

GLEN COVE

HERALD

Gazette



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Mike Conn/Herald Gazette

LIA LEONE, LEFT, and Karen Ferguson were both elected to their first term as trustees of the Glen Cove City School District Board of Education on Tuesday.

\$91.3M school budget passes

Leone and Ferguson are elected new trustees

By **MIKE CONN**
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A small crowd of people in the front lobby of Glen Cove High School erupted in cheers at 10 p.m. on Tuesday as district Superintendent Dr. Maria Rianna wrote the results of the budget, capital reserve and Board of Education election on a whiteboard.

According to tentative results, the proposed \$91.3 million spending plan for the 2019-20 school year passed,

913-483. The proposed establishment of a capital reserve passed as well, with 876 “yes” votes and 413 “nos.”

The Board of Education will welcome two new members, as challengers Lia Leone and Karen Ferguson were elected trustees with 796 and 584 votes, respectively. Incumbent Trustee David Huggins received 466 votes, challenger Daniel had 364 and incumbent board Vice President Alexander Juarez garnered 337.

When Leone saw the size of her winning margin, she covered her mouth with her hands as friends hugged and congratulated her. Ferguson smiled, and shook hands with everyone around her.

Leone’s campaign was a vibrant one, as she promoted her positions on social media and in person across the city. This wasn’t the first time she had offered ideas on how to improve Glen Cove’s schools: She was part of a committee

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Once an Army medic, now the grand marshal

By **MIKE CONN**
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Each year, a Glen Cove Memorial Day parade grand marshal is chosen from one of the city’s four military organizations — American Legion Post 76, American Legion Young-Simmons Post 1765, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347, Marine Corps League Detachment 22 — or the community at large. The choice rotates each year, and the grand marshal represents the city’s commitment to honoring those who have died in combat.

This year, it’s American Legion Post 76’s turn, and it has chosen Robert Curiano who has

lived in Glen Cove for nearly all of his 89 years, to lead the parade.

Curiano was born on July 1, 1929, in Brooklyn, to Paul Holland, who worked in a plant that made typewriter ribbons, and his wife, Rose. Robert was the oldest of three children, with a younger brother, Charles, and a younger sister, Annette. The Curianos moved to Glen Cove when Robert was 4, to make his father’s commute to work easier despite his mother’s protestations. Curiano described his mother as a “Brooklyn girl” who never wanted to leave the city.

Nonetheless, the Curianos set-

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Mike Conn/Herald Gazette

THIS YEAR’S MEMORIAL Day Parade grand marshal, Robert Curiano, served as an Army medic from 1951 to 1953.

Center's evening of intergenerational fun

By MIKE CONN
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For over 20 years, the Glen Cove Senior Center has hosted its annual Senior Ball. During this eagerly awaited event, students from Glen Cove High School head to the center to help the city's seniors enjoy dinner, dessert and dancing by serving, cleaning up and even joining them out on the dance floor.

This year's ball took place on May 18. About 70 seniors were treated to a show by the high school's 20-piece jazz band. They also enjoyed a three-course meal of salad, chicken parmesan with pasta and sorbet. Music from over a half dozen decades was played throughout the evening by DJ John Macchione, ranging from "Tutti Frutti" by Little Richard to Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines."

According to Mark Gerlich, a business teacher at GCHS, the students who attended the ball are all part of Glen Cove's chapter of the Distributive Education Club of America, an international organization geared toward promoting leadership and entrepreneurship within students, which Gerlich heads at GCHS. Glen Cove's DECA club includes about 200 students, roughly 60 of whom helped with the event. Gerlich said the students get school credits by attending the ball, and that they also like giving back to the community by helping the seniors.

"It's great to get the community together, especially to get the senior citizens



Mike Conn/Herald Gazette

STUDENTS AND SENIORS alike kept moving throughout the entire Electric Slide.

together, and just to make them happy," said Christina Cavallone, 18, a senior who serves as president of DECA.

On how it feels to see so many students attending, Cavallone said, "It's actually pretty rewarding because you ask people to help out and volunteer, and then when they actually show up and volunteer, it makes me feel very honored and very happy that they actually want to be a part of something big."

High school senior Latifa Fakhry, 17, has volunteered at the Senior Ball all of the years she has been in high school. "It's a lot of fun," she said. "I enjoy it, I enjoy

helping out." Fakhry also described this as a typical day for her, as she spends a great deal of her time volunteering in a variety of capacities, including working with Glen Cove EMS and the fire department.

The seniors enjoyed being able to interact with people that were generations younger. "I think it's a great experience for [the students], and I think it helps a lot of the seniors here..." said Camille Madigan, 73. "It's wonderful that they do that."

Diane Romano, 75, said she enjoys watching the younger people mouth the words to the songs as they start to loosen up, eventually making their way to the

dance floor along with their older counterparts. She appreciates the ball's ability to let the students open up, she said, and connect with the people around them, whether they be seniors or peers.

"These are good people that are around the young people, so it's really good for them," said Romano. "All you have to do is just observe and you will see . . . and it's a joy to see."

"We make them feel good, and they make us feel good," Romano added.

At the end of the night, seniors were encouraged to enter raffles for 25 different prizes, that included food, wine and all sorts of accessories. The ball's finale consisted of all of the seniors, students and center's staff dancing together to "That's What Friends Are For" by Dionne Warwick.

Eric Shuman, activities coordinator at the senior center, said the ball was fantastic, the seniors loved it and the students did a great job. He explained that it was nice for the seniors to feel cared for and loved, as many of them have very little interaction with people outside of the center. He also said that he hopes the experience helped change the lives of the students as well.

"I hope that they realize that the senior population in the city needs our assistance and should be taken care of and should be appreciated," Shuman said. "I hope that they feel good about giving back something to their community."

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Robert Curiano to head Memorial Day parade

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

tled in Glen Cove, and Robert has been there ever since. He grew into a star athlete, captaining the basketball and baseball teams at Glen Cove High School, and played the saxophone in the school band. It was this range of talents, as well as his fun-loving personality, that attracted the attention of his classmate Rose Marie DiRienzo. The two started dating during their senior year of high school, and eventually married on Oct. 6, 1951.

Before they tied the knot, Curiano attended St. Francis College, where he obtained a bachelor's pre-medical degree. But, he said, "Uncle Sam grabbed my tail," just after he graduated, and he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1951. He underwent basic training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina.

After 16 weeks in training, half of his company was deployed to Korea, while the other half was sent to Germany. Curiano, however, remained at Fort Jackson, assigned to work as a medic at its hospital. He spent two years there, tending to soldiers who had been wounded in combat overseas.

In 1953, Curiano returned home to Rose Marie and their son, Robert, who was born while he was in South Carolina. The three settled in Glen Cove for good, and eventually there were three more children — Marjorie, born in 1955, Patricia, in 1959, and Thomas, in 1961 — and, over the years, five grandchildren.

Curiano worked at a variety of science-related jobs, first becoming a microbiologist FPR the Nassau County Division of Laboratories and Research. He would go on to work as an environmental scientist and a sanitarian at various laboratories until he retired in 1994.

He is particularly proud of his service, he said, because being a veteran means a great deal to him. "It means that I'm a member of a very large family," he said. "Going back to the birth of the country ... we've had a lot of wars, so



Mike Conn/Herald Gazette

ROBERT CURIANO AND his wife, Rose Marie, have lived in Glen Cove nearly all their lives, going to local schools as children and raising their family in the city.

there are a lot of veterans, dead and alive. I feel like it's an extended family, like there's always that touch with people who are serving now and people before me."

It is this deep appreciation for being a veteran that makes Memorial Day so important to Curiano. As much as he enjoys the parade and the celebrations, he said, Americans need to remember the true meaning of the holiday. "To me, Memorial Day means we are reflecting on the service of men and women who gave up their lives," he said. "This is really meant [to be] in observance of those who gave it all."

He said he was extremely proud to be this year's grand marshal, an honor that Fred Nielsen, chairman of the Memorial Day Parade Committee, said was only fitting. "He has the perspective of years," Nielsen said. "For all that we pay for suffering as we get older, there's a richness of judgment and perspective that is priceless, and there's no shortcut for it."

Rose Marie said she was also tremendously proud of her husband. "It's such a privilege and an honor," she said. "I think it's great."

Beyond his work, his family and his presence in the city's military organizations, Curiano regularly brightens up the day of some of Glen Cove's oldest residents. As a saxophonist in the Continentals, the Glen Cove Senior Center's resident band, he plays a key role in keeping spirits high among the community's seniors, said the center's executive director, Carol Waldman.

"He's one of the most kind and generous people you want to meet," Waldman said. "He's always ready to help out whenever he can, and because he plays music, he brings light to everyone's life."

Waldman said that Curiano is exactly the kind of person who should head such an important event. "He's got the right kind of spirit and a very beautiful kind of energy about him that makes him a person to lead — not just a parade, but to lead any major event," she said.

Curiano said he was excited about the parade partly because his age allows him certain transportation privileges. "I'm riding in a very, very [nice] car — it's gonna be beautiful," he said. "And I've got a driver who's a retired colonel in the Army. So, isn't that nice? I've got a colonel driving me!"

A memorial ceremony will be held at Monument Park at 11 a.m. on Monday, just before the parade, which will kick off at noon at the corner of Dosoris Lane and Forest Avenue. Marchers will snake their way through downtown Glen Cove before finishing at the Glen Cove Library.

State reps. propose legislation to combat jet noise

By **NAKEEM GRANT** and **ALYSSA SEIDMAN**

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State Sen. Jim Gaughran and Assemblywoman Judy Griffin proposed a bill last week that would study the environmental and human health impacts of John F. Kennedy International Airport and LaGuardia Airport. The proposed legislation would require the state Departments of Environmental Conservation and Transportation to examine and report on the effects of air traffic at the two airports.

"The noise is excessive, harmful to humans and needs to be mitigated," Griffin said at a Nassau County Aviation Committee news conference on May 17. "Although we will always endure a level of airplane noise, I am hopeful that this study will illustrate that many residents are faced with excessive noise way above the acceptable level."

Gaughran, a Democrat from Northport, recalled knocking on doors during his campaign for Senate. He said in some cases he couldn't finish a conversation with a constituent due to the noise from low-flying planes overhead. "There are direct flight paths that go over the northern part of [the Town of] Oyster Bay," he said referring to the cluster of incorporated villages there. "In those communities you feel like you can reach up and touch some of these planes. It's a distraction."

The recent rise in jet noise is partly attributable to an increase in arrivals and



Sue Grieco/Herald

A PLANE DEPARTS from John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens.

departures — 35 to 70 percent more because of the Port Authority's runway project at Kennedy, which began on April 1.

