

HERALD



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Tab Hauser/Herald

Celebrating birthday No. 246

The sky in Glen Cove was bursting with color during the July Fourth fireworks on Monday. Residents also enjoyed an opportunity to gather at Morgan Park for musical entertainment. More photos, Page 15.

ARPA funding made available to more veterans organizations

By WILL SHEELINE
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A March amendment to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 has finally made veterans organizations like the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars eligible for coronavirus relief funding. Thus far, however, few American Legion posts on Long Island have begun the process of applying for the funds, due in part to a lack of awareness, a lack of trust in the promise by the federal government and, in some cases, a refusal to accept the money.

The original legislation, signed in March of 2021, provided financial aid to small business and nonprofits in the form of grants and loans. But veterans groups did not qualify for funds because they were tax-exempt organizations.

Now that the wording of the bill has been revised, American Legion posts can claim up to \$10,000 in relief funds. Tony Jimenez, a member of American Legion Post 76 in Glen Cove, said he believes that the money will be a boon to many posts, particularly those with meeting halls, which can be costly to maintain.

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Borrowing plan approved by council

By KEPHERD DANIEL
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The Glen Cove City Council voted unanimously on June 28 to approve its 2022 capital borrowing plan totaling nearly \$5 million. The city will be reimbursed roughly \$1.7 million in the form of federal, state and county grants for projects it undertakes.

Glen Cove will issue long-term bonds totaling \$3.28 million and short-term bonds adding up to \$1.67 million — \$4.96 million in all. As part of long-term capital planning, each department presented its requirements for repairing and updating the city's infrastructure — municipal buildings, residential streets, roadways, parks and beaches.

This year, the city also has access to American Rescue Plan Act funds, as a result of

the coronavirus pandemic (see box, Page 5). This will allow it to do a little more without borrowing, including beautification at Glen Cove Creek, a new clubhouse for the Glen Cove Golf Course, and improvements at City Stadium Park and Morgan Park.

It's easy to say all taxes are only going to go up, say 150 bucks on your city tax, but for someone who's on a fixed income, that \$150 (is) two or three weeks' worth of groceries.

KEVIN MACCARONE
Glen Cove city councilman

Councilwoman Marsha Silverman said that while she was happy that the borrowing plan passed, with interest rates rising, she would have liked to get things done sooner. "I'm disappointed that the borrow was delayed," she said. "Last month it was on the agenda and it was tabled. I was against tabling it. We're in a rising-interest-rate environment, and the longer we wait, now, when we borrow money, it's more expensive."

Silverman added that the city needed to borrow money to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Burnett begins new role as Landing's principal

By **KEPHERD DANIEL**

KDANIEL@liherald.com

Jacklyn Burnett began her new job as the Principal of Landing Elementary School on July 1 after being appointed at the district's June 22 board meeting. Burnett, 39, has come a long way from home. Originally from Sacramento, California, where she was born and raised, she attended University of California San Diego for her undergraduate degree. After taking a job in commercial real estate, Burnett realized the field was not for her and returned to school, earning a master's degree in special education.

At the time she earned her master's, Burnett's husband Craig, who also attended UC of San Diego, began his teaching career, earning his first teaching job at Appalachian State University in North Carolina. The couple moved from California and Burnett began her career too in North Carolina, at the middle and high school levels. The couple lived in North Carolina for five years.

"I really got to experience many different school communities, certainly very different from where I had grown up," Burnett said, "and I immediately fell in love with the profession."

From California to North Carolina and now New York, Burnett has done quite a bit of traveling. She wound up in Glen Cove after Craig, looking to further his career as a professor, applied for a job at Hofstra University. When they first arrived in New York, Burnett was homebound, taking care of the couple's six-month-old son. During that time, she was able to quickly adjust to life in Glen Cove.

"I was a stranger to the community," she said. "I'd never been to New York, but I just fell in love. It was inclusive. Even going to the library, people were so friendly and welcoming."

In 2017, Burnett got a job at Finley Middle School in



Courtesy Jacklyn Burnett

JACKLYN BURNETT IS looking forward to working with students and staff.

Glen Cove as a special education teacher, where she worked for four years. At the beginning of the school year Burnett took on the role of secondary instructional technology coach. In this role, she was able to mentor and work with teachers, while still in the classroom. In December, the school's ELA coordinator for the district was transitioning to be a principal at Connolly Elementary School. Burnett went on to be an ELA coordinator for the district.

Her love for being in a school environment led Burnett to apply for the job of principal at Landing Elementary. "What I found was that I missed being with kids, and

being in one building, and really having those relationships with the students and the staff and the parents," she said.

"I think she'll do fabulous," said Superintendent Dr. Maria Rianna about Burnett's new role. "We watched her work, we know what her work ethic is, what her personality is. I think she'll do a great job as she transitions."

During her career, Burnett has learned many lessons that she believes will help her in her new role as principal. "Relationship building is so incredibly important, whether it's a student's, staff, parents or community," she said. "That needs to be the crux of everything that we're doing in school. It's always been something that's been very important to me, and then I'll continue to work on it in this new role."

For Burnett collaboration is a key to success and this includes students in the process as well. "Anytime that we're making decisions, the more people that can get involved, the better the outcomes are for our students," she said. "Our decisions should be student-centered, in everything that we're doing. Things get crazy sometimes but as long as we're focusing on students, you can't go wrong"

With the best interests of students at the forefront, Burnett is happy that she is entering a vibrant atmosphere at Landing. "I'm excited to continue this tradition that is already here," she said. "I want to continue to celebrate those traditions that the school community has grown to love, but continue to find ways to support our kids academically and socially, and emotionally."

Burnett aims to continue a return to normalcy after the Covid pandemic, with the goal of returning to more field trips and supporting hands-on learning in ways that haven't been done before.

"We want to give our students really diverse opportunities," she said.



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HERALD SCHOOLS



MARIANO GODINEZ, LEFT, and Moises Godinez beamed with excitement as they walked to the stage to receive their diploma at the Glen Cove High School Class of 2022 commencement.



AFTER MATHEW COYLE celebrated receiving his diploma he returned to join his classmates.

Glen Cove High School sends off its class of 2022

The Glen Cove School District welcomed friends, family, and loved ones to celebrate Class of 2022 graduates at Glen Cove High School. The evening included speeches and reflections from Teresa Melfi, the valedictorian, Doris Serrano, the salutatorian, honorarian Grace Spoto, and Anna Basil, the class president.

Commencement started with performances from the Glen Cove High School Band and Concert Choir, followed by remarks from Principal Antonio Santana and reflections from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maria Rianna. She encouraged the graduating class to help build a better world by contributing towards change, even if that contribution is simply kindness, and to take comfort in one another.

“When you are scared or need guidance, or just someone to listen to you work it through in your own heart and mind, look around you,” Rianna said. “There are people in your life that will listen, that will provide you the guidance that will remind you of who you truly are, that will never leave you alone even when they are not physically close to you. They are your family.”

In his last address as principal of Glen Cove High School, Santana looked back and shared words of wisdom for the graduating class.

“Over the last seven years, I have grown incredibly attached to our high school community,” he said. “That’s what I have loved most about my time in Glen Cove — it’s that real sense of community and the fact that all of us here, and I mean all of us, have played a crucial role in making today happen. Sometimes I don’t know if we really appreciate just how many people are involved in providing a safe, nurturing and supportive environment for students to grow and flourish.”



VALEDICTORIAN TERESA MELFI, above, addressed the Class of 2022.

