

GLEN COVE
HERALD
Gazette



Late-summer flavors

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Artist captures ephemeral nature

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Zach Gottehrer-Cohen/Herald Gazette

Who's got the magic bait?

About 85 young anglers gathered at the newly repaired Pryibil Beach pier on Saturday for the 40th annual Snapper Derby. Story, Page 9.

City Council votes to block charter reform ballot measures

By **ZACH GOTTEHRER-COHEN**
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As he listened to residents voice their concerns about renewing the Glen Cove City Charter Review Commission, on which he has served for three years, Glen Howard let out a series of frustrated sighs.

The stakes were high. After three years of studying the structures of other municipalities, deliberating and debating

the merits of important changes to city government — whether to implement term limits, or lengthen terms to three or four years, or stagger terms to avoid a complete turnover of the mayor and council in a single election — the commission was prepared to put these charter amendments up to a public vote, and let the people decide whether to change the structure of their government or keep it the way it is.

Resident Tip Henderson com-

plained that the public wasn't informed enough to weigh in on the proposals in November. "The problem is, I haven't been persuaded," he said of the proposed charter amendments. It was the commission's job to spread the word, he said, and it had failed to do so.

Commission secretary Dave Nieri said that all of its meetings were open to the public, and that it had held two public informa-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

What's going on with G.C.'s batting cages?

By **ZACH GOTTEHRER-COHEN**
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Glen Cove residents involved in the city's Little League, those on Facebook and Herald Gazette readers are probably well acquainted with Michael Cervini's crusade to refurbish the three batting cages at the John Maccarone Memorial Stadium, also known as City Stadium.

The batting cages need new netting and new artificial turf, according to Cervini — a 25-year resident of the city, and a coach and sponsor of the league — and pose a safety risk to children who would use them. He also contends that if they were in better condition, they would be used more frequently.

Cervini has made his point persistently at City Council meetings, in emails to league members, on the Glen Cove Neighbors Facebook page and, most recently, in an advertisement in the Herald Gazette's Aug. 16-22 issue.

The ad bears the simple head-

line, "Why?" by which Cervini means, why have his complaints — which he began voicing about two years ago — "fallen on deaf ears?"

The ears he was referring to belong to Darcy Belyea, who runs the city's Parks and Recreation

We would want it done right, and we would want it done safe.

TERRY DAILEY
Parks foreman
Glen Cove

department. She said she feels attacked by Cervini's campaign, during which he has described her as an obstructionist, and as unwilling to listen. Those critiques are relatively kind compared with the comments that appear on social media beneath Cervini's posts, which often contain harsh

words accompanied by calls for Belyea to be replaced.

"There are no safety issues," she said of the batting cages. "It's been used without injury for 15 years."

"Honestly," she told the Herald Gazette, "it's personal." Belyea has been the recipient of several recent public scoldings, including for her department's handling of a countywide lifeguard shortage

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Suing an opioid manufacturer

State, county take on Purdue Pharma

By **ERIK HAWKINS**
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New York Attorney General Barbara Underwood last week joined dozens of states and New York counties in suing OxyContin manufacturer Purdue Pharma for its alleged role in causing the opioid crisis.

“Our investigation found a pattern of deception and reckless disregard for New Yorkers’ health and wellbeing as Purdue lined its own pockets by deliberately exploiting our communities and fueling an opioid epidemic that’s destroyed families across the state,” Underwood said. “We’re now holding Purdue to account for this reprehensible and illegal conduct.”

The state lawsuit alleges that Purdue for years marketed its opioids fraudulently to doctors and patients, and concealed or downplayed the risk of addiction as part of a “concerted effort to increase sales of its opioid products.”

Deceptive marketing?

Dr. Michael Belfiore, who practiced in Merrick, was convicted in May after a five-week federal trial of overprescribing opioids and causing the overdose deaths of two patients. His initial defense closely mirrored the state’s claims against Purdue.

In pre-trial motions, Belfiore’s attorney, Tom Liotti, argued extensively in court papers and interviews with the Herald that Belfiore was “wrongfully prosecuted because he relied upon false and misleading marketing and advertising campaigns” by Purdue.

Although Liotti was not allowed to present much of his case against Purdue during his trial, he did show the Herald several Purdue marketing videos in which doctors touted opioids as “our best, strongest tools for pain,” and called the idea that they have a propensity for causing addiction “a misconception.”

Underwood’s announcement came just months after a State Supreme Court judge refused to dismiss a multi-county suit against Purdue and other manufacturers.

Nassau joined Suffolk County last year in a suit alleging a case of “corporate greed” and deceptive marketing that led to a drug epidemic that the counties have each spent millions of dollars to fight.

“The manufacturers of these opioids pretty much did a sophisticated, highly deceptive and unfair marketing campaign that continues today,” said Salvatore Badala, of Napoli Shkolnik, the co-lead counsel for the counties, in May. “They made people believe that you can take opioids pretty much for any kind of pain, and they should not have been marketed that way. That’s what led to this addiction problem.”

Purdue asked Judge Jerry Gargiulo in November 2017 to throw out the counties’ suit. Purdue’s attorneys, in court papers, insisted that the counties’ claims were pre-empted by federal law because the company’s opioids were regulated and approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Also, Purdue argued that many of the allegations fell outside the statute of limitations, and that the company could not be held liable for statements about opioids made by “non-branded” medical experts and trade publications.

Gargiulo denied each element of Purdue’s motion to dismiss in a June 18 order, ruling that the case could continue.

“The manufacturer defendants’ arguments are insufficient to warrant dismissal,” Gargiulo wrote. “It is at least arguable that the manufacturer defendants were in a position to anticipate or prevent the claimed injuries; it does not seem unfair, therefore, to hold them potentially accountable.”

Liotti attempted to join the Suffolk County suit against Purdue on behalf of Belfiore — even as Nas-

Opioid overdoses in Nassau and beyond

From 2012 to 2015, 671 Nassau residents died of heroin or prescription opioid overdoses, according to county police.

In New York alone, there were 3,086 deaths from overdoses involving opioids in 2016, and 2,399 of those deaths were the result of opioid painkillers, including those sold by Purdue, according to State Attorney General

Barbara Underwood.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and the State Department of Health, between 1996 and 2006, consumption of the opioid hydrocodone increased per person in New York from roughly 2,000 milligrams to 12,000.

In the same period, oxycodone consumption per person increased by 1,000 milligrams to 16,000.

sau initially named Belfiore as a defendant in its suit — but Gargiulo turned down his request. Liotti told the Herald that he had hoped a civil victory for the counties would bolster Belfiore’s defense in the criminal trial.

Belfiore is in federal custody pending his October sentencing, at which he will face a mandatory minimum of 20 years in prison, a \$10 million fine and civil forfeiture. He has new representation, and still plans to appeal the guilty verdict.

According to Underwood, in 2016, 3,086 New Yorkers died of opioid overdoses — and 2,399 of those were due to painkillers, including Purdue’s.

Underwood’s complaint also accuses Purdue of continuing to engage in deceptive marketing, even after it had reached an agreement with the state in 2015 to cease the practices.

Underwood wants Purdue to pay civil penalties, be enjoined from continuing its allegedly fraudulent marketing and reimburse the state for the cost of fighting the drug crisis.

Purdue reacts

In a published statement last week, Purdue officials said that they shared Underwood’s concern about the opioid crisis, and that the company’s opioids account for less than 2 percent of total prescriptions.

Purdue’s attorneys, however, pushed back against the state’s claims, echoing arguments made in their motion to dismiss the counties’ lawsuit.

“We vigorously deny the state’s allegations,” they wrote. “The state claims Purdue acted improperly by communicating with prescribers about scientific and medical information that FDA has expressly considered, and continues to approve. We believe it is inappropriate for the state to substitute its judgment for the judgment of the regulatory, scientific and medical experts at FDA.”

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, on Aug. 14, said that the opioid crisis was manufactured by “unscrupulous distributors” in a \$400 billion industry.

“I pledged that we will hold these companies responsible for their reprehensible actions,” Cuomo said. “This lawsuit sends a clear message to all those who mislead the public to increase their profit margins that we will hold you accountable for your actions.”

Purdue’s legal fights

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal urges Purdue to help curb OxyContin abuse. Purdue has a “moral, if not legal obligation to take effective steps and address addiction and abuse,” he said in a later statement.



Purdue settles a lawsuit filed in 2001 by the West Virginia attorney general for \$10 million, to be paid over four years, for drug abuse and education programs. The suit charged the company with deceptive marketing.



Purdue pays a \$600 million settlement when three executives plead guilty to “misbranding” medication, two days after agreeing to pay \$19.5 million to 26 states and the District of Columbia to settle complaints that it encouraged physicians to overprescribe OxyContin.



Blumenthal sues the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, trying to effect a crackdown on Purdue’s marketing and distribution practices.



Purdue agrees to pay the state of Kentucky \$24 million to settle a 2007 lawsuit alleging the company misled doctors and the public about opioids.



Suffolk County sues Purdue and other opioid manufacturers, accusing the companies of launching a “coordinated, sophisticated and highly deceptive marketing campaign” to convince doctors and patients that the reward of using opioids outweighed the addictive medications’ risks.



Nassau County launches its own suit against Purdue and other manufacturers alleging that deceptive marketing led to a drug epidemic the county has shelled out millions of dollars to fight.



Nassau joins Suffolk’s suit, along with a number of other New York counties, as discovery begins before Judge Jerry Gargiulo in State Supreme Court.



Judge Gargiulo denies Purdue’s motion to dismiss the charges against them in the multi-county lawsuit.



New York State Attorney General Barbara Underwood files suit against Purdue.





Courtesy Tab Hauser

THE GLEN COVE City Council voted on Tuesday not to renew the Charter Review Commission, preventing it from putting three charter amendments on the ballot in November.

Citizens 'denied' vote on charter changes

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

tion sessions. The Herald Gazette has reported extensively on the work of the commission, and has sought experts to weigh in on its proposals. Henderson insisted that the commission's findings should have been presented to the public in a formal report.

The City Council voted 5-2 against renewing the commission, with Tenke and Councilwoman Pamela Panzenbeck voting in the minority. Once the votes were cast, Howard — a City Hall regular known for his deep knowledge of, and almost religious devotion to, parliamentary procedure — grumbled, not quietly, "Political bull---t."

Later in the meeting, during the public comment section, Howard shared his displeasure with the council. "You didn't give [the people] a choice," he said. "You didn't give them a chance to do what a democracy would do. You've denied the public the right to make a decision. . . .

And as of tonight, as far as I'm concerned, I won't be volunteering for anything that the city has."

Under normal circumstances, New York state municipal law gives charter commissions the power to put amendments on a ballot measure without the governing body's approval. But City Attorney Charlie McQuair — who, since the commission's formation in 2015, had been advising it on legal matters — didn't realize until late July that it had passed a two-year deadline to propose referenda, and would have to be reauthorized by the council if it were to exercise that power in November. That left just one regular council meeting, Tuesday's, for the council to vote on the commission's fate before an early-September dead-

line to submit ballot measures to the Nassau County Board of Elections.

In voting not to renew the commission, councilmen Joseph Capobianco and Mike Zangari said that it wasn't the "right time" to do so. Others, including Kevin Maccarone and Marsha Silvermen, said that the survey put out by the commission — which received between 200 and 300 responses — did not demonstrate sufficient community engagement to justify voting to allow the group to complete its work. "I just don't think the interest is there right now," Maccarone said.

The vote came amid calls from another group, Reboot Glen Cove, for more than 20 charter amendments that include, but go well beyond, the amendments proposed by the Charter Review

Commission, including the transfer of important mayoral powers to a council-appointed city manager, the geographic division of the city into council districts that would each elect their own representatives, and the restriction or abolition of the Glen Cove Industrial and Community Development agencies.

Philip Pidot, a Reboot organizer who ran unsuccessfully as a Republican candidate for City Council in 2015, told the Herald Gazette in July that the group was close to amassing the almost 600 signatures required to force the council to vote on its proposals. Although Reboot has met informally with the council and asked it to consider its proposals, it has not officially submitted them for consideration.

Citing Reboot's supporters, and the commission's surveys, Glen Cove resident Drew Lawrence asked, "When is enough enough? If there's interest in changing the charter, the people should be heard."

You've denied the public the right to make a decision.

GLEN HOWARD
Charter Review
Commission member

Golden Eye marks 20 years of 'building dreams'

By **ALYSSA SEIDMAN**

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What was once a nondescript two-story home on The Boulevard has been transformed. Its exterior, now a palette of natural hues and alluring textures is bolstered by cream-colored cement walls, capped off by a silver tin roof.

Through the front door the fresh, open floor plan gives way to floor-to-ceiling windows that reveal the waterfront, making it seem as if the sands of nearby Sea Cliff Beach are a part of the newly renovated home.

Glen Head-based construction company Golden Eye has been renovating the home since early February and, much like its two-decade-long legacy of delivering quality home improvements, the soon-to-be finished product is something out of a dream.

"It's been amazing to work with them," said Candice Loshen, who is moving into the Sea Cliff site from Sands Point this summer. "They had my vision and were just as excited as I was and were diligent about the project."

