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Vol. 20, No. 34



Our Turn The importance of poll workers A7



Celebrate the season with 'A Christmas Carol' at Theatre Three ALSO: LIM presents Dickens in the Carriage Museum, 'The Play That Goes Wrong' at SCCC

B1

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November 16, 2023

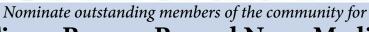


Photo by Michael Scro/Media Origin

SALUTE TO SERVICE

Community observes Veterans Day with wreath-laying ceremony at Greenlawn Memorial Park — A4





Nominate your choice(s) by emailing desk@tbrnewsmedia.com

2023

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1, 2023

2023

Times Beacon Record News Media

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DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1, 2023

backgrounds surrounding our world. You might notice the little girl to the right of the world wearing a continuing glucose monitor. Akiko was particularly sensitive to the experience of one of her friends, whose life has been impacted by diabetes.

Love in our world begins by acknowledging, honoring and accepting differences. Painted on a wall in the entryway of the Nursery School, the children, their teachers and parents are reminded on a daily basis that diversity is something to embrace and celebrate.



Sharing her Gold project with the congregation and community is one of the prerequisites needed to complete the rigorous requirements for the Gold Award. Akiko spoke with depth and passion about the need for respect and love in our world. It starts when we open our eyes to see and embrace the gifts of all people.





Cold Spring Harbor Central School District inducts 63 student-artists, the largest number in the district's history, into the National Art Honor Society. Photo courtesy CSHCSD

Cold Spring Harbor holds National Art Honor Society induction

This year, the Cold Spring Harbor Central School District's annual

SCHOOL National Art Honor Society induction ceremony was especially significant.

Sixty-three exceptionally talented student-artists represented the district's largest number of students achieving this honor.

The annual National Art Honor

Society induction ceremony was held on Nov. 1 in the Cold Spring Harbor Jr./Sr. High School Performing Arts Center. The stage was adorned with student artwork and the NAHS executive board performed the candle lighting ceremony for the inductees. Art Department Chair, Christine Oswald, along with co-adviser, Laura Cirino and fellow art teachers welcomed family members on behalf of the district's Art Department.

"I am always impressed by the extraordinary talent demonstrated by these young artists," Superintendent of Schools Jill Gierasch said. "To have the largest number of students inducted into the National Art Honor Society in our district's history is truly a remarkable achievement."

To add to the festivities, a special videotaped message was played

for the students from 2013 CSH alumna Hannah Fagin, who is now an artist and educator at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Families in attendance were also captivated to view a video of worldrenowned artist Domingo Zapata, who taught and painted alongside AP art students in September. Zapata is only one of seven living artists featured in the Louvre and in 2019 completed a 30,000-square-foot mural in Time Square, making it the second largest mural ever painted in the world.

Each inductee signed the NAHS book and recited the official pledge: "I will in my life, to the best of my ability through my talents in art, help to create a more beautiful world for myself, for humankind and for all living things," as they officially became members.



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American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 conducts a Veterans Day service at Greenlawn Memorial Park on Saturday, Nov. 11. Photos by Michael Scro/Media Origin

In the spirit of service, Greenlawn remembers and honors its veterans

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Greenlawn celebrated Veterans Day with a wreath-laying ceremony at Greenlawn Memorial Park on Saturday, Nov. 11, where a large crowd of local veterans, residents, law enforcement, Scouts and other community groups gathered at 11 a.m. to support the holiday's tradition.

Originally named Armistice Day to commemorate the end of World War I on Nov. 11, 1918, the holiday was renamed Veterans Day in 1954, passed by Congress and signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower (R). Each year, it is held to honor military veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Hosted by American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 on a comfortably crisp and sunny November morning, post Cmdr. Trisha Northover said, "To serve is to give, it is to find access to joy."

"There are many things that come to mind," Northover added. "We are struggling through conflict, and a new generation will be called up to honor and serve the country. Each person that puts on the uniform knows they can give up their life — it is simply the most honorable thing that one can do."

1st Vice Cmdr. Carlo Giordano spoke about the programs the American Legion supports, such as the Boys and Girls State, where high school juniors spend a week in July at a college upstate to participate and learn about democratic government and gain leadership experience. Over the course of 15 years, Giordano said Post 1244 has sent over 200 students. The organization also supports Operation Enduring Care, which assists veterans who require assistance due to illness or homelessness.

Giordano concluded by saying, "I am proud to be a veteran, and especially proud to be part of the American Legion."

The wreaths were laid beside a monument stone at Greenlawn Memorial Park, which has a plaque for American Legion Post 1244 and states, "Dedicated to those who made the supreme sacrifice — Village of Greenlawn 1960."