CHRISTINA BADAMEM, LEFT, shook hands with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Maria Rianna as she accepted her diploma.

HERALD NEIGHBORS

July 7, 2022 — GLEN COVE HERALD



Bill Kelly/Herald photos

THE TWO INTO one event was much harder than it appeared.

Glen Cove ties for second place in battalion drill

The Glen Cove Volunteer Fire Department Wet Ears tied for second place with the Sea Cliff Fire Department in the Fifth Annual Battalion Parade and Drill on June 18, which was hosted by the Bayville Fire Department, who celebrated its 100th year anniversary. The weather was great, warm with a breeze, which made the event a bit easier for the contestants. Eleven teams competed this year in the drills which test firefighters' strength and skill. And a large crowd was there to show their support for the first responders.



THE EFFICIENCY CONTEST, left, was challenging.

THE RUNNING HOSE event, above, required teamwork.

GLEN COVE
HERALD

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Glen Cove City Council allocates ARPA funds

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

maintain its infrastructure and needed services.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck and Councilwoman Danielle Fugazy Scagliola were also hesitant to table the borrowing plan last month. “The interest rates were rising, and we knew it at the time,” Fugazy Scagliola said.

“Our interest rate is higher now, and instead of using that money for programs, we’re using it for interest, because we delayed.”

Panzenbeck said she had wanted to get the plan done sooner. “We redid it to chop a million dollars to make people more comfortable with it,” she said.

But Councilman Kevin Maccarone supported tabling the plan, saying he believed it would ultimately save taxpayers money.

“We have high interest rates — and we also have to look ahead,” Maccarone said.

“When the economy is bad, our health care expenses go up a lot, and our pension contributions go up. If they go up in a bad market, 5 or 6 percent on a \$6 or \$7 million contribution amounts to a few hundred thousand dollars, and for every few hundred thousand dollars, our expenses go up, and we have to add that to taxpayers’ bills at the end of a year.”

American Rescue Plan Act funding

- Police and fire departments, emergency medical services, and park patrol will receive \$1.77 million, or 36 percent of the funds.
- The Department of Public Works, which includes administration, roads, sanitation and parks, will receive \$1.59 million, or 32 percent.
- The Water Department will receive just over \$1 million, or 21 percent.
- The senior center will receive \$365,530, or 7 percent.
- City services that fall into other categories will receive a total of \$172,525, or 3 percent.
- The Glen Cove Golf Course will receive \$31,000.

Tabling the borrowing plan allowed it to be reduced. “We have a large elderly population, with retired people that are homeowners, living on a fixed income,” Maccarone said. “It’s easy to say all taxes are only going to go up, say 150 buck on your city tax, but for someone who’s on a fixed income, that \$150 (is) two or three weeks’ worth of groceries.”

Fugazy Scagliola said she was happy about the way the funding would be divided. “You have to care about your first responders, your seniors,” she said, “and there are a lot of different, important pieces that have to go into this, and it has to be a balance.”

Fugazy Scagliola also said she was pleased that money was allocated to children’s programs and recreation, but also to the city stadium and golf course. “We’re going to put a substantial amount of money into the golf course, because it needs to be fixed,” she said. “I’m glad that the administration continues to look at it and look for ways to improve it.”

“In my lifetime, I don’t think there have been any major repairs,” Maccarone said of the golf course. “Since Covid, golf has become a much more popular sport. People want to be outside, looking for things to do.”



Herald file photo

THE GLEN COVE City Council presented its 2022 capital borrowing plan on June 28, and passed it that day.

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

July 7, 2022 – GLEN COVE HERALD

Friday, July 8

Jam Sandwich

Stop by Still Partners in Sea Cliff for a live performance by Jam Sandwich from 8 to 11 p.m. Listen to classic rock hits by the Who, the Rolling Stones, the Beatles and more.

Saturday, July 9

Forest therapy walk

Visit Planting Fields Arboretum from 10 a.m. to noon and enjoy the beauty and tranquility of nature. Find calm and relaxation at Planting Fields on the forest therapy walk led by Linda Lombardo, certified forest therapy guide. Linda will lead attendees across the Olmsted Brothers designed landscape and engage walkers in the practice of shinrin-yoku. Tickets are available on the Planting Fields website.

An Afternoon in the Country

Stop by the Locust Valley Library at 2 p.m. for Tennessee Walt's An Afternoon in the Country, a concert/lecture by the talented Gayden Wren. Wren will highlight some of country music's most recognizable legendary artists from the 1930s through the 90s, such as Patsy Cline, Kris Kristofferson, Hank Williams, Charley Pride, and many more. Take the afternoon for some country fun. No registration is required and there is no reserved seating.

Drinks in the Garden

Bailey Arboretum invites members and non-members for their annual Drinks in the Garden event from 4 to 7 p.m. The event will be held on the Bailey Arboretum Terrace and Lawn. Live music will be performed by The Bodega Tallboys, while food will be provided by Pinions Pizza Truck, and for drinks there will be a selection of local craft beer and wine. Interested parties can purchase tickets on the Arboretum's website.

Sunday, July 10

Oyster Bay Market

Visit the Oyster Bay Market on Lower Audrey and in the Municipal Lot near



Herald photo

St. Rocco's Festival coming this weekend

The Oyster Bay Italian Americans Citizens Club will be holding their 2022 St. Rocco's Festival from Thursday, July 7 to Sunday, July 10, located at Fireman's Field near the Oyster Bay LIRR station. The annual four day festival features rides for all ages by Newton Shows, food (including Italian fare along with carnival favorites), skill games and prizes, live entertainment, fireworks on Friday night, and fun for the entire family.

Hive Market & Maker's Space and 20th Century Cycles from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The mission of the Oyster Bay Market is to improve local food security, teach entrepreneurship skills, support local producers, makers and businesses, while enriching the cultural heritage of the community. The market will be held rain or shine. To enquire about guest vendor opportunities, email the organizers at oysterbaymarket@gmail.com.

Monday, July 11

Guess how many

Pop by the Bayville Free Library from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to try and guess how many items are in the Children's Jar of the Week. The winner is the person who guesses the exact amount or comes closest to the actual number without going

over it. Winners will be announced the following week, and will take home either the items in the jar or a special prize. Registration is not required.

Dawn Riley

Head to Theodore's Books in Oyster Bay at 6:30 p.m. for an evening with Hall of Fame Sailor and Executive Director of Oakcliff, Dawn Riley, as she speaks about and signs copies of her memoir, "Taking the Helm: One of America's Top Sailors Tells Her Story." This event is free and open to the public. Registration is appreciated but not required.

Unreasonable seizure and search

Visit the Gold Coast Public Library at 7 p.m. for a hybrid presentation by James Coll. The Constitution's Fourth Amendment protects citizens from unlawful intrusion by the government. Yet how does one determine between reason-

able and unreasonable when simultaneously protecting public safety and ensuring individual liberties? The issue, older than the republic yet complicated by new technology, will be discussed by analyzing Supreme Court cases. Potential attendees are encouraged to indicate whether they will be attending in person or via Zoom when registering on the library website. If attending via Zoom, please register with a valid email address.

Tuesday, July 12

Buzz of the beekeeper

Stop by the Locust Valley Library at 6:30 p.m. and help keep the bees from extinction. Learn about the importance of bees, their daily life, living in a colony,

and much more. This event is great for all ages, and registration is required.

Wednesday, July 13

Greek chicken and tzatziki sauce

Come down to the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library for an in person cooking lesson with chef Rob Dell'Amore at 7 p.m. Learn how to make a healthy and tasty Greek chicken with homemade tzatziki sauce.

