HERALD



National Night Out in G.C.

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Snapper Derby returns to Pryibil

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Seniors hold Olympic games

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Christina Daly/Heral

Fun and games at the Feast

Olivia Reiner and Amanda Barton, in the first car, and Avianna Washington, 5, in the second car, had a great time on the Dragon Wagon roller coaster during the annual Feast of St. Rocco.

State audit critical of Glen Cove IDA's monitoring of projects

BY JILL NOSSA

jnossa@liherald.con

An audit report released last month by the state comptroller's office found critical issues with the Glen Cove Industrial Development Agency's operations, leading some residents to question its role and practices. Agency heads, however, have said that many of the report's findings have already been addressed.

Mayor Tim Tenke, who chairs the IDA board, called for the audit when he took office in January 2018. "As the chairperson," he said, "I wanted to understand what was happening with the IDA."

The audit report, issued July 23, covered the period from January 2017 to September 2019, and found that during that time, the "board and officials did not properly approve and monitor proj-

ects or take action when goals were not met." Additionally, the report states, "required annual financial disclosure statements meant to identify conflicts of interest were not filed," and that in some instances, payments in lieu of taxes were not monitored or correctly allocated to affected taxing jurisdictions.

The lack of oversight has cost CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

N.S leaders continue call to impeach

hope we can

move forward with

the impeachment

process to ensure

holds the office of

this man never

governor again.

MICHAEL

MONTESANO

Assemblyman

continue to

BY ANNEMARIE DURKIN and SCOTT BRINTON

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Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on Tuesday that he would resign, one week after the release of State Attorney General Letitia James's comprehen-

sive report detailing alleged sexual misconduct by the governor. James's report included testimony by 179 witnesses and 74,000 pieces of evidence.

"The best way I can help now is if I step aside and let [the] government get back to governing," Cuomo said in a televised address. He was apologetic toward the 11 women who accused him of sexual harassment, but he denied any wrongdoing, say-

ing he never intentionally mistreated women.

"The most serious allegations made against me had no credible factual basis in the report," the governor said. "There is a difference between alleged improper conduct and concluding sexual harassment. Now, don't get me wrong, this is not to say that there are not 11 women who I truly offended. There are. And for that I deeply, deeply apologize."

The governor, who has been in office since 2011, faced calls

from his colleagues in the State Legislature to resign over the past week, with members making it clear that they would move forward with impeachment hearings if he did not step aside.

Cuomo's resignation will take effect on Aug. 24, when New York's lieutenant governor, Kathy Hochul, will succeed him. Despite his announcement, many legislators were still calling

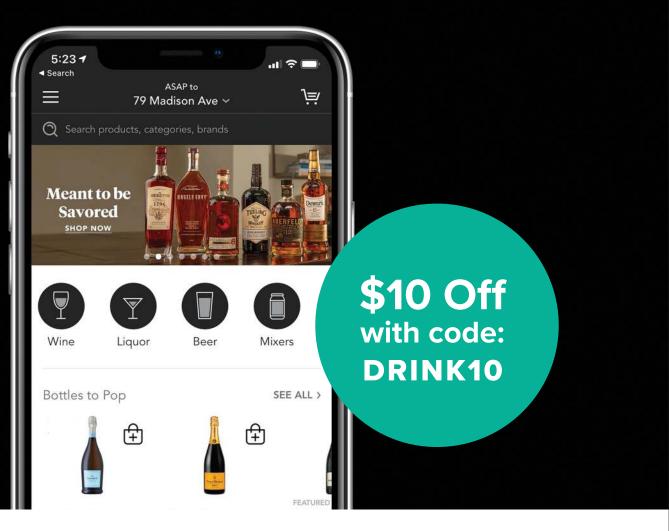
for impeachment proceedings to begin, hoping to block Cuomo from entering the political arena

Investigators said that the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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FAMILIES VISITED THE various booths on hand at the annual event.

Photos by Leah Dwyer/Herald

Glen Cove EMS honored at National Night Out

BY LEAH DWYER

newsroom@liherald.com

On Aug. 3, Glen Cove's 14th year of National Night Out Against Crime took place. Children and parents gathered downtown to participate in different activities including karaoke, dunking booths, taser demonstrations, and Operation Safe Child, all while learning about health and public safety.

This year's event required masks and social distancing, and forwent the food and beverages to ensure safety to all that attended.

Every year the event awards an honoree; this year, the entire Glen Cove EMS was selected.

"When Covid arrived, we didn't know what we had on our hands. We knew it was bad, we could see what was going on with the rest of the world, and we were scared, all of us," Glen Cove Police Chief William Whitton said. "EMS bravely entered into houses, doctors' offices, any location where somebody needed help and they can tell that these people were in Covid distress and they gave top notch medical attention."

Short speeches were made from different figures in Glen Cove, including Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton and Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke.

"At the very beginning [of Covid] we didn't know what to expect," Tenke said. "People were dying from this and yet EMS went in every single time for a call and put their own lives at risk in doing so. So, I think it's very very appropriate that EMS be honored this evening as the honoree for national night out."



CHILDREN EXPLORED EMERGENCY vehicles during National Night Out last week.



MAYOR TIM TENKE with members of the Glen Cove Police and EMS departments.



A GLEN COVE police officer answered children's questions.

State audit faults city IDA's operations

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the city more than \$600,000, according to the report. Nassau County received nearly \$376,000 that should have stayed in Glen Cove: Just over \$75,000 should have gone to the city, and the school district and library should have been paid nearly \$301,000. The audit also determined that 52 of 115 payments were late, and that late fees totaling over \$259,000 were not billed or collected.

While Tenke and IDA Executive Director Ann Fangmann acknowledged that these problems needed to be fixed, Tenke said that recent criticism of the IDA board was "not justified," because the agency had already implemented changes, and because these issues predate the current board and administration.

Incorporated in 1974, the IDA is a nonprofit public-benefit corporation that has the authority to help nonprofit and other qualified businesses relocate, expand and build in the city. The mayor serves as board chair, and volunteers comprise the rest of the five-member board. Tenke appointed three new board members in 2018, and last year he expanded the board to seven members, all of them city residents. The board chair also has the authority to appoint directors, and Tenke chose Fangmann as executive director in 2018. Until then, she had worked as the agency's administrative director since September 2016, strictly overseeing the waterfront development project.

When the audit began, Fangmann was already pointing out deficiencies and implementing changes, Tenke said, including how the city controller was overseeing payments. "That was a big issue," Tenke said.

Fangmann met with Controller Mike Piccirillo when he took over the job in January 2020. "One of the first things we discussed was the allocation of the PILOT payments between the taxing jurisdictions," Fangmann recalled, "and we had actually addressed it to the IDA counsel at the time to get an opinion. These are some of the same items that came out of the audit report, and quite frankly, I learned how much more of an oversight role the IDA should have had those years, because it had all been done down in [the Finance



Christina Daly/Herald

THE GLEN COVE IDA is working to remedy past actions.

Department], and it had all been set up by a previous controller."

By the time the audit had some initial findings, Fangmann said, she and Piccirillo had already begun implementing procedural changes. Tenke said that the county has been made aware of the misallocation of payments.

"I'm relying on our controller to negotiate with the county to recoup that money that was erroneously sent to the county and should've stayed here with our taxing jurisdiction," Tenke said. "Mainly our schools."

Criticism of the IDA has increased because the report was released in the midst of a public discussion of a PILOT agreement for the Livingston Corp.'s Villa Project on Glen Cove Avenue. The 10-year PILOT — which may be extended by two years if certain conditions are met — was granted July 29, the first on awarded during Tenke's three and a half years in

office and as chair of the IDA board.

"Before that, I had not given out any PILOTs," Tenke said. "And this is the shortest PILOT given for a project of this size in Glen Cove in the history of our IDA. What people fail to realize is that if Glen Cove did not have an IDA, this type of project would have gone to the county, and the county would have given them a 20-year PILOT."

The mayor also said that the term payment in lieu of taxes is misleading, because it implies that taxes are lost instead of gained. "That's not the case at all," he said. "If you have a piece of property generating no taxes, then you allow them to build, with a PILOT, it brings in the tax dollars plus the additional money that will be spent in Glen Cove while the project is being constructed."

Another problem the audit found was that historically, the Glen Cove IDA has not created many jobs. Its most recent project is a residential apartment complex, with an estimated six permanent jobs. "We don't have the space to do industrial — the industry in Glen Cove is gone," Tenke said. "So what we're left with is areas of the city that will be developed, but they'll be developed residentially. So either we say no to all these projects or we allow them to build residential, as long as they're apartments."