The bill would require the DEC and the DOT to study plane noise levels from JFK and LaGuardia between 2020 and 2021 and report its findings to the state the following year. The study would also identify holding patterns and air traffic trends that may produce unprecedented noise levels and offer alternatives to the federal government to curb the problem, Gaughran said.

"We're going to confront the federal government to fix this issue that, we see, is obvious, and create guidance to try and make some changes so these communities that are unfairly inundated with all this air traffic can get some relief," he said.

Malvernite Elaine Miller, one of the co-founders of the aviation committee, which formed in March, said that its main goal is to improve Nassau County residents' quality of life. "That will have to be done through numerous ways, but especially legislation," Miller said. "The effects of plane noise have been brought to the forefront, and it seems that since the formation of this group, the ball has really been rolling."

Assemblyman Ed Ra said that in 2012, he helped pass legislation to facilitate what is known as a Part 150 study, which is examining the impact of plane noise in areas under the flight paths at Kennedy and LaGuardia. The study has led to roundtable meetings at which elected officials, community leaders and business people

met with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to address concerns at those airports. But Nassau County has been under-represented at those meetings, Ra said.

An aide from Gaughran's office said the Part 150 study does not include most of Long Island since many of the plane noise monitors that measure sound intensity there have reported average sound levels below the Federal Aviation Administration's definition of significant noise (roughly 65 decibels).

In addition to the Part 150 study, NextGen, a satellite GPS technology, was also implemented in 2012. It has saved \$1.6 billion by reducing jets' time in the air and their fuel use, according to the FAA. Miller said, however, that it has not helped mitigate jet noise.

"Since the implementation of NextGen, citizens across the county have been exposed to an intrusive assault on their lives," she said, "due to the continual use of constricted airspace."

Jana Goldenberg, another co-founder of the Nassau County Aviation Committee, said that getting local elected officials behind the proposed legislation was a win for the group, and that the next step would be its passage in the Senate and Assembly.

"We don't let grass grow under our feet," Goldenberg said. "We're going to work until we can live in peace and quiet and know that we're not being killed by the toxic fumes flying over us."

Don't be a victim of mail theft

I have previously warned readers about various scams being used by thieves intent on stealing your money —phone, internet, e-mail and phishing scams. Unfortunately, there is a new scam that people need to be aware of. This scam has caused recent mailbox changes at local post offices including in Glen Cove. Have you noticed that the post office mailbox in front of the Glen Cove Post Office won't accept medium size mail? There is a reason.

Mailbox thieves, who began their activities in Manhattan and Queens are now here on Long Island.

The thieves place a sticky substance at the tip of a long stick, which they then thrust into a mailbox. Fishing for mail recently placed in the mailbox, the thief gathers the mail and then sorts through it, taking what contains checks or other personal information and discarding the rest.

The victims who reported to police that their checks had been stolen and altered included people using the mailbox in front of the Glen Cove Post Office. A new drop door was installed on this mailbox, so these fishing expeditions have been curtailed.

Remember, all thieves need is your name, checking account and routing numbers. Armed with that information they can wreak havoc on your credit and bank accounts. If they are successful in fishing out a piece of mail that contains a check, they can alter the check by changing the amount and payee. Unfortunately, you may not know you are a victim until you notice your checking account is depleted.

How can you prevent becoming a victim of this mailbox scam? Don't place important mail in a public mailbox that doesn't have the restrictive door. If you can place your hand in the opening, a thief can too. The mailbox door should only be large enough for a piece of mail to pass through it. If it has the old-fashioned lever type of door you may want to use a different mailbox or mail directly from the post office.

Many times, a piece of mail may be lost in the mail. If you see a pattern of lost mail alert the post office and the sender. Also, contact your bank or credit card company if your new card or replacement card hasn't shown up. If you receive mail from a bank, cell phone provider, or business you don't recognize don't just discard them. You should read them. By

reading them you may be alerted to a fraudulent line of credit opened in your name or a phone bill you didn't authorize.

Identity protection providers can be an option to help you keep an eye on your accounts, but these services charge monthly fees. Just about every banks now offers an app (free of charge), that allows you to monitor your checking account and credit card usage on your smartphone. These apps will alert you when your credit card is used, or money is debited from your account. Another thing you can do is pay bills electronically and request that bills and statements be sent to you via e-mail. Many companies will be more than happy to switch you to paperless billing because it saves them money.

Checking your bank account and credit card statements on a regular basis is something everyone should be doing. If you see something strange don't wait, investigate it immediately. This will require you to contact your financial institution or credit card provider.

If you think you are a victim of mail theft or any scam don't hesitate to contact your local police department. Never send cash through the mail and if you haven't received an expected check or important mail, don't assume it was lost. Notify the sender to verify if the mail was sent. If you are moving, make sure you notify the post office. This way, your mail will go to the correct address.

These are a few of the things you can do to help protect yourself. Remember, be vigilant when protecting your identity. Always be proactive and stay on top of your finances. If you believe you are a victim of a scam immediately call the police. If you think someone is trying to scam you, slow things down. Don't be rushed into making snap judgements. Try to reach out to friends or family before making decisions, especially if these decisions involve the transfer of money.

Scammers will try to rush you into making poor decisions. They know a person under stress is easier to trick. If you are not sure about a weird call or request for money remember this article. If you're alone and have no one to reach out to for advice give us a call. We are always open and are here to help you, Until next time, be safe.



DET. LT. JOHN NAGLE
GLEN COVE POLICE

Arrests

■ Male, 35, of Canton, Mass., was arrested for two counts of seventh-degree possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of marijuana on Glen Cove Arterial Highway on May 18.

■ Male, 34, of Wethersfield, Conn., was arrested for two counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of marijuana and following a motor vehicle too closely on Glen Cove Arterial Highway on May 18.

■ Male, 80, of Glen Cove, was arrested for third-degree assault on Coles Street on May 18.

■ Male, 25, of Glen Cove, was arrested for DWI, failure to signal and operation of a motor vehicle by an unlicensed driver on Glen Street on May 18.

■ Males, 18, 18 and 19, of Glen Cove, were each arrested on one count of unlawful possession on marijuana on

Brewster Street on May 15. One of the 18-year-old males also had an open warrant in Glen Cove.

■ Male, 73, of Glen Cove, was arrested for second-degree menacing and endangering the welfare of a child on Petite Place on May 14.

■ Male, 21, of Glen Cove, was arrested for third-degree assault on Dosoris Lane on May 12.

■ Female, 38, of Glen Cove, was arrested for second-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle, a vehicle and traffic law equipment violation, operation of a motor vehicle by an unlicensed driver and on a Glen Cove Open Warrant on Forest Avenue on May 12.

■ Male, 37, of Valley Stream, was arrested for third-degree criminal tampering, obstruction of breathing and third-degree menacing on Miller Street on May 12.

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.

Suoizzi to commemorate 75th D-Day anniversary

U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, a Democrat from Glen Cove, will join a bipartisan Congressional Delegation to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion in Normandy, France. Suozzi and other members of Congress will pay tribute and partake in ceremonies to honor those lost during the Battle of Normandy.

Suoizzi is asking for stories from constituents and is scouring veterans' records so that he may pay tribute to those who lost their lives during the Normandy Invasion, and honor those that survived the D-Day attack.

Codenamed Operation Overlord, the

battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of Normandy, France.

If you know a surviving sailor or soldier, Suozzi would like to hear their stories and pay his respects. Contact his veteran's caseworker, Matt Geller, at (631) 923-4100 or Matityahu.geller@mail.house.gov.

— Alyssa Seidman



HOW TO REACH US

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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

THE WEEK AHEAD

Nearby things to do this week

Old Time Base Ball Game



An Old Time Base Ball Game will take place at John Maccarone Memorial Stadium on May 24 at 7 p.m., where viewers can see the game as it was played in its early days under 1860s rules. The Brooklyn Atlantics will face off against the New York Mutuals in the "National Pastime" – a term first coined in the 1850s when professional baseball leagues were formed. Viewers can bring

lawn chairs or come early and claim a seat in the bleachers at this free family event. Located between Morris Avenue and Shore Road. (516) 676-2000.

Glen Cove Street Fair

The Street Fair will once again be held in Glen Cove's downtown with scores of vendors and a variety of craft items, jewelry, clothing and food and beverages on May 25 starting at 10 a.m. Continuous entertainment will be featured in the center of Glen Cove's downtown beginning at 11:30 a.m. which includes magic, music and animals. A bounce house and petting zoo will also be on the street for the kids. 1 Glen St., Glen Cove. (516) 442-6000.



SAT/ACT workshop

Teens grade 6 and up can learn proven study skills that are needed to study better, not harder, to optimize standardized test-taking skills. Barbara Becker will clearly explain the tests' different formats, scoring systems and strategies as well as the five most important tips students need to know. The workshop starts at 7 p.m. on May 30 at the Glen Cove Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. (516) 676-2130.

Art adventures

Families can explore their creativity during Nassau County Museum of Art's Studio Saturday programming, May 25, 12-3 p.m. Come by the Manes Center to create work inspired by the art on view in the current exhibition, "That 80s Show." Spend up to an hour with a range of materials, techniques and themes. Then visit the museum's lush grounds filled with trails, a sculpture park and gardens. Info: (516) 484-9338 or www.nassaumuseum.org.

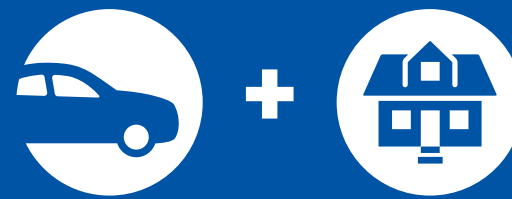


Friday Night Fever

Hop in the time machine and relive your favorite 70s hits with the New York Bee Gees. From "Stayin' Alive" to "Night Fever" and everything in between, the acclaimed tribute group takes the stage with songs from every decade of the Bee Gees cata-

log. They carry on the Bee Gees vibe with powerful vocals and rockin' stage presence, on Friday, May 24, at 8 p.m., at The Paramount. Info: (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.

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Presented by Beth Polner Abrahams, Esq.
Garden City and Oyster Bay Elder Law & Estate Planning Attorney

Planning without Fear: Elder Care Law and What You Must Know

Learn the basics for issues in elder law including Medicaid, Medicare, legal documents including living trusts and powers of attorney, health care proxies, and other elder care concerns

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HERALD SCHOOLS

School trustees-elect looking ahead

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

that put together the \$84.6 million school-infrastructure bond earlier this school year, and an active member of the pro-bond group Vote Yes March 12. While the bond was voted down, she said on Tuesday that she was thrilled to be able to help the district in her new role.