Thursday, July 14

Virtual author visit

Join the Gold Coast Public Library on Zoom as they sit down in conversation with New York Times Best Selling author David Allen at noon to discuss his New York Times bestselling book, "Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity," and the "GTD" methodology it describes has become a global phenomenon, being taught by training companies in more than ninety countries.

Mosaic sharks and mermaids

Visit the Glen Cove Public Library from 7 to 8 p.m. and join local art studio ClayNation to create an ocean-inspired mosaic project. Participants grades six and up will paint and tile either a mermaid or shark.

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 wsheeline@liherald.com

5 things to know about your town

- The Village of Sea Cliff will hold Board meeting on July 11 at 7 p.m.
- The Town of Oyster Bay will hold a Board meeting on July 12 at 10 a.m.
- The Village of Bayville will hold a Planning Board meeting on July 12 at 7:30 p.m.
- The City of Glen Cove will hold a Pre-Council meeting on July 19 at 6:30 p.m.
- The Town of Oyster Bay Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a meeting on July 21 at 7 p.m.

North Shore Water Authority holds second meeting

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@herald.com

The North Shore Water Authority held its second meeting on June 29, where they discussed the slow but steady progress they have been making in the municipalization of the Sea Cliff water district. Although they have not made any major leaps forward, such as hiring any personnel or receiving any of their promised governmental funding, they assured attendees that they are still in the early days.

The meeting was held at the Sea Cliff Village Hall, as the NSWA members had previously agreed to hold each meeting in a different village, so as to decentralize authority amongst themselves and provide each municipality the opportunity to play host to the others. However, residents from the various concerned villages pointed out that this made it difficult for other interested citizens to figure out where the meeting was being held, and the NSWA agreed to hold their meetings at the Gold Coast Public Library for the immediate future to improve convenience and ease of access.

The most important news that was announced was that the NSWA is currently waiting on \$1 million in state funding. Although at least one resident who was at the meeting expressed frustration that the money was seemingly bogged down in governmental red tape, Sea Cliff representative James Versocki explained then, and again in a later interview, that while progress



Will Sheeline/Herald

THE NORTH SHORE Water Authority held its second meeting at Sea Cliff Village Hall to share their progress and answer questions from the community.

may seem slow, the NSWA is still a nascent organization which needs to make sure everything is done by the books, rather than rush to accomplish everything before they're ready.

"We're still only around 45 days old at this point, and we've already registered with the state and the budget authority's office," Versocki stated in an interview with the Herald. "We're not 'caught up in red tape.' I'd say we're just methodically doing everything correctly, and I'm confident we'll get the funds soon."

The lack of funds has also meant they cannot yet begin interviewing potential employees, including a chief executive officer. They pointed out at the meeting that to

try and negotiate contracts was impossible at this time, as they cannot provide salary estimates or even a start date for any of the positions yet.

Glen Head representative George Pombar, whose turn it was to serve as the NSWA's acting chairman for the meeting, explained that he had already opened a bank account for the water authority, which contradicted the minutes of their last meeting, in which they had agreed not to open a bank account until the state funding had arrived.

While Pombar admitted in a later interview that opening the bank account had been subsequently closed following the meeting, he emphasized that the decision

had come from wanting to begin the process as soon as possible, and to not give Liberty Utilities any reason to claim negligence on behalf of the nascent organization.

"We decided to close the bank account as we felt that it might be at this point premature," Pombar said. "We do not want to give Liberty the opportunity, any window of opportunity, to back out of the deal."

Agatha Nadel, one of the founders of the North Shore Concerned Citizens and someone who has been involved in the fight against Liberty Utilities/New York American Water, expressed concern to the authority members that Liberty would soon be able to hike their water bills again. She was especially worried by the fact that the price hikes could be raised even above previous levels, as a way to punish the citizens for attempting to take control over their water district.

"When this period where Liberty agreed to not raise the rates ends, they're going to stick it to us, I guarantee you," Nadel asserted. "They're going to pad those rates. So their needs to be a sense of urgency, and I for one am sick of paying this bill."

Versocki explained that although it appeared progress was slow they were doing everything they could to make sure the process was as productive and above-board as possible. In the meantime, residents will have to wait until the next meeting, on July 18 at 7 p.m., to find out any further developments in the ongoing project.

GLEN COVE HERALD - July 7, 2022

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Academy graduates officers ready to serve, protect

By **KARINA KOVAC**

kkovac@liherald.com

Schools aren't the only places holding graduations. Nearly 60 police academy recruits walked across their own stage last week after completing an intensive seven-month training to join the Nassau County Police Department.

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and police commissioner Patrick Ryder congratulated the new officers, handing each of them certificates last week at the new Center for Training and Intelligence in Garden City.

Most of the graduates are now members of the Nassau County Police Department. While the rest are headed to Hempstead, Freeport, SUNY Farmingdale, SUNY Stony Brook, Long Beach and the sheriff's departments. Joining the police recruits were two police medics finishing up training.

Shelby Saroka is headed for the Long Beach Police Department — serving and protecting a community she grew up in.

"I'm excited to get out there and make a difference," she said.

"And as far as (being) worried, I don't want to see terrible things that's happening in my community, so I suppose that my fear (is) to see something bad happen."

Compassion and integrity are the rules Saroka will operate under with her police badge pinned to her chest.

"I'm happy to be getting out of here,"



Karina Kovac/Herald

NASSAU COUNTY POLICE Commissioner Patrick Ryder and County Executive Bruce Blakeman stand for the pledge during last week's graduation ceremony of nearly 60 recruits.

she said. "It was a good experience, but I'm ready to move on."

Daniel Watters looked up to his grandfather since he was a kid. But it wasn't until later in life Watters began his journey following in his grandfather's footsteps to become a police officer.

"It's been my dream since I was young," he said.

Detouring from that path briefly, Watters spent six years serving the country, including a tour in Afghanistan, giving him a little bit of a leg-up on training

since it was "similar" by comparison to his military days.

Now Watters will join the Hempstead Police Department. Unlike his specialized days in a different uniform, Watters expects to wear many hats as a police officer.

"You kind of got a job to do and get it done," Watters said of the military. "Here, you have multiple jobs to do."

And you have to do it while keeping any situation from getting heated. Part of the training focused on how to talk slowly

and calmly to the everyday people officers encounter.

"We ask you as a police officer to be a lawyer," Ryder told the graduates. They also have to understand Miranda rights, so-called "Terry stopping" — briefly detaining someone they have suspicion committed a crime — and also a number of the legal protections afforded to everyone in the Bill of Rights.

"You're asked to be a doctor. You use CPR, first-aid, a defibrillator, to administer Narcan — and yes, you deliver babies," Murphy said. "We ask you to be a firefighter — you rescue people from burning buildings and cars because you truly are a first responder on the scene. We asked you to be a crime scene expert, you preserve the scene so our victims can get closure."

Closures like the one that has led to an indictment of convicted serial killer Richard Cottingham — the so-called "Torso Killer" — that had been announced that same morning in connection with a 1968 killing in Valley Stream.

"You're actually a family counselor, responding to domestics," Ryder said. "You act as a social worker. You're a mediator. You're a pharmacist, (and) it isn't all about opiates, heroin pills, cocaine, meth and the deadly fentanyl. You're asked to be a school safety expert. You know how to be a protector."

"You have been trained for events like Columbine (and) Parkland, but we pray to God we never see those things here."

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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.

