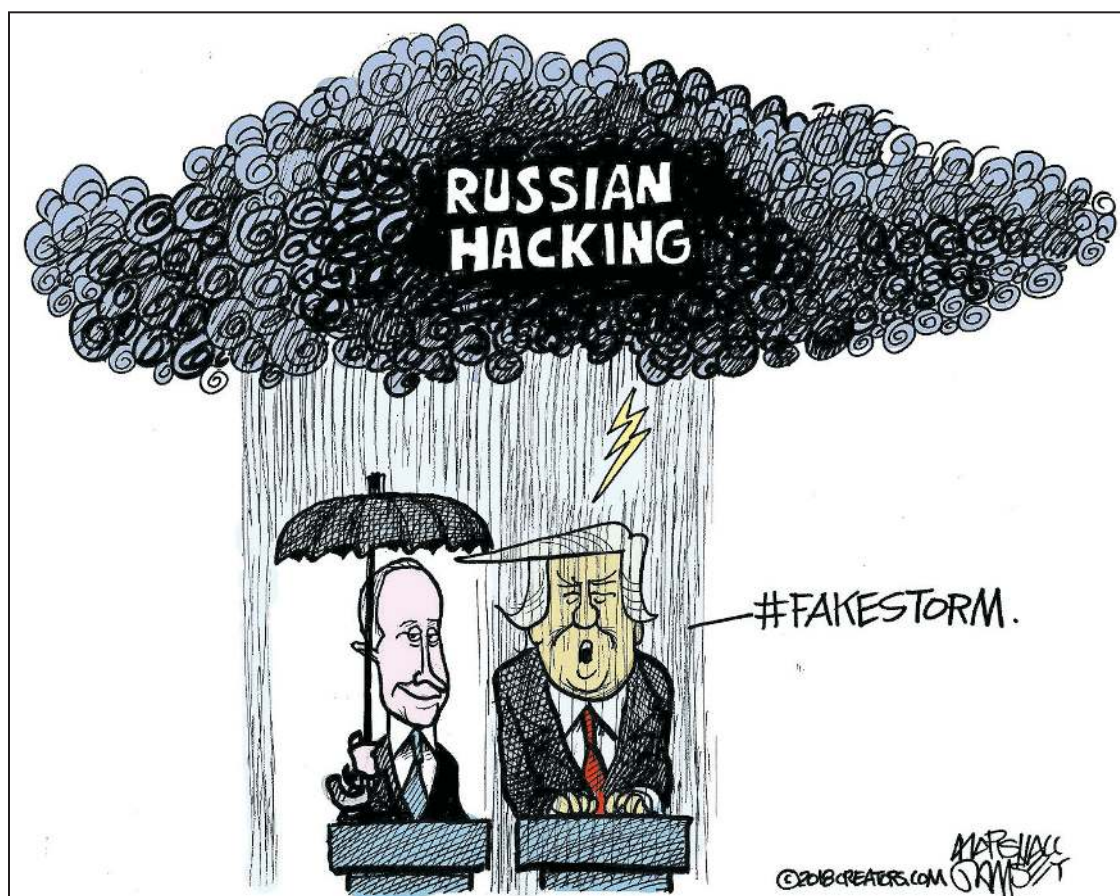
To the Editor:

I was extremely saddened by Jack Villella's statement in “New obstacle for G.C. city charter reform” (July 19-25) accusing the Glen Cove Charter Revision Commission of being a “cobbled together” group of citizens doing “nefarious work” not intended to deliver results for the citizens.

The commission, appointed in 2015, is completing its fourth year of meetings, during which we reviewed the 53-page charter in detail, interviewed department heads and other interested parties, explored charters from other cities throughout New York state and debated the pros and cons of various revisions.

We have presented 24 proposed charter amendments to the City Council during this time, all of which were considered at public hearings and adopted.