"I didn't do it alone," Leone said. "I had an amazing team of people. I'm humbled; I feel such pride. This is my city — I've lived here my whole life, and I'm just ready to jump in and do what I have to do for these kids."

She said she was excited about learning how to collaborate with the board to help students as best she can. Asked about the first thing she hoped to accomplish as a board trustee, she said, "We need to work on a bond. We need to get a number that's going to work for the community, and get these buildings where they need to be as far as safety is concerned for our kids."

Conversely, Ferguson quickly made her way out of the excited

crowd, saying this was just "another day, another mission." She said she was eager to take her place on the board, learn how it works and figure out how she can use her new position to benefit the district.

She agreed that creating another bond was one of the first things she wanted to do as a trustee. "We need to continue the mission of the schools," she explained, "and make sure that we have a curriculum that meets all the children's needs and, like I said at Meet the Candidates [on May 6], the whole-child education is important to me, and school safety and making sure that we have the funding that we need to do the best for our students."

Additionally, Ferguson wants to place a greater emphasis on the district's ability to nurture students' mental health and provide whatever aid it can in that area.

Rianna celebrated the passing of the budget and the capital reserve, both of which passed by large margins. "It shows that peo-

ple are feeling confident with our budgeting," she said. "I really think it's a concerted effort on a lot of people's parts. We thank the Board of Education for supporting our efforts as we go through the school year and prepare our budget, and for approving the budget that we're proposing. We thank the community for their faith in us as they vote positively."

Rianna said she was determined to help residents who voted "no" understand what the district needs. "We want to be able to ensure that they're more comfortable, and they understand fully and we're able to hear their issues as well," she said.

Rianna credited the hard work and expertise of Victoria Galante, the district's assistant superintendent for business, for the budget's passage, saying that Galante worked tirelessly to ensure the district had a spending plan that covered its critical needs while remaining cost-effective.

One of the most significant changes will be the institution of

a nine-period day at the high school. This will allow students to take on additional coursework, and also provide them with a mandated lunch period. Students in need of extra help in specific subjects will be able to take additional classes. The district will likely hire five to seven new teachers, some of whom may be part-time.

It will also continue to work toward increasing security throughout all of its buildings. The high school is set to add a new booth for security officers, and new cameras will be installed at all of the schools. Lockdown systems will also be installed at GCHS and at Gribbin and Landing elementary schools. And the district plans to replace the roof at Landing and install a new P.A. system at Deasy Elementary.

The capital reserve will be used to improve school facilities without drawing money from the budget. All expenditures coming from the capital reserve will have to be approved by voters.

Finley students present 'Zombie Prom'

Members of R.M. Finley Middle School's Drama Club took the stage for their production of "Zombie Prom: Atomic Edition."

The play is a girl-loves-ghoul, rock-'n'-roll musical set in the 1950s at Enrico Fermi High, where the law is laid down by a tyrannical principal. The production was directed and choreographed by Christopher Moll and featured Finley's most talented student-thespians.



CHRISTINE CALDERON PLAYED Miss Strict in the production.



FINLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL'S Elle Woska, left and Elijah Roditi found love at Enrico Fermi High as Toffee and Jonny.

Courtesy GCCSD

Community comes out to support a fallen hero

By ALYSSA SEIDMAN

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Christopher Tasso said when he first saw his friend Robert Hendriks' casket at the Dover Air Force Base in Delaware he felt like he was sleepwalking. The memories of him and Hendriks growing up together in Locust Valley still felt too close for the truth to be real.

On April 8, Hendriks, a Marine Reservist, was killed in Afghanistan with two other reservists, Staff Sgt. Christopher K.A. Slutman, 43, and Sgt. Benjamin S. Hines, 31, after their convoy was hit by a roadside bomb.

Hendriks, who was born in Glen Cove, was connected in a variety of ways to the North Shore. His father, Erik Hendriks, lives in Glenwood Landing and his immediate family lives in Glen Head. The family moved to Locust Valley when Robert was two. He was living in an apartment in Oyster Bay before he left for Afghanistan.

Tasso addressed over 300 guests at a memorial fundraiser held in Hendriks' honor at the Oyster Bay Brewing Company. Tasso also said that in the crowd of servicemen that flooded the tarmac in Delaware, he could see the face of his dear friend on some of the young marines in the distance.

On Tuesday, residents, community members, veterans and elected officials came together to raise money for a memorial scholarship fund dedicated in Hen-



Photo by Alyssa Seidman/Herald Gazette

THE OYSTER BAY Brewing Company was packed to capacity with residents from every sect of community life.

driks' memory at Locust Valley High School, his alma mater. The United States Marine Cpl. Robert A. Hendriks Memorial Scholarship will be given to a deserving senior who exemplifies some of the same traits that Hendriks displayed as a student.

Halfway through the night, Nassau County Legislator Josh Lafazan, who hosted the fundraiser, reported that they already raised \$20,000 for the scholarship fund. Ryan Schlotter, one of the co-owners of the brewery, then told him that the business would be donating the proceeds

from the cash bar to the fund, as well, bringing the total to \$25,000. By the end of the night, the event had raised \$30,000.

Lafazan worked with local business owners to devise a fundraiser that would immortalize Hendriks' legacy. As he looked out on the brewery, which was packed to capacity, he said he was overwhelmed. "This is a community that is generous beyond measure," he said, "and the fact that they came out to support Robert, we're keeping his memory alive."

Milling about the brewery were friends and neighbors of Hendriks and his family. They greeted each other with "good to see you" and caught up over a pint. Many of them wore screen-printed t-shirts and hoodies bearing Hendriks' portrait. Written on the backs of the shirt was a quote: "We have good Corporals and good Sergeants, and those are far more important than good Generals."

Also in attendance were veterans from past and present wars. Legionnaires from Locust Valley, Bayville and Oyster Bay stood alongside servicemen who had fought in Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan, a sight best described as "moving beyond measure," Lafazan said.

Vinnie Libertini, commander of the Robert H. Spittle Post 1285 in Bayville, said he attended as a way to thank Hendriks for his service, and reassure people that he would not be forgotten. "There's one thing all of us did that a lot of people

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



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HERALD SPORTS

Glen Cove thrives at divisions

SPOTLIGHT ATHLETE



ANDREA LIOTTA
North Shore Senior Lacrosse

A DEFENSIVE LEADER and captain for the Lady Vikings, Liotta will play at the next level at Manhattan College. She has taken the underclassmen under her wing this spring according to coach Megan McCarthy, who said Liotta, an All-Conference selection in 2018, plays an aggressive style, causes turnovers, and is tough to beat on groundballs. She also gets the toughest faceguard assignment every game.

NASSAU CHAMPIONSHIPS

SOFTBALL

Tuesday, May 28

Class AA/A/B finals Game 1 (Hofstra) ... 2:30/5/7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 29

Class AA/A/B finals Game 1 (Hofstra) ... 2:30/5/7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 31

Class AA/A/B finals Game 1 (Hofstra) ... 2:30/5/7:30 p.m.

BOYS LACROSSE

Tuesday, May 28

Class A finals (Hofstra) 3:30 p.m.

Class B finals (Hofstra) 6 p.m.

Class C finals (Hofstra) 8:30 p.m.

GIRLS LACROSSE

Wednesday, May 29

Class D finals (Adelphi) 4 p.m.

Class A finals (Adelphi) 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 30

Class B finals (Adelphi) 4 p.m.

Class C finals (Adelphi) 6:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

Friday, May 31

Class AA/A finals Game 1 (SUNY-Old Westbury) ... 4/7 p.m.

Saturday, June 1

Class A/AA finals Game 2 (SUNY-Old Westbury) .. 4/7 p.m.

Monday, June 3

Class AA/A finals Game 3 (SUNY-Old Westbury) .. 4/7 p.m.

By **J.D. FREDA**

sports@liherald.com

Each and every spring outdoor track season, the penultimate goal for many runners is a chance to represent his or her school at the county meet in May. An opportunity to showcase an athlete's athleticism at the most coveted meet of the year is the supreme accomplishment for an individual, but sending multiple athletes to the county meet each year is the mark of a great team.

The Glen Cove Lady Big Red finished its regular season in successful fashion and will be sending seven representatives to the Nassau County Class AA championships at Roosevelt High School on Thursday.

"The highlight of our season so far is getting a bunch of girls into the county meet," coach Christian Dottin said. "We have seven individuals going to the county meet in five different events so our team is looking very good."

An array of talent, the Lady Big Red possess a roster of gifted female runners with multiple girls competing at a high standard in different events at different meets.

At the Glen Cove Big Red Invitational on May 2, senior E'Shane Cofield showed once again why she has been one of her team's most consistent finishers for the entirety of her high school track career. Cofield took a first-place finish in the 100 meter finals, an occurrence that has become all-too familiar for her, with a 12.60 seconds finish. That mark was also good enough for Cofield's season-best time to that point. Cofield finished with a 12.62 in the qualifiers and a 12.46 in the finals of the 100m at the Section VIII Division 3A Championships on May 15.

Junior Nicole Reyes placed top 18 in the 400m with a 1:16.34 time at the Big Red Invitational. Freshman Aryana Souter finished in the 400m invitational finals with a personal-record time of 1:06.44. Juniors Caitriona Greene and Christie Annunzia-to finished third and fourth respectively in the 100m hurdles finals. Freshmen Holly Farnan and Teresa Melfi both set PR's up to that point in both the shotput and discus events, and the Glen Cove relay team finished second in the 4x100 relay.

Junior Ayjah Clarke finished at a tie for



J. Heck/Herald

GLEN COVE SENIOR E'Shane Cofield proved too tough to catch in the 100- and 200-meter dashes at the Division 3A championships last week.

fourth in the 100m finals with a 13.94 time, her season-best time in the event as well. Clarke also finished seventh in the 400m finals with a 1:10.84 time, a personal-best. Clarke has been an athlete that, since last season, has grown and improved steadily, and her coach believes she is still evolving. "She showed a ton of progression as she is a constant hard worker," Dottin said. "We've had quite a few girls improve and that's what building a team is about."

Juniors Mary Thompson and Rose Zav-

ala also added to a talented roster with respectable finishes over the course of the year in the 100m and 1500m respectively.

Cofield, the team's most successful runner, is the only senior. While bittersweet, the prospective future looks bright for the Lady Big Red. "Bringing back a strong core is our priority," Dottin said. "This group is great because they're accountable, they get on each other for not doing the right things and that is great."

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HERALD NEIGHBORS

GLEN COVE HERALD GAZETTE — May 23, 2019



Photos by Adrienne Daley/Herald

TAU LU, FRONT left, and Cindy Bonilla were both active and enthusiastic during the Zumba fundraiser.

