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Pickleball tourney supports NOSH
 Page 3



Students send cards to veterans
 Page 4

\$1.00 VOL. 30 NO. 48

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 1, 2021



Courtesy Northwell Health

NURSE PRACTITIONERS LORETTA Wong and Mara McCrossin and Dr. Conor Sperzel, of Glen Cove Hospital's Rehabilitation Program, with one of the two miniature horses, Aidan, that visited with hospital workers.

Miniature horses swing by hospital for therapy session

BY JILL NOSSA
 jnossa@liherald.com

Last Friday, around lunchtime, Glen Cove Hospital staff took a break from their routines to enjoy a few minutes of horseplay in the employee parking lot. For two hours, employees visited with two miniature horses to relieve the stress from the coronavi-

rus pandemic as it nears the two-year mark.

"We felt it was a nice break and something to relieve the stress from dealing with Covid and the isolation of being in the hospital so long," Doreen Mather, a nurse navigator and head of patient and customer experience, said. "It was something nice we could do as a way to say thank you

to the employees and staff."

The two horses, Aidan and Pearl, both 11 and about 36 inches tall, arrived at the hospital in a minivan, accompanied by staff and volunteers from HorseAbility, a nonprofit therapeutic sportsmanship center in Old Westbury. The organization has many programs that promote the physi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Experts stress dangers of opioid abuse

BY ANNEMARIE DURKIN
 adurkin@liherald.com

Drug overdoses have claimed the lives of more than 100,000 Americans in a single for the first time in 2021, a 28.5 percent increase over the previous year. The total is more than the number of car crash and gun fatalities combined. Overdose deaths have more than doubled since 2015, when 25-year-old Glen Cove resident Brandon Jones died of a suspected heroin overdose.

The North Shore Coalition Against Substance Abuse presented a lecture on Nov. 16 at the Glenwood Life Center, detailing the dangers of opioids and offering sobering statistics on opioid use on Long Island. Michael Gray, founder of the Actus Foundation in Manhasset, which seeks solutions to the opioid crisis, explained what fentanyl is, the science behind it and why it is largely responsible for

the spike in overdose deaths. Gray's daughter, Amanda a graduate of Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina and Manhasset resident, died in 2018, at age 25, of an opioid overdose.

What I perceived to be the opioid crisis [was actually] my daughter [suffering from] an acute mental illness.

MICHAEL GRAY
 Founder, Actus Foundation

"Back in 2018, my daughter had just come out of the mental hospital," Gray said. "She'd been suffering terribly for years. We found really good therapy at a psychiatric hospital and she was doing great — everything was going well. She was really, really looking good."

Amanda suffered from acute borderline personality disorder, and began self-medicating in 2015 with benzodiazepines, or tranquilizers. In 2017 she began using heroin, and she died a year later after taking a fatal dose of fentanyl, a powerful opioid.

"What I perceived to be the opioid crisis [was actually] my daughter [suffering from] an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Support for VFW in Glen Cove continues

November 25, 2021 - GLEN COVE HERALD

BY JILL NOSSA
jnossa@liherald.com

More than three months after a fire severely damaged the second floor of the Glen Cove VFW James Donohue Post 347, volunteers and Post members are still cleaning up debris. And while the building is insured, officials said that insurance will not cover all of the costs of rebuilding the 100-year-old structure. Thankfully, the community has stepped up and provided donations.

On Monday, members of VFW Post 347 were presented with more generous donations outside of the Long Island Bagel Café in Glen Cove.

Since the blaze, Long Island Bagel Café owner John Compitello has continued to encourage patrons to open their hearts and their wallets to give what they can toward the effort. On Monday, Compitello presented a water jug filled with cash donations to VFW leaders, as well as a \$500 personal donation. Glen Cove resident Mary Stanco, who serves as the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce, further supported the cause by making a personal donation of \$1,500 toward rebuilding efforts.

"We've had amazing veterans in our community for a long time," Leg. Delia DeRiggi-Whitton said. "We were all devastated the morning that their beloved lodge caught on fire and unfortunately suffered a great amount of damage. The silver lining in this story is clearly our community, which has stepped up to not only rebuild this lodge, but to show our veterans how much we care and love them, and to say not only are you going to have it back, but it's going to be better. That's our goal."

"I really appreciate the community behind this," Glen Cove's Director of Veteran Services Tony Jimenez said. "The VFW has a 100-year-plus history, and when the fire broke out, so much damage was incurred. The communi-



Jill Nossa/Herald

VFW POST 347 members Joe Moores, Henryk Nowicki and Ben Farnan received a jug of cash donations from Long Island Bagel Café owner John Compitello.

ty rose to the occasion and efforts like this, and efforts throughout the community to support the veterans, help them in times of trouble."

Post Commander Henryk Nowicki said he is appreciative of the community's support. "The building has been up for over 100 years and this is the first disaster we've ever had," he said. "The community came through; we've had a lot of donations large and small, and they've really helped."

Nowicki said his organization does not have a number

yet from the insurance company as to how much it will cost to rebuild, but it has received more than \$20,000 in donations so far.

"We're very fortunate in the City of Glen Cove," Ben Farnan, former Post Commander said. "Every time there is a crisis in the town, people in this vicinity always come out and support us, and we do the same from the VFW. It's a community that's just a wonderful, convivial setting and we appreciate all of their efforts."

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City Council verdict is in

BY JILL NOSSA
jnossa@liherald.com

It was a close race, but after the absentee ballots were counted, followed by a full recount, the results of the Glen Cove City Council election are official. Democratic incumbent Danielle Fugazy Scagliola will keep her seat for a second term, and Barbara Peebles has been elected for a first term. Roni-Sue Jenkins, who appeared to be in sixth place on election night, was behind Peebles by a single vote.

The official results, according to the Nassau County Board of Elections, means the City Council members for next year are: Kevin P. Maccarone, with 3,070 votes; Joseph Capobianco with 2,93 votes; John Mancusi with 2,950 votes; Marsha Silverman with 2,907 votes; Fugazy Scagliola with 2,767 votes, and Peebles with 2,734 votes. Maccarone previously served one term on the City Council, from 2018 to 2020, and Capobianco served from 2015 to 2020. Peebles served as deputy mayor under Reggie Spinello from 2014 to 2018.

Incumbent council members Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, Eve Lupenko-Ferrante, John L. Perrone and Rocco Totino will each finish their first term on Dec. 31. The new council members, and mayor-elect Pam Panzenbeck, who defeated Mayor Time Tenke in a vote of 3, 286 to 2,593, will be sworn in at Glen Cove City Hall on Jan. 1, 2022.

"I'm really excited to be on City Council



Herald file photo

DANIELLE FUGAZY SCAGLIOLA was re-elected to the Glen Cove City Council.

for another two years," Fugazy Scagliola said. "I started on a lot of great projects that I'm thankful that I have the opportunity to continue to work on. I'm thankful to the Glen Cove residents that see that I'm working hard, and I will continue to work hard for everybody."

Pickleball tournament raises funds for NOSH

BY JILL NOSSA

jnossa@liherald.com

On a recent bright and sunny Sunday, dozens of local pickleball players came out to play in a competitive tournament while raising money for a worthy cause. The tournament raised about \$2,200 for NOSH, the nonprofit food delivery service that serves residents across the North Shore and had its headquarters destroyed by a fire in August.

Glen Cove resident Ron Menzel, an avid pickleball player, helped organize the tournament, held on Nov. 14 at Stanco Park. He said they held a tournament in honor of a fellow player's birthday, and decided to hold another as a fundraiser.

"NOSH seemed to be a good candidate because of all the problems they've had and because of all the great work that they do," Menzel said. "We've done spectacularly well; we raised over \$2,000 in a week and a half."

