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Big fundraiser coming for VFW
Page 8



Nassau GOP will support Zeldin
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FEBRUARY 17 - 23, 2022



Courtesy Letisha Dass/Herald

ADULT DAY PROGRAM participants, led by staff member Agatha Nadel, far right, exercised to the Village People's "YMCA."

Seniors return in person to center's Adult Day Program

BY LETISHA DASS
ldass@liherald.com

The unmistakable strains of the Village People's "YMCA" thumped through the basement of Glen Cove Senior Center, enlivening the center's Adult Day Program for seniors who were busy exercising. On the sidelines, staffers cheered. This was just one of many activities in the Adult Day Program, which focuses on the community's frail elderly, that returned to in-person participation on Feb. 7.

The program has had a dif-

ficult two years. Along with the rest of the senior center, it was forced to close as the coronavirus pandemic ramped up in the spring of 2020. Remote sessions were offered during the day, to help caregivers and to encourage social activities for seniors. Families who didn't have computers were given iPads by the center, program coordinator Melanie Raymundo said. They were happy that someone was looking out for their loved ones.

"There were a lot of people willing to do it, and willing to jump into technology," Ray-

munido said. "Everyone came up with amazing ways to engage through the Zoom medium."

Although the center reopened in April 2021, it had to close again last September, when Tropical Storm Ida flooded the basement. In October, the center reopened, but not the basement. Work began in January 2022 to renovate the lower floor. And the Adult Day Program continued online.

"In the flood, we lost a lot of the furniture that had been here for years," Amanda Free-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Suozzi touts funding for charge stations

BY LETISHA DASS
ldass@liherald.com

The future of New York's transportation is electric, as policymakers continue to push for a greener economy. At a news conference in front of a charging station in Glen Cove's municipal parking lot on Monday, U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi announced that the state was set to receive \$26 million in federal funding this year, as well as an additional \$175 million over the following five years, to build more charging stations for electric vehicles.

"Here in New York, we have seen a growth of electric vehicles on a regular basis," Suozzi said.

"Last year there were over 300,000 electric vehicles purchased in the United States of America. That number is supposed to go up dramatically over the next eight years."

The funding was included in the Biden administration's \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure

package, which was approved by Congress last November. Suozzi was one of the lead negotiators for the bill, which will help rebuild roads and bridges, expand access to cleaner water, address climate change and

Thirty percent of all greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector.

ADRIENNE ESPOSITO
Citizens Campaign for the Environment

invest in underserved communities.

"Thirty percent of all greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector," Adrienne Esposito, executive director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, said.

The initiative coincides with Gov. Kathy Hochul's legislation last September banning manufacturers from selling new gasoline-powered cars, light-duty trucks, off-road vehicles, and equipment by 2035, with the goal

of reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of the state's transportation sector by 85 percent by 2050.

"Cars pollute carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide and fine particulate matter," Esposito said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Glen Cove Senior Center has recovered from Ida

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

man, the program's director, said. "It still looks a little barren right now, but things are in the works to get everything completed."

Although the basement reopened this month, renovations continue. "We got so much work done in such a short amount of time," Freeman said. "The Department of Public Works was just amazing."

The senior center bus for the Adult Day Program isn't operating yet, but it will be running once again in the coming weeks, Christine Rice, the center's executive director, said.

"We didn't have transportation all throughout the pandemic," Rice added, "and then we had to hire a new bus driver."

The Adult Day Program gives seniors 60 years and older who need individual care a full schedule of group activities, including trivia games, arts and crafts, exercise and visits by a therapy dog to create a stimulating environment that helps promote conversations.

"One of the biggest things with our program is, even though they may not know each other by name, there is such a sense of community," Freeman said. "They definitely view each other as friends and peers. They enjoy coming every day."

"It's really like designing a program where they can engage physically, emotionally, and mentally ... to try and bring them out of their daily life, which is mostly at home, into a place where they can be involved and they can be independent to a certain extent," Raymundo explained.

A study by the University of Texas, which included more than 300 adults over 65, concluded that social interactions encourage seniors to be more physically active, and help boost emotional health and cognitive abilities. A Pew Research study found that there is a higher life



Courtesy Letisha Dass/Herald

SENIORS WHO TAKE part in the Glen Cove Senior Center's Adult Day Program are now able to gather for in-person activities in the basement of the center.

expectancy for older people who are active.

Patricia Parmelee, 89, who has been a member of the Adult Day Program for about a year now, said she enjoys every part of it. "I always learn, and I always have fun," Parmelee said. "The people here are very outgoing and easy to get to know. I love it. I love all the parts of it, the people that you're here with [and] the kinds of things you get to do."

Parmelee, Raymundo said, is a wealth of knowledge, and is very popular. She enjoys brain challenges and has a skill for art.

Families can enroll in the program by contacting Freeman at afreeman@glencoveny.gov, or (516) 759-2345.

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HERALD NEIGHBORS



Photos by Roni Chastain/Herald
MONICA AND HER daughter, Paisley Bujnowski, 5, enjoyed the library's candle making event.



EVERLY, 5, AND her mother, Kristen Parkton, worked together on making a candle.

Valentine candle making at the library

Children in kindergarten through fifth grade were given a chance to make Valentine's Day candles at the Glen Cove Library on Feb. 9. Curiously Creative Candles, a private candle manufacturer, shared some tips with the children on how to use recyclable materials such as wax to create their own combination of scented candles.

Given a pre-wicked candle, the children were able to create their own designs and have their imagination lead the way to create personalized present. About 22 children and 16 adults participated in the event.



GLEN COVE LIBRARY held a candle making event on Feb. 9, above.

CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN to fifth grade were given a chance to make candles as Valentine's Day gifts at the library.

Suozzi promotes ecofriendly economy

February 17, 2022 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

“All of that increases asthma, increases heart disease, it increases death because of heart attacks.”

The transition to battery-powered electric vehicles is expected to create well-paid union jobs in New York and across the country. A report released in September by the Economic Policy Institute stated that if electric auto sales increase by 50 percent by 2030, if there are major investments in technology, workers and advanced manufacturing capacity, and if policymakers pursue better trade agreements, about 150,000 new jobs could be created. If there is a lack of policy action, however, an estimated 75,000 jobs could be lost.

So-called range anxiety — a driver’s fear of running out of power and not being able to find a station to recharge — has been a common theme in the ongoing public discussion of electric automobiles, because it requires a change in daily habits from refueling to recharging. An increase in charging stations is expected to help bolster manufacturing and sales, make electric vehicles more affordability and make it easier for drivers to switch from their gas-powered cars.

Suozzi and Esposito said the initiative would help reduce range anxiety. “The more charging stations that are available, in places that people see them on a regular basis, the more they’ll feel comfortable getting an electric vehicle,” Suozzi said.

Making the switch

■ Gov. Kathy Hochul signed legislation to ban the sale of new gas-powered vehicles and equipment in New York state by 2035.

■ Congress approved the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill to rebuild and repair the country’s infrastructure and combat climate change.

■ U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi announced in Glen Cove that New York state will receive a total of over \$200 million in federal funding that was included in the infrastructure bill. The money will be used to build electrical charging stations across the state.


“The goal is to have 1 million electrical vehicles by the year 2035,” Esposito said. “That means we have to make electric vehicles affordable, reliable and easily charged, and that is exactly what the federal funding that ... Tom Suozzi has secured will do.”