The ceremony concluded with the playing of taps.





Harborfields High School musicians receive All-County jazz honors

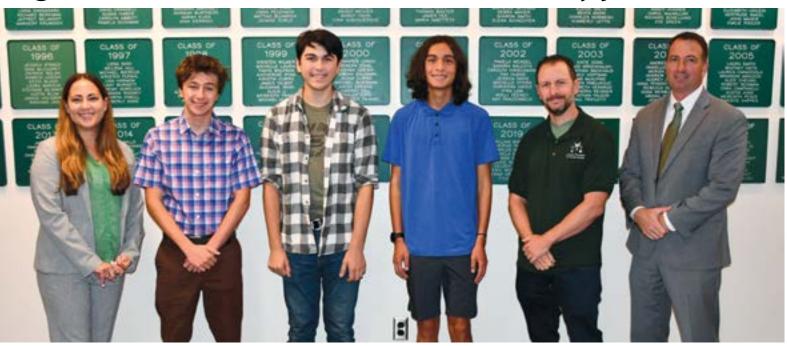
Three Harborfields High School students have been selected for SCMEA All-County

SCHOOL Jazz ensembles: Jackson Ferrara (trombone, HS Instrumental Jazz),

Peter Hoss (tenor saxophone, HS Instrumental Jazz)

and Hartley Semmes (trumpet, HS Instrumental Jazz). An extremely select band, the SCMEA All-County HS Instrumental Jazz group requires an audition for acceptance. Fewer than 20 students in grades 10-12 from across Suffolk are chosen to participate.

"These young musicians are extremely dedicated to their pursuit of excellence in this area," Harborfields High School Jazz Band director Dan Bilawsky said. "Their selection is a well-deserved reward for their high-level commitment and hard work."



Three Harborfields High School students Jackson Ferrara (trombone, HS Instrumental Jazz), Peter Hoss (tenor saxophone, HS Instrumental Jazz) and Hartley Semmes (trumpet, HS Instrumental Jazz) are selected for SCMEA All-County Jazz ensembles. Photo courtesy HCSD

<u>LEGALS</u>

Notice of formation of MDM Licensed Clinical Social Work, PLLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/07/2023. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the PLLC: 140 East Main Street, Suite 3, Huntington, NY, 11743. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

170470 10/12 $6x\ thn$

Notice of formation of Vcalebs Realtors LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/27/2023. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 78a East 3rd Street Huntington Station NY 11746 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Notice of formation of Mudita Technologies, LLC. Articles of Organization have been filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/18/2023. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 23 Longacre Dr., Huntington, NY 11743. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

173790 11/2 6x thn

Notice of formation of Lovelace Labs LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 10/5/2023. Office located in Suffolk. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served against the LLC to: 273 Walt Whitman Rd, Ste 244, Huntington Station, NY 11746. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

176320 11/16 6x thn

To Place A Legal Notice Email: legals@tbrnewsmedia.com

Notice of formation of H4 Huntington, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 10/4/2023. Office located in Suffolk. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process served against the LLC to: 35 Grove Street, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

176330 11/16 6x thn

Notice of formation of YUMMIE LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/23/23. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 49 WEST JERICHO TURNPIKE #1039, HUNTINGTON, NY, 11746. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

177800 11/16 6x thn



~ For Thursday, November 23 Issue:

Leisure Section - Wednesday, November 15 News Section - Thursday November 16 *Classifieds – Monday, November 20 • Noon*

~ For Thursday, December 1 Issue:

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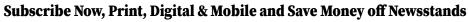
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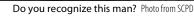




POLICE LOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by Suffolk County Police:





Cooking oil stolen from restaurant

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Second Squad detectives are seeking the public's help to identify and locate two people who allegedly stole cooking oil from a business in Huntington last month.

Two men including the one pictured above allegedly stole \$1,600 worth of used cooking oil from outside Burger King, located at 1760 East Jericho Turnpike, on October 31 at approximately 5:35 a.m. The suspects fled in a white van.

Motorcyclist injured in crash

Suffolk County Police Second Squad detectives are investigating a motor vehicle crash that seriously injured a motorcyclist in Huntington Station on Nov. 7.

A 26-year-old man was riding a 2017 Honda motorcycle northbound on New York Avenue when he lost control and struck a utility pole near East 12th Street at 9:24 p.m. The man, whose name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, was transported to Stony Brook University Hospital for treatment of serious physical injuries. The motorcycle was impounded for a safety check.

Anyone with information on this crash is asked to call 631-854-8252.