Zumba fundraiser helps Glen Cove Youth Bureau



Approximately 80 people gathered in the gym of Finley Middle School on May 2 for an evening of Zumba, all for the benefit of the Glen Cove Youth Bureau. Led by a group of volunteer instructors and pumped up by the music of DJ Gerard Patalano, who is a Zumba instructor himself, all participants worked up a sweat and used their hard-earned money to benefit the children of Glen Cove.

Money was raised through an entrance fee of \$20 — or \$15 if paid in advance — and there were raffles for prizes such as gym memberships, clothes, event tickets and much more.

According to Spiro Tsirkas, the Youth Bureau's executive director, the fundraiser managed to garner just short of \$1,000. The money will go toward the bureau's summer trip on Aug. 1 to a New York City Football Club MLS soccer game, during which the children will be able to go onto the field.

INSTRUCTOR MARIA SPINELLI, above, directed participants in a variety of Zumba exercises.

DJ GERARD PATALANO, far right, above, not only provided music at the fundraiser but is also a Zumba instructor himself.

AROUND 80 PEOPLE showed up to participate in the Zumba fundraiser, contributing nearly \$1,000 for the Glen Cove Youth Bureau.



—Mike Conn

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, May 23

United States propaganda in WWI

Sea Cliff Library, 300 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff, 1 p.m. Retired North Shore High School teacher Don Parker will discuss the unique means of communication the United States used before radio, sound films, TV and Twitter. (516) 671-4290.

Spring painting workshop

Glen Cove Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, 2 p.m. Learn how to paint a spring landscape scene with acrylic paint under the tutelage of Barbara Lewin. No painting experience is necessary. The materials fee of \$10 — check or money order payable to Barbara Lewin — will cover all materials necessary to participate.

STEAM: Printmaking

Gold Coast Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 4 p.m. Children from kindergarten through second grade can learn all about printmaking. They will first make stamps using all sorts of materials, like buttons, yarn, straws and more. They will then use their newly created stamps to make cool and unique prints on paper. (516) 759-8300.

Edible cookie dough

Glen Cove Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, 7 p.m. Teens grades 6 and up can mix and measure ingredients to create their own flavor of cookie dough and take it home in a pint container using different extracts, sprinkles, cookie crumbs, chocolate chips, pretzels and food dye. (516) 676-2130.

Saturday, May 25

World glitter sensory bottle

Gold Coast Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 3 p.m. Children from kindergarten through second grade can create a cool accessory for their room. Fill a curvy bottle with fun shiny glitter and stars, then top it with planet earth and different cutouts around it. Give it a shake and watch the magic happen. (516) 759-8300.

Monday, May 27

Sea Cliff Memorial Day parade

Memorial Park, 130 Prospect Ave., Sea Cliff, 9 a.m. The parade will step off from Memorial Park and proceed down Sea Cliff Avenue to Roslyn Avenue. It will then proceed south to Glen Avenue, where it will turn left and head for Clifton Park. The Clifton Park ceremony will commemorate this most solemn of American holidays. All village residents and friends are invited to take part in the commemoration either as marchers in the parade or onlookers. (516) 671-0080.

Tuesday, May 28

Glen Cove City Council meeting

Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen St., Glen Cove, 7:30 p.m. Join the Glen Cove City Council as its members discuss the city's most important matters. (516) 676-2000.



Photo by Tab Hauser/Herald Gazette

Glen Cove Memorial Day Parade

Join the City of Glen Cove in one of its grandest celebrations of the year as residents honor the fallen men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. At 11 a.m. on May 27, a Veteran's Memorial Ceremony will be held at Monument Park in Glen Cove as a solemn remembrance the honorees. At 12 p.m., the parade will set off from the corner of Dosoris Lane and Forest Avenue, led by Grand Marshal Robert Curiano. The parade will move down School Street to Glen Street, before turning on to Pulaski Street. Its final turn will be onto Glen Cove Road before ending at the Glen Cove Library. (516) 676-2000.

Wednesday, May 29

The Gift of Time

Gold Coast Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 4:30 p.m. Children grades 3 through 6 can show their love for that special person in their life by decorating a mason jar and filling it with thoughtful, handmade gifts. (516) 759-8300.

Trivia challenge

Greenvale Townhouse, 49 Glen Cove Road, Greenvale, 6 p.m. Participants will match wits with other great minds in this fun test of knowledge. Prizes will be given to the winners. (516) 625-8804.

The Ten Secrets of Broadway

Glen Cove Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, 7 p.m. Longtime Playbill editor Robert Viagas will mix fun facts about backstage life on Broadway with consumer information on the best ways to see Broadway's most coveted shows. (516) 676-2130.

Chopped

Gold Coast Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 7 p.m. Using mystery ingredients, teams will participate in several food challenges. Certificates and prizes will be awarded to the winning team. (516) 759-8300.

Thursday, May 30

Walking Club: Morgan Park

Morgan Memorial Park, Germaine Street,

Glen Cove, 9:45 a.m. Join the Glen Cove Senior Center in enjoying a relaxing walk at one of Glen Cove's beautiful local beaches. Participants can take in the

lovely weather while staying fit. (516) 759-9610.

Bridal showcase

Glen Cove Mansion, 200 Dosoris Lane,



Courtesy Flickr

Sleep better and awake refreshed

Everyone knows the value of sleeping well, having experienced the feeling of being refreshed after a good night's sleep and feelings of fatigue after a poor night's sleep. And so many people are not getting the quality sleep they need. Learn the secrets to quality sleep on May 28 at 12:15 p.m. at the Glen Cove Senior Center, 130 Glen St., Glen Cove, (516) 759-9610.

Glen Cove, 6 p.m. The possibilities for weddings at the Mansion are endless. Enjoy an evening of discovering new ideas, sparking the imagination, exploring options and getting inspired to plan a wedding. (516) 674-2955.

Pottery making

Gold Coast Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 6 p.m. Teens grades 6 through 12 can take a break from studying to learn how to use a pottery wheel and create two clay objects of their choosing. (516) 759-8300.

Friday, May 31

Senior talent show

Glen Cove Senior Center, 130 Glen St., Glen Cove, 1:30 p.m. Support the seniors of Glen Cove as they show off their incredible talents. Limit of five minutes for each performance. (516) 759-9610.

Alfred and Grant: "To Catch a Thief"

Gold Coast Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 2 p.m. Legendary filmmaker Alfred Hitchcock and beloved actor Cary Grant made four films together. Each film will be shown throughout May and June, with "To Catch a Thief" being next in line. (516) 759-8300.

Saturday, June 1

Sea Cliff annual garage sale

Clifton Park, 57 Dubois Ave., Sea Cliff, 9 a.m. Join the Sea Cliff Civic Association in this annual event where participants can clear out your house or join other shoppers who are seeking out great treasures. Maps will be available on the day of the sale at Clifton Park, Sea Cliff Avenue — between Locust Avenue and Dubois Avenue — and the Sea Cliff Fire House on Roslin Avenue. Pick up registration forms at Village Hall. (516) 671-0080.

Mouw and Jacobson Art Exhibit

Locust Valley Library, 170 Buckram Road, Locust Valley, 10:45 a.m. Local artists Stephanie Cohen Mouw and Warren Jacobson will open an exhibit to display their artwork. (516) 671-1837.

Around the World at the Library

Glen Cove Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, 2 p.m. People of all age can join George Schultz of "Spirit Sky Drum" in this drum circle celebrating the percussive music of West Africa. (516) 676-2130.

Sunday, June 2

LuHi open house

LuHi Summer Programs, 131 Brookville Road, Glen Head, 12 p.m. Meet the staff, tour the facility and have some fun in the inflatables. Sign up for a session and get entered into the raffle for a free session. Enroll at the Open House and spin the prize wheel, too. (516) 626-1100.

HAVING AN EVENT?

Submissions can be emailed to llane@liherald.com.

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy Office of Jim Gaughran

ANNIE PHILLIPS, THIRD from left, and Pete Prudente, center, were honored by city and state representatives for their life-saving kidney donations.

Gaughran honors selfless residents

Senator Jim Gaughran, a Democrat from Northport, honored Glen Cove residents Pete Prudente and Annie Phillips for their selfless, life-saving organ donations with a New York State Senate Commendation Award on May 11. Earlier this

year, Prudente donated his kidney to a complete stranger and Annie Phillips donated her kidney to a fellow Glen Cove resident. The recipients of the donations and their families were on hand for this special community celebration.

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Crosby given citation from Suozzi

Glen Cove resident Victoria Crosby was presented with a certificate from U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, a Democrat from Glen Cove, to celebrate her 25th year as the city's poet laureate. A concert was held at the North Shore Historical Museum featuring music and poetry with Kiara Walker and Crosby. Guests were asked to bring nonperishable food items, which were donated to the North Shore Soup Kitchen in Glen Cove.

Walker, a soprano who performed a selection of operarias, has been studying opera for nearly seven years and is currently studying with Steven Schnurman of Schnurman Studios in New York City and New Jersey. She is also a choral scholar at St. John's of Lattingtown Choir.

Crosby entertained with a selection of poems from her humorous, inspirational and British poetry books, as well as from "Poeticvic-Civicpoet," her collection of poems for Glen Cove, which was given to all who attended.



Courtesy Victoria Crosby

CINDY ROGERS, LEFT, District Director to Congressman Tom Suozzi, presented Victoria Crosby with a certificate for her work as Glen Cove's Poet Laureate for the last 25 years.

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Road Panthers back in Memorial Day Parade

By MIKE CONN

mconn@iherald.com

On May 25 of 2015, tragedy nearly struck in Glen Cove during the city's annual Memorial Day Parade. A monster truck lost control while attempting a burnout and almost veered off into the crowd lining the city's streets. While the driver regained control before anyone was hurt, the incident had consequences, and few people were hit harder than the city's legendary hot road club, the Road Panthers.

As a result of the monster truck driver's mistake, most vehicles were banned from the parade by the Memorial Day Parade Committee, even though the monster truck driver had no relation to the Road Panthers. However, thanks to dedicated campaigning by several of the club's members, the club will be returning to the Memorial Day Parade this year with the committee's blessing.

According to Road Panthers president Tony Contorino, one of the biggest reasons why the club wants to be back in the parade is that many of its members are veterans themselves who wish to honor their fallen comrades. It was this reasoning that inspired Fred Nielsen, current chairman of the parade committee, to bring the Road Panthers back into the parade. He said he was struck by their commitment to honoring veterans, and he led a unanimous vote among the 17 committee members to bring the club back into the parade on May 20.

Nielsen said that he saw the Road Panthers as they were back when the club began in 1952 — teenagers using the freedom granted to them by veterans to engage in a hobby based around hard work while cooperating with police in order to do so safely. He said he admired the great amount of dedication it took to build a hot road from scratch, which showed him just how strong the character of each Road Panther truly was.

