

HERALD



Residents share useful skills

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4-year-old needs marrow donor

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Courtesy Dina Corigliano

TRADITIONAL COLOMBIAN DANCERS performed alongside the band Los Costenos at ROSE Fest.

First ROSE Fest raises \$2,500 for local food pantry

BY ANNEMARIE DURKIN
adurkin@liherald.com

It was a day of sunshine, live music and community fundraising at Glenwood Landing American Legion Post 336 in Glen Head last Saturday, during the first ROSE Fest, sponsored by the Sea Cliff home décor store Restoration Oak. The event raised money for the Porch Pantry, a small nonprofit in Glen Cove that delivers meals to food-insecure families in the city and surrounding communities.

“We had about 28 vendors, live music and gorgeous weather,” said Dina Corigliano, a co-owner of Restoration Oak and the organizer of the event. “This is the first time we did this kind of charity event, and I think we had a good turnout. The bands were great, [and] it was a beautiful day with lots of volunteers.”

ROSE Fest, which stands for Restoration Oak Summer Event, was created by Corigliano and her partner and Restoration Oak cofounder, Omar Rivera, as a way to give back to their community by donat-

ing to a local charity that supports families in need.

“We had been wanting to do some sort of charity event for a while, and we actually didn’t know about the Porch Pantry at first,” Corigliano said. “We put out some feelers on Facebook, looking for a local charity to work with, and Kim” — Kim Velentzas, one of the pantry’s cofounders — “reached out to me. We ended up meeting up and touring their facility. We really thought they would be a great fit for this event, and

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N.S. weighs in on Cuomo allegations

BY ANNEMARIE DURKIN
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On Tuesday, State Attorney General Letitia James released the findings of her office’s inquiry into the sexual harassment claims against Gov. Andrew Cuomo that surfaced last December. The report concluded that Cuomo sexually harassed a number of women, including current and former government workers, breaking state and federal laws and engaging in a pattern of unwanted touching and inappropriate comments.

Local reaction was swift and uncompromising against the Democratic governor.

“The governor needs to resign immediately,” said Assemblyman Michael Montesano, a Republican who represents the 15th District. “He should have months ago, after the nursing home scandal, but clearly he cares about his pride more than what is right for our state.”

Montesano, of Glen Head, a

member of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, added, “We most likely will have to go the impeachment route, and the attorney general confirming the sexual harassment claims is a vital step in that process. I hope we can swiftly move forward and

I truly hope to see New York pull together and remove Cuomo from office, permanently.

COURTNEY CITKO
Sea Cliff

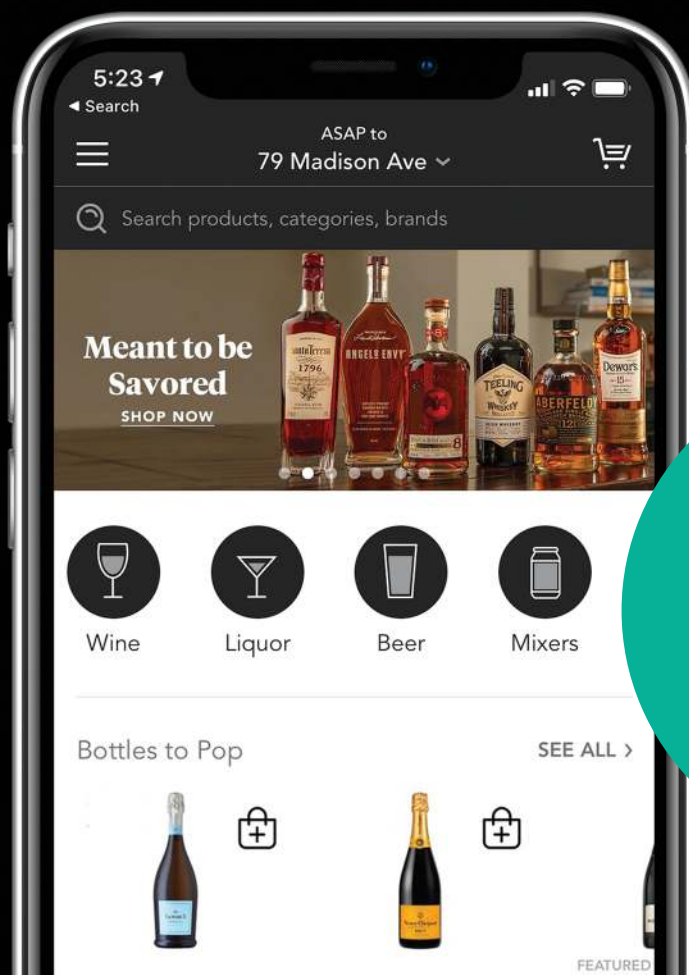
remove the governor from office so we can put someone in power who has New York’s best interests in mind.”

The calls to remove Cuomo from office came not only from elected leaders, but also many other New Yorkers. “I truly hope to see New York pull together and remove Cuomo from office, permanently,” said Courtney Citko, of Sea Cliff. “Simply put, no one is above the law, and Cuomo must face the consequences of his hurtful actions. If he were to remain in power, further mental and emotional pain and suffering will be forced upon his victims, as they are essentially told that the harassment and violations they

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Serving the 'hive mind' on the North Shore

BY GEORGE WALLACE

newsroom@liherald.com

If you've spent more than a little time on social media, you've likely heard the term "hive mind."

"What can I do about my boss? The harder I try to get her to appreciate my work, the more she criticizes me. Asking the hive mind."

"It's time for me to invest in a child leash, because my toddler doesn't care about the threat of getting hit by a car. I'm asking the hive mind: Are there any that you've tried that work great?"

"Found this in a consignment shop. Don't know what it is, but I just liked it and brought it home. Asking the hive mind: What the heck is it?"

The Hive Market and Maker Space, a retail space at 100 Audrey Ave. in Oyster Bay for local artisans, opened on May 9. It asks, and answers, questions of all kinds, from the practical to the aesthetic to the artistic. In essence, it's a circle of people who share knowledge, and are thinking and acting together in pursuit of a common purpose.

The brainchild of founder Laura Escobar and her business partner Claudine Weiler, the nascent establishment — a combined workshop, retail display and gathering space for presentations and tutorials — is making its presence known in the hamlet.

The range of offerings is impressive. There are mosaic mermaid mirrors, wire-wrapped jewelry, locally crafted sculpture made from found objects, CBD balm and much more. There's information on edible and medicinal local plants, yoga and even how to approach the afterlife. Everything is locally sourced and locally crafted, and the space hosts classes and workshops overseen by members of the collective market that are becoming part of the fabric of summer evenings downtown, particularly on Tuesday Cruise Nights, when visitors crowd the sidewalks.

"I've done two workshops there," said Emily Frank, who does handstitched embroidery, "upcycles" clothing and sells homemade embroidery kits. "They've gone really well. Embroidery has evolved from your grandmother doing cross-stitch. In fact, one of my workshops is a 'mindfulness' workshop, where people discover that doing embroidery and learning to breathe properly while doing so can be good for their health."

Eric Blackburn, a Sea Cliff resident who learned carpentry from his father, began studying welding and blacksmithing in 2012, and founded Prometheus Welding in 2013. "I have a small art studio in Glen Cove, and for five years I've shown my work at the October Mini-mart in Sea Cliff," Blackburn said. "Hive Market helps me to show my dedication to creating the best in handmade, reclaimed and upcycled products to the community, with particular reverence for aged and reclaimed wood."

The Hive Market business model is far from the ordinary, an elegant blending of several components, and distinct in a retail world that has seen operations ranging from consignment shops and shared offic-



Christina Daly/Herald

DORIS DELVALLE, FAR left, Maria Gianforcaro, Sue Lester, Jackie Sprague and Johanne Georgalas learned a great deal at the Hive Market and Maker's Space from Kathy Scalzo, who led a workshop on making safe household cleaning products out of household supplies.

es to artists' collectives come and go. As a membership group, it offers a shared studio in which selected artisans can work, store and display their products or give workshops and lectures on their craft. There's a story behind everything you see there. It's a kind of locally sourced Etsy.

The space is a natural syncing of different group concepts, an outgrowth of entities we all know and love — farmers markets, craft fairs, consignment shops and artists' collectives. It all began when Escobar and Weiler, both local artisans, "collided" at one of the many small street craft fairs on Long Island one day in 2019.