Menzel organized the tournament along with Pam Monfort, Mimi Trotta, Maryann Skinner and Patty Murphy. He said people came from all over Long Island to play in the tournament, which had 48 players in total.

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports on Long Island, and in Glen Cove, dozens of people can be found playing regularly at the courts at Stanco Park and the Glen Cove YMCA.

"It's a great sport," Menzel said. "It's a sport that a lot of people who age out of tennis are able to play, because you play with four players, and the court is about the third of the size of a tennis court. It's a fantastic sport and you really get hooked."

Glen Cove resident Fernando Navas has been playing pickleball for the past eight months. "It's a great game and is one of the fastest growing games around. I really enjoy it. I enjoy the people I play with down here. We have a really great time."

One day, he said, he was at Prybil Beach and saw people playing. He thought it looked like fun, bought some paddles and started playing. "I think I'm pretty good, but I'm going to keep practicing and see if I can get better," Navas said.

Scott Deneroff of Glen Cove called the sport "addictive." "What I really like is that kids can play, older people can play," he said. "It's a lot of fun and not as stressful as tennis."

Mimi Trotta said she plays every morning. "It's an awesome game," she said. "It's addictive in a good way."

MaryAnn Skinner of Glen Cove has been playing for about three years. When she stopped working fulltime, she joined the YMCA and was soon taught how to play the game from other players. Even though she's lived her for a long time, she said, she didn't know a lot of people in the area.

"It's a nice way to get some exercise," Skinner said, "and also to meet some really nice people."



Photos by Tab Hauser/Herald

PLAYERS PETER LAPAR, Greg DeVita, Arthur Miller and Maureen Berry enjoyed the tournament on Nov.14 at Stanco Park.



PETER LAPAR, ABOVE, takes a shot during the Nov. 14 pickleball Tournament.

AT LEFT, ARTHUR Miller, Maureen Berry, Peter Lapar and Greg DeVita, looked forward to their match.



TOP LEFT, CHRISTINE RICE, far left, the chairwoman of NOSH/NSSK, accepted the check from the donors and organizers of the pickleball tournament, which raised more than \$2,200 for NOSH.

HERALD SCHOOLS

Glen Cove students of all ages honor U.S. veterans

November 25, 2021 — GLEN COVE HERALD

Students across the Glen Cove City School District expressed their gratitude for our military service members in honor of Veterans Day. Elementary students created colorful thank-you cards for local veterans while students at the middle and high school levels received a special visit from Army and Marine veterans to hear their stories firsthand.

Students at Deasy, Gribbin, Landing and Connolly Elementary Schools were asked to create thank you cards for veterans at the Regency Assisted Living. Glen Cove veterans Morris Albenda, Army; Matthew Genova, Army; Leonard Lorusso, Air Force; Walter Meyer, Navy and Ralph Panetta, Air Force, were among the veterans who received the cards that students created to show their appreciation for their service to our country.

Students at Robert M. Finley Middle School and Glen Cove High School received a special Veterans Day presentation in 8th grade and 10th grade social studies classes. Army veterans Patrick Yngstrom and Gary Glick and Marine veteran Jerry Byrne spoke to students about their experiences and triumphs of being active members of the United States military during the Vietnam War.



Photos courtesy Glen Cove City School District

KRISTIN WOLF'S KINDERGARTEN class at Gribbin Elementary School.

A KINDERGARTEN STUDENT in Heather Cullen's class at Deasy Elementary School displayed a heartwarming smile while holding his card.



STUDENTS IN MAURA Haff's kindergarten class at Deasy Elementary School proudly showed off the cards they created for local veterans.




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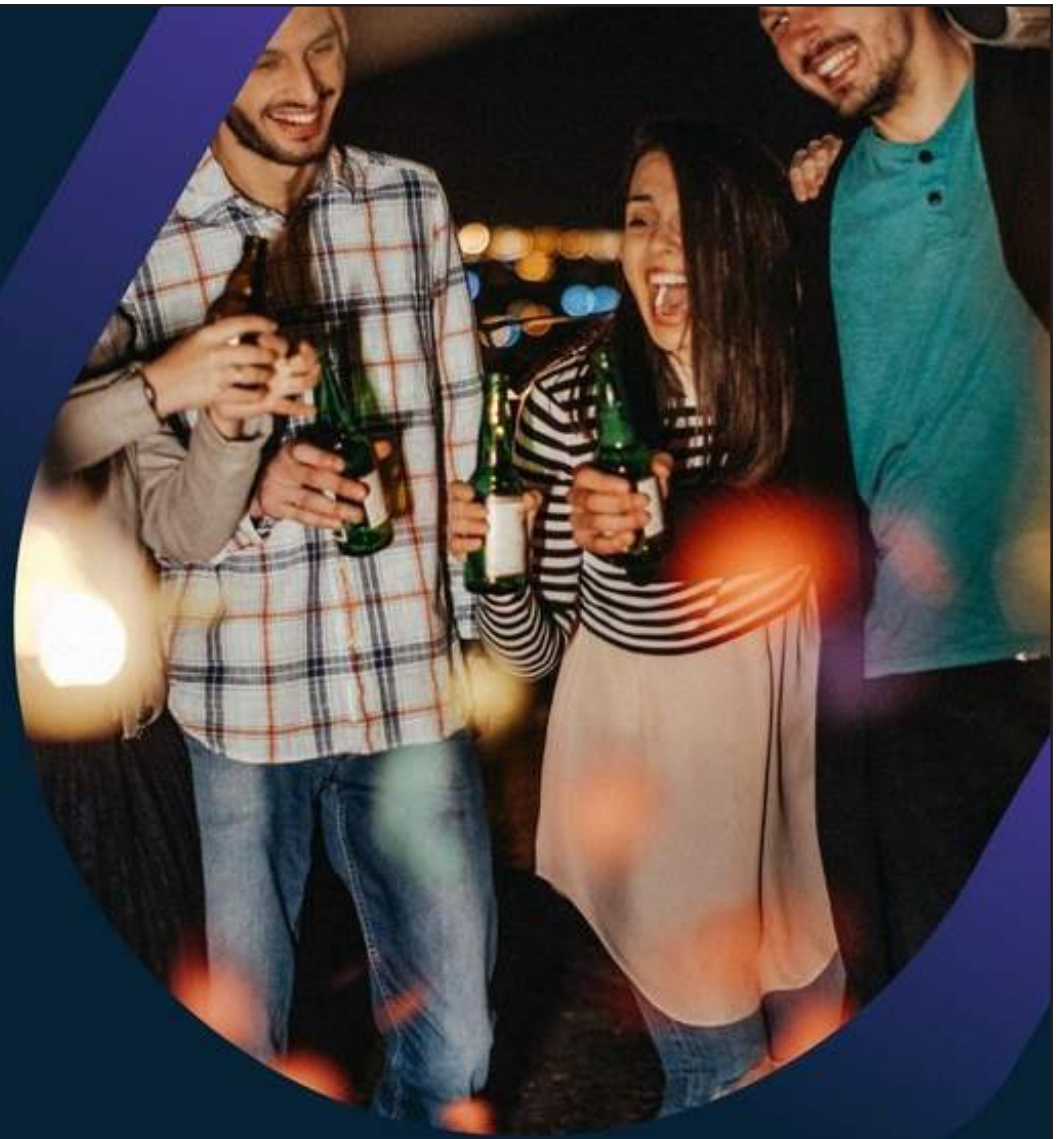
GLEN COVE
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HOW TO REACH US
Our offices are located at **2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530** and are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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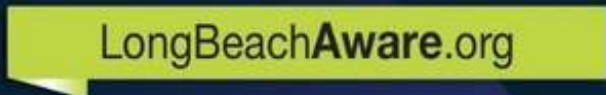
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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Friday, Nov. 26

Movie at the Library

Gold Coast Public Library Annex, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 2 to 4 p.m. Watch "Jungle Cruise" (2021) at the library. As an unlikely duo searches for an ancient tree with unparalleled healing abilities, they encounter innumerable dangers and supernatural forces, all lurking within the deceptive beauty of the lush rainforest. As the secrets of the lost tree unfold, the stakes reach even higher and their fate—and mankind's—hangs in the balance.