She shot and edited a music video for local songwriter Chris Armata's song "Gratitude" while vacationing in Southern California, assisting 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."

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 parts of the video, she

I 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 Armata of Oyster Bay, she

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

A new school year, more Covid challenges

BY JILL NOSSA

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Will Sheeline/Herald

THE GLEN COVE Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347 was damaged in a fire last August, and has applied to receive money from the updated American Rescue Plan Act.

Few vets organizations have received funding

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"We want veterans' halls to be in place, you know, as a gathering place and a show-off place," Jimenez said. "These are brick-and-mortar symbols of our veterans, so it brings more notice to the veterans on a daily basis, instead of a couple of times a year on Veterans' Day and Memorial Day."

But according to Ralph Casey, third division vice commander of the Nassau County American Legion and a member of Glenwood Landing Post 336, few legion posts have been successful in claiming any funds from ARPA. Casey said he had spoken to three local post commanders who told him they had applied for the funds, including members of American Legion Quentin Roosevelt Post 4 in Oyster Bay and of Glen Cove Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347.

So far, Casey said, none had received any money, and numerous posts, including those on the North Shore, are still going through the process. According to Casey, the Glen Cove VFW's application was rejected despite the fact that its building was damaged in a fire less than a year ago, and the group can't afford to rebuild it, despite that fact that it has held several fundraisers, including one hosted by U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi.

"The VFW in Glen Cove — if you recall, it burned down, so they got a lot of donations to help rebuild it, and the government basically said, 'Well, you have all this money, you don't qualify for a loan,'" Casey said. "They're just looking at the books, and so of all the posts that have applied for this that I've talked to, not one has gotten any money. I think the whole thing stinks."

Ralph Esposito, a veteran and the director of Nassau County's Veterans Service Agency, which is in charge of distributing the funds, claimed that thus far, of the 13 posts that have applied, none have been rejected. Furthermore, Esposito said, the

VSA has done everything it can to make the application process as smooth and straightforward as possible, and has met with numerous commanders from various posts to make them aware of it.

"We mailed every organization a copy of the Nassau County Veterans Support Grant, and everything is on there that they need to apply," Esposito said. "We're doing everything we can to get it for them, because, really, it's their money. They just need to come take it."

Nonetheless, several post commanders and members contacted by the Herald said they had not even heard that the ARPA money existed, while others, such as Vincent Libertini, commander of Bayville's American Legion Robert H. Spittel Post 1285, had only found out recently.

Libertini said he had read about it in a newspaper, and that no government officials had contacted the post. So it had yet to apply, and members agreed at a meeting on June 21 to do more research before they began the process.

"Mostly we don't know anything about this," Libertini said. "Nothing was mailed to us — we only really know about it from reading the paper, and from a contact I have from another post."

Butt said he thought it was worth going through the application process to try to get the money. The Oyster Bay Legion applied roughly four weeks ago, and, he said, considering how financially damaging the pandemic was for many posts, if the funds are available, they will be a huge boon for them and others on Long Island.

"We haven't been able to have any fundraisers in the last few years because we weren't able to do anything during the pandemic," Butt said. "Covid hit us pretty hard — we basically took a loss every year. So, you know, this would really be a huge help to us, and at this point we'll take anything we can get."

This would really be a huge help to us, and at this point we'll take anything we can get.

REGINALD BUTT
commander,
American Legion

CRIME WATCH

Arrests

■ On June 21, a 25 year old Glen Cove male was arrested for Criminal Possession Controlled Substance 3rd Degree, Criminal Possession Narcotic Drug 4th Degree and Grandy Larceny 4th Degree on Robinson Avenue.

■ On June 22, a 47 year old Hempstead female was arrested for Criminal Contempt 2nd Degree on Glen Street.

■ On June 23, a 37 year old Glen Cove female was arrested for Criminal Possession Stolen Property 5th Degree and Petit Larceny on Victoria Lane.

■ On June 24, a 56 year old Glen Cove male was arrested for Criminal Mischief 4th Degree and Harassment 2nd Degree on Stephen Oval.

People named in Crime Watch items as having been arrested and charged with violations or crimes are only suspected of committing those acts of which they are accused. They are all presumed to be innocent of those charges until and unless found guilty in a court of law.



1-800-244-TIPS

**Nassau County
Crime Stoppers**

The public is asked to call Crime Stoppers if they have any information about any crimes.



Bags give back to North Shore Land Alliance

North Shore Land Alliance has been selected by local Stop & Shop store leadership as the benefiting non-profit in the Stop & Shop Community Bag for July. The program is an easy way for shoppers to give back to the local community and the environment during their regular shopping routine. For every reusable community bag purchased for \$2.50 at Stop & Shop in Glen Cove, a \$1 donation will be sent to North Shore Land Alliance.

"It's more important than ever to help reduce single-use plastic in the

environment," said Lisa Ott, president of North Shore Land Alliance. "Non-profits at the local level, like us, need community support. This program offers the perfect solution to multiple issues in the world today."

The Land Alliance is a non-profit based in Oyster Bay, N.Y. Founded in 2003, it works to protect and preserve in perpetuity the green spaces, farmlands, wetlands, groundwater, and historical sites of Long Island's North Shore to enhance the quality of life and to benefit future generations.

Phone scam hits Glen Cove, police say

The Glen Cove Police are reporting a telephone scam targeting the Glen Cove community. The scammers claim to be from the State Department and inform the victim that they owe the department money and that if they do not pay the amount of money requested, the victim will be arrested.

"If you receive this type of phone call or any call that requests money or bank account information do not disclose any personal information to the caller," Detective Lieutenant John Nagle said. "Hang up the phone and contact the Glen Cove Police Department. These

scammers can be very convincing, and their scams can be very elaborate."

The scammers trick victims by impersonating Glen Cove Police Chief William Whitton and claiming they are speaking to actual agents of the State Department. They then ask for payment and bank account information, which is a telltale sign of an attempted scam. Last year a similar scam resulted in a Glen Cove resident losing a significant amount of money because he believed he was speaking to actual State Department agents as well as Whitton.

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Gas prices are high, so why not stay?

Shopping local helps neighbors who may need it

By **KARINA KOVAC**
kkovac@liherald.com

Kitty O'Hara's. Glorybeez of Baldwin. Raagini. The Irish Pub. Painting with a Twist. And that's just in one community, all waiting for customers near and far to walk in and keep their dollars local.

In fact, that's exactly what the Long Island Main Street Alliance hopes neighbors will do this summer, and have joined forces with the Nassau County Chamber of Commerce, Vision Long Island, and other surrounding chambers of Commerce to promote "stay-cations" this summer. And their first stop? Kitty O'Hara's.

You shop local, and you're helping your neighbors.

ERIK MAHLER
Former President,
Baldwin
Chamber of
Commerce

"Today marks the beginning of chambers working together to bring that information to the masses."

In fact, each of the chambers rely on each other to push through the lingering effects of would-be customers staying home and spending their dollars far away through online ordering houses like Amazon.

"Hyper-hyperlocal sharing of events on our websites, social media and local publications ... both in print and online, that will evolve over time into something great," Camarano said. "We learned, the hard way, that if we as a group don't spear this initiative, who will? Besides, who better to do so than chambers anyway? Let's all support our communities, while having a lot of fun in the process. Shop and play local."

Eric Alexander, Vision Long Island's director, shared how businesses during the coronavirus pandemic relied on by locals now need the favor returned. The seemingly post-Covid world includes high gas prices, supply chain issues, inflation, and worker shortages.

