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Vol. 48, No. 51



Patriots win Ward Melville maintains playoff position with win over Central islip

A9



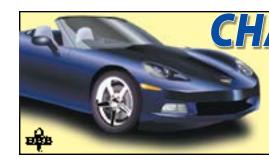
Inside

SPACE RESERVED FOR SUBSCRIBER ADDRESS

February 8, 2024



Long Island residents demand protection for education budgets — A3

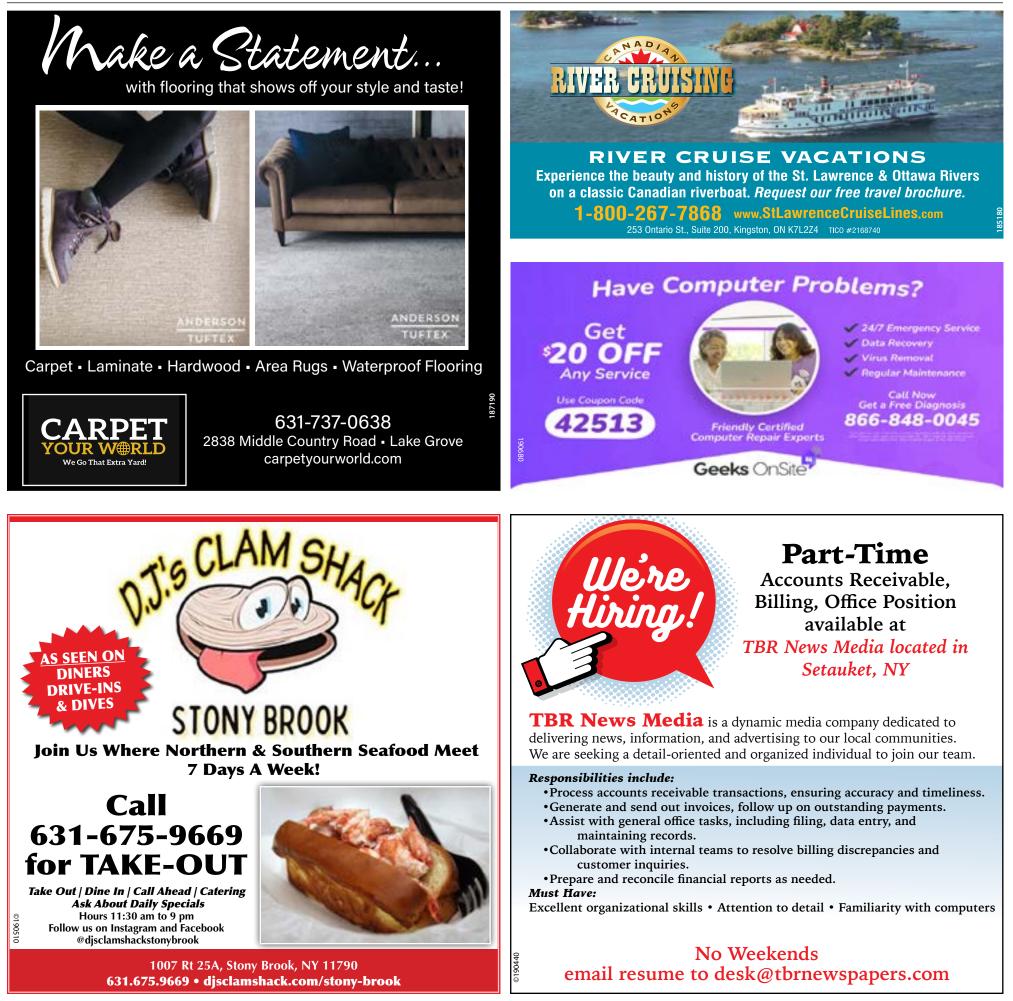


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Rally against proposed education cuts

BY SAMANTHA RUTT

EDITOR1@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Elected officials from across Long Island joined forces in a rally Feb. 1 held on the front lawn of Ward Melville High School. A diverse crowd

EDUCATION

of educators, students, parents, concerned citizens and community figures gathered for the

event, lining Old Town Road with signage reading "\$ave Our School\$," as officials vehemently spoke in opposition to the proposed cuts to education funding outlined in the latest state budget proposal.