Saturday, Nov. 27

Meet author Huma Abedin

Huma Abedin has spent her entire career in public service and national politics, beginning as an intern in First Lady Hillary Clinton's office in 1996. BOTH/AND: A Life in Many Worlds is her first book. Copies must be purchased at Theodore's Books for the signing at 2 p.m., 17 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay.

NSBN Small Biz Saturday

Support North Shore local businesses in Glen Head, Sea Cliff and Glen Cove on Shop Small Business Saturday. Go to any of the participating small businesses, and enter North Shore Business Network's contest by posting on Facebook showing your shopping trip, using the hashtag #NSBNSmallBizSat (make sure the post public). Prize is \$280 in gift cards at participating businesses. Participants receive one entry per store.

Sunday, Nov. 28

Meet the Maker: Glamorous Glass Creations

At 3 p.m. at Hive Market and Maker's Space, 100-102 Audrey Avenue, Oyster Bay, meet nine-year-old Joseph and 11-year-old Ella to learn what inspired them to start their sea glass business during the pandemic. Their work will be on display and available for purchase. Register at hivemarketob.com.



Courtesy Wikimedia Commons

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

The Committee for the Beautification of East Norwich will again host the annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony and the blessing of the East Norwich crèche. The ceremony and blessing will take place at 6 p.m. at the northeast corner of Rte. 106 and Rte. 25A. There will be music and caroling. All are invited to attend.

Annual Tree Lighting Celebration

The Committee for the Beautification of East Norwich will again host the annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony and the blessing of the East Norwich crèche. The ceremony and blessing will take place at 6 p.m. at the northeast corner of Rte. 106 and Rte. 25A. There will be music and caroling. All are invited to attend.

Menorah Lighting Celebration

The annual Menorah Lighting ceremony will take place at 4:30 p.m. in Glen Cove's Village Square. All are invited to attend.

Monday, Nov. 29

The Colorful History of the Little Black Dress

Versatile, dependable, and affordable, the Little Black Dress, or "LBD," has become the

fashion equivalent of a Model T Ford. In this illustrated lecture, historian Leslie Goddard, Ph.D., explores the history of this fashion icon. Learn how Chanel helped dissociate black from mourning, how Audrey Hepburn helped establish the LBD; and how it has been reinvented by everyone from Betty Boop to Prada. This lecture is presented by historian, Leslie Goddard via zoom at 7 p.m. Register online at oysterbaylibrary.org.

Last Mondays Film Discussion

The Sea Cliff Library, located at 300 Sea Cliff Ave., is hosting a film discussion each month on the last Monday. To register and find out the movie for the event, send an email to seaclifflibrary@hotmail.com.

Tuesday, Nov. 30

Edible Holistic Wellness

Starting at 7 p.m. via Zoom, learn how easy and inexpensive healthy eating can be. Author, chef and curator of organic skincare, Alicia Randolph-Lucchesi, will teach the basics of eating organically and how to shop and prep foods for success. She'll also discuss what GMOs are, the importance of raw food and how to incorporate more of it into our daily lives, as well as the importance of seasoning with herbs and spices. Alicia will also discuss clever marketing scams and how to read ingredient labels.

Inner Peace This Holiday Season Through Meditation

Join Ajili Hodari, Esq, long time meditator, via zoom, as he discusses the extraordinary effect of meditation. He

will also present a simple, yet powerful meditation technique that will be explained and practiced during the session. This can enrich one's life on many levels and help with seasonal stress. Register at bayvillefreelibrary.org for the Zoom link.

Wednesday, Dec. 1

Glen Cove City School District Board of Education Meeting

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Glen Cove High School.

Thursday, Dec. 2

A Magical Cirque Christmas

The world's greatest entertainers unite for a spell-binding and incredible holiday production: a Magical Cirque Christmas. Experience the enchantment of Christmas as magical hostess Lucy Darling takes you through an evening of dazzling performers and breathtaking cirque artists, accompanied by holiday music performed live. Get into the spirit of the season with this merry treat that's perfect for the entire family. This performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post 720 Northern Boulevard in Brookville.

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

- The Downtown Glen Cove Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting will be on Dec. 4..
- The Oyster Bay Town Board will meet on Dec. 7, at 10 a.m.
- The Sea Cliff Village Board of Trustees will meet on Dec. 9, at 6 p.m. in Village Hall.
- The North Shore Board of Education will meet next on Dec. 16 at 7:45 p.m.
- The Locust Valley Board of Education will meet on Dec. 15.

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Arrangement

My Beautiful Mess-
Vintage Wooden
Sculpture

Hummingbird Boutique-
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Denim Lycra Legging

Restoration Oak-
Wooden Vase

Salon Solis-
Hair & Makeup

Glowinskin Esthetics-
BeautifulGlow/ Oxygen Facial

Moonshot Emporium-
Vintage Victrola (NFS)

Warehouse 44-
Early 19th Century Oak Farm Table

DejaVu Boutique-
Vintage Hat, Bejeweled Belt,
Necklace, Vintage Beaded Bag
& Bracelet

Warehouse 44-
Antique Primitive Side Table

Trois Jour Boutique-
Black Jumpsuit

K. DiResta Collective-
Handmade Rings

Restoration Oak-
Tibetan Lamb
Decorative Pillows/

Dreams East-
Blue Lace Agate Geode

Moonshot Emporium-
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Restoration Oak

DREAMS EAST

LOLA TUCKER
— INTERIOR DESIGN —

Artisan Jules
GIFTS AND GOODNESS

Frost Ceramics & Mercantile

k. diresta
collective

SR

— glowinskin esthetics —
Advanced Skin Care

Salon Solis

CO CO
EST. 2018
CONFECTIONS & COFFEE

Moonshot Emporium

hummingbird

WAREHOUSE 44
VINTAGE + ANTIQUE + SALVAGE

Déjà Vu

My Beautiful Mess

Photo: Mark Walker | Concept & Art Direction: Suzette LaValle

Overdose deaths hit record high

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

acute mental illness,” Gray said. “She’d been treated by different psychiatrists over the years, and had been on different kinds of medications, but at that point, when she came out of the psychiatric hospital and went into an outpatient treatment, somewhere in there there was a mixup. She wasn’t getting the meds she needed, so she went out to the streets to turn off a manic episode. And it killed her.”

Gray created Actus in his daughter’s memory to search for solutions for the crisis through policy recommendations at the federal, state and local levels, and to promote technology that will aid law enforcement.

Fentanyl’s presence has only increased in recent years. Because it is easier to make and ship and is far more potent than other opioids — 100 times more powerful than morphine — it continues to become more popular, and more profitable.

In 2020 alone, Nassau County reported 216 opioid-related deaths, or 15.9 per 100,000 residents, the vast majority of them caused by synthetic opioids. Fentanyl is used for severe pain, and is typically used in the form of transdermal patches or lozenges. It has been found in heroin and other opiates like methamphetamine, cocaine and ecstasy. Any street drug can be mixed with fentanyl because it is cheaper to produce and extremely potent.