As technology continues to advance, there is the likelihood that battery charging time can be reduced as well. “Technology is evolving,” Esposito said, “and funding is going to help us do that as well.”



Letisha Dass/Herald

ADRIENNE ESPOSITO, EXECUTIVE director of Citizens Campaign for the Environment, left, said she supported U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi’s plan to direct \$26 million of federal funding to increasing the number of electrical charging stations in New York state.

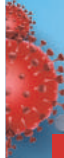


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**CORONA
VIRUS**

GLEN COVE UPDATE:

New infections for the week:

34

Total infections to date:

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GLEN COVE

HERALD

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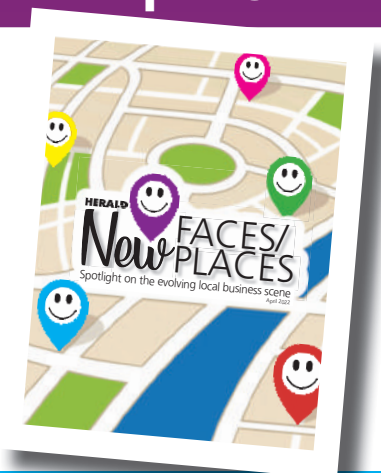
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HERALD Special Section: April 5th

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NEWS BRIEFS



Courtesy Eric McNatt

MEMBERS OF ANTIGONE Rising, Cathy Henderson, left, Nini Camps, and Kristen Ellis-Henderson released their new album "True Joy."

Local band releases new album

Antigone Rising announced the release of their new album "True Joy." The collection features a mix of both live and studio tracks such as "Avalanche," a powerful anthem of female empowerment, "It's Gonna Be Alright (Hey Hey)," an upbeat, swampy ride that inspired the album title, "Right There With You" and "Badlands," co-written with multi-Grammy winning songwriter Lori McKenna.

The band has mentored young females through their nonprofit Girls Rising. Each year Long Island community mem-

bers and fans attend Girls Rising Music Festival where Antigone Rising, along with other nationally known female artists, take the stage with youth performers to promote and inspire female empowerment. In 2019, the festival was held at Morgan Park, Glen Cove.

Antigone Rising's new album "True Joy" is available at their online store www.antigonerising.com. For further information about Girls Rising visit www.girlsrising.org

Remembering the Harlem Hellfighters

The Harlem Hellfighters was an African American combat troop in the 369th Infantry Regiment that spent 191 days in perpetual frontline trench combat and had the highest casualties compared to other American regiments, according to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. At the time, the unit faced great discrimination as they were denied the opportunity to join the farewell parade of the New York's National Guard before being deployed. Many white American soldiers refused to serve with Black soldiers, so they were assigned to the 16th Division of the French army where they proved their valor and were called the "Men of Bronze."

Feb. 17 is Harlem Hellfighters Remembrance Day, but the public event has been

moved to June 18 due to Covid.

Special viewing of "The Wanderers"

Theatre Ariel, Philadelphia's only Jewish theatrical troupe, presents two special virtual performances of Anna Ziegler's acclaimed "The Wanderers," on Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. before it goes to Broadway. The play is 80-minutes long and will be followed by a 20-minute Q&A with the performers. These virtual performances will be available on Zoom.

The play recounts the story of Satmar Hasidic Jews Esther and Schmulik who embark on an arranged marriage despite barely knowing each other. Their story is paralleled with the story of Abe and Sophie, secular Jews whose marriage grew from their childhood friendship. The contrast in marriage learn about human nature, marriage and what we neglect to see as we discover that there is much that binds these two very different couples.

Tickets are \$20 per person, must be reserved at least one day in advance, and can be purchased at <https://www.ctionline.org/cti-theater.html#>. For further information call (516) 676-5080 or visit ctionline.org.

St. Patrick's Day Parade returns

Come and join the fun! After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, Glen Cove's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, sponsored by the Glen Cove Parade Committee, will return on March 20 at 1 p.m. Founded in 1989, the parade takes place each year on the first Sunday after St. Patrick's Day, commemorating the "first sign of spring." The grand marshal of this year's parade will be Gerard "Gerry" Herbert, a native of County Galway, Ireland, and a longtime resident of Glen Cove. There will be an exciting mix of marching groups, including bands of Irish pipers, musicians, vintage cars, costumed performers, and fire and police units.

Parade formations will begin noon at Finley Middle School on Forest Avenue and Dosoris Lane. The parade begins at 1 p.m. and will travel through downtown Glen Cove ending at St. Patrick's Church. Parking will be available at Glen Cove's municipal parking garages and at the end of the parade route. Shuttle buses will run between the parking and formation areas.

The Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade depends on tax-deductible corporate sponsorship and donations to the Glen Cove Parade Committee Inc. All excess funds will be donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. For further information, visit www.glencoveparade.com or call (516) 782-7494.

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

February 17, 2022 – GLEN COVE HERALD

Friday, Feb. 18

Valley Quilters and Knitters

Valley Quilters and Knitters meetings at the Locust Valley Library have moved to Fridays. Bring a project or just come for ideas. Experts may be on hand to help beginners get started as well. Meetings start at 1 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 19

Deep Roots winter market

Offering locally grown produce, eggs, meats and dairy, fresh baked bread and sweets, honey, maple syrup, grab-and-go as well as bake-at-home prepared foods and other locally made goods, the Deep Roots Winter Market will take place on Saturdays through April, at 100 Village Square, on Bridge Street, in Downtown Glen Cove from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

In conversation with Danielle Lindemann

Beginning at 2 p.m. Danielle J. Lindemann will discuss the book, "True Story: What Reality TV Says About Us" with author and publishing consultant, Carol Hoenig. These TV "guilty pleasures" underscore how conservative our society remains, and how steadfastly we cling to our notions about who or what counts as legitimate or "real," according to Hoenig. She will take questions and sign copies of True Story purchased from Theodore's Books. RSVP online at the-odoresbooks.com.

Sunday, Feb. 20

Bereavement Support Group meeting

Join the grief support group at 3 p.m. at the St. Boniface Martyr elementary school, 12 Main Avenue, Sea Cliff. To register, call Dr. David Meagher at (516) 676-0676, extension 131 and leave a message.

Sundays with Shakespeare

Sundays with Shakespeare presented by the Sea Cliff Library continues to meet virtually weekly to discuss one of the Bard's plays for five weeks, Sundays at 5 p.m. Register online at seaclifflibrary.org for the Zoom link.



Courtesy Planting Fields

Camellia Festival at Planting Fields

Join Planting Fields on Feb. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for their Camellia Festival, taking place in the Camellia greenhouse. Enjoy live musical performances as you take in the blooming glory of Camellia sinensis and learn from experts about its unique botanical history, ecological significance and enduring charm. Admission is \$15. RSVP online at plantingfields.org.

Monday, Feb. 21

Fall Prevention Workshop

Taking some simple steps to prevent falls can help you or those you love stay active, confident and independent. This program begins at 1 p.m. and will cover vision, hearing loss, community, safety and more. Register online for this virtual event at bayvillefreelibrary.org.