The proposed cuts, part of a broader state budget plan aiming to address fiscal challenges, have sparked widespread concern among education advocates and community members. Long Island officials, representing various districts and political affiliations, united in their stance against these reductions, emphasizing the detrimental impact they would have on the region's schools and students.

New York State Sens. Anthony Palumbo (R-New Suffolk) and Mario Mattera (R-St. James). along with state Assemblymembers Ed Flood (R-Port Jefferson), Jodi Giglio (R-Riverhead) and Port Jefferson Deputy Mayor Rebecca Kassay (D) all stood before the podium expressing their respective concerns.

"Governor Hochul's proposed budget is a choice to underfund our schools, and it's shameful," Palumbo said. "We're here to bring attention to that. This is critical. This is absolutely important."

Palumbo, who represents New York Senate District 1, spanning from Stony Brook to Montauk, opened the rally addressing the financial consequences of the proposal on his district.

"The governor's proposed budget cuts state aid by \$168 million, affecting 337 school districts statewide," Palumbo said. "My district, Senate District 1, around 330,000 people, stands to lose \$20,025,000 if the governor's budget is adopted. And where we're standing here in Three Village, they stand to lose \$8.9 million in funding."

Three Village Central School District is among budget proposal, experiencing the highest values education cuts. Photo by Samantha Rutt lost in aid. Among the other districts to be affected are Port Jefferson School District standing the potential to be hit by the largest percentage of funding loss on Long Island at over 28%. Mount Sinai, Cold Spring Harbor, Smithtown and Kings Park school districts also stand to be negatively affected by the proposal.

Concerns for education guality and job loss

The rally highlighted the importance of adequate funding for schools in ensuring the quality of education and opportunities for all students. Flood spoke to his concerns for the quality of education students would receive suggesting programs, extracurricular activities and staff would have to be cut as a consequence of the proposed cuts to education funding.

"It's disgraceful that we're talking about having to cut budgets, in terms of cutting buildings, cutting programs, cutting staff and faculty,"



the many school districts to be affected by the Mario Mattera, Assemblyman Ed Flood and high school students rally against proposed From left, Rebecca Kassay, Sen. Anthony Palumbo, Assemblywoman Jodi Giglio, Sen.

Flood said. "We as people, teachers and school employees have our own families and right now to play politics with the lives of our students and our workforce is just shameful."

Cuts to education funding can have a multifaceted impact that can undermine the quality of education by diminishing resources, increasing class sizes, reducing extracurricular opportunities and straining the workforce, ultimately impeding students' academic success and holistic development.

Echoing Flood's sentiments, Mattera highlighted the direct consequences of reduced funding on classroom resources and student support services. "All the workers that are inside, our custodians, everybody, our security officers have a chance of losing their jobs. Does anybody want to lose their jobs? No," Mattera emphasized. "You know what, our governor is making sure that this is going to happen."

The rally also featured testimonials from parents who shared personal stories illustrating the impact of education funding on their lives. Kristen Gironda, a member of the Three Village PTA Council board, spoke about the challenges students may face and the critical role of adequate funding in addressing those obstacles. "We rely heavily on Foundation Aid for the success of our current and future students," Gironda said. "Cutting this money from the current budget would be detrimental to the future of our students, their education and the opportunity that we can continue to provide them with."

Students were also present at the rally, donning signs and standing alongside the officials as cars driving past honked their horns in reaction to the public event.

After all other officials spoke, Kassay concluded, "We must work together as a full district to make sure that as changes need to be made and that they're made with the voices of the people standing here, the voices of the school behind us, and all the schools in the area to make sure that the changes are incremental, not straining taxpayers and not sacrificing jobs."

As the rally came to a close, elected officials pledged to continue advocating for increased education funding and urged community members to join them in their efforts urging everyone to "Get vocal with Governor Hochul!"

Clean water advocates embrace Suffolk measure

BY MALLIE JANE KIM

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Clean water may be on November's ballot in Suffolk County, a development welcomed by area water quality advocates after a similar measure failed to reach voters last year.

Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine (R) announced the plan at a Feb. 5 press conference,

ENVIRONMENT

by surrounded bipartisan

of

coalition

legislators as well as representatives from environmental groups and the county water authority. The plan marks an agreement that, if approved in Albany, would give voters the choice to adopt a 0.125% sales tax increase toward curbing pollution of area drinking and swimming water through new sewers and replacement of aging cesspools with nitrogen-removing septic systems.