"That's what they were doing with



Photo by Mike Conn/Herald Gazette

FRED NIELSEN, CENTER, the Memorial Day Parade Committee chairman, led a unanimous vote to bring the Road Panthers back into the Memorial Day parade, thanks in part to the advocacy of Road Panther and parade committee member Pete Prudente, left, and Tony Contorino, the Road Panther president.

their freedoms guaranteed by these veterans," said Nielsen. "Of course, that's why they want to ride in this parade with us. That is their way of celebrating and saying 'thanks' to those who gave their lives. I just thought that was so magnificent."

"We're very, very happy with what the Road Panthers bring to what we intend to do with our Memorial Day parade," Nielsen later added.

Nielsen explained that he also greatly

appreciates the place the Road Panthers hold in Glen Cove's history. Created in 1952, the club was formed by a group of local teenagers who loved to build and race cars. Soon after its inception, the Glen Cove Police Department approached the club about its presence in the community, and the two entities agreed to cooperate with one another.

The Road Panthers were given a space to meet above the police station and were given dedicated places to race, so long as they maintained the police-mandated safety standards. They were even given a place to build cars, a large barn located at what is now the Highland Mews housing development which could hold 14 cars at a time. In the 67 years since the club's inception, its members have never violated their agreement with the police.

Considering the Road Panthers' status as veterans and their legacy in the community, Nielsen and the parade committee decided to alter the regulations set on automobiles in the parade after the monster truck incident. He said that, since he doesn't know much about cars, he deferred to Contorino and Pete Prudente, a member of the parade committee and the youngest Road Panther at 59-years-old, to come up with a new set of standards for cars in the parade.

These standards are based primarily on two things — safety and conduct. Cars in the parade must maintain slow, steady speeds and refrain from performing any reckless maneuvers. Drivers and passengers must also be reserved in their demeanor, smiling and waving to the

crowd without screaming or saying anything inappropriate. Ultimately, the three men said, it is all about respecting America's fallen soldiers. Anybody who wishes to drive in the parade must sign a document agreeing to these standards beforehand.

Both Contorino and Prudente said that they are very pleased with the results of their work with the parade committee and are excited for the Road Panthers to return to the parade.

"It makes us feel good," Contorino said on the club's ability to preserve its legacy. "We've been around as long as we've been around, and we're considered part of Glen Cove."

"I'm just proud to even know these fellas, the Road Panthers," said Prudente. "They have such a big, deep history in Glen Cove . . . and the big plus is they're veterans. They're veterans that are in these cars [and] they're very honorable. I'm proud to know them."

Prudente said he was proud to be of help, added, alluding to his involvement in both the club and the committee.

Road Panther Roger Thyben, who has been around the club since its beginning and became a member 10 years ago, was a part of the club's campaign to get back into the parade. "It's really great," he said, "and it's also waking people up to what these guys were. To us, it feels terrific."

The Road Panthers hope to have six of their hot rods in the parade this year, and according to Contorino, their drivers will be thrilled to show off their passion to the thousands of onlookers once again.



Photo courtesy Tony Contorino

THE ROAD PANTHERS have been a staple in Glen Cove since 1952, and the club's members are thrilled to be back in the Memorial Day parade.



Photos by Alyssa Seidman/Herald Gazette

MEMBERS OF THE Robert H. Spittel American Legion Post 1285, in Bayville: Tony Bruno, left, Frank Herlihy, Vinnie Libertini, Pete Carbone, Fred Uhl and John Schaefer attended the fundraiser to honor Cpl. Robert

Hendriks did not die in vain, says friend

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

in this country didn't do," he said of his fellow veterans. "We took one step forward and said, 'We will. We'll do whatever our country asks us to do.' To honor this young man and the sacrifice he made for all of us is absolutely outstanding."

Representatives from the Nassau County PBA and Building Homes for Heroes each donated a \$1,000 check to the scholarship fund. Veterans from the Syosset VFW Post 6394 presented Hendriks' family with a memorial commendation from the commander-in-chief of the national Veterans of Foreign Wars, decrying that the marine's "devotion to duty, courage and patriotism has been so boldly evidenced by selfless service and supreme sacrifice."

Tasso said the community's support for his fallen friend is evidence that he did not die in vain, that his sacrifice left a legacy to aspire to. "Words like honor and valor have only continued to exist because of individuals like Rob who truly embodied what they mean," he said. "In

your absence we'll be able to truly become closer to who you are and what you epitomize. That means digging deep, as Rob did, when times [are] hard, pushing forward and being strong even when we feel like we don't have it in us."

Hendriks' friend Erik Eckes also spoke, comparing the marine to Icarus, who strived to surpass the sky, the sun and the stars, "but always pushing others for their own motivation," he said. "Hendriks was more than a last name; Hendriks was a force of protection and love."

Sea Cliff resident Deanna Spinelli, Hendriks' cousin, read a letter of thanks on behalf of his mother, Felicia, father, Erik, and brother, Joseph, who is also a Marine. "Although this journey has been painful, through our tears we have seen the very best of all humankind," Spinelli said. "The generosity and unselfish determination by so many to honor Robby in as many ways as possible has humbled us beyond words. Our hometown of Locust Valley will be part of Robby's legacy forever."

NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATOR

Josh Lafazan hosted the fundraiser, which halfway into the night raised over \$25,000 for Cpl. Hendriks' memorial scholarship fund.



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STEPPING OUT

Where to go, what to do, who to see

Soaring in the sky High-flying spectacle at the Bethpage Air Show

Memorial Day weekend has arrived — and for so many of us it involves the annual trek to Jones Beach to watch the action overhead during the Bethpage Air Show.

For the throngs who attend year after year this spectacular two-day display of flying stunts is beloved tradition not to be missed. This year's show, on Saturday and Sunday, May 25-26, starting at 10 a.m., is headlined once again by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds.

The distinguished squadron, is joined by other elite military pilots, including the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, back for their 14th appearance, along with the U.S. Navy F-18 Super Hornet.

The Thunderbirds, "America's Ambassadors in Blue," demonstrate the extraordinary capabilities of the F-16 Fighting Falcon — the Air Force's premier multi-role fighter jet. The elite military pilots proudly showcase the capabilities of the \$18 million, 19,700-pound fighter aircraft, which can travel at speeds up to 1,500 mph.

As the jets take to the skies and fly only a few feet from wingtip to wingtip, the crowd gets a glimpse of the superb skills and capabilities that all fighter pilots must possess.

This year female pilots get their chance to shine.

For the first time, four female pilots will be featured in the show, including U.S. Air Force Thunderbird Captain Michelle Curran, an experienced fighter pilot who flies aircraft #6 as the team's Opposing Solo. Joining Captain Curran is #10 Captain Lauren Venturini, an executive officer on the team, and #11 Captain Cassandra Mangosing, the team's maintenance officer.

Esteemed aviatrix Jessie Panzer, one of the world's leading female aerobatic pilots, also makes her air show debut this year here, joining the legendary Sean Tucker who retired his solo performance last year. Panzer will fly the Oracle Extra 300L alongside Sean D. Tucker's Oracle Challenger III.

"It's an honor to fly aerobatics and I am so humbled to fly alongside and under the



Courtesy USAF

The renowned U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds are back in action over Jones Beach this weekend.

mentorship of Sean Tucker," says Panzer, 39, an accomplished corporate pilot who has also served as contracted flight instructor for the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. "He's been an inspiration to me ever since I began my career."

Reverent, precise and passionate; for Panzer flying power aerobatics excites the senses, engages the mind and empowers audiences to challenge what they believe possible.

"I want to inspire people to be the best at what they can do in their life. If people can see that I can do it, then they can accomplish their goals. I want fans to believe in themselves and realize that little decisions they make every day about what to do and what not to do impact how they pursue their passion. I want to give people inspiration to make choices, do those things and have the confidence."

Other renowned civilian performers include aerobatic pilot Matt Chapman, John Klatt Airshows' Jack Links' Screamin' Sasquatch Jet Waco Aerobatic Team; the always popular GEICO Skytypers, with their flight squadron of six vintage aircraft; the American Airpower Museum Warbirds; David

Windmiller, acclaimed for his daredevil stunts; the B17 Yankee Lady; the Red Bull Aerobatic Helicopter and Red Bull Air Force, along with the SUNY Farmingdale State College Flying Rams, who will fly seven of their 22 college-owned aircraft in a fly-by piloted by their top academic professional pilot performers.

The GEICO Skytypers, remain an air show favorite, combining the best of the old and new. The Skytypers use six of the remaining 11 World War II-era NA SNJ planes left in the world, meticulously restored with the latest technology.

"These were Navy scout planes used on missions in World War II and the Korean War," explains Larry Arken, the Skytypers' commanding officer and flight leader. "We've modernized them and give them plenty of TLC. We have to take care of our warbirds."

The Farmingdale-based GEICO-sponsored team is, of course, a familiar sight along beaches in the northeast with their skytyped messages generated at an altitude of 10,000 feet with puffs of smoke in dot matrix-style letters.

This weekend it's the plane's flying maneuvers that command attention. "Our planes, being older, are slower; we like to



Courtesy Team Oracle

Jessie Panzer, with Sean D. Tucker (left), flies for Team Oracle in her first Bethpage Air Show appearance.

keep in front of our spectators' faces for maximum impact," Arken says. "We're known for our precision skills, which keep everyone excited. We're always improving our planes and refining our routine. It's demanding flying, executed by highly skilled professionals."

The team is close-knit group of eight rotating pilots, with decades of military and professional experience. "I like to say once you check in you never check out. The comradery of our team and our cohesiveness is what makes us special."

"Jones Beach is always near and dear to me, because most of us live on Long Island. It's like a homecoming show for us. For many of our friends, it's the only time they get to see us [perform]. We are always excited to be here and put a smile on people's faces."

"Be sure to come out to Jones Beach over the weekend," Arken says. "It's a great venue and a great family day. "All the performers are great; it's a great event. And it's wonderful for kids to get inspired to explore a career in aviation based on what they see during the show."

For up-to-date information, visit www.bethpageairshow.com.

— Karen Bloom
kbloom@lherald.com

IN CONCERT Savoy Brown

Savoy Brown is still rocking 50-plus years after the band formed in London. One of the first bands from the U.K. to reinvent the blues, Savoy Brown — led by guitarist Kim Simmonds — continues to perform, record and influence today. The band helped lay the foundation of today's music by combining blues, rock and psychedelia. Many songs from their nearly 50 album releases hit high on the Billboard charts. They're best known for the classic albums 'Looking In' and 'Hellbound Train' plus radio staples "I'm Tired," "Lay Back in the Arms of Someone" and "Tell Mama." The band is a veritable history of music, and musicians, with multiple former members going on to form bands such as Foghat, or to play for as Fleetwood



WEEKEND Out and About

Mac, Black Sabbath, The Kinks, and many more. Founding member Simmonds, recognized globally as one of the world's finest blues/rock players, keeps on inspiring and innovating, acclaimed as a blues rock institution.
Friday, May 24, 8 p.m. \$40. My Father's Place at the Roslyn Hotel, 1221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. (516) 413-3535 or www.myfathersplace.com.