One area has long been seen as a potential space for industry: the former Photocircuits plant, a 25-acre site on Sea Cliff Avenue. The site has been deemed contaminated, however, so the cleanup would take years, and would come at a price.

"Glen Cove is still recovering from an industrial legacy," Fangmann said, "which polluted many different sites here in the city."

City Councilwoman Marsha Silverman, who has been critical of the IDA's operations for several years, said she was disheartened by the findings. "I was really disappointed that a lot of my thoughts were validated in this report of the poor performance of the Glen Cove IDA," she said.

"There are ways to remedy this," Silverman added. "The question is, will the leadership take a role to remedy it? If there were individuals who were responsible for missing out on \$600,000 over two and a half years, I would think there should be some accountability, and I don't see that occurring yet."

Silverman has suggested placing a moratorium on granting further tax breaks until "the appropriate metrics, policies and protections are established which correspond to and address those issues cited by the OSC audit and are put into operation."

She also disputed Tenke's claim that granting a PILOT for residential use is in taxpayers' best interests, because the city still has to pay for services and utilities that new residents will use. Silverman said that while vacant land is not ideal, granting a PILOT still falls on the backs of taxpayers and benefits the developer. "I just want everyone to pay their fair share." she said.

"Based on the results of this audit," she added, "this was clearly not the time to grant more PILOTs."

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Annual Glen Cove Mayor's Snapper Derby returns

The Glen Cove Mayor's Annual Snapper Derby is a great way to "reel in" the summer season on Saturday, Aug. 21. This annual fishing event sponsored by the Glen Cove Anglers Club is for children ages 6 to 16 and is held at Glen Cove's Pryibil Beach Fishing Pier, rain or shine.

"After being postponed last year due to Covid, it is great to see that the Snapper Derby is back," Tenke said. "There is nothing better than seeing all of our young fishing enthusiasts attend such a great tradition in Glen Cove."

Registration will be held the day of the event from 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Participating children will compete for prizes in one of two divisions: junior division for kids ages 6 to 10 and senior division for 11- to 16-year-olds.

Participants are required to bring their own rod and while supplies last, participants will receive a Glen Cove Mayor's Snapper Derby T-Shirt, a hot dog and soda, and a raffle ticket for other prizes. Trophies will be awarded to the top catches of the day in each division as well as to the Best Angler of the day. All prizes will be awarded at the end of the day and winners must be present to accept their prize.

The Glen Cove Mayor's Snapper Derby is held in cooperation with the City of Glen Cove Department of Youth Services & Recreation with support from the Glen Cove Anglers Club and the Matinecock Rod & Gun Club.

2021 Snapper Derby sponsors include: Duffy's Bait & Tackle, Fallon Painting Inc, Ferris Orthodontics, Friends of Tim Tenke, Glen Cove Anglers Club, Glen Cove Beer & Soda, Glen Cove Democratic Committee, Glen Cove Iron Works, Glen Cove PBA. Glen Cove Republican Committee, Glen Cove Youth Services & Recreation Harbor Marine Service Maass Dedication LLC, Matinecock Rod & Gun Club, Mercurio Pediatric Dentistry, Reggie Spinello, Richard Klenkel C.P.A., State Farm John Perrone Agency, Team Panzenbeck, Valley Sports & Trophy, and Vestacast.

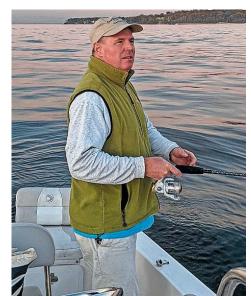
For more information, contact Glen Cove Youth Services & Recreation Department at (516) 676-3766.

Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor turns 35

The Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor is celebrating its 35th anniversary milestone with a special "Harborside 35" event. The community is invited to join CSHH on Thursday, Sept. 9, from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at Sea Cliff Manor, 395 Prospect Ave., Sea Cliff. The celebration will take place both inside and outside on the scenic grounds overlooking Hempstead Harbor. The event will feature live music and dancing; fresh local clams and oysters; exciting auction and raffle prizes, art and more. Safety precautions to meet CDC protocols will be followed to ensure the health and safety of all guests.

Event proceeds from Harborside 35 will benefit CSHH initiatives to eliminate environmental threats to Hempstead Harbor and surrounding communities and to raise awareness about conservation issues. Tickets are \$100 per person and may be purchased at www.coalitionto-savehempsteadharbor.org or by mailing checks to P.O. Box 159, Sea Cliff, NY 11579. Space is limited, so purchase tickets early. Ticket deadline is Aug. 20 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Local businessman and lifelong Sea Cliff resident Kenny Neice said there positive recent changes thathe has observed around Hempstead Harbor. "I am convinced that because of the Coalition's hard work that the water is cleaner and

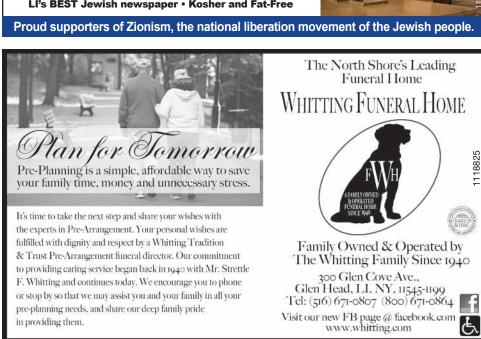


Courtesy Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbo **KENNY NEICE OF** Sea Cliff often fishes in
Hempstead Harbor

there are tons of birds and fish all around the harbor," Neice said. "We never saw ospreys growing up and definitely never saw any bald eagles. And the fishing is the best it's ever been. I love seeing the clammers out there again, too."

For more information, call the CSHH office at 516-801-6792.







COMMUNITY UPDATE

Friday, August 13

Movie at the Library

Gold Coast Public Library Annex, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 2 to 4 p.m. Watch "American Graffiti" (1973) at the library. A classic coming-of-age story set against the 1960s backdrop of hot rods, drive-ins and rock n' roll. This nostalgic look back follows a group of teenagers as they cruise the streets on their last summer night before college.

Live Music: Frank Fererra & Friends

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: La Sonora 495

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. Begining 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 14

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

Decadia, '80s and beyond. Begining at 8 p.m. residents can head to TOBAY Beach to enjoy live music.

Explore Critters in the Woods

Beginning at 10 a.m. explore the forest at Wawapek and learn about what critters call it home. After, you are invited to climb the fallen tree in the formal lawn or watch the butterflies in the pol-



Courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Breast Cancer Screenings at Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club

On Thursday, Aug. 19 from 8:45 a.m to 12:30 p.m., in the Glen Cove Boys and Girls Club parking lot, free mammograms will be made available to women over the age of 40. Appointments include a breast exam from a nurse, a mammography, and self-examination instructions. Appointments are required, and mammograms are free for uninsured women based on eligibility guidelines. Women who have gone more than a year since their last mammogram will be required to get a prescription from their doctor and provide any past films (if available). To make an appointment, contact Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton's office at (516) 571-6211 or dderiggiwhitton@nassaucountyny.gov.

linator garden. Register online at north-shorelandalliance.org.

Sunday, August 15

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 16

Juggler/Comedian Nels Ross at Sea Cliff Beach

Beginning at 2 p.m. at Sea Cliff Beach, Juggler and Comedian Nels Ross will thrill the audience with flying objects and uplifting humor. His one-of-a-kind variety entertainment is lauded as "absolutely amazing" & "side-splittingly funny"

Victoria Crosby's Final Elvis Tribute Show

Victoria Crosby's final Elvis Tribute Show will air on WHPC 90.3 on the 44th anniversary of his death, August 16. at 7pm. The Elvis Tribute show features the life story of Elvis Presley in Crosby's rhyming verse, and Presley's music from the 1950s to the 1970s. Victoria Crosby has been hosting these show on the anniversary of his birth, January 8, and death, for more than twenty years on this radio station.

Tuesday, August 17

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.

What's It Worth? Virtual Antiques Appraisal Show

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. on zoom, auctioneer, appraiser, and radio show host

Mike Ivankovich will discuss the ten factors that impact the value of your treasures and will share many buying and selling tips throughout the program. Register at bayvillefreelibrary. org.

Wednesday, Aug. 18

Curator's Corner: A Theater Troupe at the Feldafing DP Camp

Beginning at 11 a.m. join HMTC's museum and programming director, Dr. Thorin Tritter on zoom, for a program about a photograph in the museum's galleries that shows a performance of "Tevye the Dairyman" at the Feldafing Displaced Person Camp in the summer of 1947. The presentation will explore the development of Feldafing and the story of some of the individuals captured in the photograph. Register online at hmtcli.org.