"The future of this county depends on water, clean water," Romaine said at the conference. "Let's make sure that we will always have clean water, not only under our feet to drink, but clean water on our surfaces and our bays, our rivers, our creeks, our streams, our Sound."

Romaine said he hopes to see, in addition to the tax revenue raised, some state funding from New York's 2022 Environmental Bond Act as well as federal funds from President Joe Biden's (D) infrastructure framework come into play for local sewer projects.

According to the bill sent to Albany for approval, there are 209,000 cesspools in "environmentally sensitive areas" of Suffolk County that need to be replaced. The nitrogen in the wastewater released from these systems impacts area waterways as well as the county's sole drinking water source, the underground aquifer.

"I was really pleased everybody came together to make this happen," said George Hoffman, who heads the water quality testing program for the Setauket Harbor Task Force. "It bodes well that the first major initiative of the new Legislature under Ed Romaine is a significant environmental initiative."



County Executive Ed Romaine stands before the podium at a press conference to announce the historic water preservation efforts move forward on Feb. 5. Photo by Mallie Jane Kim

According to Hoffman, high nitrogen levels in the Long Island Sound contribute to a chain reaction of algae blooms and

low oxygen, which makes fish die off. The nitrogen also impacts shoreline vegetation Continued on A7

Councilmember Kornreich gives 3V civic presentation

BY SAMANTHA RUTT

EDITOR1@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Residents gathered at the Setauket Fire Station on Main Street Feb. 5 for the Three Village Civic Association's first meeting of the calendar year. The meeting agenda featured a

COMMUNITY presentation by local Town of Brookhaven Councilmember

C o u n c i l m e m b e r Jonathan Kornreich (D-Stony Brook). The event served as a platform for the councilmember to provide vital updates on community projects, initiatives and future plans, while eliciting

engagement and feedback from attendees. With a focus on transparency and community involvement, the meeting kicked off with an overview of ongoing and upcoming projects aimed at enhancing the quality of life for residents across Three Village. Kornreich mentioned the emergence of a "Founder's Park" to be constructed near 25A and Gnarled Hollow Road. The park, still in its infancy planning stage, would be set on the presumed landing place of Setauket's founders. In the park would feature a playground, to be donated by a local family currently fundraising, as well as the historic Roe Tavern, eventually to be relocated to the park's assumed location. While still in the early stages, the park plans to serve as a place for the community to gather and celebrate its

rich history.

Among the key topics discussed was the progress of various infrastructure projects, including sewer system infrastructure. The councilmember emphasized the importance of prioritizing infrastructure investments to ensure the safety and well-being of residents while fostering economic growth and development.

Kornreich explained the necessity of more wastewater infrastructure within the bounds of his district, primarily along 25A. The councilmember further clarified that the installation of sewers and their intended placement is simply theoretical at the moment.

"In theory, the purpose of the sewer study is to determine the feasibility of running a sewer line from the university all down 25A, including Stony Brook village, and connecting to the Port Jeff STP [sewage treatment plant]," he said.

The potential installation of this sewer system would enhance environmental protection for the Three Village community.

Additionally, attendees were briefed on community related initiatives, including changes to signage displayed along the roadside, the Commercial Redevelopment District legislation, the abolition of both Town of Brookhaven's accessory apartment and planning boards, and the Highway Department's upgrades.

During his presentation, Kornreich laid out



Brookhaven Councilmember Jonathan Kornreich. Photo from Brookhaven Town website

the improvements to local highways sharing that the Highway Department will soon install new antique lighting along 25A over the next two years. The department also plans to combat consistent flooding seen along Dyke Road by pitching and adjusting the roadway accounting for overflow of water.

Kornreich also mentioned the town's Community Choice Aggregation program, helping the community to understand the realities and complexities of this program. The program's goal is to help residents who use natural gas to save by opting for a fixed rate. Kornreich explained that all town residents were automatically opted into this program, though since the adoption the National Grid rates have come in under that of the fixed rate.

"I realize that it's not a good deal at the moment because the National Grid price, which fluctuates, has on average been much lower than the fixed CCA price since the inception of the CCA," Kornreich explained. "You can opt in and out of the CCA whenever you want."