SEASONAL FUN

An old-fashioned Memorial Day

Step back in time as Old Bethpage Village Restoration kicks off the unofficial start of summer with its annual salute to Memorial Day. Enjoy a glimpse of Long Island's past, culminating with the village's homage to Decoration Day, as it was commemorated during that era. Entertainment includes brass band concerts, craft demonstrations and storytelling. The village's Civil War "veterans" honor Decora-



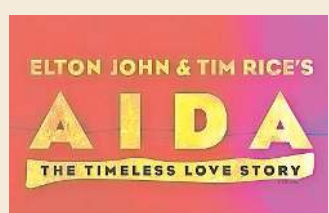
tion Day as it was first observed in the early 1870s, complete with a parade, a solemn patriotic program, and ceremonies at the village cemetery to acknowledge departed veterans.

Saturday and Sunday, May 25-26, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; parade at 2:15 p.m. \$13, \$8 seniors (60+) and children 5-12. Old Bethpage Village Restoration, Round Swamp Rd., Old Bethpage. (516) 572-8400 or www.obvmassau.com.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Coming Attractions

Performances/ On Stage



Aida

The hit musical based on Giuseppe Verdi's opera, Thursday and Friday, May 23-24, 8 p.m.; Saturday, May 25, 3 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, May 26, 2 and 7 p.m.; Wednesday, May 28, 2 and 8 p.m. John W. Engeman Theater, 250 Main St., Northport. (631) 261-2900 or www.engemantheater.com.

Black Tie Brass

The jazz-funk band in concert, Friday, May 24, 8:30 p.m. Still Partners, 225 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. 200-9229 or www.stillpartners.com.

Friday Night Fever

The New York Bee Gees in concert, with special guest Wonderous Stories, Friday, May 24, 8 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.

Godfrey Townsend

The rock guitarist in concert, with an Eric Clapton tribute, Friday, May 24, 8 p.m. The Space, 250 Post Ave. Westbury. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.thespaceatwestbury.com.

Sean Donnelly

The Brooklyn-based comic performs, Friday, May 23, 9:30 p.m. Cinema Arts Center, Sky Room Cafe, 423 Park Ave., Huntington. (631) 423-7611 or www.cinemaartscentre.org.

Kerry Kearney's Red, White and Blues Extravaganza

The acclaimed local blues guitarist and his band in concert, Saturday, May 25, 8 p.m. Father's Place at the Roslyn Hotel, 1221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. 413-3535 or www.myfathersplace.com.



Jim Breuer

The popular comedian continues his residency, in "Comedy, Stories & More," Saturday, May 25, 8 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.

Music Study Club

Music Study Club of Port Washington members in concert, Wednesday, May 29, 2 p.m. Pianists, singers and instrumentalists perform classical and light classical



Milk Carton Kids

The indie folk duo visits the Landmark on Main Street stage, on Thursday, June 20, at 7:30 p.m.

California-based singer-guitarists Kenneth Pattengale and Joey Ryan, who began making music together in early 2011, celebrate the release of their new album "All the Things That I Did and All the Things That I Didn't Do."

Their harmonized vocals and tightly entwined guitar lines might conjure shades of the Everly Brothers or Simon & Garfunkel, but their music has a unique American roots-folk flavor. Their witty onstage banter snaps as crisply as their guitar licks and outstanding songwriting, which has caught the attention of the Lumineers and Old Crow Medicine Show, among the bands they've been with on tour.

Tickets are \$48 \$43, \$28; available at 767-6444 or www.landmarkonmainstreet.org. Landmark on Main Street, Jeanne Rimsky Theater, 232 Main St., Port Washington.

compositions. Landmark on Main Street, Jeanne Rimsky Theater, 232 Main St., Port Washington 767-6444 or www.landmarkonmainstreet.org.

Songs and Stories

An acoustic concert with Art Alexakis, the charismatic Everclear frontman, and three of his friends, Wednesday, May 29, 8 p.m. With Chris Collingwood (Fountains of Wayne), Max Collins (Eve 6) and John Wozniak (Marcy Playground). The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.



The Beach Boys

Mike Love and the band in concert, Thursday, May 30, 8 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.

Roger Street Friedman

The Sea Cliff-based singer-songwriter and his band, featuring Professor Louie and the Crowmatic, Thursday, May 30, 8 p.m. My Father's Place at the Roslyn Hotel, 1221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. 413-3535 or www.myfathersplace.com.

Fifty Words

Michael Weller's domestic drama about an unraveling marriage, Friday and Saturday, May 31-June 1, 8 p.m.; Sunday, June

2, 3 p.m. Carriage House Players, Vanderbilt Museum, 180 Little Neck Rd., Centerport. 557-1207 or www.vanderbiltmuseum.org.

Mike DelGuidice and Big Shot

The acclaimed singer-songwriter and his band in concert, celebrating the music of Billy Joel, Friday, May 31, 8 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.

Plain Jane

The cover band in concert, Friday, May 31, 8:30 p.m. Still Partners, 225 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. 200-9229 or www.stillpartners.com.

Stanton Anderson Band

The popular Long Island-based blues rock band in concert, with the Pam Betti Band, Friday, May 31, 8 p.m. My Father's Place at the Roslyn Hotel, 1221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. 413-3535 or www.myfathersplace.com.

For the Kids

Family Storytime

Enjoy a storytime session geared to all ages, Saturday, May 25, 11:30 a.m. Registration required. Gold Coast Public Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head. 759-8300 or www.goldcoastlibrary.org.

Garden Scavenger Hunt

Investigate the wonders of nature at Old Westbury Gardens, Saturday, through Monday, May 25-27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Go on a self-guided scavenger hunt through the gardens to uncover clues and solve riddles. Free

with admission. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. 333-0048 or www.oldwestbury.org.

Maritime Heritage Celebration

Celebrate Long Island's rich history being tied to the sea, Saturday, May 25, 1-3 p.m.

Explore the updated exhibits, including Heroines at the Helm. Kids can create a floating boat craft. The Whaling Museum, 301 Main St., Cold Spring Harbor. (631) 367-3418 or www.cshwhalingmuseum.org.

Studio Saturday

Drop into Nassau County Museum of Art's Manes Center for hands-on activities inspired by the current exhibition, Saturday, May 25, 12-3 p.m. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. 484-9338 or www.nassaumuseum.org.

Pizza and Paperbacks

A book discussion for second-graders and up, Wednesday, May 29, 3 p.m.; also Friday, May 31, noon (for children entering Kindergarten in 2019) and 3 p.m. (Kindergarten and Grade 1). Registration required. Sea Cliff Library, 300 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. 671-4290 or www.seaclifflibrary.org.

The Little Mermaid Jr.

Journey "under the sea" with Ariel and her aquatic friends, adapted from Disney's Broadway production and the beloved film, presented by the Long Island Ballet Theatre, Thursday and Friday, May 30-31, 7 p.m. Landmark on Main Street, Jeanne Rimsky Theater, 232 Main St., Port Washington (631) 271-4626 or www.landmarkonmainstreet.org.

Museums/Galleries and more

The Death of Van Gogh

A showcase of the collection of abstract artist Kevin Larkin. Through May 26. May B.J. Spoke Gallery, 299 Main Street, Huntington. (631) 549-5106 or www.bjspokegallery.org.

The Harlem Hellfighters

A groundbreaking exhibit about the World War I African-American Army unit, consisting of 33 men from the Glen Cove area. North Shore Historical Museum, 140 Glen St., Glen Cove. 801-1191 or www.nshmgc.org.

In a New Light: American Impressionism 1870-1940

A sweeping survey of American Impressionism, the exhibition reveals the transformative influence of Impressionism on American art between the years of the Hudson River School—whose majestic landscapes influenced, and then gradually gave way to, French Impressionist-inspired works—and modernist trends of the early 20th century. Featured artists include Colin Campbell Cooper, Daniel Garber, Childe Hassam, George Inness, Ernest Lawson, Thomas Moran, Edward Willis Redfield, and Guy Carleton Wiggins. Opening May 25, through Aug. 18 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, from the collection of Garvies Point Museum. Garvies Point Museum and Preserve, 50 Barry Dr., Glen Cove. 571-8010 or www.garviespointmuseum.com.

That 80s Show

An exhibition that revisits one of the most dynamic eras in American art history. More than 100 works by the great personalities of the '80s, including Eric Fischl, Julian Schnabel, David Salle, Ross Bleckner, Bryan Hunt, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring, Kenny Scharf, Cindy Sherman, Robert Longo, Jenny Holzer, Robert Mapplethorpe, Annette Lemieux, Charlie Clough, Tseng Kwong Chi, Jonathan Lasker and others. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor. 484-9338 or www.nassaumuseum.org.

Theodore Roosevelt:

A Man for the Modern World

An exhibition that celebrates the presidency and legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, who is often considered the first modern president. On view are a collection of historic documents, photographs, and many never before seen artifacts that celebrate TR's major achievements and underscore his legacy. Highlighted objects include family sporting equipment and the license plate from the Roosevelts' automobile, shown alongside presidential gifts such as a book inscribed by Booker T. Washington. Some familiar artifacts from the Roosevelt home are also on display. Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, 20 Sagamore Hill Rd, Oyster Bay. 922-4788 or nps.gov/sagamorehill.

At the Movies

See "Stan & Ollie," the biopic that tells of the later years of the lives of the comic duo, Thursday, May 23, 2 and 6:30 p.m.; also "Last Flag Flying," the drama about three Vietnam War veterans who reunite after one of their sons is killed in the Iraq War, Thursday, May 30, 2 and 6:30 p.m.; Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library, 89 East Main St., Oyster Bay. 922-1212.

Film Screening

See "Music Videos that Shaped the '80s," Tuesday through Sunday, May 28-June 2, 12 p.m. Explore the top videos that shaped the music video industry today from the view of the directors and the artists themselves. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. 484-9338 or www.nassaumuseum.org.



Having an event?

Submissions can be emailed to kbloom@liherald.com.



VIEWFINDER

By MAUREEN LENNON

THE QUESTION:

Do you support a shopping bag fee?