"Those have been the challenges to small business, not the lack of consumers," Alexander said. "So what I'm saying is double down on really supporting these guys — if you want to see them there."

Especially important is supporting fairs and gatherings, such as the annual Grand Baldwin Festival that takes place Oct. 1 at the Baldwin Public Library parking lot.

"You don't need to leave Long Island" for the summer, Alexander said. "You can stay here and do any number of things. And, really, they're more reasonably priced too."

You're saving a job — maybe a life — by supporting local business, said Erik Mahler, past president of the Baldwin Chamber of Commerce.

"It's easy to click and order online, yet you're help-

ing someone out in Ohio or a foreign state," he said. "You shop local, and you're helping your neighbors. Those are the bartenders, the bosses, the grocery store stock people. Those are the individuals that all live on Long Island and support the local community."

"Between Nassau and Suffolk, our communities have so much to offer, and yet if folks are looking for something to do locally, where would they start?" asked Frank Camarano, president of the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce.



Karina Kovac/Herald

VISION LONG ISLAND director Eric Alexander talked last week outside Kitty O'Hara's about the importance of 'stay-cationing,' and supporting local businesses.



Courtesy Lisa Dellipizzi

LISA DELLIPIZZI, PRESIDENT of the Franklin Square Chamber of Commerce, left, joined former Baldwin Chamber of Commerce president Erik Mahler, Freeport Chamber of Commerce past president Lois Howes, and Eric Alexander, director of Vision Long Island, enjoying some time at Kitty O'Hara's in Baldwin.

"We're not back to where we were, but we're bouncing back," said Shay Leavy, the establishment's manager. "Some people, I think, got used to staying at home, and we don't see them as often as we used to."

And even for those still uneasy about going out with fear of getting the virus, many businesses have an answer. Including Kitty O'Hara's.

"We we're lucky we had the outdoor patio," Leavy said. "That helped us quite a lot."

"We we're lucky we had the outdoor patio," Leavy said. "That helped us quite a lot."

Stay busy this summer

Looking for something to do in the coming months, and don't want to break the bank paying for gas to get there?

Vision Long Island and local chambers of commerce believe there might be something here for you:

- St. Christopher's Feast, Baldwin, July 21-24
- Grand Baldwin Festival, Baldwin, Oct. 1
- Family Street Festival, Bellmore, Sept. 22-25
- Summer Concert Series, Village of Cedarhurst, July 5-Aug. 30
- Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival, East Meadow, Sept. 15-18
- Car Show Mondays, Village of East Rockaway, July 11-29
- Chamber of Commerce Fall Fair, Franklin Square, Oct. 15
- Children's Bicycle Parade, Glen Cove, July 4
- Downtown Sounds, Glen Cove, July 1- Aug. 22
- Summer Events lineup, Village of Island Park, July 3-Aug. 24
- Arts in the Plaza, Long Beach, every Saturday through Oct. 29
- Lynbrook Titans Carnival, Village of Lynbrook, July 7-10
- Summer Concert Series, Malverne, July 17- Sept. 2
- Chamber of Commerce Street Food Sunday Marketplace, Merrick, all summer
- St. Rocco Festival, Oyster Bay, July 7-10
- Chamber of Commerce Farmers Market, Village of Rockville Centre, every Sunday,
- Seaford Saturday Nights Summer Kickoff Party, Seaford, June 25
- Summer Concert Series, Village of Valley Stream, June 13-Sept. 9

NICE program provides 70,000 free rides

By **ROBERT TRAVERSO**

rtraverso@liherald.com

An annual program run by the NICE Bus will provide low- and moderate-income riders a free trip. Inside Nassau County, of course.

“Everyone Rides NICE” works by the Nassau Inter-County Express purchasing MetroCards and distributing them to more than 20 social service agencies in Nassau County through the United Way of Long Island.

“Every day, riders are depending on a NICE bus to get to and from work, keep an important medical appointment, attend school or vocational training, or shop for their family’s necessities,” said Theresa Regnante, president and chief executive of United Way of Long Island, at a June 29 press conference.

The program’s goal is to provide economically disadvantaged families the help they need to get around, taking at least one major cost off their plate — transportation.

Transdev, the transit company’s parent, created Everyone Rides NICE in 2015. Since its inception, the program has provided more than \$850,000 worth of free MetroCards to participating agencies across the county, according to officials, serving some 2,500 people each year.

MetroCards distributed this year provides two free trips anywhere within Nassau. More than 35,000 cards will be delivered through two-dozen social service agencies partnered with United Way.

“It is critically important to provide these bus passes for essential transportation to least advantaged individuals and families to ensure that everyone has equal access to our vital public transportation during these challenging times,” Regnante said.

Jack Khzouz, NICE’s chief executive, said the program’s goal is to enrich people’s lives by providing the free



Courtesy of NICE Bus

JACK KHZOUZ, RIGHT — chief executive of NICE Bus, unveiled this year’s plan for his Everyone Rides NICE program, which provides free rides for families struggling economically.

GLEN COVE HERALD — July 7, 2022

rides. It’s among a number of outreach programs including multiple charity events each year, to tackle a variety of social and economic issues affecting the county.

“We consider it foundational to our mission,” said Khzouz, stressing that while there is a high demand for transportation assistance from those living in Nassau, the company’s overarching mission is to serve all of the county’s communities.

“How we engage with our communities, understand the needs of the communities, is how we provide service,” he added.

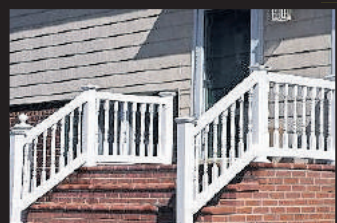
Everyone Rides NICE program is even more important now during the current fuel crises that has spiked gasoline prices amidst growing inflation.

“With the additional pressures that households have with these rising prices, we find that families and individuals who may not have needed this assistance in the past find themselves in a situation transportation costs become too much to bear in their overall budget,” Khzouz said.

Now they will have a little more help managing myriad day-to-day affairs, such as working multiple jobs and getting their kids to schools. The program seeks to help Nassau’s most vulnerable, who may need transportation assistance for physical and mental health care, or to food pantries and substance abuse clinics.

“Anything that affects our communities can be accessed using this tool,” Khzouz said.

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THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Railroaded!

Dear Great Book Guru,
Last Thursday I attended my first Sunset Serenade of 2022 and it was fabulous! Larry Martone and Friends performed at Clifton Park to a large, enthusiastic audience. The originator of Sunset Serenades, Petrice Kaider, was there and received a rousing round of applause. Afterwards, I met with some friends who want to revive our book/film discussion group we had begun during the Covid lockdown. Do you have a suggestion where we could begin?
—Sunset Serenade Swooner



**ANN
DIPIETRO**

Dear Sunset Serenade Swooner,
A favorite book/film combination of mine is "Strangers on a Train" by Patricia Highsmith and the film by Alfred Hitchcock, a real star duo.

Charles Anthony Bruno and Guy Haines are passengers on a train —strangers who have never met. It quickly becomes apparent that Bruno knows a great deal about Haines. They

engage in a game of sorts — who in their lives do they most hate? Bruno is seething with rage over his wealthy father's slights and Haines is in a bitter divorce from his wife Miriam whom he despises. Before the train reaches the station, Bruno has offered a solution to their problems — a double murder, apparently without motive and hence beyond suspicion. The movie follows the novel very closely with some changes to conform to the 1950's censorship codes, but the basic themes of obsession, double-play and nature versus nurture appear in both. A wonderful series of combinations — film and book, Bruno and Haines, censored and uncensored — offers much to see and discuss. Highly recommended!