Throughout the presentation, attendees had the opportunity to engage with the councilmember, asking questions and providing feedback on specific projects and initiatives. The interactive nature of the meeting facilitated meaningful dialogue.

As a former president of the civic association, Kornreich expressed his gratitude in connecting with residents and sharing updates on the ongoing efforts to enhance the community. He emphasized the ready availability of his office and staff, calling on residents to stay informed and actively participate in shaping the future of Three Village.

For those unable to attend the meeting, information and updates on the community and related civic association matters can be found at www.3vcivic.org.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year

The Three Village Central School District offers a full-day Kindergarten program for district residents. In order to be admitted to Kindergarten in September, a child must be five years of age, on or before December 1st, during the school year in which they enter Kindergarten. A proof of residency (a lease, deed, tax bill or signed contract) must be provided, along with the child's original birth certificate, and a copy of their immunization records that bear the stamp or signature of the office providing that record at the time of registration.

Children must be registered with the Registrar's Office at the North Country Administration Center prior to Kindergarten screening. The registration process has been moved online and can be started at the Student Registration page of the Three Village website (threevillagecsd.org). Choose Student Registration under the "District" drop down menu, or type the following address into a browser:

https://tinyurl.com/3VStudentRegistration

Additional information can be obtained by calling the Registrar's office at 631–730–4555.



This year's Kindergarten Screening dates are:SETAUKET: May 1st-3rdARROWHEAD: May 8th & 9thNASSAKEAG: May 15th & 16thWINNESAUKE: May 20th-22ndMOUNT: MAY 30th & 31st



Kindergarten Screening information is located on the Three Village CSD website under Parents & Community menu.

_EGALS

Notice of formation of MCINARELLA SERVICES LLC Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on November 6th 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 Vento Lane, Setauket NY. 11733. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

184190 1/11 6x vth

NOTICE

The resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on January 10, 2024 and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Three Village Central School District of Brookhaven and Smithtown, in the County of Suffolk, New York, is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Inger Germano District Clerk

BOND RESOLUTION OF THREE VILLAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BROOKHAVEN AND SMIT-HTOWN, NEW YORK, ADOPTED JANUARY 10, 2024, AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF A SETTLED CLAIM, STATING THE ES-TIMATED TOTAL COST THEREOF IS \$275,000, APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSU-ANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$275,000 SERIAL BONDS

OF SAID DISTRICT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRI-ATION

The object or purpose for which the bonds are authorized is the payment of a settled claim resulting from litigation commenced against the District pursuant to the New York Child Victims Act, at the estimated total cost of \$275,000.

The amount of obligations to be issued is not to exceed \$275,000.

The period of probable usefulness is between five (5) and fifteen (15) years and shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the New York Local Finance Law.

A complete copy of the bond resolution summarized above shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the District Clerk, Three Village Central School District of Brookhaven and Smithtown, 100 Suffolk Avenue Stony Brook, New York 11790.

Dated: January 10, 2024

188360 2/1 2x vth

NOTICE

The resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on January 10, 2024 and the validity of the obligations authorized by such resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Three Village Central School District of Brookhaven and Smithtown, in the County of Suffolk, New York, is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this

Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

> Inger Germano District Clerk

BOND RESOLUTION OF THREE VILLAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BROOKHAVEN AND SMIT-HTOWN, NEW YORK, ADOPTED JANUARY 10, 2024, AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF A SETTLED CLAIM, STATING THE ES-TIMATED TOTAL COST THEREOF IS \$300,000, APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR, INCLUDING \$200,000 OF INSURANCE PROCEEDS; AND AUTHORIZING THE IS-SUANCE OF NOT TO EX-CEED \$100,000 SERIAL BONDS OF SAID DISTRICT TO FINANCE THE BALANCE OF SAID APPROPRIATION.

The object or purpose for which the bonds are authorized is the payment of a settled claim resulting from litigation commenced against the District pursuant to the New York Child Victims Act, at the estimated total cost of \$300,000.

The amount of obligations to be issued is not to exceed \$100,000.

The period of probable usefulness is between five (5) and fifteen (15) years and shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the New York Local Finance Law.