"I'd been going to them my whole life," Escobar said. "The fairs are a place to find something that you'll never find a replica of anywhere — one and done. But Claudine had this passion in her heart to open a shop."

At that point, Oyster Bay had a crafts fair at the Life Enrichment Center, but there was nothing else like it in town. Then a couple of things happened at the same time. The Main Street Association brought a farmers market into town, offering produce, eggs, clams and crafts, and with the coronavirus pandemic ostensibly winding down, business looked like it could be coming back. At the same time, a rental opportunity opened up on Audrey Avenue, in the old Railroad Museum space.

"Audrey Avenue is increasingly becoming a place in Oyster Bay for fine arts and crafts, and collectibles," said Escobar, who's also a member of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Chamber of Commerce board of directors. "I began to think maybe a shop like this would be perfect for the hamlet."

So far, it's looking good. Regularly

scheduled classes in everything from growing a tea garden to making your own household cleansers have drawn intrigued participants. A shared quasi-opening with Bahr Gallery and the Atelier was well attended. And the range and quality of products on view at Hive Market is impressive.

And yes, there are things made from honey. Just ask Kathy Scalzo, of Glen Head, a beekeeper and gardener who offers products whose raw materials come from her own local apiaries and others in Sunnyside, Queens. She also uses backyard ingredients to create soap, shampoo and personal items that "are inspired by nature, support the environment and you."

On July 20, Scalzo led a workshop in how to make safe household cleaning products out of household supplies instead of buying mass-marketed cleaners containing dangerous chemicals.

"Many of these products — countertop cleaners, toilet bowl fizzlers, polish for stainless steel — can be made with baking soda, vinegar, citric acid, water, a little soap, not detergent, maybe olive oil for polish," said Scalzo, a registered dietician who's also been a health care worker. "It's all non-toxic and very good for you."

It may seem a bit of a stretch to accommodate welders and tea garden growers under one roof, and for them to find common cause for cooperation and communal interaction. Not so, said Escobar, who describes Hive Market and Makers Space as a carefully curated shop.

"By sharing our skills through member-led workshops, hosting events for community groups and supporting our neighboring businesses," she said, "we aim to be a place of cooperative activity — a hive."



JACKIE SPRAGUE ADDED essential oils to her countertop cleaner so it smelled nice.

"Laura does a very good job filtering through people to find quality craftspeople that really wanted to be there, that want to make friends and really support each other, that are really excited by each other's products and want to learn something from each other," Emily Frank said. "It's a wonderful community."

Scalzo said that Hive Market is an effective way to bring people together. "Downtown Oyster Bay has so much going on — cruise nights, dance nights, and I'm so excited to be part of it," she said. "I'm so pleased Laura loved my product and invited me to be a member. This benefits me, but it all benefits the hive."



Photos courtesy Dina Corigliano

LOS COSTENOS, A Colombian band, performed traditional Colombian music at ROSE Fest.

Festival raises money for Porch Pantry

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

believe the work they do is really important. They're all volunteer-based, and rely 100 percent on donations to do the work they do, so we knew the money would be going to a great cause."

The Porch Pantry started as a few Glen Cove moms looking to help local families who didn't have enough food during the coronavirus pandemic. They were working together at Robert M. Finley Middle School when Covid-19 hit, and saw a need to help families who relied on the school's food pantry, but stopped receiving help when the school and its pantry closed as the virus spread.

The Porch Pantry delivered food to more than 300 families in the Glen Cove area at the height of the pandemic, and

still drops food off on a regular basis to about 275 families.

"We rely solely on monetary and food donations — different businesses help out and donate sometimes," Velentzas said. "We receive daily bagel donations from a bagel shop in Glen Cove, and sometimes we receive fresh produce from Island Harvest ... it's truly a community effort."

ROSE Fest raised an estimated \$2,500, all of which will be donated to the Porch Pantry, according to Corigliano.

"Dina and Omar worked so hard to put this event on," Velentzas said. "It was very generous of them to reach out to us and make the Porch

Pantry the beneficiary of the donations. It was a great event for the community as well. It was lovely to give residents the opportunity to get out in the community and enjoy some live music and all the

great vendors."

"We're looking to make this an annual event," Corigliano said. "The goal is to pick a different charity each year to focus on and benefit through fundraising. We're hoping to make it bigger next year. This first event was a good learning experience for us — we saw what worked and didn't work. We only had about two months of planning time, and I'm really proud of the outcome we were able to achieve."

"They did a great job," Velentzas said. "It was lovely. For a first-time event, I was really impressed. The vendors were fantastic and unique, with great products and decent price points. The music and food was excellent. Based on the amount of people I saw there, I believe the event was a success."

We're looking to make this an annual event. The goal is to pick a different charity each year to focus on and benefit through fundraising.

DINA CORIGLIANO
Co-owner, Restoration Oak



MAE BIRD, A local musician, sang covers of popular songs and some originals.



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Infections as of Aug. 2
4,172

Infections as of July 26
4,125

Herald Community Newspapers is looking to bolster its award-winning sports coverage with additional freelance staff. Weekly responsibilities include on-site



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high school sports game coverage and/or features. Please send resume and two sports writing samples to sports@liherald.com and sbrinton@liherald.com.



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Glen Cove boy seeks bone marrow donors

BY JILL NOSSA

jnossa@liherald.com

Last fall, Ayden Paredes was a typical 4-year-old: always ready to play ball in the park, and excited to start preschool. For most of this year, though, he has been battling leukemia. Now the Glen Cove boy is in need of a blood stem cell/bone marrow transplant to save his life.

Ayden was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia on Feb. 7, and since then has been receiving intensive chemotherapy treatments and blood transfusions at Cohen's Children's Hospital in New Hyde Park. He has spent more time in the hospital than at home over the past few months, according to his father, Mark Paredes, but in spite of the blood cancer, he has been able to keep his spirits up.

"Kids are very resilient," Mark said. "If you didn't know he has leukemia, you'd never guess. He's still himself, a prankster, full of energy, though he does get tired easily."

Late last year, Mark said, he and his wife, Barel, began noticing bruises on Ayden that wouldn't heal. Twice he mentioned having a headache — an odd thing for a 4-year-old to say, his father thought — but the red flag was when he began saying he needed to catch his breath.

Doctors at first suspected Covid-19, because Ayden had a fever and was lethargic. Then they thought it might be an infection, and put him on antibiotics. Then,

while celebrating his mother's birthday on Feb. 7, Ayden fell asleep during dinner.

"We knew something was wrong, and went straight to Cohen's Children's Hospital ...," Mark said. "That's when we got the diagnosis."

The Paredes family — which also includes Ayden's 13-year-old sister, Ariana — moved to Glen Cove from Bayside four years ago. Ariana will begin her freshman year at Glen Cove High School this fall. Ayden started pre-K at Tiegerman School in January, but his year ended almost as soon as it began: He attended only four days of school before getting sick.

"He was so excited, but his school experience was short-lived," his father said. "We're hoping everything works out so he can go this September."

Still, Mark said, after all the treatments, the chemo isn't as effective as it should be. When treating leukemia, he explained, the first step is chemotherapy, and the second is a bone marrow transplant, which the family is actively seeking a match for. The

New York Blood Center has teamed up with the Be the Match bone marrow registry for a series of drives, one of which is planned for Aug. 9, from 2 to 8 p.m., in the parish hall of St. Patrick's Church in Glen Cove.

There is a third course of action as well, which the family plans to take, called CAR T cell infusion. Ayden's white blood cells were sent to a lab and engineered to focus on cancer, a process that takes three to five weeks. He will go to the hospital on Aug. 10, and undergo four days of chemo to clean out his body, followed by two days of rest before the cell infusion, which, like dialysis, targets cancer cells, his father said. He'll have to remain in the hospital for a week for observation.

This treatment option was approved for pediatrics about five years ago, and while there have been success stories, there's no guarantee.

"As a parent, I can't sit down and hope that this works," Mark said. "I need something in my back pocket. I need to know that I've exhausted every recourse avail-

able, which is why we're focusing on finding a bone marrow match."