For the past year, we have been exploring and discussing revisions to the charter that would require a public referendum. We dis-



OPINIONS

Facing a November trainwreck

I'm positive that not one reader knows the name Lou Wolfe, an obscure state legislator from Plattsburgh. Lou was a great roommate for our group of freshman legislators from Long Island back in the 1960s. Although he came from a very conservative area of the state, he managed to get elected because he campaigned as an independent.



**JERRY
KREMER**

In 1968, then Gov. Nelson Rockefeller proposed the original version of what would become Medicaid. It was a bold move, but in the view of conservatives, this was a government giveaway. On the night of the big vote, we warned Lou that if he voted "yes," he

probably wouldn't get re-elected. But he told us that the leadership wanted it, and he would go along and back them. Because Lou was one of the deciding votes on the passage of the bill, he was soundly defeated eight months later when he ran for re-election.

The reason I tell this story is because I watch the daily activities of the Republi-

can Party in Washington and wonder if they understand the political climate in 2018 and the perils they face because of their rigid, unquestioned support of President Trump. The party has a long history of being in lockstep with its president, but there are millions of voters who consider themselves independent, and therein lies the danger for the Republicans.

Any elected official who represents a congressional district that changes support from election to election should be concerned about slavishly supporting a president who continues to confuse the world and his country about what he will do or say the next time he opens his mouth. The Helsinki meeting, which has been described by many elected officials in both parties as a disaster, should make some legislators think twice about continuing to follow their president at any cost.

If you take an objective look at developments around the country, there are a number of movements leaning toward supporting Democratic candidates in the upcoming election. The female voters of this country are more energized than at

any time in history, and their passion can't be ignored. The pending confirmation of a Supreme Court justice who is expected to support an attack on Roe v. Wade is stirring up enormous concern among voters in both major parties.

America's relationship with its European allies has been badly fractured by continuous verbal attacks by the president. His insistence that those countries put up more money for defense is fair, but when he won his argument, there was no reason to keep shaming the alliance. His specific attack on German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in an attempt to stir up anger against her in her country, is outrageous.

As for his assaults on NATO, how do you criticize an organization that gave America enormous support in the aftermath of 9/11? In fact, to date the United States is the only major NATO member that has ever invoked the organization's agreement to provide support for any member that suffers a national tragedy. Not every American voter is focused on foreign affairs, but the voting public isn't stupid, and knows that any democratic

nation needs all the help it can get in times of trouble.

The president's love affair with Russian President Vladimir Putin should worry every Republican elected official in Washington. For my entire life, the Republicans as a party have considered Russia our enemy. It has consistently tried to undermine our democratic institutions, and the idea that it is time to make peace ignores the fact that the country will *always* be our enemy. Most Republican officials are mute on the issue of the hacking of the Democratic National Committee because they think it was good for their party.

Republican members of Congress who I know tell me that the administration's tax cuts and the cutting of regulations are the "light at the end of the tunnel" that will carry them to victory in November. Like my friend Lou Wolfe learned, the light in that tunnel is really a train coming from the opposite direction. Embracing a president who is out of control is the party's potential November trainwreck.

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

LETTERS

tributed a questionnaire to residents on the internet and mailed a hard copy to gather input from residents. We also held two public information meetings.

As a courtesy to the City Council, I recently asked to make a presentation of our proposed referendum items to be voted on in November. During the presentation, I was told by the city attorney, who has been attending our meetings, that our commission may not be legally empowered to present these items to the public. I don't know why we weren't told this earlier, nor do I know if it is correct.

Regardless of the final outcome, I want to publicly thank the dedicated members of the commission for their time and commitment to this effort. After 40 years of community involvement, I have learned that it is because of residents such as those serving on the commission that Glen Cove is, and will continue to be, such a special place to live.

CAROLYN WILLSON

*Chair, Charter Review Commission
Glen Cove*

Come to the rally on Sunday

To the Editor:

By now, it is no secret that the United States is suffering from an epidemic of gun violence. It is quite easy to list the statistics, to retweet a politician's condemnation of the most recent instance of gun-

related deaths, or to call it a shame. I highly doubt anyone is unaware of the facts.