Golden Eye was founded in 1998 by third generation master carpenter Michael Emmert, of Glen Head. For the past 20 years, he and his team of certified carpenters have done a range of projects across the North Shore. From full-fledge revamps to smaller, custom jobs, Emmert says, "You



Alyssa Seidman/Herald Gazette

GOLDEN EYE'S PRESIDENT Michael Emmert and project manager Rob Aquilina.

name it we've built it."

"Not only do we get to build these beautiful homes, but we get to drive by them every day and say hello to our clients and ask them how they're doing, and how they're enjoying it," he added. "It's a lot of fun."

About 70 percent of the company's jobs are contracted in Sea Cliff and Glen Head, which is a point of pride for Emmert, who is a graduate of North Shore High School and the coach of the varsity wrestling team.

"There's nothing better than being able to work in your own community," he said.

The addition of Golden Eye's project manager, Rob Aquilina, of Levittown, has enabled the company to run a more efficient business system, Emmert said. "A lot of contractors know how to build stuff, but running a company is not really their forte."

Each project is headed by a lead carpenter who works one-on-one with a client through every step of the process. If a client

requests a change or desires additional work on the site, they will know the new "substantial completion date" from the moment they sign the change order.

"We're not just an eight to four job," Aquilina said. "We have good relationships with our customers and we talk to them even when the job is done to make sure everyone is happy."

Another defining aspect of Golden Eye is its membership with the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, an organization of high-quality professionals committed to integrity, high standards, education, ethics and market recognition.

"We put a lot of time and effort into educating not only ourselves, but our employees [to make sure] the job is going to turn out great," Emmert said. "That's what we do for a living. We build dreams on these beautiful houses."

And it is time well-spent.

In the coming weeks, Golden Eye will launch a separate division of the company through Marvin Inc., the second largest window and door company in the world. The concept of providing high-end products and assured customer satisfaction for clients is paramount.

"We love our clients, and the fact that they love us back is the important thing," Emmert said. "I think if we can make our clients happier when we leave from when we showed up, then we did a good job."

Finance committee appointments tabled

By ZACH GOTTEHRER-COHEN

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At Tuesday's City Council meeting, Mayor Tim Tenke moved, and the council voted, to table four nominations to the Glen Cove finance committee after Councilwoman Marsha Silverman objected to one of them — Tom Hopke — on the grounds that he worked for Nelson, Pope & Voorhis, a civil engineering firm with longtime business ties to the city.

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.

Nearly four months after the committee was established, three of its five seats remain unfilled. As of Tuesday's meeting, the council has had the opportunity to vote on eight candidates. Of the three that had been approved, one dropped out, citing his health.

In response to Silverman's concern about a conflict of interest, City Attorney Charles McQuair said that legally, conflict restrictions were limited to officials with the power to make or enforce laws, and that the finance committee was advisory in nature.

Tenke later told the Herald Gazette that he had known that Hopke worked for Nel-

son, Pope & Voorhis, but didn't think it would be a problem because his co-committee members would act as a check on his input.

Silverman moved to remove Hopke's nomination from the agenda, but before her motion could be seconded, Tenke moved to table all four nominations. He later said, “If we had dropped the one, I thought that might potentially affect the ones that were left [on the agenda].” He clarified, “There might have been resentment . . . among some council members.”

For the past several City Council meetings, some disclosure has come up — the fact that the Morgan Park bathroom contractors had been paid without the mayor having signed a contract, for example, or a previously un-accounted for bond payment that changed the discussion on water rate hikes — that gave Silverman a reason to say, “This is why, as I've been saying for months, we need the finance committee to begin its work.”

Tuesday's meeting was no exception. Based on the research done by a member of the public, the council learned that Turner Miller Group, a planning firm that the city renewed a standing professional services contract with in January, had been dissolved the previous year. In other words, the council — minus Silverman who voted ‘nay’ — had approved a contract with a company that no longer existed.

Mayor's Column

On July 31, we held an emergency City Council meeting. I want to thank everyone who came out to express their ideas and concerns regarding the level and method of fiscal oversight currently in place in the City of Glen Cove. I want also to say that you were heard, loud and clear.

It was very plain that our community is demanding both transparency and accountability in the fiscal management of our city. This is only right. This city government functions as the manager of your tax dollars and you have every right to insist on a rigorous structure that assures strict guidelines and responsible oversight.

We are in the process of appointing a Finance Committee to help us understand and meet our needs in policy, procedure, infra-structure and support per-

sonnel. This committee, though not fully staffed, has begun the information gathering process needed to make recommendations to the City Council on our current purchasing structure. I will be presenting additional candidates at the Aug. 28 City Council meeting and hope to have this committee fully staffed at that time.



TIM TENKE

I assure you that I take seriously the fiduciary responsibilities vested in me. These first steps toward revamping our current policies and procedures are the beginning of a concerted effort to assure appropriate systems, reporting, management and planning throughout our operations. I appreciate your support as we invest the time needed to assure that ideas have been vetted and consensus built as we move forward.

Let us Know

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

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

Send to llane@liherald.com

CRIME WATCH

Arrests

■ Female, 51, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Elm Avenue for DUI, fifth-degree criminal possession of controlled substance, resisting arrest, harassment and other related charges on Aug. 20.

■ Male, 60, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Forest Avenue for petit larceny on Aug. 20.

■ Male, 28, of Cedarhurst, was arrested on Glen Street for third-degree sexual abuse and forcible touching on Aug. 20.

■ Male, 45, of Nesconset, was arrested on Glen Cove Avenue for consuming alcohol in public on Aug. 21.

■ Female, 43, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Ruby Drive on two counts for endangering the welfare of a child on Aug. 23.

■ Male, 16, of Glen Cove, was arrested

on McLoughlin Street for seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of marijuana on Aug. 23.

■ Female, 39, of Locust Valley female was arrested on Walnut Road for DWI on Aug. 20.

■ Female, 31, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Dosoris Lane for second-degree harassment on Aug. 24.

■ Male, 31, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Laurel Avenue for third-degree assault, aggravated criminal contempt, obstruction of breathing (2 counts) and endangering the welfare of a child on Aug. 24.

■ Male, 19, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Orian Place for seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and carrying an open container of alcohol on Aug. 24.

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

NEWS BRIEF

City's E-Waste and paper shredding on Sept. 8

On Saturday, September 8, the Glen Cove Department of Public Works will host an E-Waste collection day and paper shredding event at the DPW yard, 100 Morris Avenue.

From 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Glen Cove residents are invited to recycle the following electronic waste items: Televisions, VCRs, Stereos, Electronic Games, Printers, Fax Machines, Computer Monitors, Laptops, Hard Drives, Keyboards, Mice, Cables, DVRs and Cable Boxes. Items that are not acceptable include microwaves and other small household appliances which can be safely disposed of by scheduling their pick up as part of the city's weekly metal pick-up on

Wednesdays by calling DPW by 3pm on Tuesdays. Cell phones are no longer accepted but can be returned to any cell phone retailer.

“Instilling environmental best practices within our community and offering services that help Glen Cove residents recycle is critical to helping our city become greener,” said Mayor Tim Tenke.

The paper shredding collection will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon or until the shredder truck is full. Residents can shred confidential papers with a limit of two banker's boxes per person.

For more information please visit the Department of Public Works, 9 Glen Street, 3rd floor or call (516) 676-4402.

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HOW TO REACH US

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Nearby things to do this week



Broadway Spectacular at the senior center

On Thursday, Aug. 30, enjoy a wonderful dinner as professional Broadway stars sing and dance to your favorite songs from the shows you love. Featuring Lauryn Ciardullo, Andrew Hodge and Joey Chancey. Tickets are just \$10. Seating is limited. Reservations are recommended. Call (516) 759-9610 to make reservations or for more information. Glen Cove Senior Center, 130 Glen St., Glen Cove, 6 to 8 p.m.

Make jewelry at Garvies Point this fall

Starting Sept. 12, residents can sign up for this eight-week course at Garvies Point Museum and Preserve. With projects designed for beginners and experts alike, you will learn ring making, stone setting, wax carving, and more. Learn to saw, form, drill, hammer, solder and polish your very own jewelry pieces. The cost is \$240; classes take place Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 50 Barry Dr., Glen Cove. Info: (516) 571-8010.



Final cruise in O.B.

Oyster Bay's final Cruise Night will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 4 on Audrey Avenue in the hamlet. This weekly event encompasses many restaurants and shops that surround an amazing collection of fun and interesting cars. The town is alive with laughter and energy as live music fills the streets. Cruise Night starts at 5:45 p.m. and runs 'til dusk.

Labor Day weekend in the gardens

Stroll through Old Westbury Gardens lush acres throughout the weekend. Kids can take in a "Storybook Stroll," on Saturday, Sept. 1, at 10:30 a.m., or check out Peggy Phipps' childhood on Sunday, Sept. 2. Kids can use their imaginations with the interactive toy materials to spur creative fun. Everyone can enjoy wandering through the gardens filled with late summer blooms. Info: (516) 333-0048 or www.oldwestburygardens.org.



In a 'New York State of Mind...'



River of Dreams, the Billy Joel tribute band, visits Planting Fields Arboretum, on Saturday, Sept. 1, 6-7:30 p.m., for a lively salute to the Piano Man. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and even a picnic and enjoy some dynamic renditions of Joel's beloved tunes on the park's lush grounds. Info: (516) 922-8600 or www.plantingfields.org.

When The Spine Shifts...

- ▶ Arm Pain
- ▶ Asymmetry
- ▶ Bone Spurs
- ▶ Carpal Tunnel(Wrist)
- ▶ Canal Stenosis
- ▶ Decreased Motion
- ▶ Degenerated Joints
- ▶ Digestive Disorders
- ▶ Disc Herniations
- ▶ Dizziness (Vertigo)
- ▶ Dowager's Hump
- ▶ Fatigue
- ▶ Fibromyalgia
- ▶ Golfer's Elbow
- ▶ Headaches
- ▶ Hearing Issues
- ▶ Low Back Pain
- ▶ Mid Back Pain
- ▶ Migraine Headaches
- ▶ Muscle Spasm
- ▶ Muscle Tension
- ▶ Muscular Imbalance
- ▶ Neck Pain
- ▶ Numbness/Tingling
- ▶ Pinched Nerve
- ▶ Poor Posture
- ▶ Rotator Cuff Issues
- ▶ Scoliosis
- ▶ Shoulder Pain
- ▶ Sinus Conditions
- ▶ Spinal Decay
- ▶ Strength Issues
- ▶ Tendonitis
- ▶ Tennis Elbow
- ▶ Thoracic Outlet
- ▶ TMJ Issues
- ▶ Upper Back Pain
- ▶ Vision Issues

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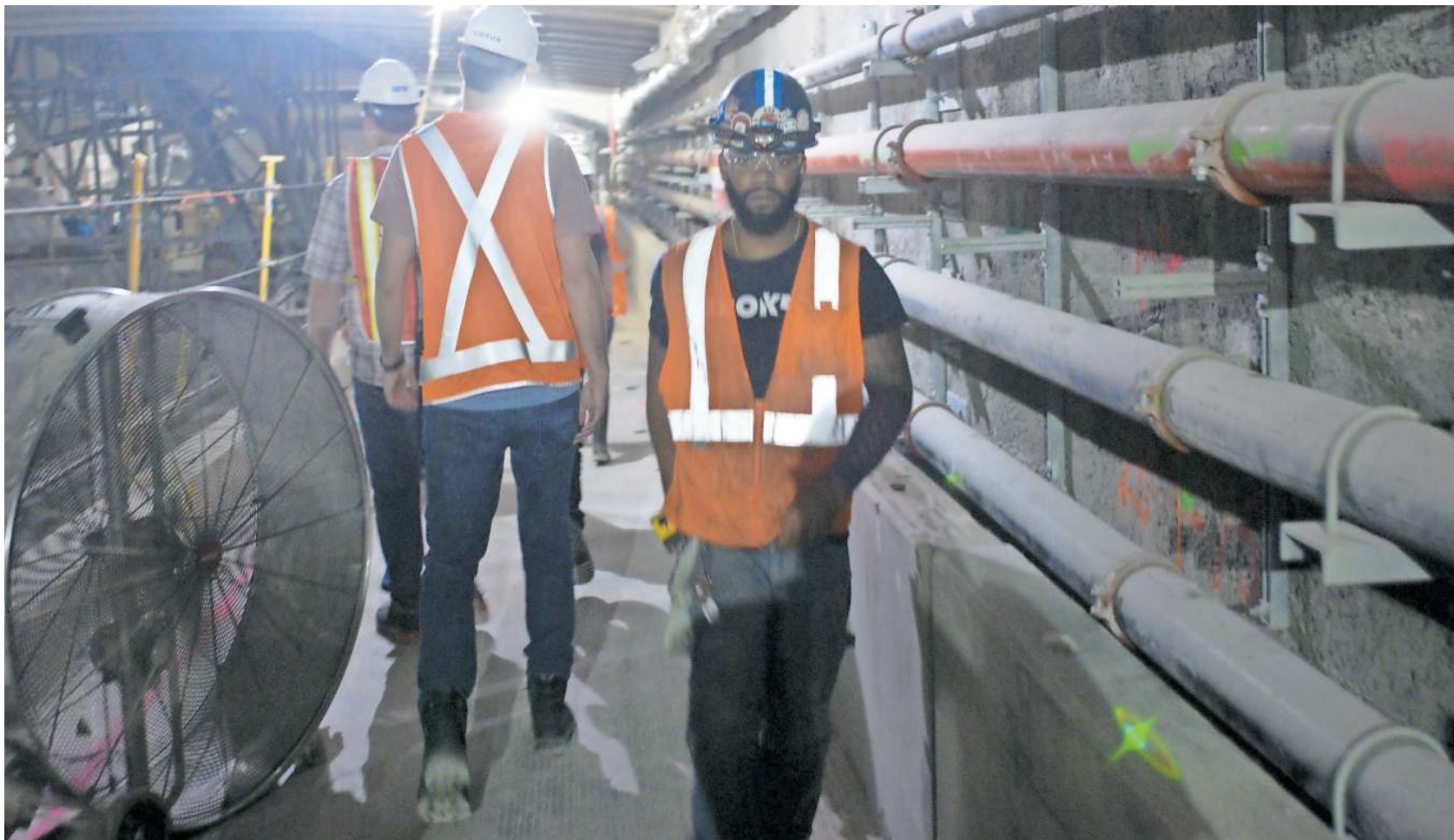
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Photos by Scott Brinton/Herald

THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION

Authority is now at work on the \$11.1 billion East Side Access Project, which will bring Long Island Rail Road service to Grand Central Terminal for the first time.