Macy's shoplifter arrested

Myles Morris, 30, of Melville, allegedly stole clothing and jackets from Macy's in Walt Whitman Shops on four dates between Oct. 30 and Nov. 10, police said. He was arrested on Nov. 10 and charged with three counts of fourth-degree grand larceny: value of property more than \$1,000 and one count of petty larceny.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA



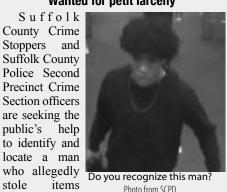
Do you recognize this woman? Photo from SCPD

Wanted for petit larceny

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Second Precinct Crime Section officers are seeking the public's help to identify and locate the woman who allegedly stole kitchen appliances and children's toys from Target, located at 124 East Jericho Turnpike in Huntington Station on October 6.

_____ Wanted for petit larceny

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Second Precinct Crime Section officers are seeking the public's help to identify and locate a man stole items from Target,



located at 124 East Jericho Turnpike in Huntington Station, on October 28.

Visit www.tbrnewsmedia.com/police for more press releases from the Suffolk County Police.

- COMPILED BY HEIDI SUTTON

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers offers a cash reward for information that leads to an arrest. Anyone with information about these incidents can contact Suffolk County Crime Stoppers to submit an anonymous tip by calling 1-800-220-TIPS.

My experience as a first-time poll worker

BY CAROLYN SACKSTEIN DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

I am a consumer of news. In addition to writing for TBR News Media, I read, watch and listen

to various news formats. The troubling reports of **OUR TURN** harassment and intimidation of poll workers across this country have

both saddened and angered me. I have long believed that citizens

must actively engage in the democratic process. I get a thrill each time I vote. And so, it became incumbent upon me to do more than just vote and donate to organizations that promote the election process.

My journey to do more started in September when I participated in a League of Women Voters of Suffolk County event in Patchogue. After learning that there was a shortage of election workers, I was determined to do my part.

After the event, during which I handed out voter registration forms and voter information literature, I drove to the Suffolk County Board of Elections at 700 Yaphank Ave. in Yaphank. I was



Voting booths at Rocky Point High School. File photo by Kyle Barr

greeted by a friendly and professional staff, who assisted me in signing up for a position as an election inspector.

They verified that I met the requirements. The staff asked which of the yearly training dates I would prefer to attend. I was then informed that I would receive a letter confirming the date, place and time of my training.

Training occurred at Brookhaven Town Hall and was conducted by a SCBOE employee. Each trainee received a detailed booklet. The three-hour class covered matters of election law. The procedures for opening and closing the election site were quite detailed.

Yes, there was a test at the end of the class. Each prospective election inspector was required to pass the test before being certified and sworn in with an oath of office. Election inspectors are compensated for required training sessions and when they work on early-voting days and on Election Day at an assigned polling site. Before leaving, we were told to expect a letter in October that would inform us to report to our assigned site at 5 a.m. on Election Day.

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, I walked into my assigned polling site at 4:57 a.m. It was only five minutes from my house. An experienced co-worker greeted me. As the three other workers arrived, we began the setup process. We were fortunate in that our location served only one election district. Other sites may have multiple election districts.

Our first voter arrived seconds after 6 a.m. The remainder of the day passed as a continuous stream of voters moved through the signature verification process and received their ballots. Our experienced coordinator helped those who needed assistance with a variety of issues.

Four people did not show up to work. As a result of being shorthanded, we did not have any "breaks." We watched for a lull in the line so we could go to the restroom. Rarely was the line backed up, and never by more than about seven people.

Next year, the demand for poll workers will be greater due to an expected larger turnout.

The main complaint was from people who did not recall getting instructions on their polling location and arrived at the wrong place. We

verified their polling site and, if needed, provided directions.

The voting public was courteous, and many thanked us for our efforts. One voter overheard our coordinator mention to a co-worker that he had not eaten all day. The voter returned with a dozen donuts to be shared. His appreciation and kindness made the long day worthwhile.

Polls closed at 9 p.m. We packed up and secured all equipment and ballots. Our day ended at 11 p.m.

As a first-timer, I had been a bit anxious. I was blessed with patient, helpful and supportive coworkers. My primary takeaway? Becoming an election inspector was worthwhile, fulfilling and deeply satisfying. I felt safe.

I encourage everyone who qualifies to become an election inspector. It is a singularly edifying and enriching experience. To lend a helping hand for the betterment of our democracy, please visit www.elections.ny.gov/ becomepollworker.html.

The writer is a reporter for TBR News Media.