Tuesday, Feb. 22

Virtual Community Tax Grievance Workshop

This free virtual community tax grievance workshop is one of many being hosted by county legislators and the Nassau County Assessment Review Commission to inform residents about how to challenge their property taxes online. During the virtual workshop, from 7 to 9 p.m., taxpayers who disagree with the assessed value of their property can learn how to navigate the online grievance process and dispute their assessment. There will also be an opportunity to submit via chat any questions to the repre-

sentative from ARC. Questions will be answered after the presentations and/or they will contact you directly. Residents who would like to participate in these workshops should visit www.nassaucountyny.gov/LD11.

Legal tips for home buyers and sellers

Beginning at 5 p.m. via Zoom, attorney Zehava Schechter will discuss the legal aspects of buying or selling a home. Topics discussed will include: the three types of property ownership, houses and condos vs. co-ops, titles, mortgages vs. all cash, surveys and permits. There will be a Q&A after the presentation. Register at bayvillefreelibrary.org for the Zoom link.

Meet authors Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray of "The Personal Librarian"

"The Personal Librarian," co-written by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, is a fictionalized novel about J. P. Morgan's personal librarian, a Black American woman forced to pass as white. Belle da Costa Greene helped J. P. Morgan collect a unique collection of rare manuscripts, paintings,

and other works of artistic and historical significance, and left a lasting legacy that enriched our country. This program is virtual and begins at 2 p.m. on Zoom. Register online at glencovelibrary.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 23

Long-term health care virtual presentation

Even the most well-thought-out strategy may not be enough to prepare you for the unexpected costs associated with long-term care. Learn more about your options for protecting the people and things that mean most to you at this event, presented by the Locust Valley Library and New York Life, beginning at 8 p.m. Register online at locustvalleylibrary.org.

Twigs, tracks and trails: nature detective walk

At 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., learn to identify common animal tracks with or without snow on the ground, how to be a twig detective and more. This walk will take place at Garvies Point Museum and Preserve, 50 Barry Drive,

Glen Cove.

Thursday, Feb. 24

Owl discovery at the library

Owl Discovery with Volunteers for Wildlife, presented by the Glen Cove Library, is a virtual program where families will enjoy meeting their nocturnal neighbors, with Volunteers for Wildlife. This program is being offered in the library's children's room, beginning at 2 p.m. Visit glencovelibrary.org to register.

Seaweed Aquaculture: A New Restorative Economic Industry on Long Island

Friends of the Bay is kicking off its 2022 Speaker Series with an online presentation that will include an explanation of what seaweed aquaculture is and its potential benefits to Long Island's environment and economy. Additionally, the process of growing sugar kelp, its biology, nursery production and harvest will be discussed. Register online at friendsofthebay.org.

HAVING AN EVENT?

Items on the Community Update pages are listed for free. 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 adurkin@iherald.com

5 things to know about your town

- The next Oyster Bay East Norwich Board of Education meeting is scheduled for March. 1 at 7:30 p.m.
- The City of Glen Cove will hold a City Council meeting on Feb. 23, at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall.
- The Locust Valley Board of Education is meeting on March. 8 at 7:30 p.m. for their budget presentation.
- The Oyster Bay Town Board's next meeting will be March 1 at 10 a.m.
- The Sea Cliff Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting on March 7 at 6 p.m.

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HENRYK NOWICKI, VFW commander, left, and Dave Whitting, VFW trustee and liaison to the Phoenix Rising Committee have worked hard to advertise the Feb. 19 fundraiser.



Courtesy GSM Communications

Phoenix committee hosts fundraiser

BY LETISHA DASS
ldass@liherald.com

The James Donohue Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347 building has been in a state of disrepair; leaving the veterans without a home base since the fire in August 2021. Efforts to rebuild have been slow since the insurance company has not been able to completely cover the costs to renovate. Glen Cove community members, Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews, a local voice and speech coach, Jeanine DiMenna, owner of The View Grill, and Noah Stone, a recent Hofstra University graduate, decided to band together and use their birthday on Feb. 19 as a chance to hold a fundraiser to help the post at The View Grill.

"I've always had a soft spot in my heart for our veteran community," Stevenson-Matthews said.

"I recognize, appreciate, and was raised with an appreciation of the sacrifices that they have made and continue to make in preserving and protecting our freedom."

The group has grown since their first meeting on Jan. 31, with Eva Casale, Mike Gadaleta, Dana Glidden, Connie Pinilla, Angelina Stanco-Stone, Mary Stanco, and Mary Suddell joining to form the Phoenix Rising Executive Committee. They have worked to gain sponsors, donations, develop the VFW website, and collaborated on the fundraiser.

"I didn't hesitate for a minute to step up and help. Because in return, the VFW, those gentlemen, are always the first...in our community to respond as well," Suddell, the committee's community outreach liaison, said. "It just meant the world to me to be a part of doing this amazing fundraiser...It doesn't just stop this Saturday. We will continue to put forth our efforts to help them rebuild."

During their first week, the committee was able to raise roughly \$3,000 and has sponsored raffle bas-

kets ready for the fundraiser.

Henryk Norwici, Post 347 commander, said he is grateful for the committee's contribution. "The community is wonderful," Norwici said. "We have local support ... and hopefully this will be a big one because the insurance company is not really giving us enough to rebuild."

Stevenson-Matthews, who comes from a military family, first pitched the idea of turning the group's founding members individual birthday celebrations into a collaborated event for the veterans back in January.

Stone's mother, Stanco-Stone, who is the secretary and community fundraising officer, said her son was eager to have his birthday support the VFW. "I was such a proud mom to know that my son did not even hesitate to join this effort to help the veterans who are extremely important to our community," Stanco-Stone said.

VFW Post 347 building has historical and community significance. After World War I, Glen Cove veterans built the post on Hill Street in 1920, where it continued to stand till this day. It was named after the James E. Donohue, who was the first Glen Cove casualty to return from the war. Descendants of some of these veterans continue to live in Glen Cove. Until last year's fire, the veteran's base was home to Post 347 and the North Shore Soup Kitchen. The committee hopes to help the VFW restore their home.

The "birthday extravaganza" fundraiser will be held at 3 p.m. on Feb. 19 at the View Grill. There will be a birthday celebration, award ceremony, raffles, and a dinner. Tickets will be sold at the door and online, however, space is limited. All proceeds will be donated to VFW Post 347. To buy tickets, donate, or sponsor visit www.vfwpost347.com

THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Decisions revisited

Dear Great Book Guru,
Last weekend, we had friends over for a Valentine's celebration and one of the guests mentioned a book that is part of the "Together We Read" program — unlimited quantities of books available online with your local library card. She didn't know the name of the book being discussed this month. Are you familiar with it?

—Post Valentine Reader

Dear Post Valentine Reader,

"Together We Read" is a great program. The name of the book chosen is "Five Wounds," by Kirstin Valdez Quade. It's a beautifully told story of four generations of the Padilla family living in a small village near Espanola, New Mexico. Their story is told in alternating chapters by three family members: Amadeo, an unemployed 33 year old man about to become a grandfather; Yolanda, his mother who is the family breadwinner

working for a local legislator; and Angel, her pregnant granddaughter, who has just moved in with them.

The five wounds refer to a religious ritual in which a local man is chosen to portray Christ in a procession through the village at Easter time. When the story opens, Amadeo has just discovered he has been chosen, and he immediately sees this as a sign that he should change his ways. At the same time his mother is diagnosed with a terminal illness and a difficult life becomes infinitely more difficult. Throughout, decisions are made that seem only to add chaos to already tumultuous lives, but as our affection for the characters grows, we realize that redemption is always possible. Highly recommended!