East Side Access transforming LIRR

A close-up look at the MTA's 'megaproject'

By **SCOTT BRINTON**

sbrinton@liherald.com

On a plain wall between tracks 113 and 114, a plywood door separates old from new at Grand Central Terminal in Midtown Manhattan. It is the inconspicuous entrance to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's \$11.1 billion East Side Access project — currently among the largest construction undertakings in the U.S.

The project will bring Long Island Rail Road service to Grand Central for the first time — if all goes well, by Dec. 31, 2022. It has been called a megaproject because of its scale — the new LIRR station at Grand Central will measure 350,000 square feet.

According to the MTA, the station will ease train congestion at Pennsylvania Station and cut thousands of Long Islanders' commutes by 20 to 40 minutes a day, saving them each a minimum of 10 work days in travel time a year.

"This is a transformational project for the Long Island Rail Road," said Bill Goodrich, senior program executive for the ESA project, who gave a group of 10 Herald staffers a tour of the construction site on Aug. 9.

The smell of recently poured cement filled the air in the cavernous halls leading into the dusty construction site. Bright overhead lamps created light pools that were surrounded by dark

Fast facts

The East Side Access project will add 40 miles of track to the Long Island Rail Road, and the new LIRR station at Grand Central Terminal will measure six blocks long. Construction workers had to blast and bore through a skyscraper's worth of 350-million-year-old bedrock to carve out the ESA tunnels leading in and out of Manhattan.

ESA is the first expansion of the LIRR in a century. A hundred years ago, the population of Nassau and Suffolk counties was 236,000. Today it's 2.8 million.

Sources: MTA and census

shadows. Drills and jackhammers wailed, while oversized fans whirred, doing little to cool the stifling heat. Wooden beams and marble tiles, quarried in Turkey, were stacked high.

Workers were scattered in all directions. Many were laying tiles on the cinder-block walls. Others were installing the high-rise escalators that will carry LIRR riders from the tunnels below to Grand Central and back again. In all, there will be 17 escalators. Nine are finished.

LIRR trains will arrive and depart on eight tracks, with four platforms on two levels, separated by a mezzanine. The concourse above will have 25 retail spaces. The deepest tunnel is 160 feet, or 15

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



NEW LIRR TRACKS are going in under Grand Central. When complete, the LIRR station will have eight tracks and four platforms.

THE STATION'S CAVERNOUS corridors are abuzz with construction workers.

Workers laying East Side Access tracks

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

stories, below Grand Central. The project will enable the LIRR to add as many as 24 new trains, or a total of 288 cars, to its fleet, according to Goodrich. Put another way, it will enable the railroad to increase rider capacity by 45 percent, from 300,000 to 435,000 daily commuters.

The LIRR currently plans to purchase 160 new cars, at a cost of \$700 million, “to support ESA,” according to Aaron Donovan, the MTA’s deputy communications director.

The East Side Access project was first proposed in 1963. Engineering planning began in the 1990s, with “prep work” — including construction of a new train yard in the Bronx — beginning in the early 2000s. “Heavy civil construction” on the tunnels themselves started in 2007, according to Donovan.

Boring and blasting through eight miles of schist bedrock under Manhattan and three miles of wet soil and rock under Queens was arduous and time-consuming, according to Goodrich, who called the schist “a good, competent rock,” capable of supporting skyscrapers.

Original plans, developed in the 1990s and early 2000s, put the cost between \$3.5 billion and \$4.5 billion. The Herald first toured the project in 2011, with the then president of MTA Capital Construction, Dr. Michael Horodniceanu. At



Scott Brinton/Herald

A WORKER CONSULTED plans, while others laid tiles on walls in the background.

the time, the MTA estimated that the project would cost \$7.3 billion and be complete by 2016.

If work remains on its current schedule, the project will be \$3.8 billion over the MTA’s 2011 budget projection and six years late.

Since October 2012, MTA officials have felt an increased urgency to complete the project, Goodrich said, because doing so will free Amtrak to overhaul four train tunnels at Penn Station that Hurricane Sandy submerged in saltwater.

Did you know?

Founded in 1834, the Long Island Rail Road is the busiest commuter rail line in the United States, with an average of 265,000 riders on weekdays.

Source: MTA

The East Side Access project is funded through 2020, Goodrich said, adding that a total of \$10.3 billion will have been spent by that year. The state is largely funding the work, but the federal government and New York City are contributors as well. The State Legislature must approve \$800 million to complete the final two years of work.

The project is now 75 percent complete, Goodrich said. “We’ll get the funding after all these years,” he added.

Goodrich ended the tour on the upper floor, above the train tunnels, in an expansive room where the ticket counter will be. He said with a smile that most riders would likely buy their tickets with the LIRR’s cell-phone app by 2022. But, he said, “There’ll always be a certain percentage” of riders who will want old-fashioned paper tickets.

Think Vaping is Harmless?



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

Residents talk LIRR service amid ESA project

By **ALYSSA SEIDMAN**
and **ZACH GOTTEHRER-COHEN**
aseidman@liherald.com, zgottehrer@liherald.com

Some residents anticipate the new terminal promised by the 11.1 billion East Side Access project, and see it as a future shortcut in their daily commute, while others are doubtful it will ever be completed. Some are mum on the issue.

Reporters from the Herald Gazette spoke with commuters about the current service on the Oyster Bay LIRR line, if they believed the ESA project would help or hinder their commute, and what other strides could be made to improve rail transportation.

Glen Cove

In Glen Cove, residents thought the Oyster Bay line could use a little more love, and said that the ESA project shouldn't be a priority. "Time for the Oyster Bay line to get with modern times," said Perry Filippone, of Glen Cove. "[The] current schedule is from the 50's and doesn't serve the population . . . More frequent trains in [the morning] and [evening] rush hours, [for example]." Filippone added that the EAS didn't include changes to the line, which he said, "should be the first to see improvements."

Doris Meadows agreed. "The Oyster Bay line is quite challenging to try to use," she said, "which is why so many people find themselves going to Manhasset or Hicksville instead of a nearby station on



Zach Gottehrer-Cohen/Herald Gazette

THE GLEN STREET station of the Long Island Railroad is located on the Oyster Bay line.

the Oyster Bay line."

For some, however, the project will mean an easier commute "I take the Metro North frequently," Justin Capalbo said, "so it will be nice to not have to get off at Penn [Station] and take the shuttle to Grand Central [Terminal]." He added, "I am excited!"

Sea Cliff and Glen Head

Glen Head resident John Rebecchi works on the East Side of Manhattan. His current commute requires him to transfer

at the Queens' Woodside station, which includes the daily expense of the subway. "It begins to add up," he said. "LIRR service right now is unreliable with frequent delays and slow service. East Side Access is essential to Long Island residents."

Rebecchi also hopes the MTA will implement recommendations made by the Regional Plan Association to align it with both NJ Transit and MetroNorth.

Commuter Caren Havekost-Miller, of Glen Head, said the project would bring "needed improvement" to crowded cars

and terminals. "With ESA there will be much fewer people in the subways and in Penn Station at peak times; this is beginner's logistics," she said. "The problem is it isn't going to be anywhere near a \$12 billion improvement."

Ronni Johnson, of Sea Cliff, expressed her frustrations with LIRR's inconsistent service. "It's awful, and Penn Station is a disaster with stampedes because of last minute track announcements," she said. "I have commuted on Metro North and it's a world of difference. Maybe ESA would help, who knows?"

Glen Head resident Jim McLellan said, "ESA is a publicity stunt, entirely unnecessary, insanely expensive, and irresponsible for a system so old and poorly maintained." He added that the LIRR necessitated maintenance from business professionals rather than politicians.

Fellow resident Joseph DeDona agreed. "The last I heard the government subsidizes the commuter rail lines, so I question the management of the system," he said. "I think the LIRR service is average, at best, but I also think we could benefit from increased rail lines and scheduled train stops."

Others expressed that they were sour at the MTA in general. "The LIRR needs honest competition," Eileen Coles said. "They hold a monopoly over our commute."

Coles added that she suspected that the MTA, "did it's best to sabotage our ferry." She added, "We don't need or want a LIRR expansion."

Back to School Photo Contest! Win Dinner for a Year at Applebee's!

We know you're going to grab those back to school photos — share them with us for a chance to win!

Send us your best Back to School photo and you'll automatically get a FREE kids ice cream sundae*!

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Save the date for the first day of school and go to LIHerald.com/Contest and submit your best Back to School photo!



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*While supplies last, first 300 entries will receive one "free kids ice cream" card. No purchase necessary to enter or to win. Contest period is 9/4/18-9/30/18. Many will enter. One Grand Prize winner will receive dinner for a year from Applebee's, two runner's up will receive dinner for 2 certificates. For complete details and rules, visit www.LIHerald.com/contests.

HERALD NEIGHBORS



Photos by Roni Chastain/Herald Gazette

THERE WERE 85 competitors that showed up to Pryibil Beach for the annual Snapper Derby.

Kids reel 'em in, hook, line and snapper



RYAN NARDONE JR. showed off his launcher fishing rod.

Despite a recent spate of stormy weather and a damaged Pryibil Beach pier that some had speculated wouldn't be repaired in time, the 2018 Mayor's Snapper Derby went off without a hitch — but with many, many catches.

The pier was open, and stretched out in to the sparkling water, silhouetted against the blue sky, velvety with patches of overcast cloud. Children slung rods and lines over the edge of the pier, casting and waiting patiently — some more than others.

Wandering from one

end of the pier to the other, one had to be careful not to get stuck by an errant hook. Just like “getting your sea-legs,” one quickly became accustomed to the starting and stopping pace needed to avoid getting caught in a cast. The fish, however, never quite got the hang of it.

A total of 85 children enjoyed the beautiful morning. The fish were large — the biggest was 120 grams — and overall about 60 snappers were caught and released.

—Zach Gottehrer-Cohen



REID JOHNSON WAS proud of his son Michael, 14, for hooking two snappers with one lure.

Junior division

- First Place: Mathew Los
- Second Place: Adrianna Vincent
- Third Place: Emma Lo

Senior division

- First Place: Frank Tornicchio
- Second Place: Brooke Malvino
- Third Place: Robbie Malvino

Best angler

- Gia Ignatiadis, eight snappers

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, Aug. 30

John Brady and Brian Schurman

Veterans Memorial Park, 130 Prospect Ave., Sea Cliff, 7 to 9 p.m. Bring your blankets, chairs and picnics to beautiful Memorial Park, overlooking Hempstead Harbor, and enjoy live music performed by local artists. Admission is free. Sunset Serenade is hosted by the Sea Cliff Civic Association.

Friday, Aug. 31

Rusty String Band

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.

Downtown Sounds - Soul Sound Review

Downtown Glen Cove, 1 School St., Glen Cove, 7:30 p.m. The hottest Motown show this side of Detroit performs the greatest hits in true "Motown Tradition." Soul Sound Review recreates the dynamic vocal harmonies and musical styling of classical Motown groups of the 60s, 70s, 80s.

Jenga tournament

Vivo Osteria, 242 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. Join us for some fun, music, drinks and food! The winner of each round will advance and move on to the finals championship. Grand prize: A free vacation to Orlando, Fla. at the Westgate Town Center Resorts the week of Thanksgiving. RSVP to play at (516) 801-1450.

Strummin' and drummin'

Coe Hall at Planting Field Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Rd., Oyster Bay, 6 p.m. Bring a blanket and picnic for a night of free family fun. The band has a lively, fresh, and funky approach to kids music, with crowd interaction, hands-on drumming and more. (516) 922-8668.

Saturday, Sept. 1

Sea Cliff Farmers Market

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

Fall bird watching walks

Garvies Point Museum and Preserve, 50 Barry Dr., Glen Cove 10 a.m. Head to Garvies Point Museum and Preserve on for a special bird walking adventure. The preserve is known for the varied migratory birds that visit in the fall. The outer exhibit hall offers a spectacular eye-level view of these magnificent creatures. Feel free to BYOB: binoculars, that is. This event is included with museum admission. (516) 571-8010.