Townline Rail is a proposed alternative to trucking locally generated incinerator ash from the Huntington-Smithtown waste-to-energy facility as well as Construction & Demolition debris off Long Island once the Brookhaven landfill is closed.

This ash is created from incinerated trash collected in the Towns of Smithtown and Huntington only.

- Townline Rail will not have the capacity to handle all of Long Island's ash and debris.
- There are six active or proposed rail transport facilities on Long Island — all of which are *local solutions* to managing local ash and debris.
- Town of Smithtown recognizes the environmental and cost benefits to the taxpayers of shipping its ash by rail versus trucking it off Long Island (2015 Draft Comprehensive Plan).



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Cousins born just over an hour apart at St. Charles Hospital

BY DANIEL DUNAIEF

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

It started on Friday, Oct. 13, and concluded with a near photo finish the next day.

Viviana Cueva Gomez, who was getting close to her due date, went to St. Charles Hospital with **COMMUNITY** her husband Bryan at around 7 p.m., when she

started to feel discomfort. The medical staff admitted her to the hospital, where she and Bryan anticipated the delivery of their first child.

Around 3 a.m. on the 14th, Anita Gomez, who is married to Viviana's brother and was also pregnant, began to experience contractions, which sent her to Port Jefferson-based St. Charles Hospital as well.

At one point during the night, Viviana suspected that her sister-in-law was at the hospital.

Viviana asked the hospital staff if they could confirm that Anita was on the same floor.

The hospital, however, couldn't give her that information because of confidentiality rules.

At some point during the next day, Viviana's husband Bryan bumped into his brother-in-law Byron.

"I didn't know my sister was there," said Byron. "When I saw Bryan, we were joking" about how their sons were coming on the same day.

Indeed, as that Saturday wore on, Dr. Sarah Karalitzky performed C sections on both women.

Despite coming to the hospital second, Anita won the birth race, delivering her son Thiago at 4:26 p.m., while Viviana gave birth to Mattias soon thereafter, at 5:45 pm.

Separated by just over an hour with their birth times, the cousins were also just over half a pound different in weight: Thiago weighed in at 8 pounds, one ounce, while Mattias was 7 pounds, 10 ounces.

Big announcements

The extended family work in the same business, towing and fixing cars at S&B Auto Repair in Middle Island.

Viviana recalls the moment her brother shared the big news with their father Secundo at work.

Byron "started to tell my dad," she said. "Everyone asks him what happened, is someone here [having] a baby?"

The family looked at Anita, who also works at S&B.

"Yes," Byron said, "but someone else is, too."

Their father looked at his daughter.

"Viviana, you?" he asked.

When she nodded, he jumped up and clapped for the impending arrival of two grandchildren.

"We didn't believe we would deliver the same day, but things happen," Viviana said.

Viviana, 31, and Byron, 29, have two other siblings, neither of whom is married and has children.

In addition to this momentous day, the

On the left are Viviana Cueva Gomez and Bryan Cueva with their son Mattias. On the right are Byron and Anita Gomez with their second son Thiago. Viviana and Byron are siblings. Photo courtesy St. Charles Hospital

extended Gomez family, who are originally from Ecuador, is having a memorable year, with a cousin giving birth this past June while another cousin is expecting a child in January.

"My family is growing a lot this year," said Viviana, who lives in Medford.

Expectations for the cousins

Byron and Viviana anticipate that the two cousins, who were born one room apart at St. Charles Hospital and who each left the hospital the following Tuesday, Oct. 17, will be close.

"They're going to be like brothers," predicted Byron, who lives in Coram.

The two families haven't yet decided whether they would consider having joint birthday parties for the Libras, whose Zodiac sign is, perhaps fittingly, represented by two equal parts of a scale. translate his newborn brother's movements

A friend suggested the two cousins "don't have to share the same day" for future birthday celebrations, said Viviana. Their friend wants to "go to two different parties" to celebrate each of their births.

A beaming brother

Thiago's brother Dereck, who just turned five, is already fond of his younger sibling.

"He says he's going to share TV and toys with him," said his father Byron. "All the time, he's kissing him. He really loves him."

Indeed, Dereck used to play with a friend, but he only wants to be with his younger brother. When Dereck speaks to Thiago, he tells him he loves him and asks his father to and sounds.

"I say that he loves you, too," said Byron.

Karalitzky, who delivered both babies, said staff members were caught up in the excitement.

An OB-GYN, Karalitzky feels "lucky to be in a field where the vast majority of the time. she's able to be a part of good news and a happy day" in people's lives. For the extended family, the shared birthday ensures that people "will always remember your birthday."