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



ANN
DIPIETRO

eLEVate the Conversation

The 100th day

Depending on the day public school started this year, the 100th day of school will be celebrated this month — usually during the lull between St. Valentine's Day and President's Day. The East Meadow School District began classes on September 2, had one snow day and as a result put the 100th day smack dab in the (almost) middle of the month: February 15.

I don't remember ever having this celebration as a student and vaguely remember its celebration for my own youngsters but it is a pretty significant day. It's not quite midyear but a time to acknowledge being 100 days smarter than before and commemorating it with some pretty important math skills and creativity.

For pre-school, pre-K, Kindergarten and first graders there are as many ways to celebrate as there are ways to count. It is an opportunity to bring in 100 tiny items in a bag for tallying the first to last. A time to cross off the "one hundred" on the 100-number chart. A chance for adults and children to put 100 items on a t-shirt. A reason to dress up as if they were 100 years old

(a concept not so impossible to imagine in 2022). In short, it is a day to dance, read books, color images, wear crowns or even receive paper certificates that can bring as much excitement to these young students as their future diplomas.

Sure, adults do a lot of counting: they count down to special occasions, they add up days free of addiction, disease and days that lead to months and years of anniversaries of joy and tragedy. They count and check off "to-dos" recorded on those pesky lists. But if we big kids could get something from this "take stock in the moment experience" it might be to take a count of the little things too, not least of which is our blessings.



LAUREN LEV

A contributing writer to the Herald since 2012, Lauren Lev is an East Meadow resident and a direct marketing/advertising executive who teaches advertising and marketing communications courses at the Fashion Institute of Technology/SUNY, LIU Post and SUNY Old Westbury.

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Attention parents and students: De-stress for spring success

In years past, the onset of spring signaled to students the beginning of the end of the school year. Today, this season has increasingly become one of the most stressful times of the year due to the convergence of extracurricular activities, sports, end-of-year assessments, projects and, for high-school students, college admissions.

Education experts encourage effective time management in order to better prepare for all of the activities and challenges that come along with the final months of the school year. Inside and outside of the classroom, there are many ways that students can manage their workload and create time for stress-reducing activities at home.

Here are some recommended strategies to help your kids achieve academic success.

Spring Cleaning

Organization — both at home and at school — will save students time by eliminating the need to search for homework assignments, books and other items necessary for spring success. Create a "homework zone" that houses study tools and allows students to study without distraction.

Organized kids do better in school than haphazard kids. Help them to set up their planners (written or electronic), to keep their notebooks and backpacks neat and orderly, to break up large assignments into smaller ones so they don't seem overwhelming, to maintain a work space at home that's actually workable and not a disaster area, and to stick to the goals you've

set together.

Also establish or re-establish helpful routines. Give your kids the consistency of fairly regular routines (weekends and holidays can be breaks). Bedtime, wake-up, study, homework, play, family time — kids rely on these routines, and the structure helps them to feel safe, know what's expected of them and be successful.

Spring Tune-up

Stay informed about the end-of-school activities for which your child will be responsible. Encourage students to use planners to create timelines, or place a large calendar with deadlines and test dates in a visible area of the house.

Help your child evaluate the subjects or areas that she finds most challenging. Assigning a priority to homework items according to their level of difficulty will save time by ensuring your child devotes the most energy to the areas that require extra focus and attention.

Maintain Healthy Habits

Healthy kids are better learners. Making sure your children are getting enough sleep, insist on their good eating habits and are involved in regular and aerobic exercise. Exercise is a great way to alleviate stress and stimulate the mind. Taking short exercise breaks between assignments can refresh a student's energy level and renew focus.

Even Take A Break

Compressing study time into one all-nighter may seem like a good way to save time, but the brain is less efficient without taking a break to



rest, and a student's memory can be affected. A better alternative is to ensure your child obtains the recommended amount of sleep by spreading study efforts out over a period of time.

Recommit To Learning

With your children, come up with one or two major goals that they want to accomplish for the remainder of this school year. Raising that algebra grade? Getting homework done on time and turning it in the next day? Organizing a study area at home? Using a planner regularly and

efficiently? Agree on some age-appropriate rewards and consequences.

Commit to a family-centered goal that education is important to all of you, and work together to support, encourage and help each other.

Above photo: Guide your child through the end-of-year school crunch.

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Long Island Republicans back Zeldin for governor

By MALLORY WILSON

mwilson@liherald.com

Republicans — at least those in Nassau County — believe they have a chance to reclaim the governor's mansion this year, and are throwing their support behind U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin to make it happen.

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and other party officials made that endorsement official Feb. 10 at the party's county headquarters in Westbury.

Zeldin, 42, who represents the congressional district that includes his home in Shirley, first stepped into the gubernatorial race last spring when Andrew Cuomo still held the top job. Cuomo resigned last August in the wake of a sexual misconduct scandal.

"We had to nominate somebody that could win," Blakeman said, adding Zeldin has the principles, values, experience, energy and passion to be a great governor. He "appeals to a wide range of residents in New York state ... not just special interests."

Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino served in Albany as an assemblyman with Zeldin, who was a senator. Saladino said he's seen firsthand that Zeldin "protected our families and communities."

"We're here because we want to change the title of Congressman Lee

Zeldin to Governor Lee Zeldin," Saladino said. "At a time when New York state is leading the nation in high taxes and economic loss, [we're] also lagging the nation. Job growth is dismal and economic freedom can't be found. We need new leadership to make the Empire State a trailblazer again."

Local Republicans also like Zeldin's stand against bail reform and efforts to "defund" the police, as well as ongoing coronavirus pandemic restrictions, congestion pricing, and even Gov. Kathy Hochul's single-family zoning proposal intended to allow for more regulated apartments inside homes.

Pam Panzenbeck, mayor of Glen Cove, who is a parent, grandparent and retired teacher, said she is pleased that Zeldin would support parents' rights.

"Some parents may choose to have their children wear masks but others do not," Panzenbeck said. "This is a decision that should be made by parents and guardians, not by Governor Hochul."

If elected, Zeldin would become the state's first Republican governor since George Pataki left office in 2006. Zeldin

originally opened his Smithtown law practice in 2008, which he maintained until he was elected to the State Senate two years later.

Zeldin believes it is important for the state to have "more local control and less Hochul control," and that if elected, "we are not going to waste any time — all Covid mandates end on Day One." Born at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, Zeldin says "there has never been a governor in the state of New York with as many Nassau connections" as him.

Also on his agenda if he takes office, Zeldin wants to remove Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, targeting him for his reported lenient policy on prosecuting certain crimes.

Laura Maier, an Oyster Bay councilwoman, said that as a mother and small business owner she knows that Zeldin is who the state needs.

"Under current state leadership businesses have been slammed with high taxes and workforce shortages," Maier said. "...No one wants to work in New York anymore because of the free hand-

outs and I think we've all seen that."

Maier specifically cited bail reform, workforce shortages and mask mandates as to why she is backing Zeldin.

Zeldin has also championed a platform telling parents they "do not relinquish their right to be in charge of their child's upbringing," especially when it comes to what he describes as quality education without "advancing divisive curriculums in schools," such as critical race theory.