River of Dreams

Coe Hall at Planting Field Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Rd., Oyster Bay, 6



Zoe Malin/Herald Gazette

Music in the Garden: Cabaret Classics

Imagine what it would be like to be a guest of the Coe's on a late summer night, with a 1920s singer performing in the Garden. Jen Fellman is a singer, actor and cabaret performer. She has performed at various venues including Don't Tell Mama, Theatre Row and the French Consulate of New York. She will be accompanied by Jack Kohl, a pianist and author from the North Shore of Long Island who studied under Marie Babiak. Head to Planting Fields Arboretum Historic State Park on Friday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. for this cabaret classic. Tickets range from \$20 to \$30, and can be purchased at www.plantingfields.org. 1395 Planting Fields Rd., Oyster Bay.

p.m. Bring a chair, blanket, and an outdoor picnic to this free concert while enjoying the beauty at Planting Fields. (516) 922-8668.

Sunday, Sept. 2

Worship at Morgan Park

Morgan Memorial Park, Germaine Street, Glen Cove, 10 a.m. Join the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Cove for a casual and celebratory worship on the beach at Morgan Memorial Park. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. All are welcome.

Tuesday, Sept. 4

A Time For Kids

Oyster Bay-East Norwich Library, 89 E. Main St., 10:30 a.m. Enjoy an hour of preschool fun with fellow tots. Activities include singing, dancing, storytelling, and making a school bus craft. Recommended for children ages 18 months to five years. (516) 922-1212.

Zumba

Glen Cove Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, 7:30 p.m. Get fit at the library with this fun and feisty fitness class. Zumba is an aerobic fitness program with movements inspired by Latin American dance. Class size is limited; registration required. (516) 676-2130.

Wednesday, Sept. 5

Inspirational Afternoons

Glen Cove Senior Center, 130 Glen St., Glen Cove, 1:30 p.m. Join us as we learn and discuss a wide array of topics

together with seasoned professionals. We will also have time for questions and answers, light refreshments and conversation. This session's topic: exotic animals. (516) 759-9610.



Roni Chastain/Herald Gazette

Antique truck and car show

Head to Saint Boniface Martyr Church on Saturday, Sept. 8 for an antique truck and car show. The event features music, food, raffles and trophies. Admission is free but donations are welcomed. All proceeds to benefit St. Boniface. Contact Jim O'Donnell at (516) 671-5199 for more information. 145 Glen Ave., Sea Cliff, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Good Reads with Sara Siegel

Gold Coast Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 2 p.m. Readers will discuss "Educated" by Tara Westover, the number one international best-seller. This stunning new memoir depicts life through family, loss and the struggle for a better future.

Register at the library, or call (516) 759-8300.

Coloring & Classics by Candlelight

Locust Valley Library, 170 Buckram Rd., Locust Valley, 3 to 5 p.m. Join us for a fun and unique way to unwind and express creativity. Coloring books for adults have more intricate designs and patterns and are the latest artistic craze used for relaxation. Registration required. Seating limited. (516) 671-1837.

Northport Chorale cast call

Northport High School Choir Room, 154 Laurel Hill Rd., Northport, 7 p.m. All voices welcome Contact Debi at (631)704-6144 or visit us on the web at www.northportchorale.org.

Thursday, Sept. 6

Teen Advisory Board

Glen Cove Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, 7 p.m. Meet up with all your TAB friends (new and old), take a tour of the new teen room, and brainstorm ideas for the upcoming year. Recommended for children grades 6 and up. (516) 676-2130.

Friday, Sept. 7

Tea Time

Gold Coast Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 11 a.m. It's hard raising and taking care of a child. Tea Time is a great way to meet other parents and discuss the challenges you're facing, but it's also a wonderful way for your children to meet other children, learn to play together, and make friends. Tea and coffee will be served. (516) 759-8300.

Saturday, Sept. 8

Paper shredding

Gold Coast Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Gather together all your papers and bring them to the parking lot of the library to get them shredded. No need to worry about privacy; they are shredded right on the spot in the shredding truck. (516) 759-8300.

Celebrate Grandparent's Day

Glen Cove Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, 2 p.m. Spend time with some of your favorite people. The library will also have volunteer "grandparents" from the Regency on hand to spend time with you. Interview your grandparent, read and create a simple craft together. (516) 676-2130.

HAVING AN EVENT?

Submissions can be emailed to llane@liherald.com.

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy Glen Cove Senior Center

PHOTOGRAPHER TOM D'EMIC with some of his work, which will be on display at the Glen Cove Senior Center from the beginning of September through the end of October.

Through the photographer's eyes

On Thursday, Sept. 6, the Glen Cove Senior Center, 130 Glen Street, will hold a reception for photographer, Tom D'Emic, in the Golden Gallery.

The artist brings out features of nature that, to others, aren't as obvious. He makes the ordinary, extraordinary, and the mundane, unique. He finds beauty everywhere, even in a rusted abandoned power plant that, at times, looks like instruments in a symphonic orchestra. His work is a connection to place and to his life experiences. His images are both interpretive and expres-

sive. To D'Emic the possibilities are limitless and as endless as his perspectives.

D'Emic has exhibited extensively on Long Island in group and solo shows. Do not miss this opportunity to experience the work of this uniquely talented photographer. His images are as beautiful as they are imaginative and intelligent. The show continues until the end of October.

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information call (516) 759-9610 or visit us at www.glencovese-niorcenter.com



Courtesy Loggia of Glen Cove

Sons & Daughters of Italy scholarships

Members of Loggia Glen Cove, along with dignitaries and elected leaders, celebrated the achievements of many students as the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America awarded them scholarships.

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HERALD SPORTS

Hofstra aims for postseason success

By **ANDREW COEN**
sports@liherald.com

After back-to-back successful conference seasons that ended with tournament disappointments, Hofstra men's soccer is seeking a postseason breakthrough in 2018.

Hofstra went 3-1-4 in Colonial Athletic Association to mark the second straight year it recorded just a single league loss. Much like 2016 though, the Pride was unable to carry its regular-season momentum into the CAA Tournament with William & Mary bouncing it in the quarterfinal round, 4-1.

"We have tried to refocus ourselves in the spring and preseason," Hofstra's 30th-year head coach Richard Nuttall said. "We've got our eye on the ball."

Junior forward Luke Brown will be a major force in trying to propel Hofstra to its first CAA title and NCAA Tournament berth since 2015. The England native tied for the team lead with nine points and was a Third-Team All CAA selection. He was also the 2016 CAA Rookie of the Year after a freshman campaign in which he scored eight goals to lead Hofstra to a 7-1-1-league record.

"He is looking incredibly sharp," Nuttall said of Brown. "He wants to be a pro player and I think he has the potential to be."

Nuttall is looking for junior Oscar Ramsay to complement Brown as a scoring threat following a big sophomore campaign in which the midfielder from New Zealand netted four goals. Army-West Point transfer Peter Meyer is also a capable goal-scorer along with freshman Hendrik Hebbeker and Luca Tausch, who both hail from Germany.

Senior defenseman Sean Nealis anchors the backline after helping produce five shutouts last fall. Fellow senior Marcus Lindqvist, a St. John's transfer, will also be major part of the defense after starting 17 games last season in his first season at Hofstra. Freshmen Jacob Goker has stepped up early in his collegiate career to add youth on the Pride's defensive unit.

Senior goalkeeper Alex Ashton returned for his third season as starting net-minder and posted 12 combined saves in Hofstra's season-opening 2-2 draw with Dayton and a 1-0 loss at Ohio State.



FORMER HICKSVILLE HIGH School star Storm Strongin will be a key contributor for the Pride.

He achieved a 1.22 goals against average as junior.

"He is an outstanding keeper," Nuttall said of Ashton, who played in the English Schools FA national cup during his high school career.

Sophomores Matthew Vowinkel and Jack Nuttall, who were former high school teammates at Chaminade in Mineola, return for a second collegiate season at Hofstra. Vowinkel, who earned high school All-American honors, tallied two goals as a freshman and scored a goal in Hofstra's tie with Dayton on Aug. 24. Nuttall, the son of Hofstra's head coach, worked hard in the off-season and is looking to progress his game as a sophomore.

Nuttall added former Hofstra standout Shaun Foster as an assistant coach in the off-season and hopes his presence on the sideline will pay dividends. Foster, who played from 2010 to 2012, is one of just



Courtesy Hofstra Athletics Communications

MIDFIELDER OSCAR RAMSAY scored four goals in 2017, including Hofstra's lone tally in its CAA postseason loss to William & Mary.

four All-Americans in program history.

"He is a soccer addict," Nuttall said of Foster, who previously was an assistant coach at Molloy College and has also coached with the Massapequa Soccer Club since 2010. "He is like a soccer scientist."

Hofstra will tackle a grueling schedule that features five teams that advanced to the 2017 NCAA Tournament in Colgate, Dartmouth, UNC-Wilmington, William & Mary, and Columbia. Of

the Pride's 17 opponents, 12 were ranked in the top 100 in the final RPI of 2017. After opening up with five matches on the road, Hofstra opens the home schedule on Sept. 9 against Harvard at 1 p.m.

"The last few years we haven't had that many CAA losses so it proves that playing a challenging non-conference schedule can prepare you well for conference," Nuttall said. "I'm very happy to play the best teams we can."

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Confidence is key

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kids do better in class

By Diane Schindwein

Summer is waning and you've been out shopping for new shoes, clothes and backpacks. The school supplies are labeled, packed up and ready to go — but what about your kids?

Chances are most children and teens are feeling a bit anxious about going back to class. Will math be more difficult this year? Will I fit in? What if someone tries to bully me?

As a parent, it is your job to help your youngster study hard, stand up to adversity and, most of all, feel confident that he or she will succeed and do well in school. Keeping in mind that parents want their offspring to have a positive approach to education, here's what a few professionals have to say about building confidence in children as the new school year gets under way.

Ask your children for their advice, instructs Rabbi Roger E. Herst, the author of "A Simple Formula for Raising Happy Children." "This is an exercise to encourage independent thought," he says. "Asking children for their advice lets them know you care about and respect their perspective, which tells them their voice matters. It also lets them know they are responsible for their opinions, which have impact on the real world, and not just in their minds."

Our kids are amazing and it is important that they understand that, says veteran psychologist Dr. Sherrie Campbell. "They are amazing just because they are. They don't have to do anything to be amazing," she says. "They are a gift, deserve to be loved and treasured and need to be disciplined to think and believe in their own greatness. When we see them start having low self-esteem we must remind them nothing can stand the way of their greatness."

Children need to know that they are both smart and significant, says Campbell, the author of "Loving Yourself: The Mastery of

Being Your Own Person." "When we raise our children, we must raise them to see, believe in and use their intelligence. When our children hear they are smart, and we find every opportunity to reflect this to them through their own actions, we help them to believe it about themselves. When they believe they are smart they behave smartly, perform smartly, communicate intelligently and they make wiser choices."

"Your child needs to learn how to deal with life on his or her own terms," says Dr. George S. Glass, co-author of "The Overparenting Epidemic." "Circumstances change, communication varies and children respond differently as they grow older. This means that all of us will continue making mistakes.

"Let your kids fail, beginning with the first time they fall down on the playground," he says. "They need to learn early on that life is full of bumps and bruises, and that they have the wherewithal to overcome them."

"No one is perfect and having confidence doesn't come as a result of being perfect," says Campbell. "Confidence comes from learning to love themselves in their not-so-perfect moments." They also need to be powerful, she adds. "It won't matter what people say about them because they know what they think of themselves."

Still sometimes mistakes are a good thing, concludes Glass. Rough spots help children gain the confidence needed to succeed first in school and then, later in life. "Work with your kids on how they can learn from their mistakes," he instructs.

Finally, be sure to let them take pride in their schoolwork and their creations, even if you think that they should be "better" or that you should help out. "It's their science fair," says Glass. "You had yours." ■

SCHOOLS IN ACTION

What to expect for the 2018-2019 school year

By The Herald Staff

As another school year approaches, administrators and faculty prepare to welcome students back with great expectations. Once again, here's the Herald's annual look at what's ahead for the new school year.



Courtesy Glen Cove Schools

Justin Lander joins the Glen Cove City School District as its new Instructional Technology Coordinator.

Academic initiatives move forward in Glen Cove

During the 2017-2018 school year, the district implemented Wilson Language Training early literacy phonics program Foundations for kindergarten students and this year will be expanding it to include first grade students.

Among other programming, the district will implement the Sanford Harmony Social Emotional Learning Program for students in grades K-5 during the school year. It focuses on social, emotional, and cognitive skills and supports social connections among students through relationship building activities; supplementing the PBIS initiative that is already being implemented in all schools for students K-12. The PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) framework consists of teachings that will help students build valuable social skills and behaviors.

Also, in an effort to expand its one-to-one initiative, the district will now be including students in grades 8 to 10 by giving Chromebooks to all students in grades 6 to 10. Last year teachers of grades 8 to 10 received Chromebooks and were provided with professional development on Google Classroom, which will continue to be used this year.

New courses at the High School will enhance the school's strong academic foundation.

Computer Science Essentials offers visual, block-based programming and then transitions to text-based programming to create apps and develop websites. Students will apply computational thinking practices, build their vocabulary with languages such as Python, and collaborate as computing professionals do to create products that address topics and problems important to them.