Thursday, August 19

Sunset Serenade: The Rectangle

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

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
inossa@liherald.com

5 things to know about your town

- The Glen Cove Senior Center Rose Shoppe Boutique is open Mon Fri, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 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.

Cuomo could still be impeached

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

governor subjected women to unwanted kisses; groped their breasts or buttocks or otherwise touched them inappropriately; made insinuating remarks about their looks and their sex lives; and created a work environment "rife with fear and intimidation."

"While I am glad the governor has finally come to his senses and resigned, it doesn't surprise me that in doing so, he continued to rip people apart and place the blame for his actions elsewhere," Assemblyman Michael Montesano (R-Glen Head) said in a statement. "I hope we can continue to move forward with the impeachment process to ensure this man never holds the office of governor again."

Hochul, a Democrat and a former member of Congress from the Buffalo area, will become the state's 57th governor and the first woman to hold the office. She said that Cuomo's resignation was "the right thing to do and in the best interest of New Yorkers."

"Governor Cuomo's decision to resign will help New York state refocus on the business of the people," Nassau County Executive Laura Curran said. "I look forward to working with Kathy Hochul as the next governor to move Nassau County forward."

"Speaking 'truth to power' is never an easy pursuit," said Assemblyman Charles Lavine, a Democrat from Glen Cove. "As



Courtesy Office of Charles Lavine

STATE ASSEMBLYMAN CHARLES Lavine chaired a hearing of the Judiciary Committee on Monday as it continued its investigation into the allegations against Governor Cuomo. At the conclusion of the hearing, Lavine took questions at a news conference, discussing, among other things, the timing of the impeachment process.

we begin to move forward, let us recognize the courage, strength and integrity of the women who dared to come forward. Moreover, let us commit ourselves to continuing the battle for the inalienable rights of our sisters and daughters in New York and in every other state. I have worked with Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul for many years, and have the greatest faith in her ability to lead and

heal the people of our state."

After announcing that he would step down, Cuomo listed a number of his accomplishments, saying that New York had legalized gay marriage, banned assault weapons, raised the minimum wage to \$15, made college tuition free for middle-class students attending state schools, built and rebuilt airports, bridges and roads, and battled racism and anti-



Courtesy Wikimedia Commons

FOLLOWING CUOMO'S ANNOUNCEMENT that he would resign, local leaders continued the push to begin articles of impeachment against him.

Semitism. Most recently, he noted, New Yorkers had waged a successful fight against the coronavirus, reducing the state's infection rate from the highest in the nation to among the lowest.

Cuomo spoke directly to his three daughters, ages 26 and 23, saying that he had made mistakes, and that he had apologized for them and learned from them.

Speaking to New Yorkers, he concluded, "Thank you for the honor of serving you."



At PSEG Long Island, we are committed to keeping you informed this storm season. We have improved and rigorously tested our communication technology, like MyAlerts and MyPower Map, so you can report and receive outage information faster than ever. It's just one of the many commitments we're making this storm season—we've never been prouder to power Long Island.



N.C. enhances first-responder protections

By CRISTINA ARROYO RODRIGUEZ

After five hours of public testimony Aug. 2, the Nassau County Legislature voted to increase protections for all first responders, including police officers, auxiliary police officers, corrections officers, paid and volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians, by imposing civil penalties of up to \$50,000 per incident against anyone who assaults, menaces or harasses current and former members of this protected class.

The 11 Republican members of the County Legislature voted for the bill, as did Democratic Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, who represents the 11th District on the North Shore, and Legislator Joshua Lafazan, an independent who caucuses with the Democrats.

Lafazan, who represents the 18th District on the North Shore, introduced the bill in the Legislature. Legislators Andrew Drucker and Ellen Birnbaum, both Democrats, had originally co-sponsored the bill, but later withdrew their support for it.

First responders were first granted protected status in Nassau in 2019, shortly after veterans were granted the status because of evidence-based research that showed discrimination against them, specifically in housing. The measure passed unanimously in the Legislature on May 20 that year, and was signed into law by Deputy County Executive Helena Williams, acting on behalf of County Executive Laura Curran.

Siela Bynoe, a Democrat and the Legislature's sole Black female representative, pleaded with her fellow lawmakers to reject this most recent bill, saying, "We made the mistake once. This is an opportunity to right a wrong.'

She also questioned why former first responders would be included in the legislation, if the intent of the law were to protect first responders from present danger. "They can hang up their uniforms. I can't hang up my black skin," she said.

According to a June county police report, this year, Black people were 4.6 times more likely to be arrested, 4.3 times more likely to have police use force against them, 2.33 times more likely to be stopped in traffic and 3.53 times more likely to be interviewed by police in the field, with 40 percent of those patted down versus 23 percent of whites.

More than 50 people spoke out against the legislation. The Legislature's minority leader, Kevan Abrahams, a Democrat from Freeport, sought to postpone the vote to give more time to discuss it, but the Republican majority voted against tabling it. Earlier, protesters had chanted, "Pull the bill! Pull the bill!"

The first four speakers were the only ones to voice support for the legislation, including Brian Sullivan, Nassau County Correction Officers Benevolent Association president: James McDermott, County Police Benevolent Association president; John Wighaus, County Detectives Association president; and Rick Fresetti, County Superior Officers Association president.

The speakers said they took pride in



Photos by Cristina Arroyo Rodriguez/Herald

CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS held up photos of the police officers involved in the murder of George Floyd, saying they likely would not have been charged and convicted if such legislation had been in place in Minneapolis last year.



NASSAU COUNTY CIVIL rights attorney Frederick Brewington last week spoke out during a hearing against a bill that would impose civil penalties against anyone who assaults, menaces or harasses a first responder, calling the legislation unconstitutional.

first responders' role in ensuring that Nassau remains among the safest large counties in the United States and alluded to nationwide anti-police sentiment. Fresetti said opponents of the bill were seeking publicity, and he remembered the time in the immediate aftermath of 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, saying, "It was nice for a while that first responders and law enforcement were spoken of highly — we were even put on a pedestal."

Theresa Sanders, president and chief executive of the Urban League of Long Island and a member of the Police Diversity Committee that was formed in reaction to a May Newsday report on discrimination in the police hiring process, condemned the bill. The head of this new committee, Bishop Lionel Harvey, also attended, but did not comment and told the Herald he did not think the committee

Opponents of the bill included community members and civil rights leaders from the NAACP, LGBT Network, New York Civil Liberties Union, Long Island United and Indivisible Nassau, among others, who argued that it would violate the Constitution and was politically motivated during an election year. They also said it would penalize disenfranchised people, including members of the transgender community, who are not protected under the county's Human Rights Law.

Tracev Edwards, the NAACP Long Island regional director, played a past recording of Lafazan expressing support for measures to address systemic racial inequities, in which he identified himself as a minority because he is Jewish. "Don't be a hypocrite ...shame on you," Edwards told Lafazan.

Seven lawyers opposed the bill, including Frederick Brewington, who said it would have effectively silenced or penalized those who recorded officer Derek Chauvin murdering George Floyd. Those recordings provided evidence that led to the officer's conviction.

"This bill is a clear act of retaliation against Black Lives Matter," Brewington told the Herald.

In reaction to Floyd's murder and the nationwide protests against police brutality that followed, the state required local governments to pass police reform legislation. In May, the plan proposed by Curran and Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder passed, with the only three Black legislators opposing it. Critics, including state Attorney General Letitia James, cited its lack of independent oversight and accountability, with no civilian complaint review board or inspector general.

The legislation cited "outbreaks of destructive rioting and lawlessness" since May last year that had prevented police from stopping "chaos and mass violence." It also acknowledged incidents of racially motivated police misconduct, but said "misconduct by individual officers can never under any circumstances justify the vilification of all law enforcement."

Susan Gottehrer, the Nassau County New York Civil Liberties Union director, asked legislators for county-specific data to support the bill. They listed four incidents: two recent attacks on police and corrections officers, one against police officers during a protest in June 2020 and one against a firefighter in 2011.

After DeRiggi-Whitton announced her vote for the bill, most remaining audience members walked out before the other legislators remarked on their votes and the results were tallied.

Curran, who is seeking re-election in November, has 30 days to sign the bill or veto it. She reached out to the state attorney general's office for advice on whether the bill "strikes the proper legal balance between the government's responsibility to protect its uniformed personnel and its duty not to interfere with the ability of the people to exercise their civil rights legally without fear of penalty.'

If vetoed, the Republican-controlled Legislature would need 13 votes to override Curran's decision.