"We should be teaching kids more civics where they are learning about everything that is great about America," Zeldin said, "rather than trying to pit them against each other."

Zeldin is part of a crowded field vying for the Republican nomination, which includes Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, Lewis County Sheriff Mike Carpinelli, Queens businessman Derrick Gibson, and Andrew Giuliani, the son of former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

The winner of that primary could face Hochul on Nov. 8, or one of several other Democrats who have announced bids for the state's top spot, including U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi and New York City public advocate Jumaane Williams.

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CRIME WATCH

Car thieves target online sellers

On Feb. 1, a Glen Cove resident, who posted his vehicle on Facebook Marketplace, received a call at 9 p.m. about showing his vehicle to a prospective buyer at night, stated Glen Cove Police. The owner refused, and it was determined that the buyer was planning to steal the vehicle.

Then, on Feb. 9, a Glen Cove resident, who had previously listed his vehicle on the Facebook Marketplace, received a visit from two males, one wearing a black ski mask and the other a brown and white bandana, at approximately 2 p.m. The men requested to take the car, a 2008 grey four-door Honda Civic, for a test drive. They stole the vehicle and escaped east bound on Elm Ave.

Glen Cove Police are asking anyone with information regarding the theft to contact the department at (516) 676-1002.

When selling a vehicle listed on Facebook Marketplace or a similar platforms, residents are advised to do the following:

- Take precautions with buyers who want to purchase the vehicle without

inspection, appraisals or one that offers a higher counteroffer. Ask the buyer questions and do not show the vehicle if the transaction does not feel right.

- Do not give out your address. When meeting a potential buyer and conducting test drives, use a public place like the police parking lot, arrange a time during the day, and bring a friend or family member.

- Do not give the buyer the vehicle's title until you agree to the sale and payment is made.

- If you are going to allow the buyer to test drive the vehicle, ask to see their driver's license and accompany them. Test drives should be short and through a familiar area.

- Make sure payment is legitimate by asking for a cashier's check or a recognized payment option such as Zelle, Venmo or PayPal.

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

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 amateur interest in videography led to a paid opportunity.

After four days of filming with her iPhone and a drone, she spent two days editing down about 30 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 song and the rhythm of the song," she explained.

Using the drone footage in

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

AVA SOLANGE

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 Armatas of Glen Cove, she decided to shoot and edit a music video. She created a video for Armatas' 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 scenery, 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."

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."

about the high school took the brunt of the storm." The high school had more

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.

Celebrating art and autos

A new school year, more Covid challenges

BY JILL NOSSA

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OBITUARIES

Edward Butt

Edward Butt, 90, of Sea Cliff died on Feb. 3. Beloved husband of the late Barbara F.; loving father of Cynthia O'Connor (Andrew), Laura Braun (Michael), Steven, Jeffrey (Colleen) and the late Edward. Dear brother of Reggie, the late Annie Sarro and Marie. Proud grandfather of 13 and cherished great-grandfather of two. Also survived by extended family members. Visitation and service at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Interment at Memorial Cemetery of St. John's. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to Boy Scouts of America or the American Cancer Society.

Rose M. Stewart

Rose M. Stewart, 56, formerly of Glen Cove died on Nov. 15, 2021. Beloved mother of Kevin; dear sister of John. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Service and interment were private.

Gary Cole Blass

Gary Cole Blass, 66, of Glen Cove died on Feb. 10. Beloved husband of

Anna Marie (Nee Zangari); devoted father of Alexandria Marie and Michael Stefan; cherished son of the late Marvin and Dorothy Blass; loving brother of Robin (Steven) Godby; brother-in-law of Maria (Natale) Lenopoli, Lina (Francesco) Lenopoli, Frank (Angela) Zangari and the late Michael Zangari. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Graveside service at Holy Rood Cemetery.

Bill Antonopoulos

Bill Antonopoulos, 51, of Glen Cove died on Feb. 5. Beloved son of Peter and Jane Arnoldi; dear brother of Karen Montovano (Mike) and Carol; loving uncle of Taylor Riley and Xander Montovano. Antonopoulos enjoyed working at the Glen Cove Golf Course's View Restaurant alongside his father. He was active at the Greek Orthodox Church of The Holy Resurrection where he loved to volunteer at their yearly festival and church pantries. Visitation at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Service at the Greek Orthodox Church of The Holy Resurrection. Interment East Hillside Cemetery.

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

Celebrating a 100th birthday

On Feb. 10, Christina Gunn celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends from the Glen Cove Senior Center where she received cards and a birthday cake. She has lived at the center for more than 20 years, stated Gunn's daughter Betsy Sapio, and she loves it.

"Everybody says she's wonderful... everybody loves her at the center," Sapio

said. "They brought her flowers."

Gunn was born in Scotland and immigrated to the United States on Nov. 22, 1966 moving to Glen Cove with her late husband to raise their two daughters. She was a stay at-home mother.

"She was very loving and very caring when I was growing up," Sapio said.



GSM Communications

CHRISTINE GUNN CELEBRATED her birthday with family and friends.

DEBORAH ORGEL-GORDON, KIM Alfaron and Gracie Donaldson, were at the cash mob event at Artisan Jules Gifts and Goodness.



Courtesy Jo Ann Russo



Courtesy Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton's Office

CHRISTINE RICE, DIRECTOR of the Glen Cove Senior Center, and Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton worked together to have Covid-19 antigen at-home rapid tests delivered to the center.

G.C. Senior center receives at-home tests

To help seniors stay safe during the Omicron surge, Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton delivered Covid-19 antigen at-home rapid tests to the Glen Cove Senior Center on Jan. 28.

"By getting test kits out into the community during the winter surge, I

hope we were able to give residents some peace of mind during a difficult time," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "It is always a pleasure to work with director Christine Rice and her team to meet the needs of the families who are served so well by the Glen Cove Senior Center."

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Part:4

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OPINIONS

Nassau County, is it too late to say I'm sorry?

I think it's finally time for Nassau County and me to kiss and make up.

If you've read my columns over the past few years, you know I'm not particularly fond of the government, the infrastructure or the people out here.

Four years after moving from my native Queens to East Meadow, I wrote a particularly scathing piece that I now wished I hadn't. I want to admit now that I was wrong — or at least not in a position to be so judgmental at the time.



**NICK
BUGLIONE**

The gist of the column was that East Meadow — and Nassau County as a whole — stank. I complained about

everything I could think of, from police to schools to sanitation.

Growing up, I had been sold on the fact that Nassau County was better than Queens, I wrote at the time. The schools were stronger, the services were better and the streets were safer, I had been told. In the column, I whined that that was complete hogwash and, if I had my dru-

thers, I'd move back to Queens.

At the time, I had only lived in East Meadow for a few years. My kids were young. I was making less money. I was grumpier — although my wife, Jill, would say that I'm still pretty grumpy.

No, Nassau County isn't a utopia. But what county is? A decade after moving here, I am counting my blessings.

First off, all four of our kids went to school in-person last year. If we still lived in Queens, they would have mostly learned remotely between September and June. As a teacher at a Queens high school, I see the deleterious effect that extra year of remote learning had on our students. But we largely dodged that in Nassau County.