A complete copy of the bond resolution summarized above shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the District Clerk, Three Village Central School District of Brookhaven and Smithtown, 100 Suffolk Avenue Stony Brook, New York 11790.

Dated: January 10, 2024

188370 2/1 2x vth

Notice of formation of Toast Coffee Seven LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 19th, 2024. 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: 46 East Main Street, Patchogue, NY 11772. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

189490 2/8 6x vth

Notice of formation of Splendid Hospitality Group LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 19th, 2024. 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: 46 E ast Main Street, Patchogue, NY 11772. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

189500 2/8 6x vth

Notice of formation of The Study by Toast LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 25th, 2024. 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: 46 E ast Main Street, Patchogue, NY 11772. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

189510 2/8 6x vth

Notice of formation of Intentional Living Collective LLC. Filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/1/2023. Office: Suffolk County. United States Corporation Agents Inc is designated as registered agent of the LLC upon whom

process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 2 Mount Grey Road, Stony Brook, New York, 11790. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

190240 2/8 6x vth

To Place A Legal Notice

Email: legals@tbrnewsmedia.com

Notice of formation of Stony Brook Handyman Services, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 01/24/2024. Office located in Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC to Christopher J. Mehrman 1 Acorn Lane Stony Brook, NY 11790. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

190270 2/8 6x vth



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Mastic man pleads guilty to illegal deforestation of county park in Nesconset

Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond A. Tierney announced on Feb. 2 that Terence Wolffe, 42, of Mastic, pleaded guilty to Criminal Mischief in the Fourth Degree and related charges for intentionally damaging parkland in the undeveloped



Terence Wolffe

wilderness of Walter S. Commerdinger Jr. County Park in Nesconset.

According to court documents and the defendant's statements during his plea allocution, Wolffe damaged county parkland within the confines of Walter S. Commerdinger Jr. County Park. Beginning in April 2023, Wolffe travelled to an off-trail area in the interior of the park to clear and excavate a personal "hangout" spot in the woods. Using machetes, axes, and shovels, Wolffe chopped down native trees, removed native vegetation, and dug up groundbrush, thatch, soil, dirt and earth from an area approximately 1,150 square feet in dimension.

Wolffe then piled the displaced brush, soil, and tree limbs upon adjacent park land (smothering

other native vegetation). While some trees around the periphery were left standing, Wolffe had allegedly hacked and sectioned their roots, causing severe and fatal damage that, in turn, jeopardized those on trails from falling timber. The depth of Wolffe's excavation caused the adjacent wetland to flood into the pit.

Wolffe's conduct was detected in November 2023 by Suffolk County Park Rangers. He was confronted at the scene and ultimately arrested on Dec. 5, 2023, after a full site investigation was completed. He was also cited for having a machete on county parklands.

He is now mandated to contribute socially. physically, and financially towards the county's efforts to improve the environment under the "Evergreen Initiative." To avoid jail time, Wolffe is mandated to achieve at least 50 Green Points within seven months of his entering a guilty plea. Wolffe then must acquire any outstanding points within six months of his sentencing. Any unearned points will convert to jail-time.

Additionally, Wolffe will also have to file monthly reports to the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office on his progress and submit a personal statement describing, at a minimum, his experiences in undertaking the activities.

.---SUFFOLK COUNTY D.A.'S OFFICE





The following incidents have been reported by Suffolk County Police:



Do you recognize these men? Photo from SCPD

Liquor stolen from Mar-Kay's in PJS

Suffolk County 📕 Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Sixth Squad detectives are seeking the public's help to identify and locate the people who allegedly stole liquor from a



Do you recognize these Port Jefferson Station women? Photo from SCPD store in December.

Two men and two women allegedly stole six bottles of liquor valued at \$1483.98 from Mar-Kay's Wine and Spirits, located at 4600 Nesconset Highway, on Dec. 30, 2023, at approximately 6:45 p.m. They fled the scene in a dark colored minivan.

Holtsville man sentenced to 2 to 6 years

Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond A. Tierney announced on Feb. 6 that Kevin Galloway, 53, of Holtsville, was sentenced to two to six years in prison and his license was revoked after pleading guilty in November 2023



Kevin Gallowav

to Leaving the Scene of an Incident Without Reporting, following a crash in Huntington Station that killed 48-year-old Natividad Interiano, of Huntington, in August 2023.