Introduction to Mechatronics integrates principles from engineering disciplines including mechanical, electrical, computer, and industrial. Students will improve their understanding of the STEM-related content within Mechatronics. In addition, skills such as: problem solving, communication, critical thinking, and collaboration will be explored. More specifically, students will learn about electrical motor controls, sensors, computer-aided



Alyssa Seidman/Herald Gazette

Sea Cliff resident Danielle Fossett, at lectern, is one of the founding members of Weave Together.

design, programming and diagnostics.

The AP Capstone Research course enhances current research opportunities within the district and is the final course in the AP Capstone program. It will have students engage in a year-long study of information that ultimately responds to a proposed research question. It is designed to promote independence and exploration and students are prompted to explore an academic topic, problem, societal issue, or concept that interests them.

Second Year Scientific Research evolves from the Scientific Research Literacy class introduced this past school year. During first semester, students will create research reports that can be submitted to science competitions e.g.: Northwell Medical Marvels, Toshiba Exploravision, or Long Island Science Congress. Then during second semester they will find scientists at local university laboratories working in areas of interest to them to serve as project mentors. Students will develop an individual research project and write a formal research proposal, which will be presented during the spring semester.

A Digital Filmmaking class enables students to explore various aspects of filmmaking including location scouting, producing, screenwriting, storyboard, editing, sound mixing, casting, and lighting. Students will write, produce, direct and edit a fictional short film as a culminating project for the course.

New staff in the district includes Justin Lander, a Levittown resident and former technology staff developer at Great Neck South Middle School, who has been appointed Coordinator of Instructional Technology.

Lander's position is a new one for the district; his focus is to be in instructional technology. This includes coordinating software purchases, acquiring and deploying hardware and devices, and creating opportunities for ongoing professional technological development throughout the district.

"We are excited to welcome Mr. Lander and look forward to him supporting teachers and students as we advance our 1:1 initiative and move technology into the 21st century," Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Dr. Michael Israel said.

Setting up a strategic plan for North Shore's future

Earlier this year, Superintendent Dr. Peter Giarrizzo presented the Board of Education with North Shore's strategic planning goals. Over 2,600 surveys were collected from students, parents and teachers to identify focal areas of improvement for the district.

Giarrizzo worked with a 33-person core planning team to develop three goals based on trends and information presented in the surveys. "These are adaptive, high yield and high impact goals that demonstrate our forward-thinking and will focus on the growth and evolution of our future," he said.

Each goal would be achieved through an implementation of clear action steps over the next three to five years. Over the summer, administrators conducted research-based work to develop action steps for each goal.

"Our big drivers are social emotional learning, building a more contemporary teaching and learning environment, and looking at achievement gaps to improve equity and diversity," Giarrizzo said.

Giarrizzo added that increasing social emotional learning would teach students self and social awareness, self-management, relationship skills and responsible decision-making, and the development of a more contemporary teaching and learning environment would engage student input.

Students also have a say in what steps should be taken to increase diversity at North Shore. The same day the strategic planning team wrote the description of the goal in March, the board was visited by representatives of Weave Together, an anti-discrimination group that aims to bring social and institutional change to the district.

Members of Weave Together have collaborated with the district to make diversification a priority at North Shore in future strategic planning. Over the summer, administrators engaged in a two-day workshop with ERASE Racism, which offered diversity training and professional development.

North Shore administrators also attended a retreat to understand the components of the strategic plan and find ways to drive the work as respective to each of the schools in the district. ■

Reported by Zach Gottehrer-Cohen and Alyssa Seidman



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Students' HOMEWORK SCHEDULES

Play first, homework later?

By Sharon Naylor

When kids arrive home from school, is it wisest to make them sit down and dive right into their homework before playtime begins, or should they be allowed to play first and work later? As a parent, it's important for you to weigh both options and then decide what works best for your children.

"Generally speaking, homework should be delayed until there has been some respite time after school to allow the brain a 'vacation' before beginning homework," says Jennifer Little, Ph.D., founder of ParentsTeachKids.com. Just like you need to decompress after a long workday before you're motivated to undertake household cleaning and tasks, students often need a breather before the next to-dos must be done. Plus, according to Dr. Maureen Taylor, who has master's degrees in secondary and special education and has been a teacher for almost 40 years, "Playing after homework can drive a child to work faster at the risk of their work."

Allowing children a set amount of playtime before homework is what "educators used to call 'shaking out the cobwebs,'" says Taylor. "Today we call it 'giving the child time to breathe and to process his day.'" Children, after all, have bad days, too. They may be stressed over an impending test or still feeling the sting of a negative comment from one of their peers. Quality free time lets them enter the "safe zone" of home and relax and unwind. "Students' brains require a shift from the pressures of school to the relative calmness of home," says Taylor.

Taylor also brings up a valid point affecting your children's energy levels and abilities to focus on homework: "Keep in mind that in larger schools, some children eat lunch at 10:30 and end their day at 3." Kids may be low on energy simply because they haven't had a nutritious meal or snack in more than four hours. They couldn't possibly focus well on homework while low on fuel. So a healthy snack upon their return home is a must, no matter what your homework/play arrangement is.

Each Child's Homework Responsibilities

"Elementary children usually do not have much homework, so doing it as dinner is prepared usually suffices," says Little. "Middle- and high-school students will have more homework, and thus will need more hours to complete it. So before and after dinner should be allocated (for homework) before any other computer-based activities (Facebook, games, TV) occur. At some point, the child will become self-regulating with homework and decide when is best for him/her."

Another factor is your child's personality type. Some children cannot unwind unless their homework – about which they feel pressure – is completed, and some children would do anything to avoid their homework. If you have multiple children, you need to create a plan that meets each child's preferences. That may find you sitting down one child who needs to get homework out of the way, while the other child plays, and then summoning your other child to begin his or her homework after the allotted playtime.

Jen Lilienstein, founder of the educational site Kidzmet.com, says that children with different personality types approach homework



Homework before play or vice versa?

differently, such as a student who prefers to get closure on assignments before play, a student who thrives on tight deadlines, or a student who likes to work on three projects at once.

There is no rule saying all children must sit down together as a group to do homework. You may even find that they distract one another when they're all at the kitchen table at the same time, working in their different ways. It may be your personal system to have kids do their homework in set shifts that work best for all.

Setting the Rules

If you're experiencing homework/play chaos with no set plan, now is the time to enforce rules in your home and decide how, when and where kids will do homework. A quiet environment with no television is ideal. Cellphones are to be left outside of the homework room to eliminate distractions.

Decide beforehand how children's homework sessions will be scheduled, and inform kids that they are to complete all homework before their set bedtime. You will, in several weeks, review their grades and talk with them about their homework schedule, and you may decide to make changes to their schedule.

Older kids with extracurricular activities that affect their post-school schedules may need to switch their homework times to earlier in the evening due to fatigue from their busy schedules. You'll decide that at your review session.

As you observe children in their homework modes, pay special attention to their frustration levels as they're working. Little says, "Homework avoidance is often a sign of problems" that may exist in their school days, such as bullying. Be very observant of what kids are telling you through their attitudes toward homework.

If you have questions about your child's homework levels, make an appointment to speak in person with his or her teachers. ■

GIFTED STUDENTS

How to help them thrive

By Sharon Naylor

If you are the parent of a gifted child, you likely experience a wide range of emotions, from pride for your child's accomplishments, to concern when your child wrestles with stress over performance and test scores. And if your child hasn't yet been tested as gifted, he or she might be bored in school — perhaps even underperforming.

It's your support that can make all the difference in your child's potential and achievements in the future. According to the National Association for Gifted Children, students with high abilities need gifted education programs to challenge them in regular classroom settings, to enrich them and to enable them to make continuous progress in school. The organization points to a recent study saying that more than 7 in 10 teachers of gifted students say that their brightest students were not challenged or given a chance to "thrive" in their classrooms. The study states that the general education program is not yet ready to meet gifted students' needs because of a lack of educator training in gifted education and regular pressures of the classroom environment.

As a parent, you can help your gifted student thrive during the school year, particularly when the curriculum doesn't seem to engage your child. Here are some ways to help your child maintain a love of learning and keep a positive perspective on achievement.

In School

Keep an eye out for the characteristics of a typical gifted child; understanding that gifted children are diverse and will not exhibit all traits all of the time. They are: excellent memory, large vocabulary and complex sentence structure for their age, enjoying problem-solving, logical thinking, concern with social and political issues and injustices, asking probing questions, being organized, being curious, and having either a wide range of interests or extreme focus in one interest.

Performance traits aside, gifted children are often highly sensitive and have deep feelings and intense reactions. Note your child's traits to share with his or her teachers, to provide the important information needed to help get your child on the ideal track.

Have realistic expectations. Your child's teacher may have limited resources and time to work with a large number of students in her classroom. At your meeting, show understanding for the teacher's realities, and work together to create a plan.

The NAGC suggests offering to volunteer your time, such as providing extra materials for class, or organizing classroom parent volunteerism.

Ask the teacher to group your child with others who display traits of — or have been tested as — gifted students. Ask the teacher whether your child may participate in his or her own curriculum, says the NAGC. Perhaps he or she can come up with an idea for an independent study project, or write a weekly story using the week's new vocabulary words.

At Home

Engage your child verbally. Gifted students are highly verbal and inquisitive, say the experts at the parenting website BabyCenter. If parents dismiss their questions because they're too busy, kids get frustrated and shut down. Recognize that conversations teach



Your gifted child needs good programming in school and your support at home.

your kids verbal and social skills, and seize every opportunity.

Ask your child about his or her current interests, and provide fresh material, such as biographies of scientists or botanists or a trip to a garden center to chat with a plant specialist.

Familiarize your child with the library, as well as with online research tools, say the BabyCenter experts. To a gifted child, the library is a haven of wonderment.

Visit museums that offer interactive displays so that your child can work different angles of his or her talents.

Don't overschedule your child. Resist the urge to compete with other parents who have their kids signed up for multiple sports and activities each season. Be sure your child has plenty of downtime to read, relax, play with friends and recharge to avoid an early burnout.

And importantly, study up on how you can provide the emotional support a gifted child needs. Eileen Kennedy-Moore, author of "Smart Parenting for Smart Kids: Nurturing Your Child's True Potential," says, "To the outside world, these kids may seem confident, but their parents often see the other side: their stress, suffering, and even emotional melt-downs. The world tells bright children that performance matters; they need us, their parents, to tell them that they are much more than the sum of their accomplishments. They need to know that we love them for their kindness, curiosity, imagination, determination, and sense of fun. Qualities like these matter deeply."

Kennedy-Moore suggests helping your child develop his or her own sense of motivation by breaking down new skills into smaller challenges along the path to accomplishment. Taking on a big task may be too much pressure on a gifted child. Give kids a choice on which project they'd like to work on first. A degree of autonomy is motivating to a gifted child. Plan lessons and activities that connect them to others. Kids need a well-rounded social circle to thrive.

"Telling children, 'You're great!' or 'You're so smart!' can actually backfire by making them afraid to try activities where they might not appear great or smart right away," says Kennedy-Moore. "If we want our children to have better self-esteem in a particular area, we need to help them actually do better in that area. Anything else is just wishful thinking that won't stand up to the feedback of reality. ■



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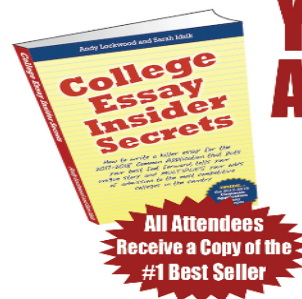
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DID YOU KNOW?

Ponder these fun facts as everyone heads back to class

- The Boston Latin School is the oldest public school in the United States founded in 1635. Five signers of the Declaration of Independence attended the school including Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Robert Treat Paine, Samuel Adams and William Hopper.
- Around 480,000 yellow school buses carry 25 million children to and from school every day.
- Before the invention of eraser, bread-crumbs were used to erase mistakes.
- In the United States, 79 million students carry backpacks. Of those, more than 92 percent haul more than 10-22 percent of their body weight (with the ideal range being 10-15 percent) and 30-50 percent report back pain because of their backpacks.
- Before the invention of the paperclip in 1899, papers were fastened by "putting ribbon through parallel incisions in the upper left hand corner of pages," and later, using straight pins for the same purpose.
- You can sharpen the blades on a pencil sharpener by simply wrapping your pencils in aluminum foil before inserting them. Aluminum foil sharpens scissors too.
- A pencil can write 45,000 words or draw a line 35 miles long and will write in zero



gravity, upside down, or under water!

- It would take approximately 506,880,000 of the 2 7/8 Post-it notes to circle the world once (based on the earth's circumference of 24,000 miles).
- Back to School and Back to College spending serves as the second biggest consumer spending event for retailers behind the winter holidays.
- Have a drawer full of dried or permanent markers? Revive them with a little bit of rubbing alcohol. Non-permanent markers can get the same results with water.
- The mascot for Elmer's Glue-All was named after Elmer the Bull, husband of Borden's advertising mascot, Elsie the Cow. Though it does not contain any animal products today, previous glues were based on casein, a protein found in milk.

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VIEWFINDER

By SUSAN GRIECO

THE QUESTION:

Why are you excited about going back to school?



I'm hoping to get onto the Varsity Dance Team. I've been looking at old dance routines and practicing them so that I'm ready for tryouts.

GILLIAN PIVNICK
9th Grade



I want to learn science and make posters and do experiments.

BRANDON LEE
2nd Grade



I'm going to a new school, middle school, and I'm excited that I'll finally have a locker!