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

Country music featured at Downtown Sounds

Country music will be front and center when The Rustlers perform at the 2022 Downtown Sounds Concert Series at the Glen Cove Village Square Plaza on July 8 at 7:30 p.m. This country music tribute band presents a high-energy blend of classic and contemporary country music such that regardless of whether you loved country when it was or wasn't cool, it's a sure thing that you'll enjoy this show.

With a sass and energy that shines through in her fringe-swingin' performances, Rustler Ami Jane is a New York City girl who is completely country at heart. She has performed locally and nationally in high-profile venues including Radio City Music Hall and Opry City Stage on Broadway. Rustler John Genua has played acoustic/electric guitar and provided vocals for a variety of projects at outdoor venues, private clubs, fairs and festivals. He has also performed on Opry

City Stage in addition to being a featured solo artist on American Cruise Lines during their fall season. Rustler Joe DeMott isn't from Nashville, but he might as well be. This Long Islander's passion for country music spans more than four decades and includes earning a bachelor's in music from Queens College. During his onstage career, DeMott has performed as a bassist, guitarist and singer with many of the area's top bands, playing heartfelt interpretations of country, rock-a-billy, blues, oldies and classic rock favorites.

The Rustlers bring an exciting onstage presence which complements their high-energy performance. Simply stated, this group is a must-see band when the schedule calls for live country and rock n' roll music, so don't miss your opportunity to see them perform live at Downtown Sounds 2022.



Courtesy Karla Esqueche

OYSTER BAY UNITED FC president and owner Mark Colacioppo, right, presented a check to Glen Cove Junior Soccer League's Zoe Schwam and Marty Shannon.

OBUFC ends successful season on, off the pitch

From the outset, the Oyster Bay United FC has maintained two goals: fielding a highly talented team that competes for trophies every season and equally as important, creating a family-friendly platform to support, motivate and help grow local youth soccer on Long Island.

While the team's climb to the top on the pitch fell just short in their final game, as they lost in the UPSL American Premier Division Final 3-1 to Queensboro FC, judging by the fan turn out for a road game at Aviator Center in Brooklyn, the presence of OBUFC gear represented on social media and at youth tournaments throughout the country, by any measure the team's commitment to helping grow local soccer is off to a smashing start.

While the road to the final was magical, OBUFC's stellar play was only outshined by the \$15,000 contributions made to three local soccer clubs over recent weeks. At the final regular season match on June 11, club owner and president Mark Colacioppo along with players Milorad Sobot and Kevin Shannon presented \$5,000 checks to both Oyster Bay-East Norwich Youth Soccer Club and the Glen Cove Junior Soccer League. The team continued the generosity at their June 18 match by giving another \$5,000 check to the Ronkonkoma Real FC's U17 squad, which is currently ranked second in the entire nation.

During one of the half time check presentations, Colacioppo spoke to the crowd, which included representatives from the OBEN and Glen Cove programs about his team's desire to help grow youth soccer on Long Island. He discussed how he hoped having OBUFC play quality competition in front of local fans along with the relationships being made with local clubs which has included players helping train youth players could help positively impact the growth of the game

on Long Island and get more kids involved in the sport. Lastly, he noted that this is only the start of what he hopes to be even greater involvement with even more local clubs in the future.

If you've never been to an OBUFC game, you owe it to yourself to come out for the fall season starting in September. The club FC has established a reputation for providing an enjoyable, family-friendly fan experience with high quality soccer, as well as free t-shirts and pizza (37 pies last match to be exact!) for all supporters. At halftime, dozens of kids take to the pitch to kick balls around. Post-match the kids can take photos and get autographs from players.

As of June 25, UPSL American Premier Conference Final, OBUFC dug themselves an early 2-0 hole but fought back to within one before the half on a beautiful long ball from Matt Lynch to Sebastian Ruiz who deftly chipped it over the charging Queensboro goalie to make it 2-1. Unfortunately, the second half brought another early Queensboro goal to make it 3-1. Undeterred, OBUFC continued to battle in a feisty match and even had two goals disallowed by questionable calls that upon further review should have counted and allowed OBUFC to equalize. But it was not to be. It is perhaps worth nothing that Queensboro FC were originally slated to be in the USL Championship League, two tiers above the UPSL in the U.S. soccer pyramid making OBUFC's efforts all the more impressive.

All in all, the club enjoyed a highly successful season by making the conference finals, winning a US Open Cup match and most importantly, starting to get involved with local youth clubs. The team hopes to qualify for the 2023 US Open Cup while it considers whether to remain in the UPSL or move to another competition.

—Contributed by Elliot Maldonado

HERALD LEGAL 0707 PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the Glen Cove City Council adopted the following Ordinance at the City Council Meeting of June 28, 2022: BE IT ORDAINED, that the City Council hereby amends Sec. 265-47 Schedule XV: No Stopping

Certain Hours as it relates to Glen Cove Avenue, as indicated:
Add:
Name:Glen Cove Avenue
Side:West
Hours/Days:7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
Location:From a point 465 ft. North of Shore

Road to a point 87 ft. North therefrom
This Ordinance shall take effect 3 days after publication.
Tina Pemberton
City Clerk
132679

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Tab Hauser/Herald photos

DANCING THE NIGHT away, with some doing so in their seats, were Ivy and Angelo Santodanto, far left, Sandy and Mike Ehrlich, and Cathie and Gary Krellenstein.



PETE PRUDENTE SHARED his ice cream with his wife, Allison.

Celebrating the Fourth of July in style

Glen Cove residents and visitors commemorated the Fourth of July with music, dancing and picnic dinners at Morgan Park. It was a magical night, one that many attended after two years of staying inside due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Lords of 52nd Street entertained the crowd with Glen Cove's Richie Cannata, who began the evening by playing the "Star Spangled Banner" with his sax and it ended with a beautiful display of fireworks.

MAYOR PAM PANZENBECK, right, brought patriotic cookies to the crowd, including Dr. Maxine Mayreis and her husband, Dean.

THE CONCERT MADE family time for Monica, Jamie and their baby Aiden Julia even more enjoyable.



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OPINIONS

Getting closer to what's out there

We may be closer to discovering “what’s out there” than ever before.

Or at least we’re heading in that direction, after decades of inaction, cancellation of research projects, and just general disbelief and despair that we’ll find anything at all.

Of particular note, the House of Representatives recently recommended that NASA spend \$10 million per year for the next two years on the search for what House members called “technosignatures,” more commonly known as radio signals. It was the first time in years that government money

has been recommended for the search for ET!

Also, in May, the House Appropriations Committee held a public hearing — the first such hearing in half a century — on what the U.S. military is now calling “unexplained aerial phenomena,” or UAPs, instead of what used to be called UFOs, unidentified flying objects.

The House hearing came after Navy pilots reported as many as 400 sightings of unexplained objects that, the highly

trained aviators said, performed maneuvers that contradicted accepted knowledge of propulsion, flight control and even physics.

A retired Navy lieutenant commander, Alex Dietrich, who said she has little interest in ET or anything like it, found herself in the media glare when, two years ago, she reported that during a routine training mission, she noticed an unusual “churning” of the ocean surface before she saw what she described as a smooth, white, oblong object that looked like a large Tic Tac flying at extraordinarily high speeds.

Dietrich said she tried to engage with the object, but was unsuccessful. “It appeared to respond in a way that we didn’t recognize,” she said. “It seemed to lack any visible flight control or means of propulsion.” Dietrich was interviewed by several news organizations.