Ayden is mostly of Hispanic descent — Colombian, Puerto Rican and Guatemalan — which makes finding a match difficult, according to the New York Blood Center. "Statistically, it's harder for minorities to find a match," said his father, who is about half Colombian. "And from what I understand, a bone marrow transplant has to be done for him to be cured."

Mark, a detective with the New York City Police Department, said that the department has held a series of blood drives throughout the city over the past few weeks, with more planned this month around New York and New Jersey, with the goal of finding a matching donor. People can donate blood and have their cheeks swabbed to see if they're a match. To make an appointment, go to the New York Blood Center website, www.nybc.org/donate, or call (800) 933-BLOOD.

The Paredeses are encouraging people to register, not only for their son, but also for others facing a similar situation. "If it's not a match for Ayden," Mark said, "hopefully someone else will be the lucky recipient of bone marrow."

While he was hopeful that the treatment would work, he said he was also nervous. "I'm on pins and needles," Mark said. "Ayden's had a rough time. He's been in the hospital more than he's been home this year — he hasn't caught a break. I'm hoping this is his break. We can't lose hope."

To join the Be the Match registry, you must:

- Be between ages 18 and 44
- Be in general good health
- Be committed to donating to anyone in need

To register, go to my.bethematch.org/Ayden

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Friday, August 6

Movie at the Library

Gold Coast Public Library Annex, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 2 to 4 p.m. Watch "The Princess Bride" (1987) at the library. A high-spirited adventure that pits true love against inconceivable odds, The Princess Bride tells the story the innocent Buttercup, about to marry a nefarious prince, though her heart belongs to another.

Live Music: Ruby

Every Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. through the end of August, residents can head to Sea Cliff Beach to enjoy live music by the water.

Dancing in the Street

Free evenings of dancing under the stars with music and live demonstrations by professional DJ's, on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. in front of 74 Audrey Ave, Oyster Bay.

Downtown Sounds: Therapi Band

Every Friday for the rest of the summer, the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District will host a free concert series in Village Square at the intersections of Glen, School and Bridge streets. Beginning at 7:30 p.m. spectators can head to the square with their lawn chairs and enjoy live music every Friday until Aug. 27.

Saturday, August 7

Deep Roots Farmers Market

100 Garvies Point Road, Glen Cove, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The weekly farmers market offers a selection of locally grown vegetables and eggs, fresh baked bread, honey, seafood and more.

Music Under the Stars

The Ultimate Beatles Tribute Strawberry Fields featuring former members of Broadway's Beatlemania. Beginning at 8 p.m. residents can head to TOBAY Beach to enjoy live music.

Back-to-School Clothing Drive

In support of the Youth and Family Counseling Agency of Oyster Bay-East Norwich, a back-to-school clothing and



Courtesy North Shore Land Alliance

Bonsai Exhibit at the Humes Japanese Stroll Garden

On Saturday, Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 8, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden at 3 Dogwood Lane in Locust Valley. Led by with Hal Johnson, Long Island Bonsai Society attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the art with Bonsai Society members who will be present throughout the event. This unique and historic 7-acre gem of landscape design and woodland boasts an impressive collection of North American and Asian plants that constitute a beautiful Japanese landscape and impart a meditative experience.

supply drive to gather new and unused backpacks, sneakers, socks, school supplies, clothing (bottoms, tops, light jackets) and sweatshirts and sweat jackets. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at 12 Irving Place, Oyster Bay.

Sunday, August 8

Morgan Park Summer Music Festival: David Cedeno

This big ensemble presents a lively evening of nonstop Latin music featuring salsa, Latin jazz, merengue and mambo, even some songs from the '50s, reimagined with a salsa beat and English lyrics.

Monday, August 9

Music Under the Stars: Mike DelGuidice & Big Shot

Celebrating the music of Billy Joel & more. Beginning at 8 p.m. residents can head to TOBAY Beach to enjoy live music every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday during the month of July.

Tuesday, August 10

Oyster Bay Cruise Night

Every Tuesday evening during the summer, the streets of Oyster Bay are filled with classic cars and spectators for Oyster Bay Cruise Night. Restaurants, shops, snacks and beverages, ice cream and shopping surround the collection of fun and

interesting cars. Additionally, live music fills the streets with a band at every cruise night. Also, weekly raffles and giveaways for children. Each show starts at 5:45 p.m. and runs until dark.

Music Under the Stars: Long Island's Own, Wonderous Stories

Beginning at 8 p.m. residents can head to TOBAY Beach to enjoy live music.

Wednesday, Aug. 11

Boosting Your Career with a Winning Resume

Beginning at 7 p.m. Career Coach Nakita Vanstory and learn the strategies and methods behind creating a winning resume. Attendees will become more effective job seekers by learning

resume fundamentals and avoiding common pitfalls. Virtual. Register at glencovelibrary.org.

Thursday, August 12

Sunset Serenade: LOVEPEACE

Every Thursday for the rest of the summer, the Sea Cliff Civic Association will host a free concert series in Clifton Park. Beginning at 6 p.m. spectators can head to the park and enjoy live music every Thursday until Sept 2.

Tour Behind the Scenes

Celebrate pirate month with the Whaling Museum and explore hidden treasures, back stories, and highlights from the museum's historic collection and archives with Executive Director Nomi Dayan. Each session views a backstage glimpse of a beautiful piece of scrimshaw, explanation of a fascinating letter, or other artifacts which give us insight into the lifeways of Long Island's maritime communities and beyond. Register online at www.cshwhalingmuseum.org/events

HAVING AN EVENT?

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

5 things to know about your town

- Movies Under the Stars will continue Saturday, Aug. 7 at 8:30 p.m. in Morgan Park.
- The Oyster Bay Town Board will meet on Aug. 17, at 10 a.m.
- Glen Cove Downtown Sounds free concert series continues every Friday at 7:30 p.m.
- Oyster Bay Music Under the Stars concert series will continue through Aug. 14
- The Village of Sea Cliff Board of Trustees will meet on Sept. 13 at 6 p.m.



Photos by Jill Noss/ Herald

AMERICAN LEGION POST 336 members, from left, Richard Lindbloom, Carl Ring and William Laderer cut a stripe out of the American flag

Veterans encourage people to 'Know Your Flag'

BY JILL NOSSA
jnossa@lherald.com

When people hear about the burning of an American flag, most immediately think of protests. When done properly, however, it is actually the most respectful way to dispose of an old flag — though there are specific rules and a ceremony surrounding the act. In an effort to educate community members about the history, traditions and rules surrounding the American flag, the Glenwood Landing American Legion Post 336 has begun a program, complete with demonstrations.

The Know Your Flag program began this year, and members of the organization are visiting local schools, churches, and senior centers to provide background. The goal is to not only educate people, but to also encourage more households to fly the American flag at their homes.

Post Chaplain Ralph Casey, along with former post commander William Laderer and members Richard Lindbloom and Carl Ring, brought the program to the Glen Cove Senior Center on July 27, where they gave an explanation and demonstration on proper flag retirement, folding of the flag and flying the flag.

Providing history, Casey explained that, in 1916, Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation establishing June 14 as Flag Day. In 1949, it was established by an act of Congress. Every year, on Flag Day, a flag burning ceremony takes place for the retirement of old flags at American Legion Posts. Casey explained that only certain types of flags are burned in the ceremony, and before they are burned, a prayer is said for the flags and the service they provided. Each flag is displayed and the history is given, if known. Attendees say the Pledge of Allegiance, and the chaplain pays respect to the flag with the reading of "I Am Old Glory."

Taps are hummed slowly while the flag

is cut up. Members of the color guard cut out the field of blue stars, which is put into the fire first. Next, the stripes are cut out, acknowledging each of the 13 colonies. Casey explained the meaning behind the colors of the flag: It is red because of human sacrifice, blue because of the loyalty of its defenders, and white to symbolize liberty. The stars, he said, are the symbols of the united efforts and hope in the hearts of many people striving for a greater, nobler America.

"Burning the flag is the only respectful way to dispose of it," Laderer said. "When a flag becomes worn and distorted and torn, you can't leave that flag hanging. It has to be put to rest, and the way to put it to rest is by burning."

Laderer compared it to the burning of palms in Catholicism and how it's disrespectful to throw them away.