NOMATE TOMAN

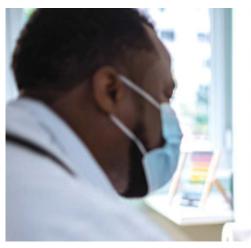
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Bouncing back after a disruptive year

Keeping the family healthy in a post-pandemic world

s a parent, one of the biggest challenges you've been managing is how to let your kid safely be a kid during the Covid-19 pandemic. With a new school year on the horizon, you're now facing the question of how to keep your kid safe in the classroom.

"As you prepare for your child to return to the classroom, rest assured there are measures you can take to help keep them healthy," says Dr. Tina Luu, a family medicine doctor."Remember: You're not in this alone. There are resources available, like your child's primary care doctor, to help answer questions and provide the resources you need."

Here are her recommendations to ensure you send your kids back to school safely.

Schedule your child's Covid-19 vaccination

Being fully vaccinated is one of the best measures you can take to keep you and your family safe. If you haven't received your Covid-19 vaccine yet, schedule yours today. And do the same for your child, now that eligibility is opened to adolescents 12 and up.

Expanding the age range for the vaccine is a huge step toward limiting the spread of the virus. If your child is 12, or will soon be 12, it's time to consider scheduling his or her vaccine. If you have questions or concerns about your child being vaccinated, consult with your pediatrician

Reinforce the everyday precautions

You know the signs and symptoms of Covid-19, as well as what to do if you think your child might be sick. In addition, you've likely spent the entire summer reminding your kids about the everyday precautions they need to take to prevent getting sick.

But, for all of your efforts, you've probably also caught your kids standing way too close to other people, leaving their masks in the car or at home, and forgetting to wash their hands after touching common surfaces.

As you prepare to send your kids back into the class-room, be sure to reinforce the everyday Covid-19 precautions they will need to keep in mind, as well as what makes these precautions so effective.

Social distancing is still important, even if your child is vaccinated. The most likely way for Covid-19 to spread is from person to person — primarily between people who come into close contact with one another. And, while Covid-19 vaccines provide strong protection from severe illness, we are still learning just how effective these vaccines are at reducing transmission and against the variants currently circulating. Also, keep in mind that an infected individual can be asymptomatic but still contagious.

Wearing a mask helps contain any potentially infectious respiratory droplets that may be released while breathing, talking or coughing — especially when social distancing is more challenging and even if the person doesn't yet know they're sick.

Washing your hands is still so important and can help limit the risk of getting sick.

Know and understand the safety measures being implemented

No matter how many precautions are being taken at your child's school, gathering a group of kids into a classroom will come with some level of risk. On the other hand, however, experts agree that children learn best when in a classroom. Given the importance of classroom learning, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has published guidelines to help keep schools as safe as possible during the pandemic.

Schools should be proactively reaching out to you about these safety measures, but make sure you have the following questions answered:

- √ Have teachers and staff been vaccinated?
- √ Will hand-washing opportunities be frequent and hand sanitizer readily available?
- √ Have cleaning services been increased and how often will high-touch surfaces be disinfected?
- √ Are students and staff who feel sick required to stay at home?
- √ What is the plan if someone at the school tests positive for Covid-19?
- $\sqrt{\text{What about sports and other activities?}}$

Listen to your child's concerns

As a parent, you play an incredibly important role as not only a trusted source of information, but also as a confidante. It's important your child feels comfortable expressing any concerns or anxiety he or she may have about returning to school during the pandemic, so try to be as available and prepared as possible. Being vulnerable is hard, though, so you may need to be the one to initiate the conversation if the topic doesn't come up on its own.

Whether your child is concerned about having to wear a mask all day or what might happen if there's a confirmed case at school, make sure you're listening intently, empathizing often and helping your child cope with his or her feelings in a reassuring manner.

Schedule an annual wellness exam

The pandemic has changed the way we do a lot of things, but it hasn't changed the importance of checking in on your child's — and your own — overall health and wellness

A healthy immune system starts with a healthy kid, meaning checkups with your family doctor may be more important than ever right now. "Your child's primary care doctor is an amazing resource and can provide insight into how to keep them safe as they return to face-to-face classes with their teachers and peers," says Dr. Luu. And, as you're scheduling your child's checkup, it may be time to schedule your own annual visit (your health matters, too!).

"Even if you're feeling your best, it's important to remember that having a primary care doctor who knows you and your health baseline is important for when you aren't feeling well."

Above photo: The start of the new school year requires resetting your family wellness routines.



Everyone's in this together

Last year's pandemic schooling chaos makes way for...well, no one's exactly sure

Summer is wrapping up and soon your teen will be dealing with the challenges of the school routine. This can be a stressful time for teens and parents alike, without adding concerns about returning to class while we're still attempting to get a handle on the pandemic.

The transition from a more relaxed (and until the Delta variant appeared, more hopeful summer schedule) to a new school year, filled with new faces, homework and more scheduled activities, and Covid-19 concerns, can bring about a mix of anxiety, anticipation and excitement. The good news is that there are some simple strategies that you and your family can use to help ease back into the school routine.

Reinforce good sleep habits. Getting plenty of rest and sleep are important not only for good grades and staying awake, but also for preventing depression and other mental health issues. Establish a reasonable bedtime routine for your teen and let them know that sleep is important.

Be available. Teens often appreciate being able to connect with you at the end of their school day, so try to be available either in person or on the phone when your teen gets home from school. Even if your budding adult complains, be persistent. You want to make connecting part of your routine. Walking or driving home together and having uninterrupted dinners provide other great opportunities to bond and communicate.

Stay connected. As kids get older, they often share less with parents/caregivers, but that doesn't mean you should be less aware of how they're feeling. Send encouraging texts or personal notes in their book bag to help reduce anxiety and let them know that

they are not alone at school, even if they may feel that way. Take time to listen and discuss experiences that may appear to be scary or challenging. Spend time each day talking to your teen about what happened in school. Give positive feedback about their new experiences.

Serve healthy food and encourage healthy eating. Food choices affect mood, ability to concentrate and energy level — all key in your teen's academic success and overall wellbeing. Providing healthy foods is important for your teen's mental and physical health. Involved them in planning and serving a variety of foods, emphasizing the veggies, fruits and whole grains.

Encourage regular exercise. Physical activity is great for mental wellness and has been shown to decrease depression and anxiety. Experts believe that exercise releases chemicals in our brains that make us feel good. Regular exercise can also boost your teen's self-esteem and help them concentrate, sleep, and feel better. Help your teen find types of exercise they enjoy, and try to be active together (if they'll let you!).

Reinforce your teen's ability to cope. Give your teen a few strategies to manage difficult situations on their own. Many teens find talking with a trusted friend, adult, or therapist, journaling, exercising and listening to and/ or playing music to be helpful ways of coping with stress.

Above photo: Returning to the classroom is exciting but can be a little scary even during the best of times. But managing back-to-school anxiety during coronavirus is a whole new challenge.

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HEALTH MEMO

13 NSPC Brain & Spine Surgery physicians named to 2021 'Top Doctors' list

hirteen of the 28 physicians associated with NSPC Brain & Spine Surgery have been named to the latest edition of Top Doctors: New York Metro Area, an annual listing compiled by Castle Connolly, a New York City research and information company.

They are: Jeffrey A. Brown, M.D. (Neuropathic Facial Pain Surgery), Jonathan L. Brisman, M.D. (Neurovascular and Brain Surgery), Benjamin R. Cohen, M.D (Spine Surgery), Vladimir Y. Dadashev, M.D. (Spine Surgery), Zachariah M. George, M.D (Spine Surgery), John A. Grant, M.D. (Pediatric Neurosurgery), Jai Grewal, M.D. (Neuro-Oncology), Sundeep Mangla, M.D. (Endovascular Neuroradiology), Stephen T. Onesti, M.D. (Spine Surgery), Sachin N. Shah, M.D. (Spine Surgery), John Pile-Spellman, M.D. (Endovascular Neuroradiology), Brian J. Snyder, M.D. (Pain and Parkinson's Surgery), and Alexandros D. Zouzias, M.D (Spine Surgery).

"It's a pleasure to congratulate our colleagues and partners for receiving this honor," said Michael H. Brisman, M.D., the chief executive officer of Rockville Centre, NY-based NSPC. "Our practice has provided patients from Long Island, and elsewhere, with the most compassionate and comprehensive brain, back, and neck care available for over 60 years. The selection of these 13 physicians to the 2021 Top Doctors: New York Metro Area listing confirms a tradition of clinical, and patient-centered excellence at NSPC."