The U.S. Navy didn’t quite say “bunk.” It did, however, say it had no confirmation of alien space ships. But, it added, unexplained events continue to happen.

How seriously is this to be taken? According to a number of scientists and lawmakers, very seriously. Ronald S. Moultrie, the Defense Department’s top intelligence official, testified at the Appro-

priations Committee hearing in May. He said he was a science-fiction fan, but also a realist.

“We want to know what’s out there just like you want to know what’s out there,” he told committee members.

While many in the science and space community are thrilled that funding to study UAPs is at least being discussed, the search for ET has over the years been filled with stop and starts. In the late 1940s, the Air Force launched Project Blue Book to study UFOs. The project was terminated in 1969, after some 12,618 sightings were reported. Of those, 701 remained “unidentified.”

But University of Colorado scientists involved with the project reported that none of the sightings represented “a threat to our national security.”

Then, in 1992, American astronomers began a project using two telescopes, one in Puerto Rico and the other in California, to scout the night sky for potential signs of intelligent life deep in space. A year later, the project was over. Sen. Richard Bryan of Nevada introduced an amendment that ended NASA’s funding for the search for ET, and he even mocked the effort.

“The Great Martian Chase may finally come to an end,” Bryan said. “As of today,

millions have been spent and we have yet to bag a single little green fellow. Not a single Martian has said, ‘Take me to your leader,’ and not a single flying saucer has applied for FAA approval.”

Bryan may have gotten laughs on the Senate floor, but not from the scientific community — and particularly not from Jill Tarter, a project scientist in the 1992 effort and one of the country’s premier proponents of the search for intelligent life in the cosmos. For those who saw the 1997 film version of Carl Sagan’s 1985 novel “Contact,” Tarter was portrayed by Jody Foster.

The \$10 million recommended by the House this year is minimal compared with what is needed to find what we want to know. Several private organizations and individuals, including Microsoft Co-founder Paul Allen, have donated money to keep the search going.

And Tarter, for one, is convinced that someone or something is out there. “So far, we’ve examined in detail one glass of water out of the ocean,” she said in a recent interview. “If your question was, ‘Are there fish in the ocean?’ and you scooped up a glass and you looked in it and you didn’t find a fish, I don’t think you’d conclude that there are no fish in the ocean.”

James Bernstein is the editor of the Long Beach Herald. Comments? JBernstein@liherald.com.



**JAMES
BERNSTEIN**

What were once UFOs are now ‘unexplained aerial phenomena.’

The Fourth flutters by, and we’re still standing

As the earth shifts underfoot, as the “givens” of our lives unravel and the standards for decent behavior soften, how do we stand our ground?

The past weeks have felt particularly destabilizing as summer officially launched, travelers swarmed the roads



**RANDI
KREISS**

and airports, Covid continued its spread, and the Jan. 6 congressional committee began in earnest to drop a net on the former president. Then, of course, there’s monkeypox.

But I’m not here to sound more alarms. On this post-Fourth, early-summer week I offer some thoughts on saving our sanity in this season, and finding higher ground from which to survey our lives. Perhaps *sanity* is a reach. Perhaps we can connect with one another in meaningful ways, and accept our current communal stress as a survivable and transitory experience.

On June 28, a senior aide to Donald Trump’s former chief of staff, Mark Meadows, swore to tell the truth at a sur-

prise convening of the Jan. 6 committee, which is investigating the attempted coup at the Capitol. (It still shocks me to write those words). The aide, Cassidy Hutchinson, testified about the former president’s efforts to overturn the 2020 election. She seemed forthright, and her testimony about Trump’s rages and his desire to storm the Capitol along with his gun-toting supporters was disturbing. No, *disturbing* doesn’t adequately describe the feeling of knowing that a president was running riot with the law, historic precedent, and basic human decency. We knew this, but it was astonishing to hear the words.

Hutchinson said he threw food at the wall. She described a cesspool of foul-mouthed American politicians running the government in a frenzy of self-interest and a unique lust for power.

Ordinary people like me must wait and see, now, if her testimony holds up, if others testify, if the Justice Department steps in, if Trump, in a moment of contrition (and fear of indictment) steps back from public life.

That would not discourage his millions of followers, but it would be a start on the

road to political equilibrium. It won’t happen, but maybe it will. That’s how things roll these days.

Hutchinson was Tuesday. Then, on Friday, the Fourth of July weekend launched, and travel-hungry Americans hit the road. Planes flew, and many were canceled. The roads were jammed. No way of knowing if the person sitting next to you in the roadside diner had tested positive for Covid that morning.

If you sat in a field, or near a harbor, or even in front of your TV as the fireworks burst in air, what did you feel?

Will the red, white and blue always signal a love of democracy?

Will this political rancor subside? Will justice prevail, or are those just words we have come to believe in our lifetime? My thought is that we have reserves of greatness yet to tap. My thought is that reason will win the day. I think that, but I’m not as sure as I once was.

The other stuff unsettling us, the delays and the indifferent service and the absent employees and the supply shortages and the alarming inflation and the continuing concern about getting sick in the

wrong place or the wrong time, these are all real, but they will resolve in time.

Every newspaper and magazine I pick up has articles about easing anxiety. Start meditating. Walk 30 minutes a day, try hot yoga, have a bedtime routine. Whatever you do, don’t look at any screens in bed. Ha!

Don’t watch disturbing television, like Don Winslow’s action movies, before sleep. Ha!

Eat healthy. Ha!
Wear a mask. Well, I do, but nobody else does.

It’s just going to be a slog, and we can do it. I have kids down with Covid and grandkids rafting someplace called the River of No Return. We have tickets for a flight that is unlikely to go. You know, we must deal with all of it as best we can, and not burden ourselves with guilt if we don’t meditate and are freaking out and want to just let it rip.

The greatest concern is that we, as Americans, find our way back together again. Other generations have had crises of faith. This is our moment.

I don’t pray, but if I did — and I might — I would pray for peace of mind, for you, for me, and for our fellow and sister travelers.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Our national spirit shouldn't fade on July 5

It has been called both the physical and symbolic heart of our democracy, located within the very walls where our elected representatives in Washington make our country's most important decisions.

The Capitol Rotunda is an impressive room, even by today's standards. Its dome looms some 50 feet above, its array of windows cascading light on the history represented below.

Massive paintings adorn the circular walls of the rotunda space, depicting the early years of our country, including four created by the "painter of the Revolution," John Trumbull. Probably his most famous is "Declaration of Independence," first hung in the rotunda in 1817 — decades before construction in this part of the Capitol building would be completed.

Trumbull traveled to Independence Hall in Philadelphia to capture the room where the Continental Congress met ahead of the American Revolution. He met many of the Founding Fathers who put their freedoms — and lives — on the line by affixing their name to a document King George III considered nothing short of treason.

It's a work of art that is still instantly recognized by just about any American, even two centuries later. But while it's intended to depict a historical event, the truth is, Trumbull's painting is not exactly historically accurate.

For one thing, he included just 42 of the signers. There were 56. And while seeing everyone in the same room at once to

declare independence is riveting, that's not actually how it happened. Signers came and went over a period of days, shrouded in secrecy, to sign the document. There were likely never more than a few people in the room with the Declaration of Independence before its delivery to England.

But we're splitting hairs. What truly matters is something Trumbull could never capture with his paintbrush: true Americanism.