Those with old flags can put them in the American Legion Post 336 mailbox, at 190 Glen Head Rd., and they will be burned on Flag Day next year. When someone dies, the next of kin often does not know what to do with it, Laderer said. A flag in good shape can be kept forever, and post members will sort through the discards to determine what can be kept and flown, what should be burned and what is not acceptable and should be simply thrown away. By this past June, he said, the post had received about 500 flags.

The men demonstrated how to fold an American flag into a triangle, and Casey also went over some rules about flying the flag. When flying the flag, Casey said, it is important that it never touch the ground. If it's left out at night, it must be illuminated, and it is okay if it's left out in bad weather. A flag hung upside down is a sign of distress.

"We just want people to know about the flag, the respect for it and to know how important it is, especially for veterans like ourselves," Casey said. "It means a lot."

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Richner Communications Inc. and Herald Community Newspapers are proud to announce that the Long Island Choice Awards Presented by PSEG Long Island are officially open. Let the games begin!

Recognizing exceptional local businesses throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties in 12 divisions and roughly 250 categories, the Long Island Choice Awards Presented by PSEG Long Island are all about celebrating excellence. From restaurants to home services, shopping to family attractions, entertainment to health and beauty and beyond, every selection is in the hands of the voting public.

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"As we continue moving towards brighter days while still meeting all of the unanticipated challenges along the way, there is no more important time than right now to

recognize and support the best businesses in our communities," says Richner Communications and Long Island Herald CEO Stuart Richner. "Local businesses are the engines of our economy, and the Long Island Choice Awards Presented by PSEG Long Island will ensure that the entrepreneurs and mainstays of our communities receive the recognition that they deserve."

"Throughout the entire year, this will truly be a showcase of the best of everything that Long Island has to offer," Richner continues.

"Thank you to our sponsor, PSEG Long Island, for their continuing commitment to the incredible businesses and individuals that make our communities so special."

"PSEG Long Island is thrilled to sponsor these awards because small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of Long Island's economy, and they deserve to be recognized," says Daniel Eichhorn, President and COO of PSEG Long Island. "We have introduced new rates, incentives and grants to help our local commercial districts flourish, both before and during the pandemic, and now it's a privilege to get to see and celebrate the vibrancy of the businesses that makes every Long Island community special."

From Oceanside to Orient Point, Rock-

ville Centre to Riverhead, Manhasset to Montauk and everywhere in between, the Long Island Choice Awards are dedicated to shining a light on the very best in all our communities. Now, in case you haven't already begun nominating your favorites, here's a quick primer to help get you started.

HOW IT WORKS

Round 1: Nominations Round JULY 28–AUGUST 20

Nominations can only be submitted online at LIChoiceAwards.com. It's a quick and easy process to register and immediately start to nominate your favorite businesses for consideration in any and all categories. You may nominate in every category once per day, every day—the more you nominate, the better chance those businesses have to move on to the next round.

Here's a little extra incentive for you: Once an individual enters nominations in more than 25 categories, they will be automatically entered into a sweepstakes for a chance to win a \$500 gift card!

Round 2: Voting Round

OCTOBER 20–NOVEMBER 12
The Top Five nominees in each of the

individual categories—based on the total number of nominations received during the Nominations Round—will move on to this Voting Round. In this round, members of the public will once again be invited to visit LIChoiceAwards.com, where they will find the official Long Island Choice Awards ballot, which will include the Top Five nominees in each category. Just like in the Nominations Round, you may vote in every single category once per day, every day.

Round 3: Winners Are Announced FEBRUARY 2022

The envelopes, please... Once all the votes are tallied by an independent third party, it's time for the Long Island Choice Awards Show! At this live gala event, the Top Three vote-getters in each category will be honored as Finalists, and the business receiving the most votes in each category will be crowned this year's Long Island Choice Award Winner. All the finalists and winners will be featured in the glossy Long Island Choice Awards Winners Magazine, in addition to being showcased year-round in an all-new Long Island Choice Awards section of LIHerald.com.

So what are you waiting for? Go visit LIChoiceAwards.com right now and start nominating your choices for everything and everyone that make Long Island simply the best.



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Jill Nossa/Herald

THE LIVINGSTON CORP was awarded a 10-year PILOT for the Villa Project. The area, along Glen Cove Avenue and Craft Avenue, is currently surrounded by blue fencing.

Livingston awarded reduced PILOT

BY JILL NOSSA

jnossa@liherald.com

The Glen Cove Industrial Development Agency awarded a 10-year payment in lieu of taxes agreement to Livingston Development Corp. last week, with stipulations for a possible extension of up to two years. The agreement is less than what the developer had requested, yet enough to allow the construction of six buildings comprised of 176 residential housing units to commence.

The Villa at Glen Cove along Glen Cove Avenue at Craft Avenue has been in the works for 17 years. Last year, the developer changed the plan to consist of rental units as opposed to condominiums, based on the current market trends and needs in the city, and asked the IDA for financial assistance in the form of a 12-year PILOT in order to begin construction. A public hearing took place on July 14, and an offer was made at the July 29 special meeting.

Chairman Tim Tenke described the offer being put for a vote before the board. The board voted to approve a 10-year PILOT, with a possible extension to the 12-year schedule previously discussed, if the following all happen: There's a 30 percent local labor requirement for Glen Cove residents, and the developer demonstrates a good faith effort that all six permanent jobs be provided to Glen Cove residents. If all those things are happening, then the PILOT will be extended through the final two years.

"If it's take it or leave it, then we'll take it," Dan Deegan, attorney for the developer, said at the meeting.

Previously, residents spoke up against the granting of a PILOT during the public hearing. Last week's meeting did not allow an opportunity for public comment,

and the terms, though reduced, left some feeling their voices were not heard. Councilwoman Marsha Silverman noted that the agreement changed "on the spot" without giving the public an opportunity to comment on the changes. "The application changed and the public was not given a chance to comment on the updated proposal," she said. "My main concern, though is that based on the recent IDA audit, more polices and protections should be enacted to protect taxpayers before financial assistance is given to developers."

I still feel strongly that awarding a PILOT to this developer was absolutely the wrong move.

GAITLEY STEVENSON-MATHEWS
Glen Cove City Councilman

"While I appreciate the mayor's efforts and that of the IDA board in negotiating a better deal for our local workers and for incentivizing the use of prevailing wage," Councilman Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews said, "I still feel strongly that awarding a PILOT to this developer was absolutely the wrong move."

"Now that the IDA has, unfortunately, approved the PILOT for the Livingston project, there are two imperatives," Stevenson-Mathews continued. "One, that the city and all its agencies closely monitor this developer, which has not been a good neighbor to date, for any violations as the project moves forward. Second, the IDA, which has not functioned properly, as noted in a recent audit, should begin to do its job to protect the city and its residents."

"As noted in my letter to the editor and in the public hearing, I support the project moving forward just not on the backs of taxpayers. I regret the decision; however, it's good that what is now an eyesore at the entrance to our city will finally begin its transition into a viable property," Stevenson-Mathews said. "This benefit to the city will only come through strong oversight assuring that the project advances properly."

Good Shabbos, Long Island!

Friday, August 6
Candle lighting: 7:46
Torah reading: Re'eh
Shabbos ends at 8:54

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State invests in at-risk youth to curb gun violence

By **CRISTINA ARROYO RODRIGUEZ**

carroyo@liherald.com

Two weeks after Governor Cuomo issued a first-in-the-nation executive order declaring gun violence a disaster emergency, on July 21 he announced the state would invest \$16 million to fund workforce training and job placement programs for at-risk youth in 20 cities most impacted by gun violence.

Nassau County will receive \$900,000 to serve 180 at-risk unemployed, underemployed and out-of-school 18- to 24-year olds, and Hempstead, \$500,000 for 100, as the state identified Hempstead and Uniondale as gun violence hotspots earlier this month. This brings the state's total commitment to reducing gun violence to \$154.7 million.

County Executive Laura Curran said she fully supports the initiative. "The county intends to support State Executive Order 211 on Gun Violence with additional American Rescue Plan funds for community violence intervention, such as summer youth employment opportunities in gun violence hotspots."

The Nassau County Police Department recently announced that while major crime are down across the board, gunshot incident numbers countywide are up. In 2020, with most people staying indoors

because of the coronavirus pandemic, there were 68 shots fired. This year so far, however, there have been 95 shots fired, a 39 percent increase.