KELLIE HATTEM
6th Grade



Playing with balls and dinosaurs and everything. And I get to ride on a school bus!

MYA GALLAGHER
Kindergarten



My mom will bring me and then she'll leave. Then I can learn my ABCs, numbers, dance and do playtime. But no naps!

ISABELLA POSNER
Kindergarten



Doing more math, science and reading. I'm also looking forward to new teachers who encourage me to do more and more!

SKY ZOHAR
4th Grade

HERALD Crossword Puzzle

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pooch's tormentor
- 5 Listener
- 8 Stocking feature
- 12 Fat
- 13 "Born in the —"
- 14 Big brass instrument
- 15 Surrounded by
- 16 Place to get a slice
- 18 Exile
- 20 Round numbers
- 21 LummoX
- 23 Type measures
- 24 Germs
- 28 Pierce
- 31 Lubricant
- 32 Old phones have them
- 34 "I — Camera"
- 35 Fall heavily
- 37 Standards
- 39 Caribbean, e.g.
- 41 Calendar quota
- 42 From what place
- 45 Naiads and dryads
- 49 Panic
- 51 Pelvis bones

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- 52 Thought
- 53 Understood
- 54 Bird's home
- 55 Sent back (Abbr.)
- 56 Individual
- 57 Relaxation
- 7 Bronx cheer
- 8 Backs of boats
- 9 Chunnel
- 10 Irish Rose's beau
- 11 "Serpico" author Peter
- 17 Last letter
- 19 Coaster
- 22 Journal with a lock
- 24 Jazz style
- 25 Have a bug
- 26 Not widely spaced
- 27 Estrange
- 29 French friend
- 30 Sheep's call
- 33 Remain
- 36 Group of five
- 38 Winter weasel
- 40 High card
- 42 Sound of spinning
- 43 Jekyll's bad side
- 44 Therefore
- 46 Entreaty
- 47 Snake's sound
- 48 Fully fill
- 50 Charged bit

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STEPPING OUT

Where to go, what to do, who to see

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As you prepare to wow your friends with your skills at the grill, step outside your comfort zone and create dishes with big flavors with these recipes from chef Roger Mooking, of Cooking Channel's "Man, Fire, Food."

Get started with these recipes.



Best-Ever Buffalo Rack O' Ribs Sandwich

Slaw

1/4 cup mayonnaise
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt, plus additional, to taste
1/8 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper, plus additional, to taste
2 cups shredded green cabbage
1/2 cup shredded carrot
1/4 cup diced celery, chopped
2 tablespoons fresh celery leaves
2 tablespoons fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped

Ribs

1 rack (about 2 pounds) baby back ribs
3 tablespoons firmly packed brown sugar
1 tablespoon seasoned salt
4 tablespoons hot sauce, divided, plus additional for spreading and serving (optional)

Sandwich

1 soft French loaf (12-14 inches), split
Olive oil
Seasoned salt
Coarsely ground black pepper
1/4 small red onion, thinly sliced
1/4 cup crumbled blue cheese

To make slaw: In medium bowl, whisk mayonnaise, lemon juice, seasoned salt and pepper. Add cabbage, carrot, celery, celery leaves and parsley; toss to combine. Sprinkle with additional seasoned salt and pepper, to taste.

To make ribs: Prepare grill for indirect medium heat at about 350 F. Insert butter knife between membrane and bone on backside of ribs. Grab membrane with paper towel then pull to remove membrane; discard.

Rub ribs on both sides with brown sugar and seasoned salt. Wrap ribs tightly in aluminum foil and place on indirect-heat side of grill. Grill ribs, turning once until meat is tender and pulling away from bone but not totally falling apart, about 1 hour, 15 minutes-1 hour, 30 minutes. Remove ribs from grill.

Unwrap ribs and let cool until cool enough to handle. Using sharp knife, carefully slit skin on back of ribs and remove bones, keeping slab in one piece.

Place boneless rib slab on direct-heat side of grill, rounded-side up, and brush top with 2 tablespoons hot sauce. Grill until underside begins to crisp, about 2 minutes. Carefully flip ribs and brush top with the remaining hot sauce. Continue to grill ribs until glossy and caramelized, about 2-3 minutes.

To assemble sandwich: Scoop out most of soft insides of top of French bread to

make room for toppings. Brush cut sides with oil and sprinkle with seasoned salt and pepper. Grill on direct-heat side of grill until bread is toasted and grill marks appear, about 3 minutes.

Place ribs on bottom of loaf. Brush with additional hot sauce, if desired, and top with slaw, onions and blue cheese. Cover with top of loaf. Cut into four pieces. Makes 4 servings.



Giant Bacon-Cheddar Juicy Lucy Burger

2 tablespoons McCormick Grill Mates Montreal Steak Seasoning, divided
2 pounds 80 percent lean ground beef
8 ounces sliced medium or sharp white cheddar cheese
1/4 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup yellow mustard
8 long pickle slices, plus 2 tablespoons brine
1 round loaf soft bread (10 inches), cut in half horizontally
Olive oil
Sea salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1 large heirloom tomato, thinly sliced
1 small red onion, thinly sliced
8 slices bacon, cooked
2 cups shredded iceberg lettuce

Line 9-inch round cake pan with aluminum foil, leaving extra foil over edges of pan. Sprinkle with 2 teaspoons

steak seasoning. Press half of ground beef into cake pan. Layer cheese in middle, leaving 1/2-1-inch border around sides. Sprinkle with additional 2 teaspoons seasoning. Top with remaining ground beef in even layer and press to seal in cheese. Sprinkle with remaining seasoning.

Lift burger from cake pan using foil. Press to flatten to about 11 inches in diameter. Refrigerate until ready to cook. (Patty can be assembled up to 2 hours in advance.)

In small bowl, whisk mayonnaise, mustard and pickle brine until smooth. Cover and refrigerate.

Remove most of soft insides from top of bread to make hollow. Reserve insides.

Prepare grill for indirect medium heat at about 350 F.

Brush grill grates with oil. Hold burger on foil bottom and flip onto indirect-heat side of grill; peel off foil. Cook until sides of burger are cooked and it feels firm when lifted with spatula, about 8-10 minutes. Using two spatulas, carefully flip burger. Close grill and cook until burger is cooked through and cheese is melted, about 5-8 minutes longer. Move to direct-heat side of grill for 1-2 minutes per side for more char.

Brush cut sides of bread with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Grill on direct-heat side of grill until bread is toasted and grill marks appear, about 3 minutes.

Place bottom half of bread on large cutting board. Spread with half of mustard sauce. Place burger on top and top with tomatoes, onions, pickles and bacon. Spread top of bread with remaining mustard sauce and fill with lettuce. Place top of bun on burger and cut into eight wedges.

— Karen Bloom
kbloom@liherald.com



FAMILY FUN

Strummin' and Drummin'

Planting Fields State Park's delightful grounds offer an ideal setting to relax and enjoy a late summer evening with the family. Start off the holiday weekend with an upbeat performance by the dynamic band known as Strummin' and Drummin'. Brothers Chris and Matt, joined

WEEKEND Out and About

by bass player "Captain Kenny", bring a fresh, funky approach to family entertainment. Their interactive show is loaded with plenty of crowd participation, hands-on drumming, guitar-accompanied sing-alongs, adventurous stories, and catchy original songs. The guys blend world rhythms into a unique mix of pop, world music, blues and jazz. The result is music that's fun for the kids, of course, but also hip for parents too.

Friday, Aug. 31, 6-7:30 p.m. Planting Fields Arboretum State Park, 1395 Planting Fields Rd., Oyster Bay. (516) 922-8600 or www.plantingfields.org.

HISTORICAL SALUTE

Honoring American GIs

The Museum of American Armor honors the nation's soldiers who served in the military's armor divisions during "Tanker Tactics." Just inside the grounds of Old Bethpage Village Restoration, the museum will recreate a military armored column



that replicates the sights and sounds of American forces. Check out a variety of tanks used by American military over the decades, including a Cold War M48 Patton tank, a World War II Sherman tank, a U.S. Marines tank, a M18 Hellcat destroyer as well as halftracks, a British Bren Carrier and other tracked military vehicles. Multimedia displays augment the display of vehicles; visitors can also see tanks under repair and restoration.

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 1-2, 10 a.m. -3 p.m. \$12, \$8 seniors and children. Museum of American Armor, 1303 Round Swamp Rd., Old Bethpage. 516-454-8265 or www.museumofamericanarmor.com.

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 and Friday, Aug. 30-31, 8 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 1, 3 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 2, 2 p.m. John W. Engeman Theater, 250 Main St., Northport. (631) 261-2900 or www.engemantheater.com.

John Brady and Brian Schurman

The pair in concert, as part of the Sunset Serenade series, Thursday, Aug. 30, 7 p.m. Veterans Memorial Park, Sea Cliff.

My Son the Waiter: A Jewish Tragedy

Comedian-actor Brad Zimmerman's one-man comedy show, Thursday, Aug. 30, 2 and 7 p.m.; Friday, Aug. 31, 8 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 1, 2 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 2, 2 p.m. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. 767-6444 or www.landmarkonmainstreet.org.

Hamlet

Shakespeare's revenge tragedy, Friday, Aug. 3, 8 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 2, 7 p.m. Carriage House Players, Vanderbilt Museum, 180 Little Neck Rd., Centerport. 557-1207 or www.vanderbiltmuseum.org.

AR Rahman

The Indian composer/singer-songwriter in concert, Saturday, Sept. 1. Nassau Coliseum, 1255 Hempstead Tpke., Uniondale. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.nassaucoliseum.com.



Gavin DeGraw

The singer-songwriter in concert, Saturday, Sept. 1, 8 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.

Rusty String Band

The popular band in concert, as part of the Summer Music Series, Friday, Aug. 31, 7 p.m. Sea Cliff Beach, Sea Cliff.

Soul Sound Revue

The popular Modtown tribute band in concert, as part of the Downtown Sounds summer series, Friday, Aug. 31, 7:30 p.m. Village Square Plaza, Glen, School and Bridge St., Glen Cove. Visit www.glencove-downtown.org for more information.

Legendary Murphys

The popular rock band in concert, Saturday, Sept. 1. The Landing at Jones Beach, 2000



Rosie Revere, Engineer

Join Rosie Revere and her friends in a musical adaptation of Andrea Beaty's popular books, at Tilles Center, on Saturday, Sept. 15, at 2 p.m.

"Rosie Revere, Engineer," "Iggy Peck, Architect" and "Ada Twist" come alive on stage in TheatreworksUSA's lively production, geared for grades K-4. See what happens in Ms. Greer's classroom with her three inquisitive out-of-the-box thinkers. Rosie Revere has big dreams, Iggy Peck has a relentless passion for architecture, and Ada Twist's curiosity can drive her teacher crazy.

Tickets are \$25, \$15; available at (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.tillescenter.org.

Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post, Route 25A, Brookville.

Ocean Pkwy., Wantagh. 785-0012.

Reggae Night

Local band in concert, Saturday, Sept. 1, 3-5 p.m. Soundside Beach Park, Bayville.

River of Drams

The Billy Joel Tribute band in concert, Saturday, Sept. 1, 6 p.m. Planting Fields State Park, Hay Barn, 1395 Planting Fields Rd., Oyster Bay. 922-9210 or www.plantingfields.org.

Carrie and the Cats

The local funk-rock band in concert, with Gnarly Karma, Thursday, Sept. 6, 8 p.m. My Father's Place at the Roslyn Hotel, 1221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. 413-3535 or www.myfathersplace.com.

Lee's Layered Lines

Express yourself with lines, color and texture, Saturday, Sept. 1, 1-3 p.m. Create intricate drawings while getting to know Lee Krasner, abstract artist and wife of Jackson Pollock. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. 224-5800 or www.licm.org.

The Orchestra

Former ELO members regroup, Saturday, Sept. 8, 8 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.

For the Kids

Listen Up! Storybook Stroll

Stroll Old Westbury Gardens and hear Eric Carle's "The Tiny Seed," Saturday, Sept. 1, 10:30 a.m. Later create a unique take-home craft. For ages 3-5. Free with admission. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Westbury

Rd., Old Westbury. 333-0048 or www.oldwestbury.org.



Shrek the Musical

Everyone's favorite ogre comes to life on stage, based on the acclaimed film, Saturday, Sept. 1, 11 a.m.; Sunday, Sept. 2, 10:30 a.m. John W. Engeman Theater, 250 Main St., Northport. (631) 261-2900 or www.engemantheater.com.

On the School Bus

Preschool fun with A Time for Kids, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 11:30 a.m. Singing, dancing, storytelling and school bus craft. Registration required. Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library, 89 East Main St., Oyster Bay. 922-1212

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.

Focus 2018

A showcase of works by winners of the national juried fine arts photography competition. View pieces by 21 artists. Through Aug. 26. B.J. Spoke Gallery, 299 Main Street, Huntington. (631) 549-5106 or www.bjspokegallery.org.

Long Island Biennial

A juried exhibition of 52 works by artists representing Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Paintings, sculpture, photography, works on paper, and mixed media encompassing diverse styles, subject matter, and themes are included. Through Nov. 11. Heckscher Museum of Art, Main St. and Prime Ave., Huntington. (631) 351-3250 or www.heckscher.org.