Experts say that the record number of drug overdoses last year, as the coronavirus pandemic spread across the country, is attributable in part to lost access to treatment, rising mental health problems and wider availability of dangerously

potent street drugs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the initial pandemic lockdowns and the subsequent weakening and dissolution of social networks, along with the rise in mental health disorders like anxiety and depression, helped advance the opioid crisis. The postponement of treatment for mental-health and substance-abuse disorders was a contributing factor as well, as health care providers nationwide struggled to treat Covid-19 patients and postponed other services. Some, however, say the lack of access to mental health services had been taking a toll for years before the pandemic.

“When someone in America is diagnosed with a serious medical condition, they are led into a neat and orderly city of well-lit streets, visible road-signs and people eager to give directions,” the Actus Foundation’s website reads. “When one is diagnosed with mental illness, they are left in a desert without so much as a compass for navigation.”

NS-CASA is nonprofit whose volunteer members include North Shore School District parents and students, representatives of the business community and media, and substance-abuse professionals.

According to the CDC, the signs and symptoms of opioid overdose can include small, constricted “pinpoint pupils”; falling asleep or loss of consciousness; slow, shallow breathing; choking or gurgling sounds; a limp body; and pale, blue or cold skin. Deaths due to overdoses can be prevented, however, if signs are recognized quickly and action is taken.



Courtesy the Actus Foundation

AMANDA GRAY WAS one of over 50,000 people who died of opioid overdoses in 2018. There have been more than 100,000 overdose deaths this year.

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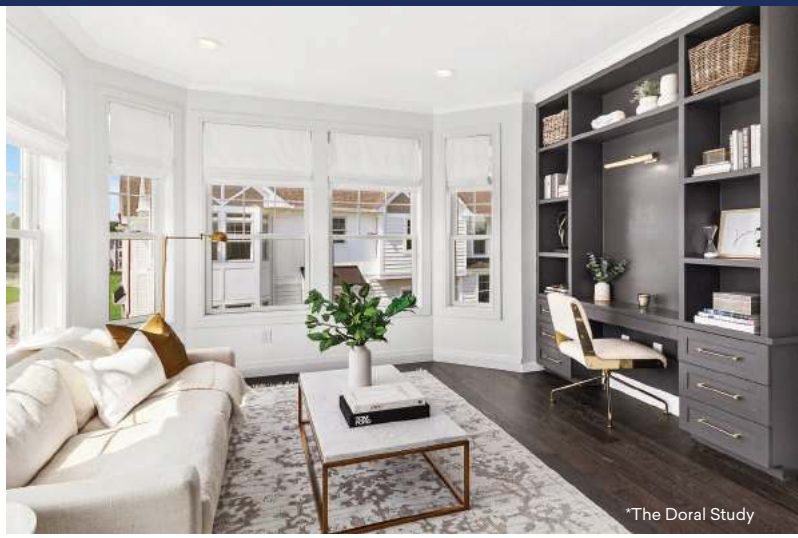




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Isles fans raise the roof on their new 'Barn'

UBS Arena opening ends a 20-year battle for team's home base

By TOM CARROZZA

tcarrozza@liherald.com

Islanders fans from across Long Island made the pilgrimage on Saturday to the team's new home at UBS Arena in Elmont. Despite a disappointing game result — the Islanders lost to the Calgary Flames 5-2 — fans were elated to finally have a home for their favorite hockey team after years of uncertainty, recreating the exuberant cheering that so defined games at Nassau Coliseum, known affectionately as "The Barn."

The \$1.1 billion arena at Belmont Park already means a great deal to fans who have watched the team through years

I'm 26 years old, and I've been waiting my entire life to see this building open.

STEVEN FERRARO
Islanders fan

when the Nassau Coliseum fell into disrepair and the Barclays Center in Brooklyn offered obstructed seating. The fanbase survived rumors of the team's move to Quebec City or Kansas City in the 1990s and 2000s and has finally been rewarded with an arena that pays homage to both

them and the players of yesteryear. "I'm 26 years old, and I've been waiting my entire life to see this building open," Steven Ferraro, of Rockville Centre, said. "It was the Lighthouse and then whatever after, but the [new] building [is] absolutely fantastic, just gorgeous." Ferraro said his favorite aspect of the structure so far is the Heineken Terrace above the main entrance, saying it's unusual to have club-like atmosphere at a hockey game.

The late John Kempf was remembered at the game by his wife and son, Christine and Sean Kempf, who carried around a cardboard cutout of him. A detective in the Suffolk County Police Department, John died in April 2020 after a battle with Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease — a rare degenerative brain disorder. During his tough fight, Kempf got to speak to his all-time favorite Islander, John Tonnelli, on the phone.

"It means everything to be here," Sean Kempf said. "[My father] was a lifelong fan, and he passed that down to us." Sean also said that his father was a huge fan of both Zach Parise and Zdeno Chara and would have been blown away if he had seen them both acquired by the Islanders in the off-season.

Mark Martinez, of Levittown, said he became an Islanders fan along with his school friends when the team visited Summit Lane Elementary School when they were children. "When we were little, tickets were cheap and we would go to every game, and now we still go to every game. It's a part of our friendship now," Martinez said.

In the upper deck, signs with the logos of Islanders fan meetup groups from San

Diego to the United Kingdom were placed above the raucous Section 329 crowd. The section, carried over from the Coliseum, serenades the team with soccer-style chants and drum playing throughout the game.



Donovan Berthoud/Herald



Donovan Berthoud/Herald

MORE THAN 17,000 Islanders fans brought the old Nassau Coliseum energy to their new home at UBS Arena in Elmont.

THE BLUE AND Orange Army in Section 329 brought soccer-style chanting throughout the game.

ISLES FANS GOT pumped up before entering UBS Arena for the first time.

The much-touted low roof of the building traps the noise, giving amazing moments like when the crowd sang along with Nicole Raviv during the national anthem. There were glimpses of what the atmosphere can be like when the team gets going, like when Richard Panik laid the first big hit or when the referees announced Brock Nelson's first goal.

Superfans Jake Basile and Nicholas Constantinidis, from Plainview, came to the game carrying cardboard cutouts of Islanders defenseman Adam Pelech's face. The two started the "Pelech Posse" a few

minutes before the game.



Tom Carrozza/Herald

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

UBS Arena opens Nov. 20 to much fanfare

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

years ago, now even selling merchandise to the over 8,000 followers of their Instagram page, “Bathtubjake.”

“A lot of guys from the Barn days were kind of concerned about this not being home, but it really felt like it tonight,” Basile said. “This is genuinely a dream come true. It’s so surreal. The atmosphere was great. Not the result we wanted from the game, but the arena was absolutely amazing,” Constantinidis said. “It

felt like this is ours, this is our amazing, 21st-century arena. We finally joined the club.”

Co-owner Jon Ledecky, who purchased the team with business partner Scott Malkin in 2016, spoke to and took pictures with fans outside the arena before the game.

“You can hear the fans are so excited and they’re saying, ‘Thank you,’ which is great, but we’re saying it back, because without them and their support, this building doesn’t happen,” Ledecky said.

NICHOLAS CONSTANTINIDIS AND Jake Basile of the “Pelech Posse” with cut-outs of their favorite Islanders defenseman, Adam Pelech.



Tom Carrozza/Herald



Donovan Berthoud/Herald

CALGARY FORWARD BRAD Richardson scored the first goal at the new arena.



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Jill Nossa/Herald

PEARL, ONE OF the miniature horses from HorseAbility, looked over the nonprofit's brochures along with volunteers and hospital staff.