For decades, Castle Connolly has been conducting a peerreview survey to select the region's top doctors based on the theory that medical professionals are best qualified to assess the qualifications of other practitioners. Licensed physicians vote online for those doctors they consider outstanding. A Castle Connolly doctor-led research team then counts the nominations and vets the nominee pool with the aid of a number of screens, including confirming board certifications and investigating disciplinary histories. Last year, Castle Connolly was acquired by the Everyday Health Group, a division of J2 Global Inc.

The Top Doctors: New York Metro Area listing includes those physicians whom Castle Connolly has determined to be in the top 10 percent of the region's physicians — approximately 6,000 in all.

About NSPC Brain & Spine Surgery

Founded in Freeport in 1958, NSPC Brain & Spine Surgery has grown to become one of the largest, private neurosurgical groups in the U.S. with seven conveniently located offices on Long Island, including offices in Lake Success, Rockville Centre, West Islip, Commack, Port Jefferson Station, and Riverhead.

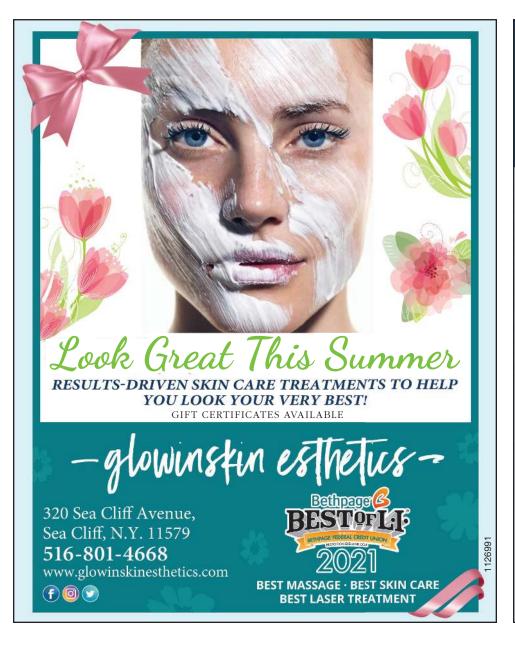
The practice's experienced neurosurgeons and interventional neuroradiologists are experts in "Bloodless" brain and spine surgery, including laser spine surgery, endoscopic spine surgery, ultrasonic spine surgery, radiosurgery, and other advanced minimally invasive techniques which are used to treat brain tumors, brain aneurysms, trigeminal neuralgia, herniated disc, spinal stenosis, chronic back pain, and other conditions. Please visit www.nspc.com to learn more.



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Eric Feil **Herald Community Newspapers**

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Bernard Macias Associate State Director -Long Island **AARP New York**



Farnaz Fahimi MS, CLC **Nutritionist**



Gottlieb Herman **Private Chef & Host/Producer**

HERALD SPORTS



THE DEFENDING **ATLANTIC** League champion Long Island Ducks used a 12-game winning streak in July to secure the First Half North Division title and lock up a berth in the playoffs, which begin in early October.

Win streak propels Ducks to top spot

By TONY BELLISSIMO

tbellissimo@liherald.com

A 12-game winning streak in July propelled the defending champion Long Island Ducks to the First Half North Division title and a berth in the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball playoffs, set to begin in early October.

The Ducks sealed up the division top spot with almost a week to spare by defeating the Southern Maryland Blue Claws, 8-2, on July 28 for their 13th victory in 14 games. Starting pitcher Brendan Feldmann went the distance to earn his fourth win in five decisions. He allowed just two runs on seven hits and one walk over nine innings while striking out two batters.

Vladimir Frias led the offense with three hits, two runs scored and one RBI. Deibinson Romero added two hits, three RBIs and two runs, and L.J. Mazzilli blasted a tworun homer as the Ducks upped their record to 34-20.

"A lot of the guys were here in 2019, but I think we finally got comfortable with each other again and we've made some nice additions to the lineup with Romero and Frias," manager Wally Backman said. "We've come a long way offensively. We were hitting around .230 after the first six weeks and now we're close to .280."

With the victory, the Ducks earned their sixth consecutive playoff berth and 15th in franchise history, all coming in the past 17 seasons. It is also the seventh first half championship in team history and second in a row (2004, 2006, 2011, 2012, 2016, 2019.) There wasn't a 2020 season due to the pandemic.

During their 12-game win streak between July 13-25, the Ducks posted double digits in runs six times including a 17-6 victory in Kentucky over the South Division champion Lexington Legends to set the tone for a three-game sweep. Long Island also posted back-to-back shutouts over

the West Virgina Power (6-0 on July 15) and York Revolution (1-0) behind the pitching of Darrin Downs and Feldmann, respectively.

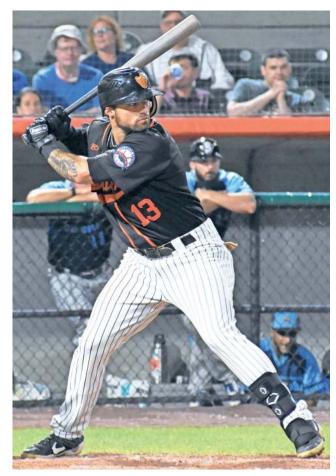
Scoring is up across the Atlantic League, which announced in July the addition of a Staten Island franchise starting in 2022. The Ducks were the only team to conclude the first half with an ERA below 5 runs per

Feldmann, Joe Iorio, Mike Bolsinger and Downs all started at least seven games over the first half and helped Long Island post a league-best 4.65 ERA heading into August. In addition, since-departed Michael Tonkin (0.53 ERA, 9 saves), Brady Dragmire (4-1, 2.84 ERA) and new closer Danny Barnes (3 saves) spearheaded a solid bull-

Iorio was instrumental in the 2019 championship run after moving into the starting rotation following 10 relief appearances. He was named to the All-Star team. The 36-year-old Downs, who serves as the Ducks pitching coach, was also a key part of the staff in 2019 and pressed into action this season due to pitching shortage.

Offensively, second baseman Steve Lombardozzi (.322 avg.), who has six seasons of Major League experience, led the Ducks heading into August with 10 homers and 42 RBIs while tying outfielder Mazzilli (team-leading .325 avg., 35 RBIs, 11 steals) with 45 runs scored. Shortstop Ryan Jackson (37), outfielder Daniel Fields (30) and catcher Hector Sanchez combined for 94 RBIs. Romero, who joined the Flock at the end of June, knocked in 23 runs in his first 25 games

"Everything came together," Lombardozzi said. "We were never not playing good baseball. We had weeks where just our pitching was on and other weeks where just our hitting was on. Lately, everything has been clicking at the same time.



OUTFIELDER L.J. MAZZILLI led the Ducks in batting average (.325) and stolen bases (11) through the end of July while adding 35 RBIs.

OBITUARIES

Ruth B. Roemer

Ruth B. Roemer, formerly of Glen Cove, died on Aug. 5, 2021, at age 97. Retired purchasing agent for HALM Instrument Corporation. Beloved wife of the late William. Loving mother of the late Pamela and David. Dear sister of Patricia Bartlotti. Adored aunt of Robert Bartlotti and Nancy Kreiner. Service at the Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. Interment at East Hillside Cemetery

Frances B. Conklin

Frances B. Conklin (nee Just) of Glen Cove, died on Aug. 4, 2021, in her 97th year. Active parishioner and volunteer at St. Hyacinth RC Church, and longtime employee of Sorensen Lumber Company. Beloved wife of the late Arnold. Loving mother of Arnold (Leslie) and Jeffrey. Proud grandmother of 10. Cherished great-grandmother of four. Mrs. Conklin also worked as a volunteer at St. Hyacinth's Thrift Shop. Visitation at the Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. Mass at St. Hyacinth RC Church. Interment Holy Rood Ceme-

Daniel E. Mercadante

Daniel E. Mercadante, 70, of Glen Cove, passed away on July 29, 2021. Loving brother of Richard (Cathy), Tom, Robert, Paul (Margaret), Mary Jo Finnegan (Vincent), Nora Mercadante, and Bridget Hershy. Cherished uncle of 19 nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was loved by his family and friends. Memorial visiting held at Whitting Funeral Home, 300 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Head, www.whitting. com. Mass held at St. Rocco's Church, Glen Cove. Burial of ashes at Holy Rood Cemetery, Westbury.

Nancy Sage Shea

Nancy Sage Shea of Mill Neck died on July 24, 2021, at age 80. Beloved wife of the late Peter L. Loving mother of James D. and his wife Caitlin B., Christopher L. and his wife Beatrice D., Andrew L. and his wife Susan E., Edward L. and his wife Brooksany C. Cherished grandmother of Cooper B. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. A service will be held at a late date. Interment is private.