From 2009 to 2019, NCPD had reported a reduction of 36.5 percent in firearm-related violent crimes, as well as a decrease of 27.5 percent in shooting incidents involving injury and of 14.3 percent of shooting victims from 2014 to 2019.

The NCPD assembled a gun-suppression team last year, taking 40 guns off the street. In 2021, the team has surpassed that number. Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder said during a July 1 news conference that the department had been working with federal partners on the issue of guns arriving in the county from areas down South, which he said was due to Covid-19.

"Gun violence is a public health crisis in New York state and across the country, and we're attacking it with the same comprehensive, evidence-based approach we used to beat Covid," Cuomo said. "We know that

simply telling kids to put the gun down doesn't work—we have to give them an alternative."



Gun violence is a public health crisis.

ANDREW CUOMO
Governor

Dr. Chethan Sathya, director of the Northwell Health Gun Violence Prevention Center, called gun violence a public health crisis. "Looking at this issue as a public health crisis does two things: It helps us depolarize and depoliticize this issue...and it also helps us apply a public health model to combat this, just like we did for substance abuse, HIV, tobacco use and automotive collisions in the past."

The Northwell Health Gun Violence Prevention Center is working to identify programs and strategies that may be effective. "Right now, no one knows what works and what doesn't," Sathya said, "because gun violence prevention received less research funding than any other leading cause of death in the past decades."

He also emphasized there are many reasons for gun violence, and solving the crisis should be multi-faceted. "Gun violence disproportionately affects African-

American youth, so by elevating racial equity and reducing disparities, then we can have an impact at curbing gun violence, as well as a multitude of other issues such as food insecurity and go on," he said.

County Legislator Kevan Abrahams, a Democrat from Freeport whose district includes large portions of communities affected by gun violence, said, "Because I have seen firsthand how internships, mentoring and professional development programs can place young people on the path toward a brighter and more successful future, I'm especially excited to work with my colleagues at every level to ensure that we maximize the positive impact of this initiative."

Laura Burns, of Rockville Centre, who is running for the County Legislature in the 6th District, and who has been a long-time advocate for gun-violence prevention with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, said, "Communities faced with the daily threat of gun violence require immediate and locally driven interventions — initiatives such as violence interruption programs, green spaces and youth programming help reduce gun violence."



The power to help is in your hands.

PSEG Long Island has teamed up with Island Harvest on a new initiative to help those in our communities facing food insecurity. And you have the power to help! Summer is when food bank stocks dwindle, donations slow down, and thousands of Long Island children don't have a daily school meal to depend on. Please join us.

Stop by any of the following Power to Feed Long Island events with a donation of non-perishable food from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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9/24
King Kullen
2305 Jericho Tpk.,
Garden City Park/
New Hyde Park

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<https://www.islandharvest.org>



12 **ELEVEN WOMEN ACCUSED**
 Gov. Andrew Cuomo of a range of inappropriate behavior; nine of them are current or former state employees. Investigators said they interviewed 179 witnesses.



Photo courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Leaders call on Cuomo to resign

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

endured do not matter because the man who committed them is more powerful than they are.”

“I think he should’ve been gone a long time ago,” Mary Gasparri, of Glen Head, said. “I’m in full agreement with what they’re doing. I don’t have proof of what happened — none of us do — but he never

seemed like a stand-up guy to begin with, that’s how I feel.”

“I give a round of applause to Attorney General James for conducting the interviews,” Roni Jenkins, of Glen Cove, said. “Justice needs to be served, and he needs to step down. It’s harassment in the workplace, and women are not going to stand for it anymore.”

The attorney general’s 168-page report concluded that Cuomo and his aides cultivated a toxic work culture in his office that was rife with fear and intimidation, and helped enable harassment to occur and created a hostile work environment.

“The attorney general’s findings of sexual harassment and violations of New York state’s sexual harassment policy are credible and deeply troubling,” said State Sen. Jim Gaughran, a Democrat who represents the 5th District, which includes, Glen Cove, Sea Cliff, Glen Head and Oyster Bay. “I thank the women who bravely spoke out about the governor’s reprehensible conduct.”

After a number of public accusations poured in early this year, Cuomo gave in to public pressure on Feb. 28, and asked James for a formal referral to create a special counsel to investigate the claims against him.

During the five-month inquiry, investigators found that Cuomo had sexually harassed at least 11 women, including two previously unreported allegations from women who accused Cuomo of improperly touching them — an unnamed female state trooper and an employee of an energy company. The report also highlighted at least one instance in which Cuomo and his aides retaliated against a woman who made her allegations public.

“I believe women, and I believe these 11 women,” James said at the conclusion of a nearly hour-long news conference Tuesday.

After reading the findings in James’s report, members of Cuomo’s party openly turned on him, calling on him to resign immediately. His administration was already under investigation by the State Assembly for his handling of nursing home deaths during the pandemic.

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Tony Gallego/Gill Associates

MAYORAL CANDIDATE PAM Panzenbeck with members of her team.

Republican Headquarters opens on Glen Street in Glen Cove

Last month, Republican mayoral candidate Pamela Donaldson Panzenbeck and her team of Glen Cove City Council candidates, Joseph Capobianco, James Greenberg, Roni Jenkins, Jack Mancusi, Kevin Maccarone and Barbara Peebles welcomed an enormous crowd to the grand opening of the Glen Cove Republican Headquarters on the corner of Glen and Pulaski Streets. The enthusiastic crowd included family, friends and many new supporters. Also attending to meet Glen Covers were Elaine Phillips, candidate for Nassau County Comptroller, Meagan McCarty, candidate for Nassau County Legislator in the 11th District, Assemblyman Michael Montesano and former District Court Judge Paul Meli.

Panzenbeck spoke briefly about her deep roots and love for Glen Cove. A primary concern is the city's finances, which will be a key issue for a Panzenbeck administration. The current administration's piercing of the tax cap and 8 percent tax increase were the key factors

triggering Panzenbeck to step up and make the run for mayor. "Our team will bring leadership and communication to City Hall," Panzenbeck said. "My plan for the city is to continuously examine the budget with department heads, review and update our building codes to attract small businesses to our downtown and create an extensive infrastructure and asset review."

Of her team, she said: "We are working so well together. When you run a campaign, you become a family with all the fun, excitement and squabbles that any family has. Having different views and ideas on issues is very healthy."

As of this month, the headquarters will be open at various times during the week. Residents are invited to stop in and meet the candidates and express their concerns and desires for Glen Cove. A schedule of times will be posted on the Glen Cove Republican Party Facebook page.

THE GREAT BOOK GURU

To tell the truth?

Dear Great Book Guru,
This weekend I'm getting together with friends and they have asked me to choose a book we can discuss after dinner before dessert. I know they all like historical fiction and the 1950's with its Cold War spy craft is a time they find fascinating. Suggestion?

—Seeking Spy Stories

Dear Seeking Spy Stories,

I recently read "The Vixen," by Francine Prose and I think your friends will find this fictional take on the aftermath of the Ethel and Julius Rosenberg's trial fascinating.

Simon Putnam is a recent Harvard graduate who is somewhat adrift as he searches for employment. Through connections with a sinister uncle, he lands a job at a prestigious publishing house. His first assignment is to edit a fictionalized biography of the

recently executed alleged spy Ethel Rosenberg. The writer has portrayed her as a sultry seductress who entrapped men in an effort to undermine the country's nuclear defense force. Simon is appalled at the bad writing and the absurdity of the novel's premise. He is loath to challenge his bosses, but he is hiding important information: his parents were friends of Ethel Rosenberg and he knows the real Ethel was far, far different than this portrayal of her. He struggles between loyalty to family, truth and his need for a job, until he comes upon a startling solution. This is a darkly comedic take on a very cruel time in American history. Recommended!

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



Photos courtesy Glen Cove SYEP

TEENS CLEARED THE trails at Garvies Point Preserve.

Youth are working hard in the summertime

While many students are enjoying the long break, for some Glen Cove teens, summertime means time to work. This year the City of Glen Cove Summer Youth Employment Program celebrates its 40th anniversary of employing teens to work throughout their community.