Mini-horses provide respite at hospital

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

cal, psychological, emotional, social and spiritual well-being of participants, based on the idea that lives can be improved through interactions with horses. Hospital employees took a few minutes to pet the animals and pose for photos.

"I think that sometimes just being next to an animal is soothing. It creates a sense of calmness," Mather said. "For 10 minutes, the employees here can forget they're at work, and it's like being somewhere else. The feedback from everyone so far has been tremendous."

Dr. Conor Sperzel was among those who stopped by to meet Aidan and Pearl. "They're adorable, and it's just a nice, unusual thing to have to bring up the mood," Sperzel said. "It's always very busy, so it's nice to get a few minutes out of the day to come and unwind and decompress."

David Laven, a medical student at Stony Brook University who is studying occupational therapy in the hospital's brain injury unit, agreed. "I think it's great," he said of the horses' visit. "Being a student, I'm usually cooped up in the office trying to get as much work done as I can, so it's great to come down and check this out for a few minutes to take my mind off the busy-ness. It's a welcome respite."

Jeanne Doris, who has been a volunteer with HorseAbility for 12 years, said the horses travel frequently to nursing homes, assisted-living center, camps and schools as part of the organization's program. "I get a big enjoyment out of

this, as everyone else does," Doris said. "The horses really like what they do, and they enjoy being touched."

Jamie Kolodziejski, HorseAbility's operations director, said the use of horses as companions has grown, providing what she called therapeutic horsemanship. "Because of [horses'] nature," she said, "it makes sense to do that."

She said Horseability acquired Aidan and Pearl as a team when they were young, and getting them ready for a therapy program required training.

"When you start a horse working for a therapy program," she said, "you're looking for them to have a mild-mannered disposition. Once you have that baseline, you want to let them experience something they might see — sounds, smells, people rushing around, wheel-chairs, walkers — and see how they react. Once they see it a couple of times, it becomes second nature to them."

Before the Covid-19 outbreak, Kolodziejski said, the horses went on four to six visits a week to nursing homes, hospitals and schools. "They're trained to go in and out of elevators," she said. "They are very tolerant of the environment with everything going on."

"In my experience with being around horses," she added, "horses mirror how we feel. A lot of times being around the horses will help to decrease stress and anxiety, because people want them to feel calm and relaxed. So then they feel calm and relaxed in order to get that response. I think it gives people a sense of comfort."

For 10 minutes, the employees here can forget they're at work.

DOREEN MATHER
Nurse navigator

HERALD

Rep. Suozzi fights for SALT repeal Page 2

Fall music fest this weekend Page 8

Auxiliary police chief appointed Page 10



'She has an eye for it'

Teen creates music video for local songwriter

BY JILL NOSSA
j.nossa@herald.com

With the prevalence of iPhones, editing software and platforms such as YouTube and TikTok, anyone with a digital camera can create and share videos. Having the tools doesn't necessarily mean a person has talent, but for 16-year-old Ava Solange of Glen Cove, an ornate interest in videography led to a paid opportunity.

The high school junior already has a portfolio of completed video projects, including a professional music video. Initially, she said, her interest was in photography. But, she added, "As I started working with my camera more, I realized I could film videos."

Like many teens, Ava taught herself how to use the camera by making TikTok videos, and expanded the scope of her projects. This summer, after hearing a song by singer-songwriter Chris Appleton of O-

bigger, shoot and edit a music video. She created a video for Appleton's song "Gratitude" while vacationing in Southern California, enlisting her mother and her aunt as subjects. "I knew that I'd have some nice shots for scenes, and I thought that would go well with the song," Ava said. "I was just picturing a lot of fun dancing and a good time, because that's what the song is about — appreciating the 'happy moments.'"

After four days of filming with her iPhone and a drone, she spent two days editing down about 90 minutes of footage for the three-minute song. "I had to look for the best parts of the videos and see what went well with the rhythm of the song," she explained.

Using the drone footage in parts of the videos and see what went well with the rhythm of the song," she explained.

I feel like it really captures the vibe and the feeling that the music gives you.

AVA SOLANGE

Celebrating art and autos

Artist Dean Adams spent last Saturday afternoon painting some of the cars on display at the Art and Automobiles event in downtown Glen Cove. Story, more photos, Page 3.

A new school year, more Covid challenges

BY JILL NOSSA
j.nossa@herald.com

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Through the dark days, hold onto hope

Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights begins on Sunday, Nov. 28, at sundown. The historical reasons for celebrating the holiday do not change from year to year. Our perspective changes and the lens in which we view our historical past changes based on what is happening in the world around us.

In a nutshell, Hanukkah is the celebration of a victory of a minority, the Maccabees who banded together to preserve Judaism when it was outlawed in the land of Israel in the 2nd century BCE when the Seleucid Greek empire had taken over and turned the historic Temple in Jerusalem into a place when people sacrificed pigs on an altar built to worship the Greek god Zeus Olympios. Greek Hellenism was introduced and promoted as the new assimilated lifestyle choice for Jews living in Israel. The values of secular culture ran counter to Jewish law. The conflict of balancing religious values with secular society has been waged for centuries. The small band of Maccabees miraculously with God on their side;

part of their battle cry, were able to rout the Assyrian Greeks, retake the temple in Jerusalem, clean it up, restore it and rededicate it as our Temple to worship God. They were able to restore Jewish worship and practice to the Land of Israel. We light our Hannukiyot, adding one more candle each night for eight days to commemorate this miraculous victory.

Hanukkah comes during the darkest days of winter and adds some light to the world. Light represents enlightenment, knowledge and hope. I believe we need light in our lives today. Our lives have been significantly altered for the last 20 months because of the pandemic. As many of our families gather for Thanksgiving for the first time in two years, we are watching the Covid positivity rates increase. Our elected officials in Washington are more interested in grandstanding than

advancing bills that could make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans. Gun violence is on the rise in America and it is frightening.

Laws have been passed in numerous states whose sole purpose is to make in harder for people of color to vote. There are days where I feel I do not recognize this country anymore.

So what can we learn from Hanukkah that can shed light on our situation today? Change only happens when people get involved. A small group can have a tremendous influence on the whole.

The miracle of Hanukkah is not about the myth of oil lasting for eight days, a rabbinic story added some 400 years after the fact, it is about a small group of people determined to make a difference who won against all odds. We should take the example set by the Maccabees and use our voices and collective

strength to help create the America we want our children and grandchildren to inherit. Our country is strong because of our diversity, because we recognize the value of every American to make a contribution to our society. Even in the dark days of winter or in dark days of history, people always held on to hope and worked to make things better. May the Lights of Hanukkah inspire us to dedicate ourselves to helping make life better for all Americans. This year, may these lights help us see the light when all Americans will be freed from the pandemic, when no one will be afraid of gun violence or this newly sanctioned vigilantism and everyone will have access to the polls to make sure we continue to have a thriving democracy in our country.

May this holiday season shower us with the blessing of light and hope.

*Rabbi Dr. Janet B. Liss
North Country Reform Temple*



Rabbi Dr. Janet B. Liss

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Sat night Dec 4

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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

Toy drive to benefit Glen Cove Day Care Center families in need

Toy donations are now being accepted for families in need, with several drop-off locations on the North Shore.

This year, Assemblymember Charles Lavine's annual toy drive will specifically benefit families from the Glen Cove Day Care Center, which was severely damaged by the remnants of Hurricane Ida.

"I am so pleased to be able to help the resilient kids of the Glen Cove Day Care Center whose lives, and learning, has been disrupted by the devastating floods associated with Hurricane Ida," Lavine said.