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy The Regency

TOP WINNERS FRANCES Nisenbaum. Patricia Herrera and Cecilia Perez

The Regency holds Olympic events

Over the last two weeks, residents of The Regency in Glen Cove have been participating in various "Olympic" games ranging from beach volleyball and golf to horseshoes and bowling.

The recreation team kept track of all of the games and winners who participated over the course of the two weeks. After the numbers were tallied, winners were selected.

At the end of the two-week period, The Regency's lobby was transformed to hold the 2021 Summer Olympics closing ceremony in Glen Cove. Staff and residents joined in the celebration to congratulate the overall Olympic winners.

The winning athletes were: Patricia Herrera, who won the gold medal; Frances Nisenbaum for the silver medal; and Cecelia Perez took the bronze medal.

"You are never too old to compete and win," Herrera said.

The Olympians were received their medals and golden olive halos as the National Anthem played in the back-

Joseph Rondeau

Joseph Rondeau, of Sea Cliff, died on Aug. 6, 2021, at age 74. Beloved husband of Madaline. Loving father of Kathrine, Christine (Ken) and Laura. Fun loving grandfather to Madaline K.I and Maeve Survived by sister, sister-in-laws, brotherin-laws and many nieces and nephews. Visitation held at Whitting Funeral Home, 300 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Head, www.whitting.com. Funeral service Thursday, Aug. 12 at 11 a.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Sea Cliff. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to support Hospice Care Network or St Luke's parish in Sea Cliff.

Joel M. Fairman

Joel M. Fairman died peacefully at home in Hobe Sound, FL, on March 24, 2020, at age 91. Formerly of Locust Valley. Born in New York City, he played stickball near Yankee Stadium and tried his first skis on the Belvedere Hill in Central Park. After graduating from the Horace Mann School in 1947, he made his way through UNC Chapel Hill, Columbia and Cornell before finding his true alma mater at Amherst College, where he was a DU brother and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate in 1952. After finishing his JD at Yale Law School ('55), where he was an editor of the Law Journal he returned to New York to practice at Patterson Belknap & Webb. In 1960, he moved into investment banking at Bache Halsey Stuart Shields, eventually leading the Prudential-Bache communications practice. In 1982, he founded Faircom Inc., which merged with Regent Communications in 1998, from which he retired as vice chairman in 2004.

In 1959, he wed Claire Martin of Cin-

cinnati, OH, a cultured and well-traveled Radcliffe graduate ('54) who was his intellectual equal and life partner for 52 years. Together they raised three children in Manhattan and then in Locust Valley, where he was an avid tennis player into his 80s at Piping Rock Club. He played hockey until age 75 at Beaver Dam Winter Sports Club, where he served on the board and the membership committee, joining a travel team to play in the Senior Olympics Hockey Tournament for several years. An avid skier through his seventies, he passed his love of the slopes to his three children and five grandchildren. He was also a member of the Racquet & Tennis Club, Doubles, the New England Society, and the Winter Wheezers. A Trustee of the Village of Lattingtown, he chaired the Board of Zoning Appeals. After retiring, he joined the Barbershop Harmony Society's Long Island Harmonizers, where he performed as a soloist while strumming his signature ukulele.

In 2013 he relocated to live his final years in Hobe Sound FL, where he joined Jupiter Island Club, swimming daily until his last months and performing with the chorus. He was also a member of Hobe Sound Yacht Club. Beloved for his wit, intellect, and puckish charm, he will be dearly missed by all who knew him, especially by his surviving children, David and Helen, his son-in-law David Weverhaeuser and daughter-in-law Juliette Zener, and his five grandchildren, Joshua and Isaac Fairman and Blake, Jackie and Charlie Weyerhaeuser. He was predeceased by his wife Claire Martin Fairman in 2011 and by his daughter Betsy Fairman Weyerhaeuser in 2013. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Burial held at at Locust Valley Cemetery. Donations may be made in his memory to, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, McLean Hospital, or Jupiter Medical Center Foundation.

UBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE HEARING Glen Cove Planning Board PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held by the City of Glen Cove Planning Board on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., at the Council Chambers, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, when all interested persons will be given an opportunity to express their comments on the Applications of RXR Glen Isle Partners LLC (Applicant) for (i) Special Use Permit for Amended Planned Unit Development (PUD) Master Development Plan Approval, (ii) Amended PUD Subdivision Approval, and (iii) PUD Site Plan Approval for the construction of 172 rental units, an approximately parking lot, improvements 165-space Blocks D/E/F,

proposed Garvies Point Waterfront

Redevelopment on the north side of Glen Cove Creek, in the MW-3

Zoning District.
PLEASE TAKE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the proposed Amended PUD Master Development Plan, proposed Amended Subdivision and the proposed PUD Site Plan for Blocks D/E/F, are available for inspection during normal business hours at the Office of the Planning Board, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY, as well as on the City of Glen Cove website at https://glencoveny.gov. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all persons interested in the above matter will be given an opportunity to be heard at said Public Hearing. For further information, contact Rosa Rizzo, Planning Board Secretary,

Dated: August 4, 2021 ANDREW KAUFMAN Chairman GLEN COVE PLANNING 127080

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF GLEN COVE PLANNING BOARD NOTICE HEARING PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE will be held by the Glen Cove Planning Board on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York when all interested persons will be given an opportunity to express their views. The hearing will be on the application of Cedar Brooke Properties, LLC, which seeks a special use permit and site plan approval to operate a dog

grooming and animal apparel business within

an existing 1,953 square

building on a 14,579 square foot lot, which space was previously used as a yoga studio. The property is located on 38 Forest Ave, Glen Cove, NY 11542 designated on the Nassau County Land & Tax Map as Section 23, Block 2, Lot 239, and located in the City's B-2 Peripheral Commercial District The above application is on file at the City offices located at 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY where it may be seen during regular business hours of

first floor of a two-story

Dated August 6, 2021 BY ORDER OF PLANNING BOARD OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE ANDREW KAUFMAN, **CHAIRMAN**

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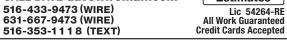
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OPINIONS

The governor makes a stunning exit

e was the most

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will follow him?

lifetime. Who

he New York state political scene has been turned upside down with the resignation of Gov. Andrew Cuomo. No political wizard could have predicted that he would give up this job after so many years of tight control over the Democratic Party structure. But today's politics is no longer two plus two, and Cuo-



JERRY KREMER

plus two, and Cuomo's resignation proves that. New Yorkers will be meeting someone new when Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul takes office, and any pundit who predicts she will be a pushover may be mistaken.

But it's worth reflecting on why Cuomo suddenly agreed to quit.

I served in the

State Legislature under three governors, and have been a friend of two others. No governor in my lifetime was ever as dominant a figure as Cuomo has been. He has been a master fundraiser, and has pushed through programs and projects that no other governor would be willing to take on. To his credit, he has been a master builder in the style of the late Robert Moses, pushing and pushing to get mega projects started

and completed.

His record of accomplishment to date includes rebuilding La Guardia Airport, the completion of the Moynihan Train Hall, the construction of the Belmont Arena, passage of the Long Island Rail Road Third Track

project, completion of the Second Avenue subway and numerous other projects, which everyone said would never happen. Cuomo has been tenacious and determined to see these projects completed, often under budget.

Because he has always been a lone wolf, there is one political skill he failed to master: cultivating new friends and supporters. It's no secret that the leaders of the State

Senate and Assembly consider themselves the most important people in the state. But because Cuomo has held an iron grip over the two houses, the Senate and Assembly leaders have begrudgingly deferred to him on numerous issues. The recently approved legalization of cannabis is an example of a proposal that passed this year only because the governor was in a weakened position.

There will be plenty of speculation about why he chose to resign, but it was clear that the Assembly would be preparing articles of impeachment, and many of the charges would have related to more than just sexual harassment. The Judiciary Committee was focusing on Cuomo's involvement in the nursing home coronavirus fiasco and his \$5 million book deal. A deep dive into both of those controversies might have found some

criminal element, which is enough to make any politician afraid. Resigning on the eve of a Judiciary Committee report would have been an admission of guilt, so that was clearly a factor in the governor's announcement.

With his strong personality, Cuomo appeared willing to hang on to the bitter end. But the thought of a public vote to impeach in the Assembly, followed by a trial in the Senate, had to make him, as

would any mortal, think twice about whether it was worth it to keep battling. Thirteen years ago, faced with a likely public rebuke, Gov. Elliot Spitzer resigned from office 48 hours after allegations surfaced about his personal conduct. Spitzer was motivated, no doubt, by the fact that he had a wife and daughters to protect. Cuomo has three daughters and many family members, and that had to be a factor in his thinking.