Seashells...Nature's Inspired Design

An exhibit of seashells from around the world, in celebration of Garvie's 50th anniversary. Garvie's Point Museum and Preserve, 50 Barry Dr., Glen Cove. 571-8010 or www.garviespointmuseum.com.

The Tile Club: Camaraderie and American Plein-Air Painting

An exhibit of tiles, drawings, sculpture, and prints that document the life and times of this lively artistic society. One of many that emerged following the nation's Centennial in 187, it comprised a select group of artists, writers, and musicians, including Winslow Homer, William Merritt Chase, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Edwin Austin Abbey, J. Alden Weir, and Stanford White. Meetings were known for spirited conversation and experimentation with painted tiles. Through Nov. 11. 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.

Wearable Art

A showcase of art and design, in an homage to New York Fashion Week. Through Sept. 15. Main Street Gallery, 213 Main Street, Huntington.

Movie Time

See "Tully," a drama about a woman snowed under by motherhood, Thursday, Aug. 30, 2 and 6:30 p.m. Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library, 89 East Main St., Oyster Bay. 922-1212.

Real to Real

See the documentary "New Wave: Dare to be Different," a profile of alternative radio station WLIR, which challenged the mainstream in the 1980s and helped introduce New Wave music to a larger audience in the United States, Thursday, Aug. 30, 7 p.m. Huntington. (631) 423-7611 or www.cinemaartscentre.org.

Old Time Base Ball

See teams from the 1864 league play base ball following the rules and customs of the 19th century in vintage uniforms, Sunday, Sept. 2, 11 a.m. Old Bethpage Village Restoration, Round Swamp Rd., Old Bethpage. 572-8401 or www.obv-nassau.com.

Sketching in the Galleries

All ages can express their creativity and sketch in the museum's gallery space, Sunday, Sept. 2, 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.

Film Screening

See the documentary "Rothko: An Abstract Humanist," a rare examination of the life and work of Mark Rothko, Tuesday through Sunday, Sept. 4-9, 12 p.m. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. 484-9338 or www.nassaumuseum.org.



CHAPPAQUIDDICK

Movie Matinee

See "Chappaquiddick," the dramatic retelling of Ted Kennedy's tragic accident and its aftermath, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 1:15 p.m. Sea Cliff Library, 300 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. 671-4290 or www.seaclifflibrary.org.

Book Signing

Join legendary basketball coach Rick Pitino as he speaks about and signs copies of his new memoir, "Pitino: My Story," Thursday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m. Hear Pitino relate the story of the saga of the biggest recruiting scandal in college basketball history and the hard truth about how college hoops has been pushed to the brink of disaster by greed and shoe company money. Book Revue, 313 New York Ave., Huntington. (631) 271-1442 or www.bookrevue.com.

Having an event?

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Expert says leave batting cage fixes to the pros

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

and the renovation of the Morgan Park bathhouse, which the city will have to restart because, officials allege, the quality of the contractor's work was shoddy. These have all drawn similarly harsh critiques of Belyea on social media, which she sees, but makes a point of not getting involved in.

Cervini's plan, as he has described it, is to enlist local volunteers, who have said they would donate their time and energy — and with some, their construction expertise and equipment — to help renovate the batting cages. He has asked Belyea “to allow me to take over this project and organize our great coaches and residents.”

After speaking with contractors about obtaining raw materials, Cervini estimated that the project would cost around \$10,000. That would cover the materials, he said, and most of the labor and equipment, and volunteers and donations could cover the rest. He made a \$4,000 donation to Belyea's department in an effort to help the city shoulder the financial burden.

“He doesn't know a lot about facilities management,” Belyea said.

Cervini had given Belyea a \$6,000 quote from a contractor for the materials to re-turf the cages. Belyea said that when she checked with the contractor, she was told that the artificial turf, plus labor for installation and other expenses, would cost about



Courtesy City of Glen Cove

MICHAEL DAMIANO, PITCHING, used the batting cages to train for LIU Post baseball team tryouts this fall. Jonathan Capobianco, batting, helped him practice.

\$27,750. She added that while her department had overseen volunteer efforts before, re-turfing the cages would be more involved. “The existing surface would have to be prepared and re-graded,” she said. “Otherwise, you'd have drainage problems.”

Terry Dailey, the city's parks foreman, acknowledged that “any upgrades to city facilities would be a plus,” but added, “There's a lot more work that goes into it than you'd think ... We would want it done right, and we would want it done safe.”

In an email to Belyea in response to Cervini's ad, Tom Hopke, who has four decades of consulting experience in the design and

engineering of sports facilities and has been an active participant in Glen Cove youth sports for nearly three decades, wrote, “No matter when or how this issue is addressed, the installation *must* be done in a professional manner through professional installers with experience.”

After learning that the city did not plan to use his donation to buy artificial turf, Cervini filed a notice of claim against the city, essentially demanding his money back. The City Council voted on Tuesday to return it.

Hopke also took issue with some of Cervini's “behavior,” saying that he acted unethically with regard to email privacy when he posted on Facebook several email chains containing the email addresses of the parents and coaches involved in Little League.

Hopke, who said he has “used or seen a few thousand cages” during his 50-plus years in baseball, also estimated “with absolute certainty” that a complete renovation of the batting cages would cost no less than \$40,000. Belyea said she wants the city to have up-to-date cages, but her department doesn't have the money in the budget to renovate them.

Further, she argued, the entire stadium complex is slated for large-scale renovations in the coming years. The plan, conceived as part of a \$50,000 waterside recreational redevelopment grant, will add 8.8 acres to the complex — currently the home of a compost yard and once the site of a now-demolished incinerator — and allow the city to redesign the complex, which, Belyea said, “was built very hodgepodge over 60 years.”

“The batting cages wouldn't stay where they are now,” she added. “It wouldn't be fiscally responsible to take a resident's generous donation and use it toward something that's going to be torn down and relocated in the next two or three years.”

Cervini said, “The turf, you can pull up what you lay down. You just roll it up, roll it down, right?” He gestured to the batting cages, and added, less optimistic than Belyea about the timeline, “Why should these just sit here for five years while we're redoing the whole place and the kids can't use it?”

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OPINIONS

Get-up-in-your-face-book. #%&\$#!&!!

Have you ever tried to express your opinion on Facebook about an important matter, like the state of our American union, the quality of journalism these days or which is the best team in Major League Baseball? Gangbusters, right? The comments don't just criticize, they attack! You're not just wrong, you're an imbecile.

Wasn't there a time, BSM (Before Social Media), when a person offered his or her opinion on something, people listened, and then maybe expressed their own opinions? People listened to understand, not to pounce.



JOHN C. O'CONNELL

Many blame our president for this anger. About half the voters in the last election preferred Hillary Clinton, and her loss — to him! — enraged her supporters. A mere mention of his name or equivocation on his evil awfulness provokes spasms in some people.

And those reactions are only slightly more vitriolic than the comments at the mention of Chuck Schumer, Elizabeth Warren or Barack Obama.

Most people who use Facebook and other social media are respectful, generous

and caring, smart and lucid. They are that way on and off line. Those who are rude and in-your-face bellicose were that way BSM, and before Trump. Obama got folks upset, too. I heard co-workers mock George W. Bush with dripping sarcasm; they belittled him.

But social media is exacerbating the belligerence and contributing to the thinned anger now prevalent. Disagreement isn't the issue; it's disdainful, arrogant condescension that's killing the experience.

Back in the day, like 15 years ago, more people read before forming an opinion. They read a few newspapers, they read one or two weekly news magazines for long-form analysis, and some even read books, which provided depth or historical context. They educated themselves. They informed their opinions. Then they expressed those opinions, armed with facts and some perspective on the issue. Sure, they may have chosen newspapers and magazines that agreed with their views, but IMHO, even "slanted" media back then were generally journalistic, not P.R. organs for "their side."

Now an hour on MSNBC, CNN, Fox, or The New York Times or N.Y. Post, or talk radio, is all anyone needs to be fully informed, right? And then we head to social media. In many cases, especially on politics,

it's about high-flame sizzle without cooking thoughts through. You read something brief, seize on the hot-button word or name, and you jump to tear it down. We don't need no stinking perspective. We despise Trump, or Obama, or socialists or capitalists, or

Cuomo or DeBlasio, so anyone who praises those whom you abhor must be stupid, worthy of quick and fierce derision, especially on anti-social media.

Soon, all we'll need are emoticons. Who needs to carefully develop a thought, lay the unbiased, fact-filled groundwork that leads to a demonstrably reasonable opinion, arguable as it might be? Who needs to circum-spectly study a subject before commenting? Like an anti-Beatle would have sung, All We Need is Hate. Just stick on a smiley face or a red, angry one. A good vocabulary will mean a full page of tiny faces and symbols.

We worry about the effect that social media sites have on our children and teens. There are sexual predators and vicious bullies out there. But there are other SM dangers, for kids and adults. Those hazards have to do with attention spans, and with the crippling of freely exchanged opinions. In homes and classrooms, we encourage young people to learn facts, listen open-mindedly and respectfully to others, and

confidently speak up for themselves. But social media isn't the place to do that. Imagine children expressing themselves, offering an original opinion, and getting ripped apart by critics in this age of ultra-partisanship. Peer pressure being what it is, how long until your children's enthusiasm for self-expression is stifled, and they're condemned to join whatever the groupthink is?

Facebook and Twitter, Snapchat and the other SM apps are great. They're not going away. There are huge benefits to social media. There's more sharing going on than ever in human history! That's wonderful.

But we need to be more conscious of the dangers, to users of all ages. It's too easy for people to hurt one another through disrespect, bullying and nasty glibness, all the while believing we're communicating.

In addition to providing a happy venue for sharing, social media are scary places. We post quickly, commenters who feel they must disagree jump in, shout their words of brilliance, the thread changes the thrust of the original post, and it's off to the next post, abandoning hope of intelligent exchanges.

I hope SM doesn't push out actual reading, real study, fact gathering and the search for truth. Those activities are nowhere near as easy as using an app, but the effort is worth it, don't you think?

O'Connell retired as the Herald's executive editor in 2016. Comments about this column? OConnell11001@yahoo.com.

Back in the day — like 15 years ago — more people read before forming an opinion.

Fixing the environment cannot wait

"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."

—Ansel Adams

Are you sick of Trumpism? Distressed by the criminal convictions of his associates? Worried about North Korea and Iran? Heartsick over the president's racist rants?



RANDI KREISS

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the chaos churning in and around the White House.

So it came as an odd kind of relief to realize that one issue supersedes all the others, and requires our focus, activism and funding. That issue is the survival of home base, our beloved planet. Our

best efforts must go toward protecting and preserving the air and water and open space we have left. Presidents come and go, the national conversation changes over time and American values evolve. But once we squander our wilderness and pollute our waterways, there will be no going back.

In our home communities, we survived Superstorm Sandy, but it changed our coastlines and it changed lives, too. People rebuilt

or moved. The sand under our feet shifted that night in October 2012, and it keeps shifting. Sea levels are rising, and that matters when you live on the ocean and bays and inlets of our towns. To reject the science that proves climate change is to choose ignorance over compelling research. Look at the photos of the shrinking Arctic ice cap. Read the lists of endangered and extinct species. Watch for the dark clouds of the next super-storm heading our way.

From Day One, the Trump administration has been eviscerating environmental regulations, opening public lands to oil drilling and mining, and challenging the evidence of climate change. Perhaps worse, the president and his people have communicated a reckless and immoral disregard for nature.

Out West, where I am now for a few weeks, we get daily warnings about the extremely high risk of wildfires. In our particular town, near Lake Tahoe, we had two weeks of heavy smoke trapped in the Tahoe Basin. It came from the Carr Fire, which burned more than 200,000 acres, and the Ferguson Fire, which burned 96,000. When I look around the area where our rental house sits, the concept of a wildfire suddenly seems like a real and present danger: The bushes and branches are tinder. The air is dry: 15 percent humidity.

When folks were voting in 2016, environmental issues took a back seat. There were

so many other Trump problems to deal with. But two years later, as Trump and his team have changed conservation rules, chipped away at public land protection and peddled wilderness to big oil and mining companies, the fate of our planet emerges as the single most critical issue.

Before my trip out here, a friend recommended that I read "The Emerald Mile" by Kevin Fedarko, a history of the Colorado River and the story of human impact on America's mightiest rivers, for better and worse.

The fruit we eat every day and the vegetables in our markets come from the vast central valleys of California. This agricultural region, larger than Denmark, would not exist if not for the Colorado River, which has been dammed and diverted and siphoned over the years to provide irrigation. But messing with Mother Nature comes at a cost.

According to Fedarko, people ran the rapids and flat water of the Colorado as long as men and women have walked the land. But in the 1800s and 1900s, it all changed. It's as if the day the first white man stepped onto the shores of America, we began spending the nation's capital — our land, rivers and forests — as if it belonged to us. And as if it would never run dry.

We Americans have a damning history of resource abuse. But we have also had leaders who advocated for the environment,

men and women who passed laws and regulations preserving open land and cleaning up waterways. We were making a start before we elected Trump.

In "The Emerald Mile," Fedarko writes, "On talk radio and cable TV, environmentalists are derided as 'wackos' and 'extremists.' The country has swung decisively toward something smaller and more selfish than what it once was, and in addition to ushering in a disdain for the notion that wilderness might have a value that extends beyond the metrics of economics or business, much of the nation ignorantly embraces the benefits of engineering and technology while simultaneously rejecting basic science."