Contact-free drop-offs of new, unwrapped gifts can be made at Lavine's district office, 1 School Street, Suite 303-B, Glen Cove, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition, toys may also be left at the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library at 89 E. Main Street, Oyster Bay, or the Bryant Library located at 2 Papermill Road, Roslyn, during library hours. People who cannot get to any of the above locations, can call the district office to schedule a time to have gifts picked up from their doorstep. Donations will be accepted through Dec. 17.



Courtesy of the Office of Assemblymember Charles Lavine

PEOPLE CAN DROP-OFF toys at three different locations, including the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library.

Experience the holidays in downtown Glen Cove

BY JILL NOSSA

jnossa@liherald.com

The Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District will kick-off the holiday season in downtown Glen Cove on Dec. 4, beginning at 1:30 p.m. when Santa Claus will arrive on horse and carriage to Village Square.

"I'm excited to have a festival that will not only feel more 'normal,' but will be even bigger than in years past," said Patricia Holman, Executive Director of the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District. "We have a full afternoon of entertainment and activities to get people into the holiday spirit."

Santa will be accepting visitors at Village Square starting at 1:30 p.m. making his list, checking it twice and posing for free photos for families to take home. Families can warm up with the hot cocoa bar, and children can complete their wish lists by writing letters to Santa. There will be plenty of free candy canes, hot cocoa, cookies, popcorn balls, and other special treats for all to enjoy after or before a free carriage ride throughout the downtown streets.

The fun doesn't stop there: the Glen Cove Downtown BID has secured a long list of talent to entertain the community throughout the day. This includes performances by the Glen Cove High School Jazz Band, Glen Cove High School Select Chorale, Glen Cove

High School Orchestra, OLMA Select Choir, Mercy Dance Company, Jazz Hands Children's Theatre, Christopher Moll, Steven Dahlke, Gracie Donaldson, the Slayer Players, St. Dominic's Choir, and the Sleigh Bells. At 4:45 p.m. join Mayor Tim Tenke for the City of Glen Cove's annual Christmas Tree Lighting sponsored by The First City Project Christmas Tree committee that includes RXR Realty, Martino Auto Concepts, NY Space Finders and The Cove Restaurant.

In addition, attendees can shop the Holiday Marketplace of local artisans from the Deep Roots Farmers Market. Vendors will be stationed around Village Square throughout the day so residents can get a start on their holiday shopping.

"It is such a wonderful time of year to give back to our community and give thanks to all who make this event possible," Holman said. "Without our generous sponsors, this would not be possible: American Paving & Masonry, Take it Away, Henry's Confectionery, and The Metropolitan. I would also like to extend a thank-you to our volunteers from the Compassion to Action Volunteer Group and the Department of Public Works that collaborates with the B.I.D. every year transforming the downtown streets into a winter wonderland with the festive decorations that the Glen Cove Downtown B.I.D. provides."



Courtesy Woman's Club of Glen Cove

DIRECTOR OF VETERANS Affairs Tony Jimenez, Councilman John Perrone, Rose Marie Walti, Bob Staada, Marie Staada, Yvette Menezes

Woman's Club of Glen Cove honors Korean War veteran

In honor of Veterans Day, the Woman's Club of Glen Cove honored Bob Staada, war veteran and collector of war memorabilia, and husband of Marie Staada of the Woman's Club of Glen Cove. A Citation of Special Recognition was presented from Director of Veterans Affairs Tony Jimenez and Councilman John Perrone at their monthly luncheon meeting held at the Sea Cliff Yacht Club.

The Woman's Club of Glen Cove is a philanthropic club that promotes charitable activities, sociability, and the general welfare of the community. The club meets on the third Tuesday of every month at the Sea Cliff Yacht Club. New members are welcome to attend. If you want to join, call Yvette Menezes at 516-673-1061.

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Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the following projects will be received by the Purchasing Agent of the

City of Glen Cove, located at City Hall, rear entrance, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York 11542 no later than 10:00 a.m. prevailing time on Friday, December 17, 2021 and will be publicly opened and read aloud at 11:00 a.m., via the link below:
On-Call Plumbing Services Bid No. 2021-002
Construction of Dog Run and Kennel at Cove Animal Rescue Bid No. 2021-019
Veteran's Remembrance Walk at Monument Park Bid No. 2021-020
On-Call Electric & Street Lighting Services Bid No. 2021-021
Specifications are available for download at <https://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/cityofglen Cove>. Registration is free and

instructions are available on <https://glencoveny.gov/bid-rfps/>. The link to the bid opening will be posted to the City's website (<https://glencoveny.gov/bid-rfps/>) The bid opening will also be recorded and posted in this same section. Or you can access it live via the following link https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_ZDc3NGU0MWU0MzVhNS000WVmlTgyZDgtMGNhNjFkYThmZjZm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ad84cf90-b365-48ca-a128-2fc44a1c8d4c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22bd021793-3629-4204-a131-0958eee1f7cf%22%7d
If you cannot join online,

you can call into this meeting by calling 1 (929) 229-5717 and entering the conference ID No. 612 537 860#. Attending in-person for the opening of the above bids is also an option and will take place in the 2nd floor conference room at 11:00 a.m. Each proposal must be submitted on the forms provided in the bid package, in a sealed envelope with the name of the bidder, the bid name, and number marked clearly on the outside of the envelope. Yelena Quiles
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OPINIONS

Recalling two failed coups that will live in infamy

The Event,” a 2015 found-footage documentary by Ukrainian director Sergei Loznitsa, opens with black-and-white images of mostly men marching in August 1991 through the streets of Leningrad, in the then Soviet Union, overturning a trailer and grabbing all manner of furniture to erect hastily con-

structed barricades. Worry was etched on the protesters’ faces.

People had assembled in Leningrad’s central Palace Square and surrounding streets to stop an attempted coup d’état that, they believed, was radiating from Moscow, USSR’s capital, across the land.



SCOTT BRINTON

“The Event” is a hopeful but strangely haunting film that I watched last week on Zoom. Hofstra University’s Department of Comparative Literature, Languages and Linguistics and the History Department presented it, with a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Ben Rifkin, a Hofstra professor of Russian.

I wanted to see the film because in August 1991 I was a Peace Corps volunteer stationed in Bulgaria, a Soviet satellite nation for 45 years, from the end of World War II through 1990, when it finally gained its freedom and turned to democracy. I cannot express the

chilling effect the coup attempt had on many Bulgarians, who worried about a sudden return to hardline communism. I wondered what, precisely, had happened in Moscow and other Soviet cities from Aug. 18 to 21, 1991, as the coup unfolded. I had never seen images of it before.

The good people of Leningrad were concerned that Soviet Armed Forces tanks might roll against their city, and a sea of tens of thousands of people rallied, placing themselves in mortal danger to preserve the democratic reforms enacted under Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The fear of a possible attack on Leningrad was not irrational. Eight communist hardliners calling themselves the Committee on the State of Emergency, and various factions within the Soviet military, were behind the putsch, seeking to halt the impending breakup of the Soviet Union that would give sovereignty to its 15 outlying republics. Soviet tanks, in fact, rolled into Moscow, where tens of thousands of demonstrators stood in their way. Among them was Boris Yeltsin, the man who succeeded Gorbachev as president of Russia when the Soviet Union dissolved in December 1991.

I was on a train somewhere outside Sofia, Bulgaria’s capital, with my then fiancée, Katerina, who was born and raised in Sofia, when we first heard the news of the coup attempt. Katerina’s face turned sullen. What

would we do if it succeeded?

Most Americans cannot understand the fear of the then Soviet Union that many, if not most, Eastern Europeans carried with them in the backs of their brains. They risked limb and life to secure their freedoms

from the USSR in the late 1980s and early ’90s. They stood in solidarity, marching en masse in their capitals’ squares, demanding sovereignty. Then, seemingly in an instant, all their hard-won reforms appeared to be in jeopardy.