I work in a retail business and I see so many wasted plastic bags. People ask for extra bags all the time. I think its a good idea to charge 5 cents per bag. It will make people think before they use them.
Shannon Bonora
Retail



I feel that the 5 cents charge for each bag is good idea. We use too many bags to carry everything. There is too much trash on the streets.
Debbie Bonora
Retired



We need to cut the use of plastic. People as well as local businesses use bags foolishly. The money will hopefully make people think before walking into the store. I use my reuseable cloth bags.
Cathy Passalacqua
Insurance



I think that the 5 cents fee for bags is a great idea. Nassau County can make some necessary money. We all need to stop wasting so much plastic. It's ruining our environment.
Melanie Emmons
Police Department



This 5 cents fee per bag is a good idea. It will be an adjustment for so many people. This would be good for our environment; there is too much plastic everywhere.
Lisa Hothan
Mom



The 5 cents fee for the bags is good because it will make people think differently about the enviroment. There is too much plastic on the streets.
Gus Zagas
Mechanic

HERALD Crossword Puzzle

King Crossword

ACROSS

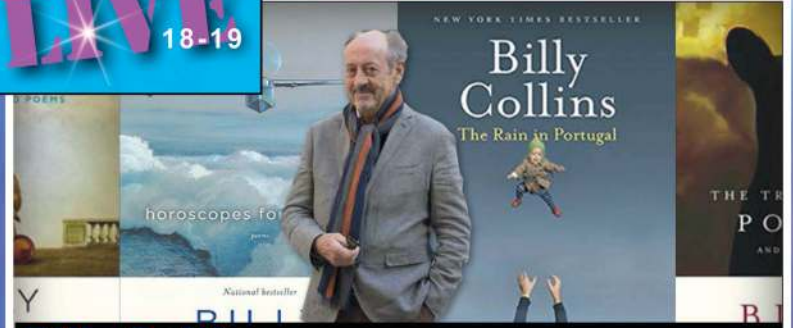
- 1 Gaucho's weapon
- 5 Big Apple abbr.
- 8 Silenced "Hey!"
- 12 "Once — a Mattress"
- 13 Debtor's letters
- 14 Duel tool
- 15 Delphinium
- 17 Rotate
- 18 Dismal
- 19 Snow White's pals
- 21 Put on the line
- 24 Everything
- 25 Pop flavor
- 28 Frogs' hang-out
- 30 Make up your mind
- 33 Kinsman, for short
- 34 Drops from the payroll
- 35 Letter after 31-Down
- 36 Moment
- 37 From the start
- 38 Read cursorily
- 39 Barbie's companion
- 41 Teensy bit
- 43 Go directly downhill
- 46 Pacific porch
- 50 Desirous look
- 51 Rash

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- 54 Sandwich treat
- 55 Sphere
- 56 Reclined
- 57 Marries
- 58 Bill
- 59 Pronto, in the ER
- 10 Lowly laborer
- 11 Sawbucks
- 16 Half a Vail pair
- 1 Socket insert
- 2 October stone
- 3 Traditional tales
- 4 Turkey's capital
- 5 Pinch
- 6 Second person
- 7 Cottage
- 8 Corolla component
- 9 Morgan of "Super Size Me"
- 10 Lowly laborer
- 11 Sawbucks
- 16 Half a Vail pair
- 20 Bankrolls
- 22 Rotate
- 23 "M*A*S*H" locale
- 25 Letterman's network
- 26 Raw rock
- 27 Big name in U.S. aircraft
- 29 Mr. Gingrich
- 31 Letter before 35-Across
- 32 Allen or Conway
- 34 Enthusiasts
- 38 T-shirt sizes
- 40 Continental money
- 42 Timeworn
- 43 Decelerate
- 44 Wrap in a waxy cloth
- 45 Attempt
- 47 Tidy
- 48 One side of the Urals
- 49 " — It Romantic?"
- 52 Historic period
- 53 Recede

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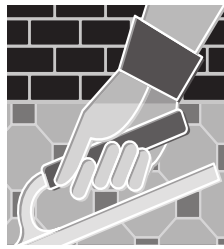
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THE GREAT BOOK GURU

A tale of fire and fury

Dear Great Book Guru,
Sea Cliff is a special place during every season, but late spring is particularly wondrous. This Monday — Memorial Day — there will be an early breakfast on the front lawn of the Children's Library, followed by a spirited parade through the streets of Sea Cliff and a bittersweet, poignantly beautiful ceremony at Clifton Park. Over this long weekend, I am sure there will be time for a good book. Any thoughts?

— Memorial Day Observer

Dear Memorial Day Observer,

I recently re-read a very compelling book, "City of Falling Angels," by John Berendt. Berendt is best known for his book about Savannah, Georgia, "Midnight in the Garden of Eden." Using a similar format, he writes about Venice, Italy. Arriving three days after a massive fire that destroyed La Fenice — Venice's iconic opera house — Berendt delves into the many forces that contribute to the beauty, magic and mystery of this city.

In alternating chapters, we meet a master glassblower whose people have lived in Venice for over 500 years, and we learn of a feud that has been consuming his children for decades. Later, we meet a poet who is being blackmailed and is found dead. Was he murdered? An internationally renowned rat poisoner is another character we meet and come to love.

Somehow the 20 or so characters come together, but ultimately the most colorful character is Venice, such a strange and beautiful city. Highly recommended!

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



**ANN
DIPIETRO**

NEWSBRIEF

Senior Center hosting fundraiser raffle

The Glen Cove Senior Center is hosting a "Heart of Gold Raffle," into which anyone can enter for \$25. Buy purchasing one of the 150 tickets, participants are given a chance to earn a grand prize of \$1,000, with \$250 going to second place. The remaining \$2,500 will go toward benefiting the senior center,

as well as toward scholarships for students across the North Shore, including Glen Cove High School.

The winners will be announced on June 28 at the Glen Cove Senior Center, 130 Glen St., Glen Cove. For more information, call (516) 759-9610.



Engagement, wedding and birth announcements, with or without photographs, are welcome. Photographs should be clear and hi-resolution. A contact name and telephone number must be included. Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday, week prior to publication. Send to llane@liherald.com

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OPINIONS

Solitary confinement does more harm than good

Long Islanders, like all New Yorkers, have many different views about our criminal justice system, but everybody believes in the importance of safety and fairness. There is also a growing bipartisan consensus that mass incarceration does not achieve those objectives, and research affirms that incarceration can actually



KEVIN THOMAS

worsen a person's future behavior. Reforms are urgently needed, including in the use of solitary confinement.

Inmates in solitary are confined to cells that are roughly the size of a parking space for 23 to 24 hours a day, and denied access to any

meaningful human engagement. International human rights standards say that solitary confinement beyond 15 days can constitute torture, but people in New York prisons are regularly held there for months, years and even decades.

This year, a proposal to reform solitary, and fundamentally change the way prisons and jails treat people — and make the facilities, and our communi-

ties, safer — has gained momentum in the State Legislature. The Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act would end long-term solitary and replace it with more humane and effective alternatives. It would not end all solitary confinement, but rather limit it, in line with human rights standards, and instead give staff the tools to more meaningfully address problematic behavior by incarcerated people. I believe we have a real opportunity to get it done.

My eyes were opened to this issue, in part, by Johnny Perez, with whom I served on the New York Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Perez spent 60 days in solitary confinement when he was first locked up at age 16, and a total of three years while in prison following a later conviction for robbery. Most of his time in solitary was for cannabis consumption — a violation of both the law and prison rules, admittedly, but far less damaging than solitary confinement.

In solitary, he couldn't interact with anybody except the officers who slid trays of meager portions of food

through a slot in his door. He received no counseling, religious services or any programming whatsoever. He was just alone, left to count the bricks on his cell wall. He found himself in a deep depression, and though he pulled out of it, many others do not fare as well. Indeed, between 5 percent and 7 percent of the state prison population is held in solitary confinement, yet roughly 30 percent of suicides take place there.

I believe the primary goal of our criminal justice system should be rehabilitation, even as it seeks to ensure accountability for people who break the law. But how can one be rehabilitated and successfully re-enter society after years of unjust and inhumane treatment? How can we expect people to be better after the state has subjected them to such torturous and psychologically damaging conditions?

While the supposed goal of solitary confinement is to ensure that incarcerated people follow facility rules, research indicates that it has the opposite effect. It causes them to act out in desperation, in ways that may be incomprehensible to people who have never experienced it

— including dangerous acts of self-harm.

By passing the HALT Solitary Confinement Act, we would help put an end to this torture. The bill would limit solitary confinement to 15 days for all inmates and create program-based alternatives, which are proven to be more effective and safer. This would give people in prison the opportunity to rehabilitate and to serve their punishment in a more transformative, fair and humane environment.

Ultimately, the vast majority of people in prison return to our communities, so the impacts of inhumane treatment while they're incarcerated extend outside the prison walls. Most important, people behind bars are still people, and that's why we need to pass this legislation now.

The great writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky once wrote, "The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons." In New York, we are not making the grade, but with the support of the majority of my colleagues, I believe we can take this critical step before the end of this legislative session.

Kevin Thomas, who lives in Levittown, is a state senator representing the 6th District.

We need to know that the fight is right

When Donald Trump was elected president in 2016, millions of Americans who doubted his integrity wondered how they could ever trust his decisions in moments of crisis. Now such a moment is here.

As we go to press, the world is watching as tensions escalate between the



RANDI KREISS

United States and Iran. Aircraft carriers are en route to the Middle East. Nonessential diplomatic personnel have been ordered home. John Bolton, the notoriously hawkish national security adviser, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo say that new intelli-

gence indicates that Iran is not keeping its agreements with the U.S. But what if their "intelligence" unravels like the non-existing weapons of mass destruction that launched Shock and Awe over Baghdad?

Millions of Americans believe that the saber-rattling is yet another manufactured crisis to distract us from the president's mounting legal and political

problems at home.

How can we know? "Facts" change in a day. There is little opacity in Trump's White House. The moving pieces in this diplomatic and military chess game require the best and brightest and most politically astute decision makers. The issues are daunting and terribly complex. How can we trust this president's team to keep us safe and do the right thing?

As a nation, we pay the price of military missteps with the blood of our children. According to the Associated Press, some 2,400 American soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan since 2001. We lost some 4,424 in the Iraq War. A generation ago, more than 57,000 American troops died in Vietnam.

The fighting in Afghanistan is now the longest conflict in American history. We still have some 14,000 troops stationed there, working in counterterrorism and "advising" local forces in their battle against the Taliban. More than 20,000 men and women have been wounded since we began our engagement in Afghanistan in 2001. The big numbers blur in our minds. But we can hold in our hearts this Memorial Day two young soldiers who died in combat

in Afghanistan in March. Read their names and their hometowns. For a moment, offer a comforting thought to their parents. Consider what we have wrought in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The soldiers were Spc. Joseph P. Collette, 29, of Lancaster, Ohio, and Sgt. 1st Class Will D. Lindsay, 33, of Cortez, Colo. On this holiday, let us honor their service and hope that memories of them in the fullness of their lives bring comfort to their families. They were killed so far from home, so far from mothers and fathers and sisters and brothers. They died during a winding down of an endless, and some say unwinnable, war. But what does that matter to those who loved them?