Karalitzky, who has been at St. Charles Hospital for 10 years, should know: she was born on her mother's birthday.

Her mom "always made it a special day," Karalitzky said. "Every year, she'd say, 'This is the best birthday present ever.""

SBU chooses Lynch as inaugural director of the Collaborative for the Earth

BY DANIEL DUNAIEF

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Heather Lynch is hoping to take a few pages out of the Coke and Pepsi playbook, which is rarely, if ever, used in the fields where she works. A penguin expert who has traveled more than

UNIVERSITY to monitor populations

9,000 miles to Antarctica of these flightless water

foul, Lynch, who is the IACS Endowed Chair of Ecology & Evolution, plans to use her new role as the inaugural director of the Collaborative for the Earth at Stony Brook University to accomplish several tasks, including shaping the way people think about environmental issues like climate change.

"Coke and Pepsi understand the importance of psychological research and persuasion," Lynch said. "The environmental community has not used any of the tools to get at the hearts and minds" of the public.

Scientists have been trying to reach people in their heads when they also need to "reach them in their hearts," she added.

Lynch hopes to figure out ways to bring in people who are experts in psychology and persuasion instead of adding another model of climate change consistent with so many others that have made similar predictions.

Lynch, whom a steering committee chose from among several qualified tenured faculty at SBU to take on this new role, will also help organize forums in which researchers and participants worldwide discuss pressing environmental issues.

In the forums, Lynch plans to encourage debate about challenging topics on which researchers disagree, such as the role of nuclear power in achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. She also hopes to address the concept and moral hazard of geoengineering.

In recent years, scientists have debated whether geoengineering, in which scientists use chemical means to cool the atmosphere, could exacerbate the problem or give people false hope that taking steps to reduce emissions or mitigate climate change may not be necessary.

Lynch also suggested other "third-rail topics" as population control may be fodder for future Stony Brook forums.

Scientists "don't discuss controversial things," said Lynch. "There tends to be an echo chamber in the scientific community. The forum will help us air these issues."

To be sure, Lynch believes the issue of climate change and the urgency of the climate crisis is well established. The differences she hopes to discuss relate to various potential solutions.

"I'm hoping to focus on things where we disagree," she said. "We need to get at the root of that."

The right candidate

As a candidate. Lynch met numerous criteria for the search committee and for Provost Carl



that brings rigor to real-

world problems" and

is connected to policy,

industry and politics

and that has clear

Lejuez would like

to move toward an

Stony Brook's role in

the future of climate

science, climate justice

and sustainability.

Additionally,

Collaborative

of

deliverables.

understanding

the



Lejuez, to whom Lynch is reporting in this role.

"Her research is and has been squarely placed to understand climate change and the climate crisis and how we try to move forward toward a healthier planet," said Lejuez.

Lynch is also a "creative, entrepreneurial thinker" who has an "exciting vision for what the Collaborative can be," Lejuez said. "She has a real strength in leadership and is very good at bringing people together."

Lejuez has several goals for the Collaborative in its first year. He would like Lynch to start creating forums that can "live up to the potential of being

New podcasts

Lynch plans to dedicate considerable energy to this effort, cutting back on some of her teaching time. She plans to conduct podcasts with people on campus, speaking with them about their work, what keeps them up at night, what technologies excite them and a host of other topics.

She also hopes to bring in the "brightest lights" to big-stage events at Governors Island and on Long Island.

She is pondering the possibility of creating

Heather Lynch, above, is the inaugural director of the Collaborative for the Earth at Stony Brook University. Left, SBU Provost Carl Lejuez, to whom Lynch is reporting in this role. Above, file photo courtesy Rolf Sjogren/National Geographic; below file photo

a leader in creating that a competition akin to the entrepreneurial TV academic conference show "Shark Tank." At Stony Brook University, faculty judges could evaluate ideas and advance some of them. The Shark Tank could give students an

opportunity to propose ways to create a greener Stony Brook campus.

As for the psychology and social science of environmental efforts, Lynch plans to work with the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science to explore ways to understand how people think about these issues.

The evidence and impact of climate change increases the urgency of this work and the potential contribution of the university to debating, addressing and proposing solutions.

Earlier this year, Hurricane Otis intensified within 12 hours from a tropical storm to a deadly Category 5 hurricane, slamming into Mexico.

The potential for future storms with intensification that occurs so rapidly that forecasts might not provide warnings with sufficient time to take emergency measures should ring alarm bells for area residents.

Hurricane Otis, whose intensification was the second-fastest recorded in modern times, "should scare everybody on Long Island," said Lynch. "People think toddling along with business as usual is an option. That is not an option."