And our schools aren't just good, they're great. The other day, my 10-year-old, Adriana, was playing her saxophone for my dad. Impressed with her skill, he asked where she was learning to play. "In school," I replied.

I spent 12 years in parochial and public school in Queens, and after all that, I was able to play maybe a few notes on the recorder. I've heard Adriana's elementary

school band perform, and I would put them up against any high school band in Queens any day of the week.

My 15-year-old stepson, Jake, decided this year that he wants to play football. But if we still lived in Queens, there'd be

no guarantee that his school would even have a team. Meanwhile, my 18-year-old stepson, Nicolas, is All-County in cross-country, and will likely be All-County in wrestling, too. That's partly due to the amazing coaching staff and sports programs we have here. If he wrestled on a city team, there's a chance his coach may not have ever wrestled competitively.

Elia, my 8-year-old, is still figuring out what she wants to do. She announced the other day she wanted to try field hockey. I love the fact that I was able to say, "Sure, hon. Whatever you want." I don't think they play field hockey in Queens.

When I wrote that column that I now regret, I intimidated the Nassau County police weren't making the streets any safer here than the New York Police Department was in Queens. Not true. The cops out here do a great job.

About three years ago, I slipped off my stoop and cut my head pretty badly. Jill called 911. I was amazed at how fast we had two officers in my living room. It's very reassuring to know there's always a patrol nearby.

While I escaped my life in Queens relatively unscathed, I was mugged at 11 and jumped and beaten up at 15. And those didn't turn out to be isolated incidents. The high school I went to wasn't the safest, and I had to be very careful where I ventured. I can count on one hand the number of times I ate lunch in the cafeteria. I probably used the restroom once in four years.

Thank God my kids will never have to experience that.

I also wrote that the Town of Hempstead sanitation guys often took their time plowing the streets after a snowstorm. But they did an amazing job of handling that blizzard a couple weeks back.

I'm still not wild about the pizza in these parts, but I'm not above admitting that a lot of what I wrote in that column years ago was unfair. So, Nassau County, here's your metaphorical smooch. I hope you'll forgive me.

Nick Buglione is a teacher, freelance journalist and former editor of the East Meadow Herald.

I had a lot of complaints in a long-ago column, and much of what I wrote was unfair.

A nation divided by pandemic, or splintered?

Early in the coronavirus pandemic, it was easy to write off as stupid the folks who touted hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin as go-to Covid-19 treatments. Easy because the efficacy of those drugs was refuted by the best virologists in the world.



**RANDI
KREISS**

It seemed obvious that people who denied the science of vaccine protection and masking were coming from a place of ignorance. They didn't know better.

As hundreds of thousands got sick and died, and the virus spread, many of us hoped

people would change their minds and take the vaccine — not just for themselves, but also for the common good.

But over these two years, there hasn't been much of a learning curve. The anti-vaxxers stood firm. Many of them got Covid. An unthinkable number died. And still, people refuse to believe the simple scientific fact that vaccines keep people safer.

When thousands of folks who were double-vaccinated and boosted started getting breakthrough cases of the Omi-

cron variant, that only reinforced the resistance among anti-vaxxers.

Over time, some of us liberal-minded opinion writers tried to be less judgmental and more empathic. Maybe we could understand where the doubters were coming from. Many people had justifiable grievances: The rollouts were uneven, or the messaging was sometimes confusing. Fringe groups offered comfort in troubling times.

Many of us engaged in intellectual gymnastics, trying to understand, to be patient and more tolerant of the resistance to vaccines and masks. Maybe we could bring the doubters along in time, we thought.

We were wrong. We are now more than two years in, with more than 900,000 dead. This is what I know: What we are suffering in America today isn't a break, it's a compound fracture. There aren't two opposing groups tugging at one another. It isn't just people who get vaccinated and those who won't. There are multiple splinters in this gaping wound — some sharp, some violent, some groups out for power, and some out for blood.

Some people *are* ignorant: They don't — or can't — read the research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And they have lost faith in our gov-

ernment.

Another splinter is people who are not only ignorant about science, but put their faith in a former president and his acolytes. In their reality, the political super-sedes all other considerations.

MAGA folks think the Biden administration is out to get them. At one point, people were posting notes online urging relatives to go into hospitals and remove their family members who were being treated for Covid. "They are trying to kill us," one post said.

Sadly, many GOP officeholders are willing to traffic in lies to keep power.

Then there is the splinter of smart, highly educated people who are shamelessly harnessing the suspicion among millions of our citizens to their own political ends. They know the vaccines work. They know masking protects against infection. But they challenge the necessary mandates.

Think Ted Cruz, Ron DeSantis, Kellyanne Conway, Ivanka Trump, Jared Kushner, Lindsey Graham and Mitch McConnell. They are among the most reprehensible of the lot because they know better.

Someone like Marjorie Taylor Greene, an anti-masker and a general nut case, is a splinter unto herself. In a recent infa-

What we're suffering in the U.S. today isn't a break, it's a compound fracture.

mous speech, Greene said that Nancy Pelosi was using secret police in Congress, like the "gaspacho." She meant "Gestapo," of course, because she can never resist a Holocaust reference in her crazy accusations. If Donald Trump was and is a cancer in our American culture, then she is his metastasis.

There are also splinters of responsible people who understand and support the coronavirus science, but still have reservations about boosters or inoculating little kids. Many are impatient with the slow progress toward even more targeted vaccines and better therapeutics. We forget that the development of the vaccines was an astonishing medical achievement. Everyone is fatigued after two years of isolation and stress.

These varied splinters unite to one end: to challenge vaccines and protective masks. The resistance crosses social, educational and cultural lines.

The saddest group, I think, is those who are uninformed and vulnerable. They reject the science and the advice of the experts because they are caught in a paralyzing spasm of paranoia and anger. They are being cruelly used by the most heartless group, the super-smart members of the Republican Party who are stepping over dead bodies in a rush toward 2024.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Best approach to unmasking is a cautious one

Follow the science.” That phrase, and variations on it, have become ubiquitous during the coronavirus pandemic. Sadly, those words, summing up evolving medical information, have sparked suspicion among many, leaving them doubting — and even rejecting — the science we should depend on to guide us through the worst public health crisis in a century. Even as it appears to be fading.

As the pandemic spread nearly two years ago, it became apparent that mask wearing would be crucial, amid what we learned was primarily an airborne threat, and given that we all wanted to return to “normal” as soon as possible. Once we understood that we were in for the long haul, we debated the efficacy of face coverings. What type worked best? When and where to don them? At work? At school? At the gym? At family gatherings?

As case numbers rose and fell — and with them the accompanying recommendations and restrictions — our patience ebbed. When vaccines came onto the scene, many of us thought for sure we had seen the end of masks. New variants

changed that, but many people were simply fed up, as we have witnessed at heated school board meetings across the country, willing to cast the scientific consensus aside and join the rallying cry for “freedom” from covered faces.

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman was eager to lead the effort locally, and his clash with Gov. Kathy Hochul’s school mask mandate has wound up in the courts. Meanwhile, as the Omicron variant has waned, other states have begun to loosen mask-wearing restrictions — this time, so many of us hope, for good.

Hochul lifted her mask mandate for public places last week. Masks are still required in hospitals, nursing homes and on public transportation, according to the state, but that has only added to the continuing confusion that is an inevitable product of pandemic fatigue.