"We have never been more proud of the strides SYEP has taken," Jackie Yonick, program director, said. "What once was a summer youth employment program has developed into a seasonal youth employment program. Not only are teens working during the months of July and August, but are working part-time after school."

Teens are working at beach concession stands at Morgan Park and Prybil Beach; with the City of Glen Cove DPW office in City Hall; with the Beautification Commission and Parks Department; with the finance department, Senior Center, and GCYB Summer Camp. They are developing and executing dance programs and diversity inclusion programs at Glen Cove After 3 Summer; they are running the City Stadium concession stands, helping at Deep Roots Farmers Market, maintaining the Community Garden, and maintaining trails and grounds at the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center and Garvies Point Museum & Preserve.

All participants complete workshops on building resumes, work etiquette and ethics, team building, effective communication, public



THE GREEN TEAMS participated in a teambuilding day at NC BOCES Brookville Adventure Learning.

speaking, interviewing techniques, dressing for success, as well as personal health and nutrition workshops.

On July 5, the Green Teams - groups of 14- and 15-year-olds, began working in teams of six to beautify the city.

To celebrate the program's anniversary, a free showing of "Ferris Buller's Day Off" will take place on Friday, Aug. 20, at City Stadium. Field games will begin at 6 p.m., concession stands will be open, and the movie starts at 7:45 p.m. Bring your own chair or blanket.

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OPINIONS

The political losers are killing your neighbors

Back in the old days when people used to tell jokes, one of my favorite one-liners was, “I’m from the government, and I’m here to help you.” It always elicited a few laughs, but I made it clear that the role of government, dating back to 1776, is exactly that. In times of crisis, no private organization

is going to step forward to help us weather a health scare or any other challenge. It’s the job of government to be there for us in times of need.

The more I think about it, the current attacks on the nation’s effort to battle the coronavirus pandemic and the persistent



**JERRY
KREMER**

undermining of public health measures are a national disgrace, and history will record them as such. And the people who are the fomenters of “health hate” should be treated in the same way as the hundreds of people who were arrested for participating in the Jan. 6 insurrection.

The arrival of Covid-19 in January 2020 wasn’t the first time in the coun-

try’s history that we asked our health professionals to provide relief and assurance. In 1918, the nation was decimated by the flu pandemic. In 2002, we had the severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, scare. In 2004, America learned of the H5N1 avian influenza, or bird flu, which necessitated the destruction of millions of chickens to keep us safe.

In all of those cases, America turned to agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. We followed the media reports, looking for assurances that no serious illness would invade our homes and upset our daily life. During those times, people like Dr. Anthony Fauci and others stood behind lecterns with charts and graphs. They assured the country in measured words that the government was trying its best to protect us.

When the Covid-19 plague hit our shores last year, the two federal agencies were the first to alert us of a possible new virus that had developed in China. Did they get it right from the beginning? Not knowing how serious it was, they

made a few miscalculations on the issue of masks and how quickly the virus might spread, but their job was made even harder by a president who didn’t want to talk about the coronavirus because it would interfere with his re-

election plans. It was at that point until that a life-or-death challenge became a political football, and it remains one today.

Instead of one nation united, we have red and blue states fighting over mask requirements. We have so-called elected officials discouraging their constituents from getting vaccinated. We have media personalities such as Fox’s Tucker Carlson, who rails against vaccines even though, according to media reports, he has been vaccinated, as has most of the staff at Fox News. And then we have a variety of public officials mocking the doctors and the vaccine.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who sees himself as a possible president, is selling T-shirts making fun of Doctor Fauci. In the meantime, Florida is now one of the states with the largest number of new reported Covid cases. To add to his arrogance, DeSantis is fighting with the

cruise ship industry over its insistence on checking boarding passengers for symptoms of the virus.

Political stupidity when it comes to protecting the public isn’t confined to any party. It is hard to imagine that Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the son of a great political legend, is traveling around the nation, discouraging people from getting vaccinated. For many in the anti-vaccination movement, Kennedy is considered their No. 1 hero. His poor dad must be turning over in his grave.

It’s too late in the game to expect there to be a united effort to stop Covid from ravaging our country. Innocent people will continue to die as a result of raw politics. Families will continue to lose cherished members of all ages. There’s a lesson to be learned about politicizing disease, but it seems that no one who needs to hear it is willing to listen. The coronavirus scourge isn’t over, and there will be many more losers thanks to a handful of political losers.

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

Where have all the human beings gone?

It’s been a long time since I took a pregnancy test, but it was the perfect application of what passed for high tech in its day: private, accurate and consequential. Today, as technology advances, we are pushed beyond our skill sets without the benefit of human helpers.



**RANDI
KREISS**

Self-sufficiency is fine, but I miss having real human beings to answer questions or tell me that the bathing suit I’m checking out is going on sale next week. I miss having people who know more than I do about a problem.

When I go online to return an item, I must engage with a chat bot who has programmed answers. Round and round we go, with me having no way to tell Chat that my new shoe had a dead roach in the heel.

I had a foreshadowing of our new do-it-yourself world some 25 years ago, when my snazzy Dell desktop ran amok. One call led to another, until I reached a supervisor who said he would talk me

through the fix. “First,” he said, “get a screwdriver.” This did not sound cool.

“Now, take off the back of the tower,” he said. I really didn’t want to open the back of the tower, but I did, and moved the wires he told me to move, and it fixed the problem. The house-call service industry was in its death throes.

Last week I saw an ad for a cardio phone app that can alert you if your heart rate is too fast or too slow. How is that helpful? Will it tell you you’re having a heart attack? If you have chest pain and an erratic heart-beat and your phone tells you you’re OK, what do you do? This is the perfect scenario for a little bit of knowledge being a dangerous thing. I wonder if cardiologists are getting false alarms from patients who get false alarms from their wristwatches.

One cardiac patient offered this testimonial to his heart monitor: “This is an amazing little monitor! I recently began having heart palpitations in the middle of the night, and it’s very easy to just check my heart rhythm with my device to make sure I’m not having any serious arrhythmias. It has given me so much

peace of mind!”

How is this OK? What if the dude is reading his gizmo wrong? What if the gizmo isn’t accurate? Why not just call your doctor? Actually, I know the answer to that. Answering services are under-

staffed. It’s hard to reach your doctor in the middle of the night. A trip to the ER is a drag.

One cardio app offers a “premium” subscription, which raises the question of what makes it premium? Does it monitor you less rigorously if you don’t upgrade? Do you get a refurbished monitor if you look for a bargain?

Now we can also buy portable ECG monitors for under \$100 that you can carry in your pocket and glance at from time to time to see if your heart is behaving. The proliferation of these medical devices, available to the public, makes my own heart race.

During Covid we all learned to do some things we had relied on experts to do before the pandemic. I’d never heard about an oximeter before 2020, but when my husband got the sniffles, I regularly checked his O2 levels to be sure it wasn’t

In airports, subways and stores, kiosks and registers go unmanned and unwomaned.

the virus. I cut our hair and figured out how to fix our TV because we couldn’t let a service person in. The problem is that now, even though we’re drifting back to normal, some do-it-yourself chores are here to stay.

I check out my own groceries because no one is at the registers. I check out my own purchases at the big stores, and I read my own lab reports on the patient portals because I want my results sooner rather than later. I book my own flights and make all changes online because I can’t get a human being to pick up.

All the work I’ve done in my life, aside from writing, which is a solitary endeavor, bonded me with other people in real time. I taught, I tutored, I lectured, and it was a way to nurture human connections.

In airports, subways and stores, kiosks go unmanned and unwomaned. We are increasingly on our own, without micro-connections to humanize our days. I see a time when virtual schooling could be universal. We will educate ourselves, order our food online, repair our own equipment and, heaven forbid, maybe operate on ourselves if the lesion is small and the instructions are good.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Taking a shot at reducing gun violence

Working to decrease gun violence is a no-brainer, but how to go about reducing the number of shootings, injuries and fatalities caused by guns is proving to be a question whose answers are hard to decide on.

Law enforcement officials say that getting guns off the streets enhances public safety, and that reducing the number of guns generally leads to a decline not only in shootings, but also in other crimes.

The Nassau County Police Department recently noted that while major crimes like arson, burglary, homicide, kidnapping and rape were down across the board, gunshot incident numbers are ticking upward.