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Editorial **Beyond 'thank you'**

Honor veterans by preserving their history "Thank you for your service."

Especially around Veterans Day, we say and hear these words many times. We express our gratitude and appreciation for American veterans, those who risked it all so that we may enjoy our cherished American freedoms.

The freedom to speak one's mind. The freedom to exercise one's sincere religious convictions. The freedom to peaceably assemble and petition government - and the freedom of the press.

While we often take these freedoms for granted, we must remember that they are not guaranteed. Throughout our national history — from imperial Britain to the Confederate States to the Axis powers to al-Qaida — our enemies have sought to deprive us of our sacred freedoms. They have sought to undermine and wipe away our way of life and our democracy.

Standing in their way time and again have been American service members. To protect and defend our democratic norms and our way of life, veterans risked their lives, many paying the ultimate sacrifice.

Along the North Shore, we live among some of American history's greatest patriots. No matter his or her tour of service, each veteran has a story to share. And crucially, many have carried the banner of service back into civilian life, building up our local communities and making this a better place to live.

We would be deeply troubled by the loss of local and national historical memory. Thankfully, we have history courses built into elementary and middle school curricula. We also enjoy and sincerely appreciate the efforts of local historical societies here preserving our history.

History gives us roots, establishing a sense of who we are and where we came from. To move forward as a community and nation, we must first grasp how we arrived at where we are. Fortunately for us on Long Island, we have a path ahead.

At the former Rocky Point train station, a collection of veterans and local volunteers are building out the Suffolk County World War II and Military History Museum. This regional veterans museum, to be operated by VFW Post 6249, aims to tell the stories of local service members from across Long Island. The museum is slated to launch on Thursday, Dec. 7.

Since learning of this project, our staff has enthusiastically supported its mission. We believe the museum will help foster two of our central goals as a staff: informing locals about their community and inspiring love for this place we call home.

As this year's Veterans Day services wind down, we can all help this museum get off the ground. The museum is actively seeking donations in the form of equipment, uniforms, combat along the Port Jeff Branch? supplies and other artifacts and memorabilia.

We ask our readers to honor a veteran in their own lives by donating. We urge all to help lend a hand — because these stories are too valuable to lose to history.

To donate, contact the museum's curator, Rich Acritelli, by emailing richvack@yahoo.com.

WRITE TO US ... AND KEEP IT LOCAL

We welcome your letters, especially those responding to our local coverage, replying to other letter writers' comments and speaking mainly to local themes. Letters should be no longer than 400 words and may be edited for length, libel, style, good taste and uncivil language. They will also be published on our website. We do not publish anonymous letters. Please include an address and phone number for confirmation. Email letters to: editor1@tbrnewsmedia.com or mail them to TBR News Media, P.O. Box 707, Setauket, NY 11733

Perspective: 'Diet Coke' Democrats not effective?

Over the next few months, voters and pundits alike will dissect and pontificate about how Long Island as a region could be a "red den" when voter registration is relatively even — it was 50/50 in 2020 between Biden and Trump — and given Democratic party victories across other states, including Kentucky.

A familiar chorus making the rounds is saying that Democrats running as "GOPlite" is not an effective strategy. This theory effectively states that if consumers are given a choice between Coke and Diet Coke, they will invariably choose classic Coke - or the Republican candidate — over the Democratic GOP-lite candidate.

There is some curious credence to that theory as we are entering what I call the "voter silo" era of American politics, where the level of cross-pollination — namely voters spreading their ballot choices among Democrats and Republicans, as well as voters crossing party lines — is a rare phenomenon. This makes messaging to voters more complicated.

When I ran for Brookhaven Town highway superintendent in 2017 and 2019, I engaged in guerilla marketing, carrying a piece of asphalt around to depict how grave our infrastructure problem was. It was entertaining in every room I entered.

I would canvass neighborhoods, find the worst road and open my statement with "Who took Chaplin Boulevard here?" or any other road in the area. "Well, I brought a piece of it here with me" to a chorus of laughter. I was able to lower the margins in some districts that were 75% red to 60% red, and in my hometown of Selden, flip districts 70% red to 55% blue.

Guess what? I still lost, both times.

Letter to the Editor

Have our leaders ever traveled

You can learn a great deal about the priorities of our elected officials by what they do and don't do when it comes to delivering funding for transportation projects.