Despite growing cries from parents to unmask their children, to say nothing of political pressure — several Republican members of New York’s congressional delegation sent Hochul a letter demanding she end the school mandate — the governor remains steadfast, following what her

office termed “factual public health data.”

She is expected to make a decision on whether to continue requiring masks in schools on March 1.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, President Biden’s chief medical adviser, told the Financial Times that in this phase of the pandemic, “decisions will increasingly be made on a local level rather than centrally decided or mandated.” As masks quickly disappear in our area, we should keep in mind that we live in one of the most crowded corners of the country, and those decisions should be guided by common sense — and, yes, science. Given all we’ve learned about how the virus spreads, and how quickly its statistical trends can change direction, abandoning mask-wearing altogether seems to fly in the face of both.

Another phrase repeated often over the past two years is “with an abundance of caution.”

We caution elected officials to keep the advice of our health experts in mind when making decisions that affect so many lives, especially when it is far from clear that a deadly virus is finished wreaking havoc with them.

LETTERS

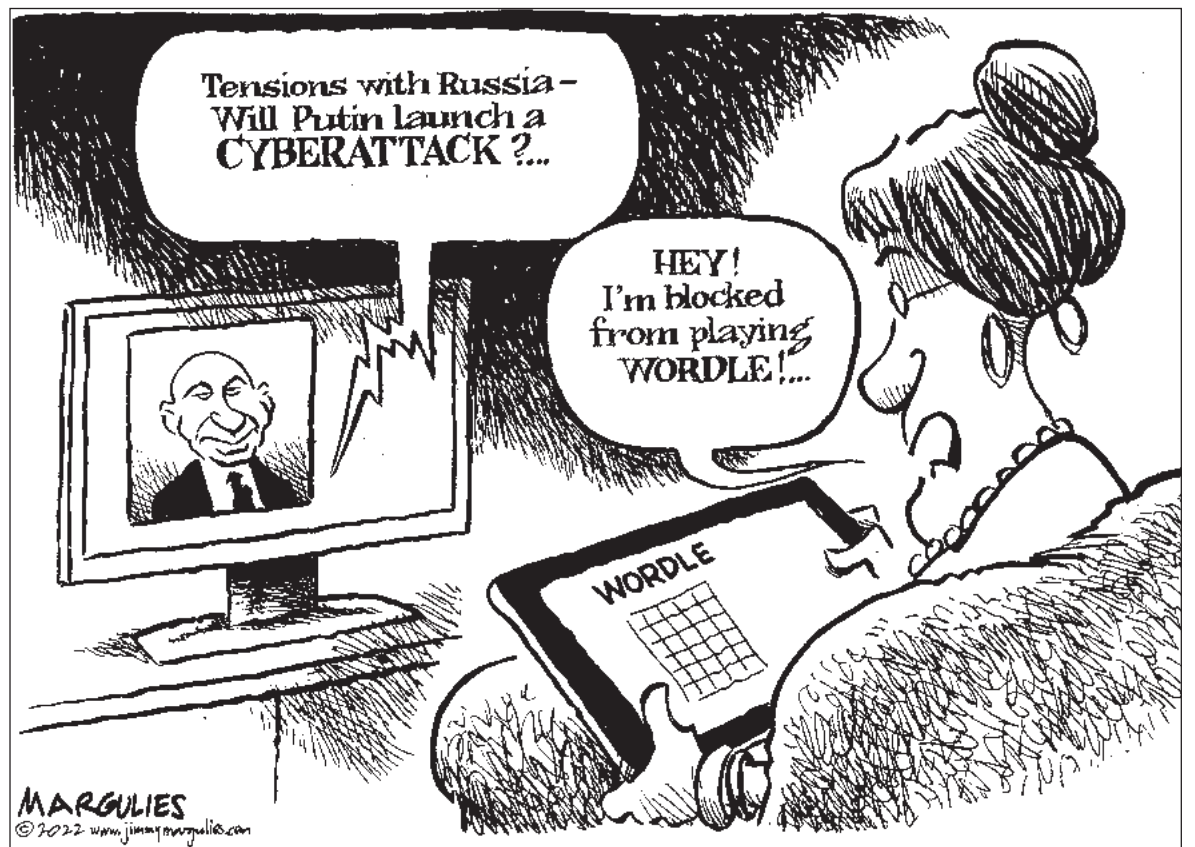
It’s leadership, not propaganda, we need

To the Editor:

It’s 2022, but our government, state and federal, must have read George Orwell’s “Nineteen Eighty-Four.” They have taken on the role of Big Brother, telling us what to do, i.e. masks and vaccinations.

We are inundated by statistics about Covid, but no one talks about the psychological damage done to all the children wearing masks, especially the preschoolers who have not yet developed language skills. Scientists have predicted damage done to our environment by pollution and stress climate control, but can they predict the long-range effects on children of the Covid vaccinations?

We are regarded as a cultured and civilized society, but our elected officials have done a poor job of protecting and upholding our rights. Crime, as well as racial prejudice, is off the charts, and our officials have turned a blind eye and a deaf ear. Shouldn’t they be accountable?



Propaganda is a dangerous weapon, and it’s being used again. Since we are still able to live in a free society, we must speak up. The world looks to the U.S. as a strong, powerful leader. Let’s not be a disappointment.

PAT KING
Merrick

Where’s the outrage?

To the Editor:

In the past two weeks we have laid to rest two heroes of the New York Police Department who were murdered in Harlem. Officers Jason Rivera and Wilbert Mora were gunned down by a crazed

OPINIONS

Farewell, Scott Brinton, my captain

I lost my father six years ago. Of the painful dealings I've faced in my life up until now, nothing has quite compared to that searing loss.

The news of his death had to cross an ocean to reach me. I was in New York. He was in a hospice in Ecuador, battling stomach cancer until his last breath. We never had a proper goodbye.



**JUAN
LASSO**

My father's untimely death has been brought into sharper focus by the departure of another significant man in my life, the Herald Community Newspapers' executive editor, Scott Brinton. After 28 years here, Scott has moved on to his

next adventure, teaching full-time at Hofstra University this spring before beginning a long-term research project.

Scott's hands were full this past year, training and guiding a new crop of young journalists — including me. It's hard to imagine the editorial team without him. He was not only my boss, but also my mentor: I came to the Herald from Columbia University, with a degree in creative writing and political science. With no journalism training, I banked on the

strength of my writing to get my foot in the door.

And Scott took a chance on me, swinging that door wide open. His first order was that I head to the public library for a copy of Carole Rich's dazzlingly comprehensive "Writing and Reporting the News: A Coaching Method." It's a crash course for fledgling journalists on how to report and write the news, and Rich's fierce clarity on the subject hooked me. I absorbed everything I could from the book, but that was only the beginning.

The real work of journalism began as a form of personal transformation: Turning myself into a community reporter in Valley Stream, where I'd never set foot, let alone lived. I did it by talking to people, taking in the scenery, breathing the air, and immersing myself in the issues people care about — and doing it all amid the time crunch of weekly story deadlines.

But before I could become an identifiable — and, I hope, trusted — figure in the community, I was the new kid on the block. It was brutal at first. But while I toiled and sweated, slammed against walls, and had doors slam on me, Scott was always my anchor and guiding compass.