Now the state Democratic Party has serious decisions to make. Many prominent figures are expected to come forward as the

2022 election nears, looking for the chance to be the party's candidate. Attorney General Letitia James and State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli would head that list. But DiNapoli has expressed no interest in being governor, and James may decide to run again for her current position. Other names are surfacing, including former Sen. Hillary Clinton, U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone.

The next few months will decide what direction Democrats take as they look to next year. Obviously, the party will want a solid Democratic successor to Cuomo. One person who shouldn't be underestimated is Hochul herself. She has traveled to all 62 of the state's counties each year, and is well regarded by party leaders. Being the first woman governor in the state's history will give her special status, and perhaps unique appeal to voters.

Had you predicted all this would happen six months ago, you would have been laughed at. But that's politics New York style.

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.

Getting our kids back to school must be a priority

e need

from the White

and the state.

House, the CDC

directives

n image sticks in my mind. At the peak of the pandemic, my daughter sent a photo: My granddaughter, 11, was lying in bed in a dark room, "attending math class" online. It had an apocalyptic feel about it, a realization of the creepy dystopian novels I have read.

Then came the sunshine, the vaccines,



RANDI KREISS

promising that we could go back to school and our lives. Somehow, however, millions chose not to be inoculated. As a result, a new strain, a Delta variant, is surging among the unvaccinated, and our progress in getting kids back to school

is tenuous. We had our chances to kill this bug. We developed super-effective vaccines, but we squandered our opportunity in a mire of misinformation and mistrust among the followers of conspiracy theories and rogue leaders. More than 600,000 of our fellow citizens have died, a tribute to national dysfunction.

For reasons that were mostly political, tens of millions of people refused to get free and easy vaccine protection against the virus. Within that group, the unvaccinated, the pandemic rages on. These folks are putting everyone else at risk. And they

are complicating the return to the class-room. $\,$

The idea of mandating the vaccines doesn't have the traction it should — again, because of pushback that is largely political and anti-science.

We need clear directives from the White House and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We need guidance for opening schools from New York state. How does Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, get away with vacillating on mandating vaccines for working teachers?

The people we count on are protecting their little fiefdoms and political advantages and chances for re-election by pandering to conspiracy theories, irrational fears and misguided groupthink.

Who with the authority to do so will tell the teachers to get the damn shot and get back to class? Who will order that New York state children 12 and older get fully vaccinated? Who will make it a condition of participating in sports that those kids get the shots?

Read the guidelines and despair. The Covid "directives" and "guidance" on school openings and safety rules, from the White House to the New York State Education Department to the governor's office to local school districts, are a confusing mess of constantly evolving, pass-the-buck "suggestions." There is monumental fiddling while the country burns.

According to the State Education Department website, it is mandatory that children get vaccinated for polio, measles,

mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and chickenpox. This is not optional; kids must be vaccinated or a doctor must provide a valid medical reason for the exception. Why can't we do this for the Covid vaccine when it becomes available to all school-age kids?

Local school districts are asking for clear, concise guidelines for getting schools open and children back to class. They want to know

about vaccination mandates, testing availability, social distancing requirements and options for online teaching. The New York State School Boards Association says that districts need the guidance as soon as possible. A lot of decisions are dependent on these guidelines, said Cathy Woodruff, speaking for the association.

"Districts need as much information as possible, as early as possible, to prepare sufficiently and to put protocols in place in time for the start of school," Woodruff said. "One of the many things we have learned from the experiences of 2020 and 2021 is the importance of consistency in the guidance from the state Department of

Health and the CDC."

Guess what? There is no consistency, and there are no hard-wired guidelines.

As for remote learning, which may be necessary in some places, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced earlier this summer that he would be releasing a statewide policy on distance learning. His office has pointed to the state Health Department for guidance on that as well. Superintendents say they can work with the guidance, but need to get it started.

So, everyone is pointing to everyone else for "guidance." The governor, who we can imagine is hobbled by his self-inflicted political wounds, needs to summon the leadership qualities he demonstrated in the early days of the pandemic and lead his state's schools through this next phase. Better yet, let him resign so we can move on this.

Uncertainties abound. How do you create school environments that are well ventilated and conducive to learning? How do you transport children safely to and from school? How do you feed them and organize their outdoor sports?

These questions beg for clear answers as the new strain of this disease spreads among unvaccinated Americans, creating the awful possibility of another, even more deadly variant popping up among this population of Covid victims who chose not to protect themselves.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Cuomo did the right thing in resigning

ov. Andrew Cuomo's initial reaction to a damning report filed Aug. 3 by state Attorney General Letitia James, detailing precisely how and when the governor sexually harassed 11 women, could only be described as bizarre.

Rather than a full denial or apology, Cuomo gave us a slideshow with photo after photo of him hugging and kissing people in public, seemingly suggesting that's just who he is — a hugger and a kisser, an old-school politician who revels in public displays of affection with his constituents, female or male. He kind of, sort of apologized for handsy gestures that were misinterpreted by any women as sexual advances, but it looked like he was prepared to fight to stay in office.

So the governor took New Yorkers by surprise Tuesday when he announced that he would resign and hand the reins over to Lt. Gov. Kathy Hocul, a Democrat from Buffalo. It was the right thing to do.

In our March 11 editorial, we wrote, "It has been disturbing and disheartening to hear a series of accusations against the governor — first, that his administration may not only have under-reported nursing home deaths, but also altered the reports, and second, that he may have sexually harassed four women.

"If the growing number of accusations against Cuomo and his administration are proven true in the independent investigations now taking place, then he should resign, so as not to put the state through the long agony of an impeachment pro-

The number of accusers against the governor grew from four to 11 in a matter of weeks this spring. James quickly went to work, undertaking a fair, thorough examination of the facts, interviewing 179 witnesses and gathering 74,000 pieces of evidence before reaching an unequivocal conclusion: Cuomo had sexually harassed women who worked for him.

The governor had to exit the political stage. A growing number of prosecutors were weighing potential criminal complaints against him over allegations that he groped women — an illegal act. Roiled by the coronavirus pandemic, New York state has endured enough turmoil over the past year and a half. We needn't have witnessed the governor criminally charged.

Cuomo's first inclination was, seemingly, to stand his ground. He is a bulldog, a rough-and-tumble fighter who hits back when he's punched in the gut. But with pressure mounting from all sides, it appeared he had no choice but to throw in the towel.

In resigning, he has a chance to salvage some modicum of his political legacy has, after all, done enormous good on a number of fronts — and to preserve the legacy of his father, the great Mario Cuomo. A scandal of this magnitude threatened to be mirch the Cuomo family

Like all New Yorkers, we were shocked, disappointed and dismayed that Cuomo was alleged to have made unwanted sexual advances, including kissing and touching,

given his public advocacy for legislation intended to eradicate harassment of women in the workplace. We now must wonder, was it all for show?

Reportedly, he was signing #MeToo-era legislation into law one day, and the next engaging in unwanted sexual advances, most often toward younger women in powerless positions, including one who was a sexual assault survivor. We have to wonder, Governor, have you no shame?

After all of this came out, Cuomo and his loyalist surrogates reportedly mounted an attack campaign designed to call his accusers' allegations — and even their character — into question. That act alone was reason enough for him to resign.

Clearly, Cuomo could read the proverbial tea leaves. The State Assembly was moving swiftly to impeach him. Impeachment is a long, drawn-out process that would have, in a very real sense, re-victimized his accusers, because they would have been forced to relive this nightmare in public.

If Cuomo had not stepped down, however, impeachment would have been necessary to send a clear message that sexual harassment is unacceptable by anyone, including a sitting governor.

State lawmakers gave Cuomo an Aug. 13 deadline to provide any additional evidence backing up his side of the story. Nearly 100 of the Assembly's 150 members had said they would vote to impeach him if he did not resign.

We can be thankful that the scandal never went that far. New Yorkers can breathe easier now, and start anew.

LETTERS

Smaller transit agencies need support

To the Editor:

After seven months, New Jersey Transit and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority have been unable to agree on how to split \$14.5 billion of CARES Act Covid-19 relief funds from Washington administered by the Federal Transit Administration. The MTA anticipated receipt of \$4 billion in the second round of funding and \$6.5 billion in the third.

This disagreement impacts other non-MTA transit operators. Until New York and New Jersey agree on how to divide funding, the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (the FTA-sanctioned metropolitan planning organization) will unable to complete its own split for its membership.