England was the most powerful country — the most powerful empire — on the face of the planet when the wording of the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. Yet these 56 men, representing the 13 Colonies, believed freedom could defeat that power, and that these lands on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean could indeed be free.

We refer to America as "the great experiment" — can people truly rule themselves? And while it's no longer the only democracy, it remains one of the oldest. But longevity is not without its pitfalls. For one, the very spirit that brought these brave people together in the first place can fade.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower once said that "freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men, and so it must be daily earned and refreshed — else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die."

The Fourth of July isn't just about fireworks and waving the American flag, but about refreshing what freedom truly

means, so that we can continue earning it every day. No one born, raised and living in America has known anything but freedom, and because of that, we can take that freedom for granted. When true threats to our democracy materialize, we may brush them off as inconsequential.

But they are not inconsequential. And we have a duty as Americans not only to remember what freedom and democracy are, but also to live them, and to lead by example. That means allowing for diversity in thoughts and opinions. That means checking oppression at the door. That means treating everyone the same way you would want to be treated.

The strength of America is not a piece of parchment carried on a ship across the Atlantic, but rather the people to which it granted freedom and independence, now nearly 250 years later.

Something John Trumbull certainly understood by not depicting what actually happened in Philadelphia in 1776, but instead capturing what that moment truly represented: governing together, and governing one another, always putting ourselves in the place of those we lead.

James Bryce, a former British ambassador to the United States, said it best in a 1909 speech he delivered to a conference at Mohonk Lake in Ulster County:

"Our country is not the only thing to which we owe our allegiance. It is also owed to justice and to humanity. Patriotism consists not in waving the flag, but in striving that our country shall be righteous, as well as strong."

LETTERS

Landing Sign refurbished

To the Editor:

When the Landing Pride Civic Association was in existence, we wanted residents and visitors to be aware of the fact that they were entering the oldest, historic section of Glen Cove. Thus, through our dues, we had two signs made and erected. One stood for years on the corner of The Place and Ellwood Street. Due to time and weathering that sign fell into disrepair and collapsed.

As the association was no longer in existence, I went to the Department of Public Works and met with Elizabeth Mestres, the senior account clerk at City Hall. When hearing of the situation, she didn't waste a minute in contacting the Sign Department of our city. She kept in touch with me as the refurbishment took place. On Friday, May 6, the renewed and enhanced sign was put back on the corner of The Place, once again welcoming all to The Landing. We are over-



OPINIONS

Abortion, the high court and the people

Issues of life and death, liberty, justice and freedom call for citizen involvement. We should have strong opinions about such topics. Apathy destroys more democracies than tanks do. But while civic participation is necessary, the U.S. has become more polarized, more confrontational and less able to reach consensus on major policy ques-



**JOHN
O'CONNELL**

tions. Even simple respect for one another is getting hard to come by.

A perfect example is the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* to overturn the court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*.

To many, the Supreme Court has become a malignant danger to America now that its majority leans toward originalism, though many of the same people thought the court was perfectly principled when it sided with progressives.

While some Americans believe that sending the issue of abortion back to each state's legislators — women and men elected by the citizens of each district in their state — ought to be celebrated as a victory for democracy and the rule of law, others think that overturning *Roe* is an attack on women, on privacy

rights and, as President Biden called it, “a tragic error.”

Some of the most furious critics of the court's ruling believe that “birthing people” have an absolute right to terminate a pregnancy. To argue otherwise, they say, is a patronizing, misogynistic assault on women. Six unelected judges shouldn't interfere with a woman's “right to choose,” they say, though it was fine to have a majority of unelected judges side with the far left in *Roe*, *Casey* (a later, related case) and other decisions for decades.

Because the justices ruled against her preference, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, a Massachusetts Democrat, claims the court has “lost legitimacy.” She wants to “pack” it with additional Biden-nominated justices. Rep. Maxine Waters, a California Democrat, promised that women would “defy” the ruling.

The reversal of *Roe* is just the most recent cause for extreme reactions. The House of Representatives' prejudiced Jan. 6 committee, operating without cross-examination of witnesses, has roused hyper reactions on the right. Covid vaccination and mask requirements provoked folks on both sides to confront others, sometimes even physically. Many Americans are angry over social media censorship, while others are mad that the social media don't limit

speech more aggressively. The Biden administration's implicit invitation and acceptance of millions of migrants entering the U.S. from Mexico with no effective controls, notwithstanding strict immigration laws, drives many citizens nuts.

Others welcome this border breakdown, whether in the name of hospitality, charity, cheap labor or potential political advantage.

So there are a lot of important issues currently provoking extreme reactions. And there are more ways than ever to proclaim our opinions. Social media triggers the brilliant and the intellectually immature alike, and enables self-expression, including radical opinions, incitement, the intentional or ignorant spreading of misinformation, political and organizational propaganda, or just wacky, narcissistic stupidity.

There is, of course, a big difference between the enthusiastic exercise of our constitutionally protected freedoms of speech and assembly and the violent assaults, looting and arson that marked recent “mostly peaceful protests.” Marching in solidarity for legitimate rights isn't the same as throwing fake blood on adoption- and pregnancy-counseling centers and setting one on fire. There's a distinction between opinions based on sincerely held beliefs and radical acts of vio-

lence designed to crush those who hold those beliefs. There's a world of difference between disagreeing with court opinions and attempting to assassinate a justice.

Courts aren't legislatures. The three dissenting justices “do not make a serious effort to dispute the points the majority makes about the legal basis for *Roe* in the first instance,” wrote Carrie Campbell Severino, the president of the Judicial Crisis Network. “Their argument amounts to an appeal to uphold the court's protracted acts of judicial fiat on the subject of abortion because they like the outcome of those precedents as a matter of policy. Such brazen melding of policy preferences with constitutional interpretation undermines the rule of law.”

I think the court actually agrees with those who say the justices have no right to decide what women may do with their bodies. Writing for the majority, Justice Samuel Alito said: “*Roe* was on a collision course with the Constitution from the day it was decided, *Casey* perpetuated its errors, and those errors do not concern some arcane corner of the law of little importance to the American people. Rather, wielding nothing but raw judicial power ... the Court usurped the power to address a question of profound moral and social importance that the Constitution unequivocally leaves for the people.”

John O'Connell is a former executive editor of the Herald Community Newspapers. Comments? OConnell11001@yahoo.com.

The court agrees that it has no right to decide what women may do with their bodies.

LETTERS

joyed!

On behalf of all the residents of The Landing, many, many thanks to Liz Mestres for expediting this project, to Jim Klimaszewski and Tommaso Lisena of the Sign Department, who did the amazing job of renewing our cherished entry beacon, and, of course, to Mayor Pam Panzenbeck, who leads them all and runs the well-oiled machine that is our beautiful Glen Cove.

Additional thanks go to Bob Wong, landscape gardener and Landing resident, who donates his time and plants to keep that triangle a beautiful sight throughout the seasons.

LESLIE MCCARTHY
Glen Cove

A queen? No, but more British culture!

To the Editor:

We read Randi Kreiss's “Is our democracy becoming a royal pain?” (June 16-22). Wonderfully entertaining and, unfortunately, spot-on about the state of America's politics.

I'm recovering from knee-replacement surgery and have plenty of time to catch up on those shows my wife and I DVR'ed. We, too, love “*Midsomer Murders*” and the authenticity of British actors. Another all-time favorite of ours is “*Endeavor*”; we're very excited about the new series coming sooner or later.

Thanks also to Randi for her World War II British and Northern Ireland reading suggestions. I'm looking forward to checking them out of the Long Beach library ASAP.

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