Over the past few days, U.S. Sens. Chuck Schumer [D-NY] and Kirsten Gillibrand [D-NY], joined by Gov. Kathy Hochul [D] and others, announced federal funding of \$1.3 billion toward advancing the \$1.6 billion East River Tunnel reconstruction, \$1.6 billion toward the \$3.1 billion Metro North Bronx East Penn Station Access, \$3.4 billion toward the \$7.7 billion New York City Transit Second Avenue Subway Phase 2 and \$3.8 billion toward Amtrak's \$16.8 billion Gateway Tunnel

Look, my opponent had a ton of money, the Republican and Conservative line, a 12-year political career and the political machine behind him. While the voters we could get our message to were somewhat responsive, it is very hard to get a majority of red voters to cross over unless you have deep ties to the community you seek to represent in elected office.



By Anthony R. Portesy

The only reason I flipped election districts in Selden and Centereach is because I played on the voters' baseball teams or shoveled their driveways as a kid. Community ties matter.

Long Island as a region certainly has voters that will never leave the GOP silo no matter how much we hammer them on corruption, cronyism, career political careers or any of the other poll-

(for two new tunnels plus rehabilitation of two existing Hudson River tunnels connecting New Jersey with Penn Station) projects.

Not a dime as a down payment to pay for any National Environmental Policy Act review, additional planning or preliminary design and engineering for the \$3 billion-plus MTA Long Island Rail Road double tracking electrification of the Port Jefferson Branch.

This seed money, in the millions, is necessary if these improvements to the LIRR Port Jefferson Branch can become eligible for any future Federal Transit Administration Capital Investment Grants New Starts Core Capacity Full Funding Grant Agreement for \$1.5 billion many years down the road.

tested modicums of why America hates politicians. But, as one of my mentors and good friends, Rabia Aziz, has told me over and over, "We have to make political campaigns bottom up from the grassroots instead of top down."

As Democrats, we tend to believe that our ideas will rule the day and that may be true, but at the end of the day, voters want to vote for someone they feel will represent their interests. This starts by identifying the issues that people care about: the disgraced park, the dilapidated shopping center, the broken road, the burnt-out streetlight. That's local politics.

U.S. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY) was called "Senator Pothole" because he was known to personally get involved to fix issues in the local community. His successor, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), has copied that business model to a tee.

Look, there are a litany of other issues including fusion voting (the practice should be legislatively banned by the state delegation) and money in local politics (some of these career politicians have more money than people running for Congress in other states). But at the end of the day, we have to cultivate community ties. My councilmember, Jonathan Kornreich (D-Stony Brook), was a school board member and civic leader before becoming councilmember.

As we analyze the results of the election and agonize over how we repair our relationship with the electorate, let's remember there is no replacement for local community involvement in the very fabric of the issues that affect our neighborhoods.

The writer is the chair of the Brookhaven Town Democratic Committee.

Schumer, Gillibrand and Hochul, by their actions - or in this case, inaction — have clearly indicated no interest in supporting any advancement of future capital improvements to the Port Jefferson Branch. Commuters, residents, taxpayers, project advocates and others may want to consider withholding your potential campaign contributions and votes when they run for another term in office.

This is the only influence you have.

Larry Penner Great Neck

Editor's note: The writer is a transportation analyst and former director for Federal Transit Administration Region 2.

Opinion Living in a world where it couldn't possibly be my fault

 \mathbf{T} e've come a long way from the "my dog ate my homework" days. I mean, come on, let's give our society the credit it's due. We have taken the blame game, the finger pointing and the it-couldn't-be-me-because-butter-wouldn't-



of the above

BY DANIEL DUNAIEF

melt-in-my-mouth game to an entirely new stratosphere.

Gone are the days of simple, linear and mostly nonsensical excuses.

Let's start in Washington, DC, which is the biggest clown show this side of the Atlantic and where the notion of a democracy gets battle tested nearly every day

Who is responsible for the national debt? That, of course, depends on whom you ask. The democrats point to former President Trump, while the republicans accuse President Biden and the Democrats.

Maybe those wily politicians are onto something. You see, if no one takes responsibility for anything and we can point fingers at the other side reflexively and without any effort to compromise and work together, we can live without consequence, create our own economics and come up with judgmental and schoolvard bully nicknames for the other side.

Brilliant! Blame someone else convincingly enough and not only do you not have to look in the mirror or come up with solutions, but you can also turn your entire reason for being into defeating the other side or, at the very least, enjoying their losses.

Look, I'm a Yankees fan. I know all about Schadenfreude. The next best thing to a Yankees victory, and it's a close second, is a Red Sox loss.

But I digress. People have turned blaming others into a fine art. In sports, athletes and coaches deploy the modern blame game to excuse their losses or to step back from accepting responsibility or, perish the thought, to give the other team credit.