But while it may seem as though these markers of "awareness" are cycled and recycled through the general public with every shooting, there is a noticeable disconnect between awareness and political action. I'm a politically active person, and that has frustrated me to my core.

As an intern for U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, I have finally been given an opportunity to close that gap. I am inviting any and all who are frustrated with senseless acts of gun violence and who are ready to see legislative change to the upcoming Students Against Gun Violence Rally on Sunday, July 29, at Breezy Park in Huntington.

The apathy of the electorate is a simple fact of democracy. For as long as it has been our popular political system, there have been disengaged citizens who opt not to vote in elections or participate in the democratic system. However, the larger issue is that people who want to be involved in political action often feel as though it is more difficult to get involved in politics than it actually is. Political engagement can be something as simple as voting or registering eligible voters, or something as involved as volunteering on a campaign. It is important to remind voters who feel intimidated by politics that democracy is not supposed to be exclusive.

Sunday's event isn't just a rally for awareness. This is an invitation to call your representatives, volunteer for campaigns you feel optimistic about, and most important, exercise your right to vote this

FRAMEWORK by Ben Strack



On the balcony of a great Airbnb find — Makaha Valley, Oahu, Hawaii

November. There will be passionate students registering voters and handing out absentee ballot applications to ensure that young, eligible voters are exercising their right to vote. Congressman Suozzi will be speaking to the crowd to promote legislative change on the issue.

If there has ever been a time to take the leap and get involved in politics, it is now.

Midterm elections are fast approaching. The time to mobilize awareness into direct political action has come. Let your vote be a vote for a leader who is passionate about creating legislation to end gun violence.

ZOE EISENSTEIN
Sea Cliff

Real Estate Market Report

2nd Quarter, 2018 | Glen Cove



Year Over Year

2Q 2018: 42 Closed Transactions

Average Days on Market: **90**

Average Closing Price: **\$600,595**

2Q 2017: 50 Closed Transactions

Average Days on Market: **119**

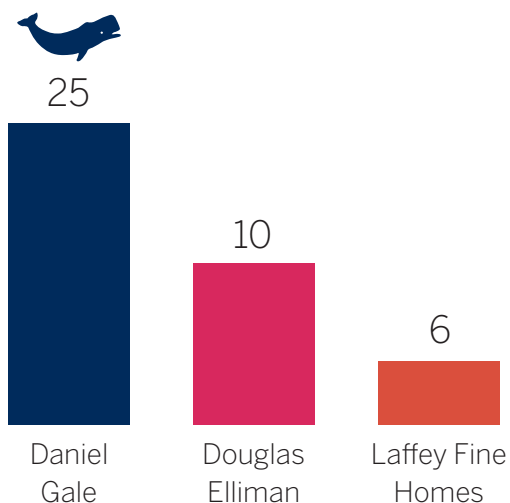
Average Closing Price: **\$648,396**

Closed Transactions By Price Bracket

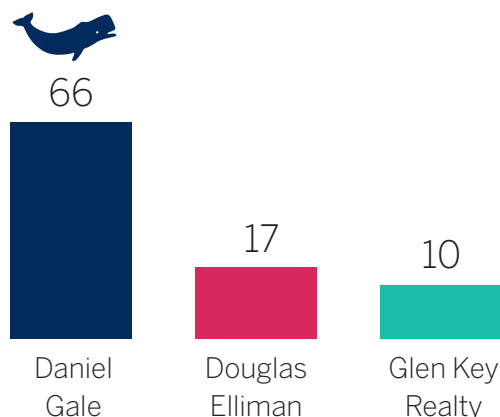
- >\$499,999 **14**
- \$500,000 – \$749,999 **19**
- \$750,000 – \$999,999 **3**
- \$1,000,000 – \$1,249,999 **3**
- \$1,249,999 – \$1,500,000 **2**

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*All data per MLSLI residential & condo/coop information. 2Q 2018 = 4/1/18 – 6/30/18.