This would result in the NICE Bus, City of Long Beach transit, Suffolk County transit and Town of Huntington buses' inability to access their share of funding. These smaller agencies do not have the same ability to borrow money that the MTA does.

Nassau County Executive Laura Curran and other elected officials should ask Gov. Andrew Cuomo, the state Department of Transportation, the



OPINIONS

Make the most of your college visits

here are

when choosing

an institute of

higher learning.

to consider

many factors

n the fall, families and their students plan college tours. Given the time it takes to schedule and navigate such visits, careful planning is imperative. After deciding on where to visit, call for appointments with an admissions staff member and ask for an interview, to meet a faculty member, sit in on a class, visit a

residence hall room and eat in the dining hall.

Many colleges offer virtual information sessions and interactive tours. These and admissions open houses offer opportunities to hear from campus leaders as well as students and decide on where to visit.

In preparing for

visits, families should consider the characteristics they're looking for. How far from home is acceptable? Will the student be most comfortable in a city, a suburban setting or a rural area? Will the student live on campus or at home?

ROBERT A.

SCOTT

How large a campus is acceptable? How does the large university create smaller communities on campus?

Is the admissions selectivity of the college such that the student would be an average, above average or "stretch" candidate because of the competition?

Families and students should use research sources such as the federal College Scorecard to decide on a list of colleges to examine in detail. School counselor should be helpful with information about past students who have gone to particular colleges and a library of college catalogs. Visit a nearby campus to practice your college visit strategies.

The College Scorecard as research tool. The Scorecard can be useful in examining data about colleges and comparing them. A publication such as the "Fiske Guide to Colleges" can give a better picture of a campus. The Scorecard includes obvious elements such as size, fields of study available, acceptance rate, and SAT and ACT score ranges.

Other information, however, is important to consid-

- Graduation rates. Rates below 60 percent can suggest a poor fit between those admitted and the campus environment.
- Average annual cost, the published cost minus the average amount for grants and scholarships for federal aid recipients. When comparing colleges, whether public or private, calculate the net price. A private college will often charge a lower net price than a public one with a lower published tuition rate.
- Financial aid and median student debt. These are important indicators of afford-
- Characteristics of the student body, including the number of undergraduates,

the percentage enrolled full-time, the percentage receiving Pell grants (a surrogate for the socio-economic status of students), and racial and ethnic diversity.

■ Additional information can be gleaned from campus publications and in the cam-

pus interview. The goal is to find a good fit, a campus that is both challenging academically and caring about student success. Consider:

- Feel: Were the students, faculty and staff you met on campus friendly? A college has a narrative, a "story" based on who is there now and who came before.
- Admissions: Does the admissions staff give added weight to applicants who

visit the campus? How important are test scores and an essay? Athletic prowess, or alumni connections?

- Academics: Are students assigned a faculty advisor? How easy is it to change majors? Can students participate in faculty-sponsored research? Does the campus foster a competitive academic atmosphere? Does the library provide easy access to resources and quiet places to study?
- Enrollment: What percentage of total enrollment consists of undergraduates? Do graduate students receive preference in faculty time?
- Financial aid: How does the college structure its financial aid packages in terms of grants, loans and jobs? Does it

offer merit as well as need-based awards? Will financial aid be adjusted upward for any tuition increases if the family's contribution remains the same or lower?

- Health and safety: In addition to protocols put in place for Covid-19, are people on campus physically safe, and can they get physical and mental health services when they need them? What is the crime rate on and around campus? Does the Public Safety force carry guns? If so, why? Can students walk safely to shopping areas? Does the college provide transportation?
- Housing and food service: Does the campus have sufficient residential hall space to house all undergraduates, or must students live in fraternity and sorority houses or off campus? Does the dining service offer a variety of foods?
- Social life: Does the college sponsor a rich cultural life and support many clubs and organizations, or do fraternities and sororities dominate the social scene? Will a student feel left out if he or she doesn't join one? Do students have to be varsity athletes to use the fitness center and recreational facilities?
- Career placement: Does the career office provide access to jobs on campus and in the summer? Does it offer information about internships? Can students earn academic credit through internships?

Robert A. Scott is president emeritus of Adelphi University and author of "How University Boards Work," Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018, Eric Hoffer Awardee, 2019.

LETTERS

MTA chairman and board members to resolve this dispute as soon as possible. Local bus operators, such as NICE Bus, do not deserve to be adversely financially impacted by this impasse between the two largest transit agencies in America.

> LARRY PENNER Great Neck

Penner is a transportation advocate, historian and writer who previously worked for the Federal Transit Administration Region 2 New York Office.

Keep 9/11 program funded

To the Editor:

Ahead of the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, I am introducing legislation to address the impending World Trade Center Health Program funding shortfall that will begin affecting the program and its ability to provide services starting in 2025. I will push to include provisions from the bill in the upcoming reconciliation package.

After years of efforts and calls on the federal government, Congress established the WTCHP in 2011 to provide medical treatment and monitoring for more than 110,000 9/11 responders and survivors. Now, nearly

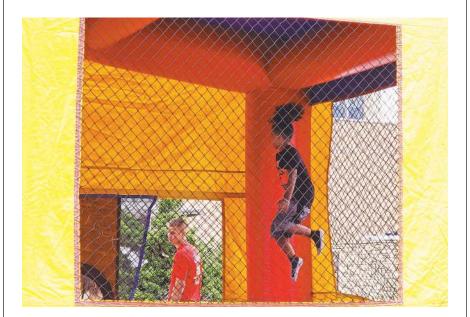
six years since Congress reauthorized the program, it is estimated that the funding formula in the statute will not be able to keep pace with the anticipated costs of providing the program's services to 9/11 heroes, who span all 50 states and 434 of the 435 congressional districts.

Soon, the WTCHP will not have the funds needed to provide care for those still suffering the physical and mental impacts of 9/11 and for those who have yet to be diagnosed with 9/11-associated conditions caused by their toxic exposures.

The victims of Sept. 11 were not just the men and women killed on that terrible day. Countless American lives continue to be claimed by illnesses linked to the attacks. Today we must uphold our promise and ensure that the WTCHP will have the funds it needs now and into the future. I am urging my colleagues in Congress to prioritize and pass the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act, and to remember that "we will never forget 9/11" isn't just a slogan, but a reality we must uphold.

The WTCHP originally passed with bipartisan support with a five-year authorization, and covers the lifespans of all who were affected, including responders to and survivors of the attacks on the World Trade

FRAMEWORK by Joe Abate

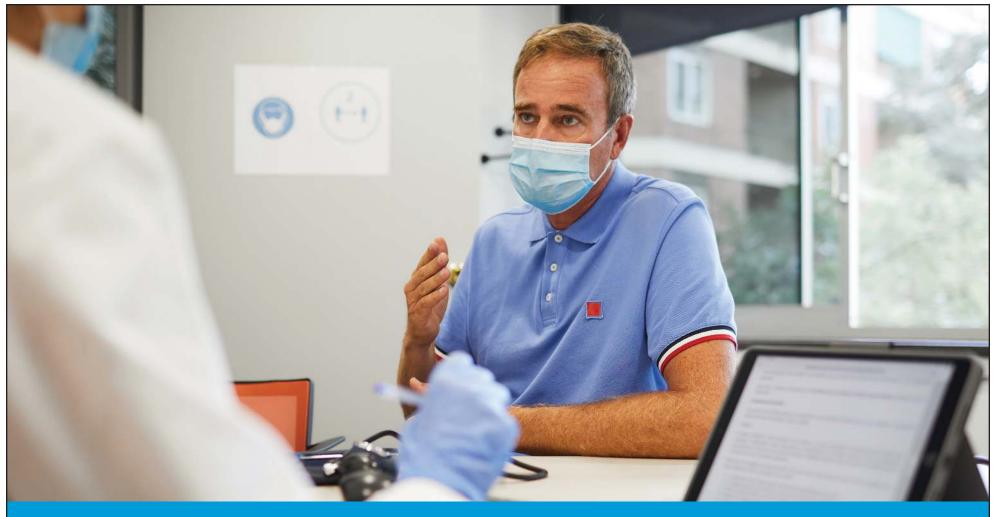


Celebrating National Night Out - Long Beach

Center and the Pentagon as well as the crash in Shanksville, Pa., children who were in schools in downtown Manhattan on Sept. 11 and during the cleanup, and those who have since experienced, or are expected to experience, adverse health

effects that are linked to the attacks in the coming years. The program was reauthorized in 2015, and extended through 2090, with bipartisan support.

SEN. KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND



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