In 2020, when a majority of people remained at home as the coronavirus pandemic raged, there were 68 shots fired across Nassau. This year, with the county opening up again, there were 95 shots fired from January through the end of July, a 39 percent increase thus far.

From 2009 to 2019, the NCPD reported a reduction of 36.5 percent in gun-related violent crimes, and a 27.5 percent decrease in shooting incidents that resulted in injury. From 2014 to 2019, there was a 14.3 percent decline in the number of people shot. NCPD officials say taking firearms off the street has brought about those improvements. Its gun suppression team collected 40 guns in 2020, and has surpassed that

number this year, officials said.

To enhance the work being done by the police, the county has embraced the state gun violence initiative announced in July by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who called gun violence a public health crisis. In making the announcement, Cuomo noted that there had been 26 shootings across the state over the Fourth of July weekend, including three on Long Island.

As part of the state's new initiative, Nassau will receive \$900,000 of a total of \$16 million to help 180 18- to 24-year-olds who are unemployed, out of school and considered at risk of potentially becoming involved in crime. Another \$500,000 will go to the Village of Hempstead to help 100 people in the same age group. Uniondale was also identified as a gun violence hot spot.

County Executive Laura Curran has said she supports Cuomo's executive order. We endorse it as well. We believe the problem of gun violence should be seen more as a public health issue than as a recurring problem in only one portion of the community. As Dr. Chethan Sathya, the director of Northwell Health's Gun Violence Prevention Center, noted, viewing the issue of gun violence through the lens of public health helps to depolarize and depoliticize it, and encourages the use of a public health model similar to the efforts to reduce traffic accidents, cigarette smoking, the transmission of HIV/

AIDS and substance abuse.

The more money and research that can be dedicated to gun violence prevention, the more likely officials will be to determine what works and what doesn't, Sathya said.

"We can't afford not to commit ourselves 100 percent to this effort," the advocacy group New Yorkers Against Gun Violence group tweeted of the state initiative. We agree. But it also needs the support of other organizations — groups that support guns, respect their responsible use and understand their power as a destructive force — every day, more than a hundred Americans are killed by guns, and 230 are shot and wounded, according to the nonprofit Every Town for Gun Safety.

To help make the state initiative work, the Department of Labor will join forces with local workforce development boards and their networks of community partners to provide job training, certification and career placement services. In addition, gun violence intervention and prevention strategies will be coordinated by the state's Division of Criminal Justice Services and the Office of Victim Services.

We also call on the National Rifle Association and all other legitimate regional and local gun organizations to join the battle against gun violence by using their influence to help ensure that that violence can be reduced to the point where the state's program is no longer needed.

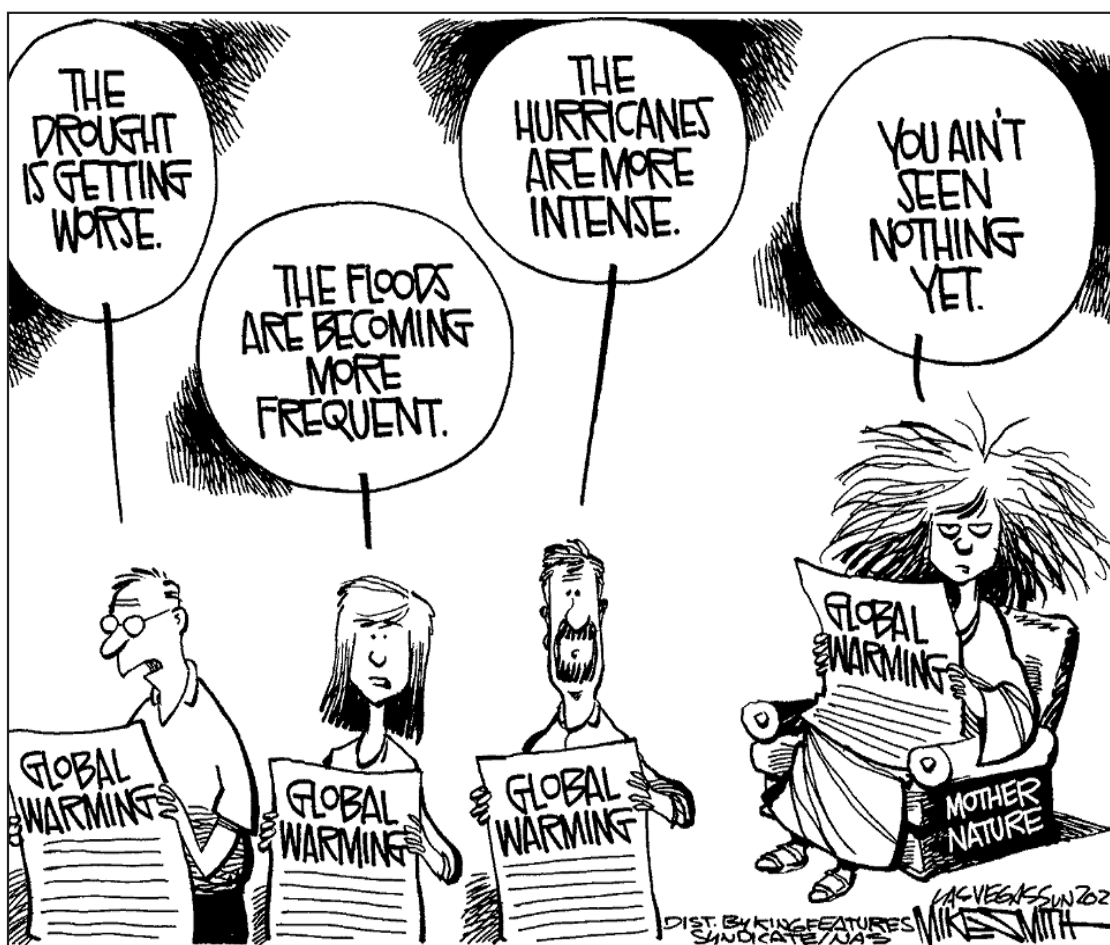
LETTERS

Glen Cove IDA lacks accountability

To the Editor:

The main purpose of an Industrial Development Agency is to stimulate the local economy through the creation of permanent local jobs. This can be achieved by providing tax incentives including payments in lieu of taxes, or PILOTs, to local businesses. According to the annual report on IDAs from the state comptroller's office, Glen Cove's IDA has historically ranked toward the bottom of all IDAs in the state in cost per job created, indicating that taxpayers are being asked to subsidize residential developments, which do not meaningfully create jobs. Absent permanent job creation, this is tantamount to appropriating a tax subsidy from taxpayers for the benefit of high-density residential developers.

Of greater concern is the lack of accountability and transparency in how these subsidies are appropriated and facilitated. The state comptroller recently issued an audit of the Glen Cove IDA's operations from Jan. 1, 2017, through Sept. 30, 2019, and



OPINIONS

Take an active role against Covid by getting inoculated

There has been a fixation on comparison throughout the coronavirus pandemic. First came the comparison of cases, the seismic shock of northern Italian coronavirus news that woke up the world to the severity of the virus. Inevitably came the comparison of death rates, from China to the



JEMIMA DENHAM

United Kingdom to the U.S. and, slowly, everywhere in between. As we have watched countless graphs of data ebb and flow over the past 16 months, only one measure has shed light on a potential end: vaccination rates.

Having experienced the entirety of the pandemic as

a college student at Georgetown University, I have been surrounded by variations on the question, “When will this end?” I have not had an in-person class since early March 2020, when my peers and I all assumed that Covid could not possibly last longer than a few weeks. How naive we all were.

Naivety aside, however, I soon began to acclimatize to the world of virtual education in a different time zone, in my hometown of London. Amid the “Zoom

fatigue,” shaky Wi-Fi and the irony of feeling detached from friends but claustrophobic with family, reminding myself that all these would hopefully bring this bizarre way of life to an end seemed like a good enough incentive. Cue the coronavirus vaccine.

I first heard of the inoculations early this spring. Finally, thoughts of socializing with my friends on campus, meeting my professors to continue conversations outside lecture halls and being late to class because I had to run down a hallway, not because my Wi-Fi was intermittent, began to piece together as a realistic future. Six months after the vaccine rollout worldwide, however, this phase of the pandemic has caused, as much as quelled, a general feeling of anxiety. Hesitancy about the vaccine has perhaps provided a more interesting point of comparison than numbers and charts. It is certainly a topic that has produced an unprecedented emotional response on both ends of the spectrum.