They join thousands of other young men and women who died in Iraq and Afghanistan in the past decade. They left behind families and jobs and all the joys and sorrows that comprise young people's lives to do their duty, to take up a fight they were told was just and necessary.

Since this country launched its misguided attack against Iraq in March 2003, we have reaped what we have sown: unnecessary death and loss. We

remain engaged in Afghanistan, a war that has seen surges and withdrawals and no real evidence that we won't someday look over our shoulders as we leave and see chaos in our wake.

What will make the gains, if there are any, worth the losses? Who will give these brave and loyal soldiers their lives back? Who will restore peace of mind to combat-weary members of the military who have left the battleground but still fight depression and anxiety? Who will make whole the more than 15,000 bodies that have been torn apart by bombs in Afghanistan alone?

Most of us have not been asked to sacrifice anything. No draft. No rations. No curfews. No shortages. But some of us have been asked to sacrifice everything.

We are living through a time of political chaos and deep mistrust. If we take one good thing from this crisis of faith in our government, let it be that we need trustworthy leaders. We need a president who demonstrates clarity of mind, moral courage and devotion to the good of the American people. When the president says we have to fight for our freedom, that we have to let our children go to war, we have to believe him, or her.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

On Memorial Day, have fun, but remember the dead

For more than 150 years, Memorial Day has been a day for the nation to commemorate our American service members who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms that we enjoy today. The holiday started as Decoration Day, and it was first observed at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on May 30, 1868, three years after the Civil War reached its bloody conclusion.

The first service was a procession through the graves, in which people placed flowers and American flags on each one to remember the fallen soldiers. Ninety-nine years later, in 1967, Congress officially changed the name of the holiday from Decoration Day to Memorial Day, and it was scheduled for the last Monday of May.

Today, the true meaning of Memorial Day is often lost during a three-day weekend full of barbecues, picnics, getaways, trips to the beach and shopping at stores offering holiday deals. Memorial Day is considered the unofficial start of summer. Yes, we should take this time to enjoy life and savor the freedoms that were won for us by our armed forces. We mustn't lose the essence of the holiday, however. We should take the time to honor those who sacrificed their lives for us. At the same time, we can use the occasion to remember the veterans among us who came back from war. Many suffered physical wounds. All will feel their psychic scars throughout their lives.

Thursday, June 6, will mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day, when 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces, among other Allies, stormed five beaches in Nor-

Memorial Day Parade Info

Ceremony at Memorial Park,
North Lane and School St., Glen
Cove, May 27, 11 a.m.

Parade at Dosoris Lane and
Forrest Ave. Glen Cove,

May 27, noon

mandy, France, as Nazi troops rained machine-gun and mortar fire down on them. More than 10,000 Allied forces, including 6,600 Americans, died on that single day. By June 11, 326,000 Allied troops had come ashore in Normandy. It was the largest amphibious assault during war in history.

In all, more than 400,000 Americans died in combat during the Second World War.

Today, an average of 348 American World War II veterans die every day, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition, the department reported last year that of the 16 million Americans who served in the war, just 496,000 — or 3 percent — are alive today.

Now is the time to record the personal histories of our World War II veterans. They best remember the heroism and sacrifice of their fallen brothers in arms. With each death of a veteran, we have one fewer witness to history.

In two weeks, President Trump and leaders from throughout the world will gather in France to pay homage to the servicemen from the U.S. and other Allied forces involved in D-Day. It's uncertain precisely how many survivors of that day are alive today, but they are all over age 90.

In the hours leading up to the invasion, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe, and later our 34th president, spoke to the troops. "You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months," he told them. "The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you.

"In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other fronts," Eisenhower continued, "you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over oppressed peoples of Europe and security for ourselves in a free world.

"Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well-trained, well-equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely."

Indeed, the German war machine fought savagely until the bitter end. The Allies never gave up, however, until victory was achieved in Europe on May 8, 1945.

Many North and South Shore communities will host Memorial Day parades and ceremonies this weekend. We urge people to attend them to remember the dead and, with our living veterans, recall the horrors of war in the solemn hope that we may one day find world peace.

LETTERS

Randi's take on heroes and guns

To the Editor:

Re Randi Kreiss's column last week, "Legacy of Columbine: 228,000 school shootings": I'm a former U.S. federal agent and the founder and CEO of Global Security Group Inc. As an agent, I taught firearms and tactics at the FBI/DEA Academy in Quantico, Va. I am also an active shooter response trainer.

First, there is an obvious error in the column's title (*see correction, far right*). Second, Randi writes, "I wonder how all the media hype is being processed by students across this country who may now believe they have to be heroes in a crisis." Had those brave kids in the Denver high school not acted, they likely would have lost their lives anyway, but they wouldn't have been alone. They were heroes, and did what every law enforcement agency in the nation recommends: If you can neither evade the shooter nor find a place that can be locked or barricaded against entry, your only choice is to attack the shooter.

Randi opined that we shouldn't make our children feel bad if they can't fight. Not everyone can



OPINIONS

Public-works projects must pay prevailing wages

Few public policies do more to build strong communities across our region than New York's prevailing-wage law for public-works projects. It is a job-creating economic engine that puts members of our local communities to work and creates local wealth, revenue and investment. However, this useful public law has been under-



JOHN R. DURSO

mined because the definition of public works has been blurred by the amalgamation of public and private financing. A bill passed in the State Assembly and awaiting action by the Senate would require that all Industrial Development Agency-funded projects pay pre-

valuing wages, and would help to ensure that our tax dollars are creating careers with fair wages and benefits for Long Islanders who want to build lives here.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo offered a proposal in his Executive Budget to restore the application of prevailing wages to projects receiving public dollars. New York state

was on the verge of restoring these protections as originally outlined by statute in 1897, and enshrined in the state Constitution in 1938, but unfortunately, this policy priority fell off the table.

Opponents of restoring prevailing-wage protections assume that higher construction wages directly correlate to higher project costs. This just isn't true. The best-case scenario is they are drawing this conclusion based on flawed studies, and at worst they are deliberately misleading communities and elected officials to frame the public discourse for their own profit.

According to a state-funded study by Professor Fred B. Kotler of Cornell University, that conclusion is "simplistic and inaccurate." It fails to account for the fact that labor costs are a small percentage of total project costs, and ignores the fact that higher-paid workers are often higher-skilled workers who find efficiencies and make fewer errors, resulting in fewer expensive change orders. "Construction workers' wages should be factored into the overall value of the state's investment in econom-

ic development projects," Kotler wrote. "The prevailing wage law is itself an economic stimulus and can reasonably be considered as part of a broader economic development strategy for the state."

According to the Economic Policy Institute, for every \$1 spent under prevailing-rate laws, \$1.50 is generated for our local economies. When workers earn more, they are able to spend more. Wage protections promote a more localized workforce, ensuring that Long Island residents benefit from our economic development investments. It is clear that holding public construction projects to prevailing rate standards brings wealth into communities. This, in turn, creates the virtuous cycle of local consumption and revenue for public services.

We are fortunate that New York state has made significant infrastructure investments, far outpacing most other states. Cuomo's \$150 billion commitment over the next five years builds on an existing \$100 billion foundation. It will create 675,000 new jobs.

Too often in recent history, however,

working families have watched their hard-earned tax dollars given away to corporations with the intent of spurring job growth without any regard for the quality of the jobs being created. Frequently, this means that developers are benefiting from generous tax giveaways without having to pay fair wages to the workers they employ. This practice is unfair to the taxpaying public, the small businesses that make up our downtowns and the workers who are forced to work for low pay. By attaching prevailing rate standards to publicly incentivized projects, the State Legislature can ensure that New Yorkers are put to work, rather than an out-of-state workforce that is often exploited and forced to work for low wages.

I grew up on Long Island, and raised a family here. I hope to leave it a better place than I found it. I support the passage and signing of the legislation passed by the Assembly and now in the Senate, which clearly defines public work.

John R. Durso is president of the Long Island Federation of Labor, representing 250,000 members of 160 AFL-CIO local unions, and president of Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW, which represents 15,000 working men and women in the retail and health care industries.

LETTERS

fight. No one faults anyone, child or otherwise, for running or hiding or crying in the face of danger. I understand her point that we shouldn't live in a society where our children need to become heroes, but since time immemorial, evil people have been harming innocents and good people have risen to stop it. Their actions should be honored.

To Randi's point about gun control: The one thing we can do as a nation, which would be agreeable to most people, whichever side of the gun control debate they're on, is to make sure that no one with mental instability is able to get hold of weapons of any kind. When you purchase a firearm, you are required to fill out an ATF 4473 form, and answer questions about criminal history, substance abuse, domestic violence and mental illness. It's easy to lie about any of these things. An instant background check discloses only criminal history.

This must change. We must allow input from doctors, family members, teachers, school administrators and law enforcement officers to flag individuals with the mental instability common among most of the perpetrators of active-shooter incidents.

DAVID KATZ
New York, N.Y.

School bus cameras are coming. It's about time.

To the Editor:

We have seen it time and again. Children try to board and exit school buses,

as cars fly by without stopping. Two Long Island school districts recently mounted cameras on their buses, and discovered a staggering number of motorists who blew past.

We owe it to our children to keep them safe, both in and out of school. That's why I'm proud that the Senate just passed S4524B, which will permit school districts to mount cameras on school buses to ensure that motorists comply with the law, or hold those who don't accountable.

Under the legislation, localities would have to opt in to the camera program, and ample checks and balances would be in place to ensure that innocent motorists are not penalized. Several other states have enacted such safety programs, and it's time for New York to join them.

More than 50,000 motorists pass stopped school buses in New York state each day, according to estimates. Studies also show that 98 percent of drivers who have been ticketed once for passing a stopped bus do not reoffend.

Both the Assembly and Senate passed this life-saving measure with bipartisan support. The bill currently sits on Gov. Andrew Cuomo's desk. He should sign it immediately. Our children deserve a safe commute to and from school.

When we see a school bus with its flashing red lights activated, we must stop and wait. The children of our community deserve no less.

TODD KAMINSKY
Kaminsky represents New York's 9th Senate District.

FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



Leaving on a biplane — Republic Airport, Farmingdale

CORRECTION

The headline of Randi Kreiss's column last week, "Legacy of Columbine: 228,000 school shootings," and a reference in the column, were erroneous.

There have not been 228,000 shootings at schools in the U.S. Rather, an estimated 228,000 people have been directly affected by school shootings.



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