Truly, this cannot wait. Clean air and water and green space are moral imperatives, as immediate to our everyday lives as the kitchen tap.

We can and must make the environment our top priority when electing our leaders.

"Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed . . . We need wilderness preserved — as much of it as is still left, and as many kinds — because it was the challenge against which our character as a people was formed."

—Wallace Stegner

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HERALD EDITORIAL

A militarized school is not a safe school

The New York Times reported last week that U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos was weighing the use of federal grant money to arm teachers across the country. DeVos's staff — predictably — pushed back on the report. The department was merely responding to an inquiry from education officials in Texas, USDE spokespeople said, and no decision had been made.

Still, according to CNN, the Department of Education left the matter open. Spokeswoman Liz Hill told reporters that the department “is constantly considering and evaluating policy issues, particularly issues related to school safety.”

The report, and the department's tepid denial of it, were enough to raise alarm bells for New York state lawmakers and education officials, as well it should have. Our schools are no place for weapons.

Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, a Democrat, quickly responded to the report by saying that her administration opposes the use of federal funds to arm teachers. Curran also pointed to the outstanding work of improving safety that is ongoing in the county's 56 school districts, including continual training and widespread use of the Rave app, which improves response times and the flow of information for first responders in the event of an active shooter.

Every penny of federal grants should go towards our children's educational enrichment, not towards bringing firearms into our classrooms.

LAURA CURRAN
Nassau County executive

“Every penny of federal grants should go towards our children's educational enrichment,” Curran said, “not towards bringing firearms into their classrooms.” We agree.

New York State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia and Board of Regents Chairwoman Betty Rosa also released a joint statement calling the prospect of guns in the classroom “misguided and dangerous.”

How could giving teachers the means to defend their classrooms be dangerous? some might ask. Before we answer, first consider the logistics and the cost. Every teacher in a school that opts to take up arms would first be required to be licensed. That's a fee of \$200 per applicant

in Nassau. Passing a criminal and mental health background check would not likely be a problem for teachers, but training would come next — an expensive proposition.

In the Clarkesville School District in Arkansas, CNN reported, about 13 faculty members were trained in firearms when the program began, at a cost of \$68,000, and they must be retrained every year in defensive tactics.

Setting aside the image of teachers strapped with firearms, adding to the already surrealistic — but necessary — sight of students and law enforcement streaming through halls in rehearsals of mock-terror scenarios, the plan could prove deadly for minority students.

Given all of this, injecting guns into our classrooms would likely do nothing but turn up the heat. It's a dangerous proposition that is unfair to students, and to teachers, who have enough on their plates in trying to meet 21st century learning standards, teaching the whole child and keeping an eye on students' social and emotional well-being.

Educators from across Long Island, including Rockville Centre Superintendent Dr. William Johnson, are decrying the proposal to put guns in our schools. Parents and students must join in the chorus to ensure that it never happens.

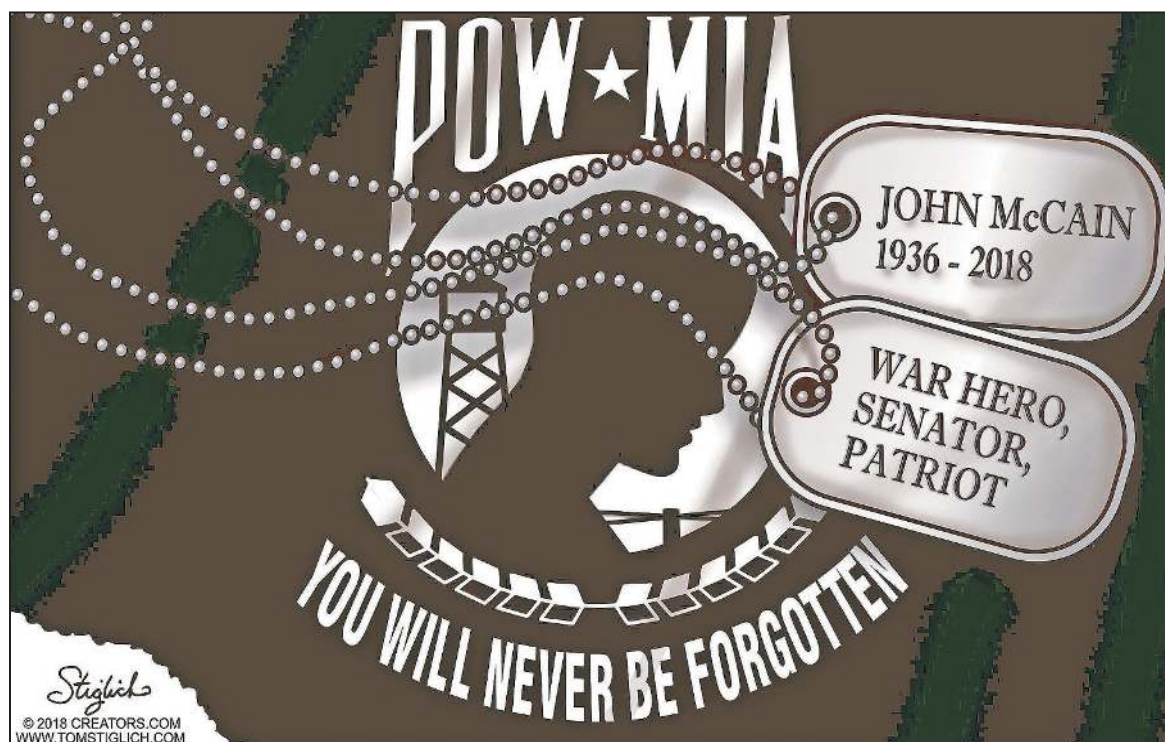
LETTERS

Planned Parenthood exists for abortions

To the Editor:

Planned Parenthood in Nassau County again promotes the illusion that it provides help to those who find themselves seeking guidance in the event of an unwelcome pregnancy. I find the reason people go there that was cited in “Proposal could threaten family planning clinics,” in the Aug. 23-29 issue — “discretion that they don't trust their pediatricians or primary physicians to provide” — a total insult to those in the medical profession. They take an oath to provide care to *all*, which therefore includes the preborn. Technology enables us to know that babies in utero have a heartbeat, are formed and growing from the moment of conception, and feel pain. I wonder if this is a part of how Planned Parenthood “fully” informs the people who find themselves in a Planned Parenthood office, confused and in a panic.

When speaking of choices, do they tell them about all those waiting to adopt babies? Do they tell them of the well documented psychological damage



that will remain with them for the rest of their lives? Do they tell them that “Roe” (Norma McCorvey) became a pro-life advocate and testified before Congress about the injustices of abortion and the deceit underlying Roe v. Wade? I think not.

Planned Parenthood's primary reason to exist is abortion. I would refer you to the book “Unplanned,” by Abby Johnson, someone who headed up a clinic until she actually witnessed an

abortion and became aware of the bookkeeping that showed it to be the prime generator of funds for the clinic. For Planned Parenthood to consider abortion as being part of anyone's *family planning* is a travesty!

State Assemblyman Charles Lavine suggests that those who take the pro-life position “don't care” about the possible consequences of further limits to abortion. He speaks to this as “only satisfying an

OPINIONS

Trump made the right call on Turkey for the wrong reasons

This month, the Trump administration announced a fresh round of sanctions against Turkey for its continuing detention of an American evangelical pastor. In light of the Turkish government's increasingly autocratic leanings and its past material support for the Islamic State, it's the right move, but made entirely for the wrong reasons.



PETER BELFIORE

The pastor, Andrew Brunson, is accused of having been involved in the failed 2016 Turkish military coup against the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. In April, President Trump referred to Brunson in a tweet as a "fine gentleman and Christian

leader in the United States," and wrote that he is "being persecuted in Turkey for no reason."

Trump might be right there, but by highlighting Brunson, and ignoring the rest of the Erdogan regime's litany of failings, which include mass incarcerations of journalists and purges of government employees and judges deemed not sufficiently loyal, Trump is reinforcing the toxic notion that Muslims and Christians — East and West — are diametrically opposed.

Call it a cynical appeal to his base, of which evangelicals make up a significant portion, or an earnest belief that the Islamist Turkish government is deter-

mined to persecute Christians. Whatever his reasons, Trump's argument continues a bad habit that generations of Western leaders have shared, of singling out crimes against minority ethnic groups in predominantly Muslim countries while ignoring larger socioeconomic and political issues, trends and history, often with disastrous results.

Consider Lebanon. The French, during their years of empire building, intervened in a late-19th-century feudal dispute among Christian peasants and their masters, who were predominantly adherents of the Druze faith — a religion that incorporates elements of Shia Islam and Hinduism, among others. The French, as was their MO, backed the Christians and enshrined in a constitution for the small Mediterranean enclave a separation of powers based on religious background, dividing governmental responsibility along ethnic lines, and blurring distinctions between religious and political ideology.

The balance of power between ethnicities that the reworked government called for led to a devastating, decades-long civil war starting in 1975, when that balance was thrown off with the influx of politically active Palestinian refugees, who were predominantly Muslim, and resulted in nearly 150,000 deaths.

Modern history is littered with interventions on behalf of minority communities that have only exacerbated local tensions, so Trump is not alone in this regard.

President Obama dramatically intervened on behalf of Iraq's minority Yazidi population, which in 2014 had been driven up Mount Sinjar, in northwestern Iraq, by the Islamic State, whose leadership sought to wipe out the group and sell off its women as sex slaves.

The move to airlift the Yazidis off Sinjar was widely praised at the time, but what was lost in the assessment of the crisis was that the Islamic State's ascendency was made possible by America's 2003 intervention in Iraq, and its attempt to rework the political landscape to favor the country's Shia Muslim majority.

Beyond pitting ethnic groups that have historically gotten along against one another, comments like Trump's about Brunson and Turkey also collapse history and distract focus from the country's more than decade-long slide into authoritarianism.

Since its formation out of the ashes of the Ottoman Empire in 1923, Turkey has long struggled to define its identity. Its founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, pushed a top-down focus on secular democracy, which has long spurred debate in the country over what role, if any, religion could play in government.

Repeated military coups wrested government control from civilian hands, with multiple ideologies — from communism to Islamism — competing for dominance. Political instability, with military leaders concerned about civilian efforts to incorporate religion into politics, lasted for

decades, until Erdogan stepped on to the scene in 2002.

His Justice and Development Party framed itself as moderate Islamist, and appealed to rural communities that had historically felt left out of the strictly secularist inclination of the state while appearing relatively benign to more secular-leaning urban populations.

The wide swath of public support allowed Erdogan to slowly amass extraordinary powers, with regional experts now concluding that he had never had an interest in a good-faith participation in liberal democracy.

As he pushed reform after reform adding parliamentary and judicial powers to his office, the military in 2016 made one final attempt to step in. It failed, and gave Erdogan the pretext to purge entire swaths of the public sector and replace them with loyalists. Brunson appears to have been caught up in this effort, but for Trump to single him out only serves to ignore the rest of the crackdown.

Worse, it reinforces the much-maligned notion that the geopolitical world revolves around religious axes, with the West acting as moderating force. The reality is that Western influence and interventions have proved to be the most destabilizing developments in Middle East history.

American leaders can and should do better. With our wealth and influence, we have the ability to hold the world's governments to higher standards of accountability. It's long past time we get to it.

Peter Belfiore is the editor of the Oceanside-Island Park Herald. Comments about this column? PBelfiore@liherald.com.

With our influence, we should hold the world's governments to higher standards.

LETTERS

emotional issue and a hyper-religious issue." I would say it is an issue that cries out for justice in that, as of this writing, according to numberofabortions.com, there have been 60,680,303 babies aborted in this country alone since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973. Think about it. Over 60 million children have never seen the light of day, never had the chance to grow up and perhaps change the world.

Lavine speaks of "grave danger when symbolism becomes more significant than the issue itself." Really? The issue is a great and powerful country annihilating its children before they are born! Make no mistake, I love this country. We have more of everything than any other country, and yet we can't seem to comprehend what we are really doing and the consequences we will ultimately face in the future because of our inability to recognize the value of each and every human life.

MARIE COYLE
Glen Cove

Much to support other than abortion

To the Editor:

I was dismayed to read, "Proposal could threaten family planning clinics" (Aug. 23-29). It opposed the proposed HHS rules that would limit abortions provided by Planned Parenthood on Long Island. Many of us are actually in favor of limiting the procedure because it is always a tragedy, an impoverishment of life and a source of deep pain for everyone involved. Even many abortion proponents will concede it is not a triumph, but something grimly accepted.

Why not promote responsible fatherhood and challenge young men to be good husbands, so we can limit the pain and promote more happiness for women, children and men? High school and even elementary school might be a good place to start.

JOSEPH MCCLEARY
Glen Head

Tribute to John McCain

To the Editor:

John McCain stood up for what he believed in, fought hard, and loved his country. He was a hero not only for his service and sacrifice in times of war, but for a lifetime of service in Congress. He was an iconic figure, representing the true meaning of what it means to be an American — love of country, defense of our Constitution, and protecting our American democracy.

We were not always on the same side of issues, but I always respected him. He was a man of integrity. His voice will be missed. Regardless of party, in our elected officials may we always seek out men and women of substance and principle. May he rest in peace.

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