Humane, relaxed and easygoing, he helped me navigate the terrain of a profession he's known most of his adult life. When I faltered or overstepped my bounds, I dusted myself off and got back in the trenches with him. Scott never took

his eyes off the story. The story mattered most. I learned by his example. And things got better.

I'm not, at least not willfully, looking for paternal substitutes in the men around me. But I couldn't help but see the similarities to a father-son relationship in the interactions between Scott and me. I couldn't help thinking of him as approximating — no matter how incidentally or innocuously

— a second father.

In these times, a son rarely has the chance to get lost in his dad's world. And the grimmer fact is that millions of men in America grow up without a father.

The quality of father-son bonding also seems to have depreciated. I'm not talking about the everyday guy-bonding stuff, like sitting with Pops on the couch and watching a game. I'm talking about being at his side in the midst of his work — engaging with all your senses in an endeavor the old man treasures or excels in. Sons need those moments to learn how Dad operates in the arena of life and possibly, hopefully,

discover kernels of insight — no matter how small or imperfect — to help them confidently move about in this chaotic and messy world. Especially when Dad is no longer there. That father-son sharing is a priceless gift.

I wish I could have spent more time with my father. I think many men have the same wish. But he is gone, and the lessons he learned and the mistakes he made that he shared with me remain treasures to me.

There is no second try at fatherhood.

There is also great danger, I suspect, in making father figures out of the more experienced, admired and trusted men around us. We risk getting lost in their shadows, modeling ourselves after them instead of forging our own way.

Scott Brinton leaves behind a towering volume of exceptional work, the product of a passion for community journalism. He has also, like a true teacher and friend, cultivated a team of journalists who are equipped to carry on the good fight: to articulate truth, to serve the communities we cover, and to see the humanity in the stories we have the privilege of telling.

He has been a blessing in my life, and I bid him a fond goodbye and much joy in his next journey.

Farewell, Captain.

Juan Lasso is the editor of the Valley Stream Herald. Comments about this column? Jlasso@liherald.com.

LETTERS

criminal in a situation that the defund-the-police crowd would have wanted to send a social worker into. Six members of the NYPD have been shot so far this year. One was shot execution-style on New Year's Day, while sleeping in his car in East Harlem after working New Year's Eve.

My question to everyone who climbed aboard the defund-the-police bandwagon is, where is the outrage? How can you possibly muster up outrage for the death of George Floyd, where the crime and punishment were handled swiftly through our court system, and turn a blind eye to what is happening to the brave people of law enforcement? To show how high up the Democratic food chain the disrespect goes, President Biden did not attend the funeral for Rivera, even though he had a planned trip to New York City to speak to Mayor Eric Adams about crime.

In my estimation, tough Joe is a coward when it comes to confronting the radical left of his own party. Scores of thou-

sands of people in our country died of fentanyl poisoning last year, from a drug that is made in China and being smuggled through our porous southern border, and no outrage.

Children are being killed by stray bullets in our crime-infested inner cities, and there's no outrage. If you can only muster outrage whenever you can inject race into an equation for political gain, you are the major problem in our great nation. How did that guilt donation to Black Lives Matter work out for you?

To the "woke" who are allowing all this carnage to occur while sitting in your safe, secure house/condo/apartment, I have a message. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, an appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last. If you keep pushing to defund the police and allow district attorneys not to prosecute crimes, that crocodile will be knocking down your door.

TOM O'CONNOR
North Bellmore

FRAMEWORK by Joe Abate



Dashing into the frigid Atlantic, for a good cause — the Long Beach Polar Bear Splash

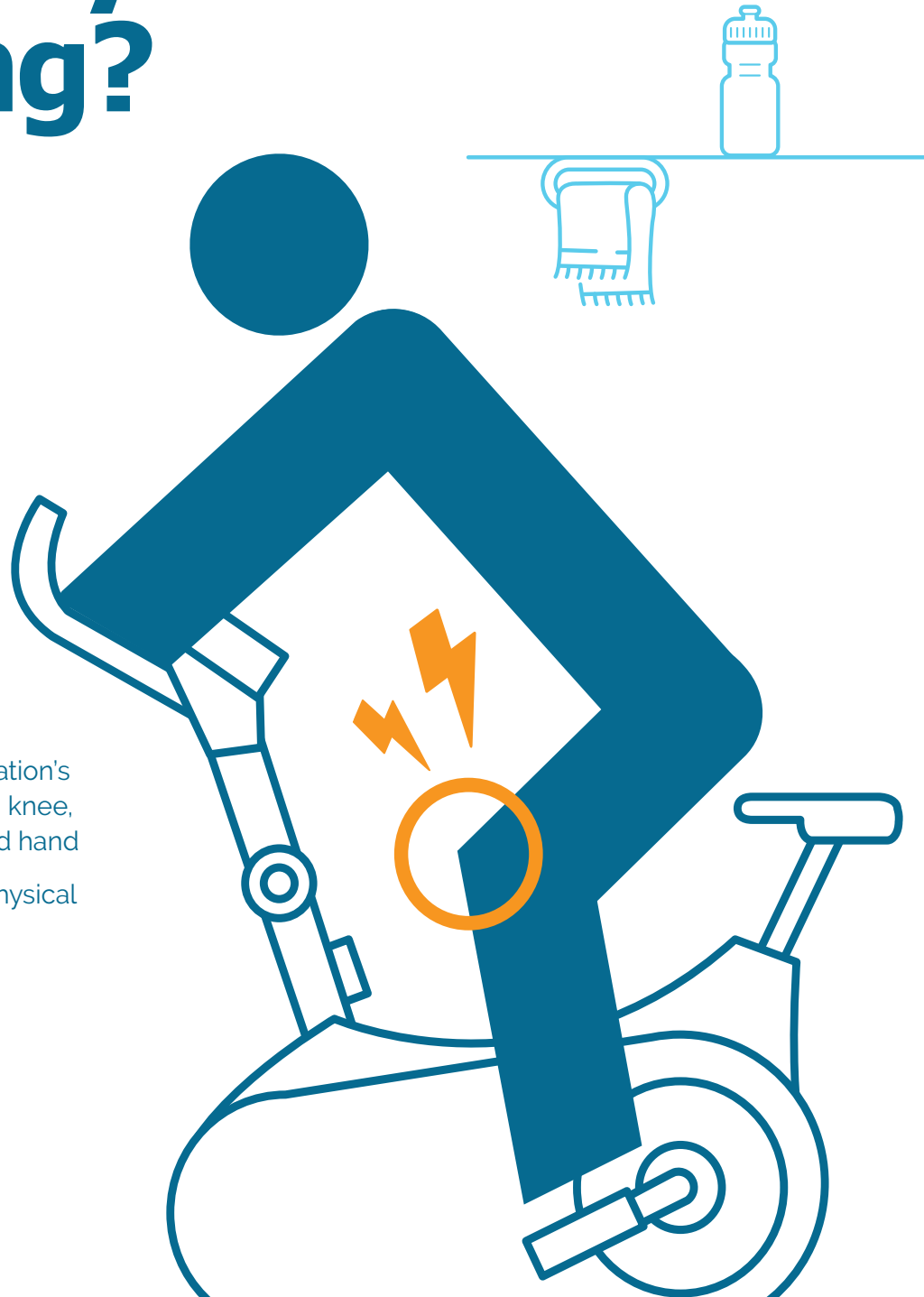
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