If Bulgaria lost its newly won democratic freedoms to the communists, would the old-school apparatchiks “cleanse” Bulgaria of any American “sympathizers”? In that case, anyone who had had contact with an American like me would have been in grave danger of just disappearing.

These were not wild conspiracy theories. They were valid questions based on nearly five decades of iron-fisted Soviet rule. Katerina and I planned an escape route to the U.S. through Greece if the coup held, which, thankfully, it did not. We were in our mid-20s at the time. We recently celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary, living, peacefully, on Long Island for the past 28 years, returning every few years to Sofia. Bulgaria remains a democracy to this day.

The Soviet coup plotters were not especially well organized, according to various

reports, and most of the SAF military was not a party to the conspiracy. It’s said that the plotters spent most of the three days of the coup drunk. Seven of the eight organizers were imprisoned, and one committed suicide.

Ilya Vinitsky, chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Princeton University, was among the panelists last week. He was 22 and living in the Soviet Union at the time of the coup. It was a seminal moment in his life, a point of demarcation — there was life before the coup, and after.

Now he asks his students, “Have you ever felt you lived through a historical moment?”

Yes, I would respond, more than once. Most recently was the disorganized insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, when thousands of pro-Trump rioters besieged our very seat of democracy to try to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election — that is, to attempt to overthrow our nation’s duly elected president, Joe Biden. Having lived through such a coup attempt while in a foreign land, I never imagined one here, particularly not one as violent as that of last January.

Democracy is clearly a fragile thing. It requires an active, engaged citizenry that respects the rule of law. If it is not respected, then it must be enforced.

Scott Brinton is the Herald Community Newspapers’ executive editor and an adjunct professor at the Hofstra University Herbert School of Communication. Comments about this column? SBrinton@liherald.com.

The USSR in 1991 and the U.S. in 2021: similarities I never would’ve imagined.

Year of wonder, one Thanksgiving to the next

Last Thanksgiving we dined alone. I’m remembering an over-roasted turkey leg with a side of anxiety for me, a wedge of spinach pie for the vegetarian, hold the Thanksgiving cheer. We tried not to make too much of the day.

We were veterans of isolation by then, still months away from our first vaccine. To see our kids and grandkids, someone would have had to risk flying, and the infection rates were daunting. Nevertheless, we watched millions of people choosing to travel, weaving through airport lines and hoping

for the best. Spikes and surges followed. Sorry for the ruminating, but sometimes you must go back to appreciate how far you’ve come. A few months after Thanksgiving, our son and grandson caught Covid. We missed birthdays, anniversaries, proms and graduations. We were lucky; the nightly news featured Covid crises cascading across the country. Who will ever forget the pictures of refrigerator trucks parked outside New York City hospitals?

Today (and I won’t say fast forward, because it wasn’t), all of us have had vaccines and boosters. We’re all back to our jobs. Kids are back in school. As I swayed from despair to hope and back to trepidation, I coped, and that feels like enough.

This Thanksgiving we will sit down with our family to start reweaving the ties that have stretched thin over the months of this pandemic.

I have often written about gratitude for the small things that charge our days with interest and pleasure. This year my gratitude is singular, profound and unending. I am so thankful to the researchers and scientists and companies and governments and leaders who took on the virus and dug in for the fight.

There were missteps and political machinations and failures along the way, but the development of vaccines, 90-plus percent effective, in only 11 months has been the stunning achievement of our lifetime.

When we encountered a novel coronavirus transmitted easily through the air by breathing, talking and coughing, the World Health Organization said it did not expect a vaccine to become available in fewer than 18 months. Many virologists have said that the development of a safe and effective vac-

cine within 11 months was an extraordinary achievement.

Please read “A Shot to Save the World,” by Gregory Zuckerman. Zuckerman tells the story of the unlikely heroes who worked together and separately, driven by the mission to find a vaccine. He describes the false starts and missteps, but also all that went right as researchers took on the challenge of their lives. It required unprecedented devotion, selflessness, fierce dedication to the job and a vision of success that transcended any one person’s ambition.

It is a thrilling story. One of the salient points Zuckerman addresses is the idea that the new vaccines are too “experimental.” He says these discoveries are not one-day wonders, but blocks of research that came together over many years. They found daylight in the time of the pandemic because of the money and dedication and leadership that supported the effort. The work on AIDS informed this medical moon shot, and the Covid vaccines will inform research going forward.

Zuckerman tells the story of Jason Schrum, the Moderna scientist who had worked at the company for only a short time. He came up with the actual modifica-

This year my family will gather again, and my gratitude is profound and unending.

tion to the mRNA molecule that is currently used in Moderna’s vaccine, Zuckerman writes. “That modification is the one that BioNTech uses also. It’s not the one from Katalin Karaka and Drew Weissman at the University of Pennsylvania. They’re really pioneers, and I’m not sure we would have these vaccines without them.”

Zuckerman writes that not enough attention has been paid to the Chinese scientist who struggled in the early days of the pandemic to share the genetic sequence of the virus. “The guy’s a hero,” he writes. “He risked so much ...”

I thank them all, from the doctors and nurses to the supermarket workers to the teachers and parents of young children, to the bench researchers who put in the hours, day after day and month after month.

This year at our Thanksgiving, there will be a too-big turkey and stuffing and cranberry sauce. Leaves and grains for the vegetarian. We will hug and kiss our kids and grandkids, feeling safe enough with our jabs and boosters. Then we will feast on my apple cranberry crumble with a topping of gratitude for this country and countries everywhere where scientists are educated, supported and honored for their work.

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HERALD EDITORIALS

UBS Arena is a win-win for Long Island

The social media posts generated by Long Islanders at the very first Islanders game at the new UBS Arena, the linchpin in a \$1.3 billion transformation of Belmont Park, came fast and furious on Saturday, showing an excitement not seen since the Islanders' four straight Stanley Cup wins in the early '80s. The state-of-the-art arena is indeed a crown jewel of the New York metropolitan area sports scene.

"Today is a monumental day for New York and the Islanders as we cut the ribbon on the world-class new UBS Arena," Gov. Kathy Hochul said last week. "This is the first step in the newly redeveloped Belmont Park, which will serve as an internationally recognized destination for sports, entertainment, retail and hospitality."

It was only a few years ago that the

home of the Islanders was a real question mark. The team had moved out of the Nassau Coliseum in the Hub for the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, and Long Island fans largely hated the venue, not only because of the distance they had to travel for games — it could be a four-hour round trip from points out East to Brooklyn and back — but also because the venue was made not for hockey, but for basketball.

The new UBS Arena, finished on time and on budget, was constructed specifically for the Islanders, in Elmont, on Nassau County's border with Queens, making it convenient for hockey fans from both Long Island and New York City.

At the same time, the revitalization of Belmont Park is, no doubt, a boon for Long Island. The project, which will also include a 350,000-square-foot entertain-

ment and retail complex, a 250-room hotel and a community center in the future, is expected to create 10,000 jobs and generate \$2.7 billion in economic activity when all is said and done. By 2024, the project is projected to sustain 3,200 full-time jobs, produce \$858 million in annual economic activity and generate tens of millions of dollars in new yearly tax revenue for the region.

We recognize that not everyone in Elmont is happy. Local residents have said they worry about increased traffic caused by the arena. Planners, however, have worked to mitigate traffic, building a new Long Island Rail Road station in Elmont, the first new full-time station in 50 years.

Overall, the UBS Arena is a win-win for Long Islanders, whether or not you're an Islanders fan.