While I can only speak from the experience of being predominantly surrounded by American and British college-age students, the viewpoints I have heard on the vaccine very quickly offer insightful indicators of people’s political and cultural standpoints. Nonetheless, they present

I couldn't wait to be late for class because I had to run down an actual hallway.

something deeper, and more interesting, than a political affiliation: whether individuals believe their singular actions can help reduce the global devastation of the virus. Moreover, they have highlighted for me where my generation perceives it stands among all this mess.

Like many of my contemporaries at Georgetown, I was eager to get the shots. While I was double-vaccinated by late May, life remained fairly similar for the vaccinated and unvaccinated in the Washington area during the early vaccine rollout. But it became clear that there were tangible benefits for vaccinated people early this summer.

From less social distancing to optional mask wearing, it allowed experiences that resembled a sense of pre-pandemic normalcy.

On the other side of the pond, the U.K. saw a hasty vaccine rollout in late winter that eclipsed any American efforts. Unfortunately, this initial success has crumbled amid our confusing “traffic light” travel rules, spiraling virus cases and declining trust in the government’s handling of the situation as we edge into a possible fourth wave. While the root of these issues can be pinned on Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s reluctance to ban travel from places where the Delta variant originated until it

was deemed too late, there is something to be said about the link between vaccine rates and incentives.

Unlike the U.S., the U.K. did not employ an incentive scheme for vaccines. This promoted the realistic message that a vaccine wasn’t a quick fix to the complexity of the pandemic, but provided an important step in a return to normalcy. However, I have seen an unprecedented and surprising hesitancy toward the vaccine among younger people over the summer in the U.K. “I won’t get that sick, I don’t need it,” “It’s too much of an effort” and “It’s too new to trust” are some of the sentiments I’ve heard repeatedly. While I sympathize with these concerns, the general lack of motivation is disturbing.

Vaccine hesitancy is a direct comparison that can be made across generations, political affiliations and nationalities. However, almost everyone offered the vaccine has also had to question whether they want to take accountability for the trajectory of the virus. Undoubtedly, the short-term consequences and potential side effects must not be underestimated. But this stage of the pandemic also presents a perhaps once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: become a key stakeholder in the global fight against the coronavirus by being vaccinated.

Jemima Denham is an intern at the Herald this summer, working remotely from her home in London.

LETTERS

the report was alarming and disturbing. It stated, “The Board and officials did not properly approve and monitor projects or take action when goals were not met.” Specifically, some of the most concerning findings were:

- PILOT billing and collections were not monitored by officials.
- In seven of the 10 projects reviewed, defaults occurred, which could lead to recapture for Glen Cove. However, no recourse was pursued for any of the seven projects.
- Almost half of 115 payments reviewed were received one to nine months late.
- Several invoices were sent out after the due dates.
- PILOTs were not allocated correctly among affected taxing jurisdictions, or ATJs.
- “The [Glen Cove] IDA has no procedures in place to ensure PILOTs collected are being accurately paid to each ATJ.”
- Due to the lack of controls, the city and school district were short-changed \$75,039 and \$300,875, respectively.

If the Glen Cove IDA had accurately allocated PILOT payments and collected late fees, adding a few hundred thousand dollars in revenue, that would have equated to approximately 1 to 2 percent in taxes, and thus would have reduced the need for the large tax increase last year.

A misconception about PILOTs is that a project will not happen if a PILOT is not granted, thus the benefit to the city is the difference between collecting little or no taxes for vacant land and collecting PILOT payments. This is not correct. The appropriate cost-benefit analysis needs to accurately assess the true costs of servicing developed properties with water, schools, police, sanitation, fire, etc., which are much more extensive for developed land than for vacant land — which is why vacant land has a lower assessed value. Once a property does not pay the standard tax rate, which covers the expense of municipal services, then taxpayers are subsidizing the high cost of that property’s services.

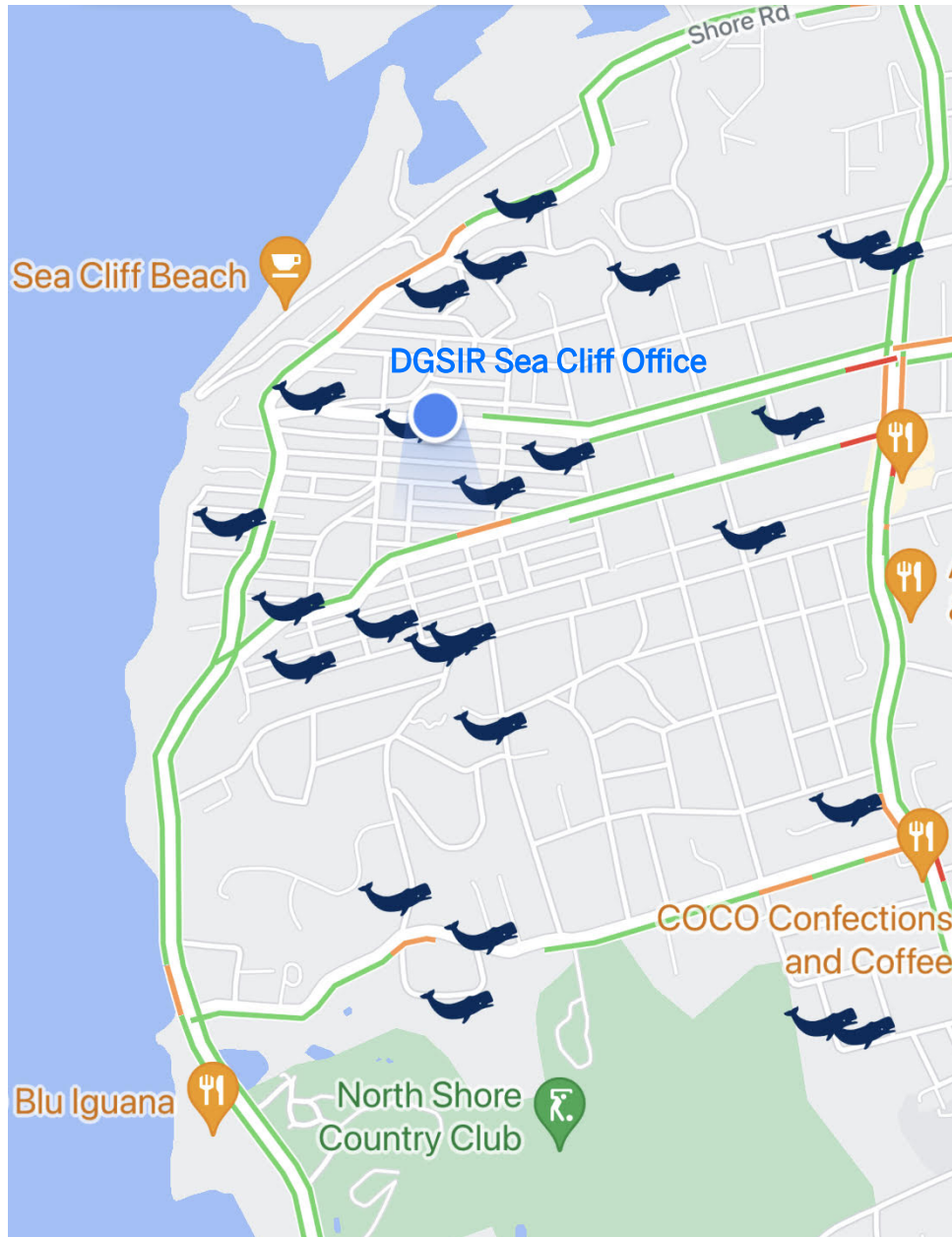
Based on the critical issues raised by the state comptroller concerning how the IDA is currently operated, I propose a moratorium on granting any more tax breaks until appropriate metrics, policies and protections are established that address the issues raised by the comptroller’s audit. Because taxpayer money is being appropriated with no accountability to taxpayers, I strongly believe that a specific metric must be introduced into the process to create that accountability.

MARSHA SILVERMAN
Glen Cove City councilwoman

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