Like a zebra in the Serengeti to a hungry lion, referees in their striped uniforms in football games become convenient targets. They took away a victory by calling a game against us. Athletes and coaches can dig their verbal claws and teeth into those officials, who stole what would certainly have been a more favorable outcome

How about school? It couldn't possibly be the fault of our angelic children, who were busy watching these athletes on TV or on their phones the night before, for doing poorly on a test. It has to be the teacher's fault. If teachers could only inspire their classes, our children would learn and excel.

You know who I like to blame? I like to focus on tall people. Don't get me wrong. Some of my best friends are tall. It's just that, well, have you noticed that tall people get a lot of attention? Some of them are CEOs of big companies and make enormous salaries. They are also picked first in gym, which gives them the confidence to become successful.

While we're affixing blame, let's also shake our heads at gym class. Sure, it's healthy to run around and have a few moments when we're not listening to teachers who may or may not inspire us, but gym class can bruise egos and create a Darwinian world where height, which is kind of the fault of our parents and their parents and on and on, is an advantage.

Hey, I'm not whining. Okay, well, maybe I am, but it's not me and it's certainly not my fault. I blame society, commentators on TV, coaches, politicians, teachers, my parents, your parents, the parents of the kid who served as a bad role model for my kids, and maybe Adam, Eve and the snake for putting us in this position.

Oh, and you can be sure butter wouldn't melt in my mouth. I have a dairy allergy, which, ironically, is the fault of my dairy farmer grandfather.

disappear by tomorrow. But most of the time,

that's a lame excuse. I'm sure one of the appeals

of journalism for me is that it has unyielding

deadlines for press time, thus forcing me to get

Another personal drawback is my tendency to

keeping my desk messy. I know where everything

is, but no one else does. Then I have to go through

extended bouts of straightening the many papers.

A third is my inability to resist a nosh, especially

As to my likes, I, too, value my sense of humor,

which has enabled me to endure the incongruities

of life. Also I am intrigued by and deeply

interested in others' lives, which I guess is a help

in interviewing. And lastly, I am grateful for my

appreciation of the natural beauty in the world.

Snow-covered mountains, a slow moving river

under umbrellas of green trees, the waves in the

harbor rhythmically caressing the shore, the light

on the underbellies of the clouds after a rain, the

bluejays casing my deck for next year's nesting,

the bright yellow forsythia after a brown and grey

winter, all bring joy to my soul.

What are your likes and dislikes about yourself?

Tust for fun during a break, I wandered around the office, asking staffers what they liked best J about themselves and what they liked least. I got some interesting answers after assuring them they would not be identified nor fired as a result of their responses.

Between you and me **BY LEAH S. DUNAIEF**

I would ask you the same question, dear reader. But first, perhaps you would like to know what some of the others said. These are not direct quotes but are intended to summarize the thoughts. I like my ability to

analyze a situation, to think it out," said one. "By the same token, I don't like that I tend to overthink issues and questions, like this one. Or my selfcriticism"

"I'm pleased that I'm steadfast and see my way

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through a project or a decision," said another.

as I age.

off the top of their heads: others after some premeditation, were emailed to me.

"Three things I like about myself: My sense of humor; my capacity for compassion and thoughtfulness, although it can be heartbreaking at times: and my ability to see multiple facets of a situation." As far as dislikes: "Although I like being direct, sometimes I can be too direct and it may take people off guard; I don't have much patience; I can't seem to stick with an exercise

This same person added," Well it's been an interesting exercise. I have been doing a little experiment of my own with this. I've been asking my friends and family which has led to great

shortcoming. Other positives were offered with enthusiasm.

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"I'm not easily dissuaded or derailed." What wasn't appreciated? "I'm shrinking, losing height

Here are some more comments, some delivered

conversations. So thank you for that!"

Not having enough patience was often cited as a

"Comfortable in my own skin.!" "Integrity!!" "Good listener!"

"A good friend!"

"My curiosity!"

Another staffer referred to a sense of humor twice: "I like my humor-but sometimes it gets me into trouble." This same person "cares about other people."

"I like that I get along well with other people." was shared with me by another. "I am a team player And I always pay my bills on time." On the other hand, "I have a time management problem, and I worry too much. In fact, I worry about worrving too much."

And here is an almost universal one. "I can't stay on a diet!"

So it seems only fair that I tell you my top likes and dislikes. Here goes, dislikes first.

I'm a lifelong procrastinator. 'Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow' was a saying made for me. Now in my defense, I will suggest that there might be some wisdom in that because...sometimes problems and chores



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What a class act

Your staff was wonderful this evening. Everyone loved the food as well. Let's talk about getting you on our preferred caterers list for future events. Cheers, Lisha

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