LIRR, NICE Bus move toward greener future

The Long Island Rail Road and Nassau Inter-County Express Bus are making significant strides to reduce their carbon footprints, with the LIRR testing battery-powered trains on its Oyster Bay branch to replace the diesel locomotives that have rumbled across the North Shore in the past, and NICE planning to bring six electric buses online to replace compressed-natural-gas models.

While on the electrified portion of the Oyster Bay branch, the LIRR trains run on the third rail. When they reach the non-electrified portion, they switch to battery power.

At the same time that NICE adds the

electric buses, it will switch all 150 vehicles in its paratransit fleet to electric. Excellent!

All of this was discussed last Friday during an hour-long talk on public transportation at Vision Long Island's annual Smart Growth Summit, at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury. We can only say bravo to Phil Eng, the LIRR president, and Jack Khouz, CEO of NICE Bus, for demonstrating a commitment to the environment by moving away from dirty fossil-fuel transportation to electric rail and bus lines.

Diesel trains are especially awful for the environment, using one of the dirtiest of fuels. Diesel is also among the most car-

cinogenic substances on the planet, according to numerous federal agencies. Diesel trains simply shouldn't exist in the 21st century.

The LIRR began testing battery-powered trains on the Oyster Bay branch in April. Let's hope the eight-month test period is successful, so the other three diesel branches — Montauk, Port Jefferson and Ronkonkoma — can become fully electrified as well.

Of course, we must ask ourselves how the electricity to power our trains and buses is being generated — from fossil-fuel power plants or renewable resources such as solar, wind and geothermal? Renewable is the way forward.

LETTERS

Good riddance to N.Y. American Water

To the Editor:

I applaud Gov. Kathy Hochul for signing legislation sponsored by State Sen. Jim Gaughran that brings the residents of Sea Cliff and neighboring communities an important step closer to public water — and most important, financial relief.

For years, New York American Water has overcharged, underserved and taken advantage of its ratepayers. It has prioritized its own bottom line over delivering an essential, life-sustaining public utility in an affordable and responsible manner. This is the same company that, under cover of the Covid-19 pandemic, added a million-dollar shed to plans for a water treatment plant at its Roslyn Drive facility without the input of ratepayers, elected officials or key stakeholders. It took a public outcry to



OPINIONS

I didn't have a disability. Our institutions do.

After watching a boring sci-fi movie, I stared at the blinking orange hand signal outside the Lynbrook movie theater, waiting to cross heavily trafficked, four-lane Peninsula Boulevard. The white stick figure flashed, the seconds counted down to zero, and I found myself halfway across the road, wondering if this would be how I would die.



CRISTINA ARROYO RODRIGUEZ

I had just undergone my fourth knee surgery a few weeks before, and a full-leg brace and crutches were doctor's orders. The first time I had my ACL swapped for a cadaver ligament,

I was a first-year doctoral student in industrial and organizational psychology, more than happy to return to class in person two weeks post-surgery, against doctor's orders.

"At least it's your leg that's the problem, and not your brain," my program chair said by way of welcoming me back.

Not only was this statement ableist in that it dismissed the worth of neurodivergent people, but also it showed a lack

of understanding in our leadership and institutions of what it means to live with or be a person with a disability.

"I no longer want the disabled population to be an afterthought," Nadia Holubnyczyj, the first person in a wheelchair to run for the Nassau County Legislature, said during this fall's campaign. With the founding of the county's new disability-awareness advisory group, she called for government "to shift their entire mindset, their language, planning and execution."

Indeed, my temporary mobility disability didn't only affect my leg, but also changed my relationship with the world, and vice versa.

First, I was following a pain management schedule that included prescription opioids, which affect memory, focus and cognitive speed. When you're hugging a toilet bowl between fits of vomiting or falling asleep from chemically induced fatigue three times a day, it's difficult to decide whether Edward Lawler or John Stacey Adams best explains reactions to pay inequity.

Second, the cognitive labor of navigating a world not built for you, and even

built against you, is taxing. Where are the elevators in this Long Island Rail Road station? Are they currently in service? Will my crutches slip on the sidewalk? Where can I elevate my leg when at work? How much earlier do I need to

leave? What detours should I take to avoid tripping and falling?

Even though Holubnyczyj said she believes "there is no specific area of need that the county should be focusing on that would benefit the disabled," she makes an exception for inequities in public transportation, which is one of the "hot spots" that need to be addressed.

Besides planning the logistics of navigation, there is also the emotional strain of being treated as an inconvenience, a burden. "If it's important to you, you'd attend," an elected official said of whether to allow public meetings to be held on Zoom. "If you loved your children, you would make time," said the president of a school club who holds monthly meetings exclusively in the evening.

According to the 2018 American Community Survey, about 2 million New Yorkers, roughly 11 percent of the state's

population, have a visible or invisible disability. And even after passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, over 30 percent of reports filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission were claims of disability discrimination. In the past five years, Nassau County has spent almost \$1 million in ADA settlements, even though only about one in five report this kind of discrimination.

My Ph.D. program chair accurately recognized that there was a problem, but it wasn't my leg. My leg wouldn't have been a problem if public transportation had reliable access, if workplaces provided proper accommodations, if public meetings offered remote participation and if that pedestrian crossing signal lasted a few seconds longer. The disability doesn't lie within me, Nadia, or within the community of people with disabilities, but within our institutions.

Cristina Arroyo Rodriguez is editor of the Baldwin Herald and has been a nonprofit organizational consultant in the areas of pay equity and diversity, equity and inclusion. She has lectured in psychology at Baruch College, Bronx Community College and the City University of New York, and has taught Master Executive classes for NYPD leadership at John Jay College.

A temporary mobility issue changed my relationship with the world, and vice versa.

LETTERS

shame the company into restoring the plan to its original cost.

Senator Gaughran's legislation establishes a clear path forward as we seek to establish the North Shore Water District and free residents from New York American Water's reign of error. I am grateful for his leadership, thankful for Assemblyman Chuck Lavine's support in guiding this through the Assembly, and always proud to stand with the advocates whose tireless efforts made this victory a reality.

DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON
Nassau County legislator
Glen Cove

Three cheers for the Herald

To the Editor:

The Herald's Nov. 11-17 issue gave me some new hope. The editorial "Think green — clean your vehicle at a car wash" was on the money, but more important to me, Ron Rosenberg's opinion piece, "The winning strategy? GOP grass-roots campaigning," was honest and not excusing nor championing the liberal ideals going on now.

Tom Connor's letter to the editor, "The people spoke at the ballot box," was perfect, well-written and very true, and

is another wake-up to the left that America is still a center-right country and wants no part of communism, which has resulted in burnings and lootings of our American cities.

To top it all off, a good letter by Larry Penner, "A glance at NYC's subway past," which I have been aware of. In fact let me offer a book: "722 Miles: The Building of the Subways and How They Transformed New York," covering the entire subway story in New York.

Thank you for having the guts to publish these stories and Connor's letter. Not many, if any, liberal news outlets would tackle the honest truth. Three cheers for the Herald — as good as a Pulitzer, I'd say.

ROBERT F. CASALE
Glen Head

CORRECTION

The photograph in the Nov. 11-17 issue of the Glen Cove Herald misidentified Danny Mixon in the caption on the community update page. Danny Mixon was pictured, not Salvatore Chiarelli. We apologize for the error.

FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



One season morphs into another — Lynbrook



Daniel
Gale

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Thankful

As the leaves fall and families gather, we pause every year at this time to count our blessings and recognize what is truly important in our lives — the friendships that endure, the relationships we begin, and the excitement of entering the Holiday Season and for the year ahead.

With gratitude & appreciation
Thank you to our clients, customers & community

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