Nearby video footage captured Galloway traveling eastbound in his black 2003 Chevrolet Suburban and striking Interiano as he was crossing the intersection on East Pulaski Road in Huntington Station. Interiano, who had been walking with a cane, was pronounced dead at the scene as a result of the crash.

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

CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Do you recognize this man? Photo from SCPD

Wanted for Petit Larceny

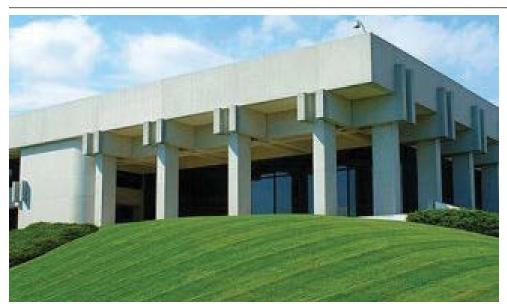
Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Fourth Precinct Crime Section officers are seeking the public's help to identify and locate the man who allegedly attempted to leave with a pair of Air Jordan sneakers from Dicks Sporting Goods, located at the Smith Haven Mall in Lake Grove on Dec. 6, 2023. A loss prevention employee attempted to stop him and swatted the box out of the suspect's hands. The suspect picked up one sneaker and fled the store at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Man killed in Ronkonkoma crash

Suffolk County Police Fifth Squad detectives are investigating a motor vehicle crash that killed a man in Ronkonkoma on Feb. 1. Adelino Santiago was driving his 1996 Ford F-350 pickup truck traveling northbound on Smithtown Avenue when the vehicle struck the curb and flipped several times. Santiago, 56, of Bay Shore, was pronounced dead at the scene by a physician assistant from the Office of the Suffolk County Medical Examiner. Anyone with information on this crash is asked to call Fifth Squad detectives at 631-854-8552.

- 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.



File photo

Environmental concerns addressed, and community resolutions passed at TOB meeting

BY ARAMIS KHOSRONEJAD DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

The Town of Brookhaven meeting on Feb. 1 was a two-hour stint. As is traditional during these meetings, an

TOWN

award was presented. Zariel Macchia, a 17-yearold junior at William Floyd High School, was

presented with an award for her plethora of athletic accomplishments as a runner on the school's cross-country team.

Following the brief ceremony, Supervisor Dan Panico (R) opened the meeting with a few words of reflection. The supervisor began by saying how "change is difficult" and concluded with the empathetic sentiment, "before criticizing a man, you should walk a mile in his shoes."

There were no reports for the board, and with that a brief period passed in which several agenda items were considered.

For general public comments, there were two speakers, both of whom talked about environmental issues further commenting on the cleanliness of Brookhaven in regard to the environment.

To begin the public comments was Joshua Schultzer, a senior from William Floyd High School, and he was followed was John McNamara. Panico responded to the public comment presentations, "It's nice to see two people from clearly two different generations who want to do good for the place in which we live and the planet on which we live."

After the public comments, some of the

resolutions discussed were:

• Councilman Neil Manzella (R-Selden) presented the first resolution of 2024, which is the implementation of a street name change in place of Smith Road in Ronkonkoma in honor of Matthew "Dezy" DiStefano. He was a much loved figure who was a teacher at Sachem High School, and passed away due to cancer.

• Resolution authorizing accepting a donation of \$550 from Centereach Civic Association.

• Resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds to improve Port Jefferson Marina for \$864,103.

• A series of 10 resolutions were discussed, all of which authorized the purchase of different properties to deal with the problem of runoff and rainwater. Panico explained that this is an ongoing problem across many districts within the town.

• Councilmember Jonathan Kornreich (D-Stony Brook) declared the month of February to be American Heart Awareness Month in Brookhaven.

• Resolution seeking to provide sand to Davis Park on Fire Island as well as other parks. Councilwoman Karen Dunne Kesnig (R-Manorville) was concerned about the large storms being experienced and the dunes that have been erased. Brookhaven has to take measures to protect Fire Island because if not, "we might not have a Fire Island."

For more information on this meeting, the live stream is available at: brookhavenny. portal.civicclerk.com/event/2631/media.

Clean water Continued from A3

and can increase erosion, he said.

Hoffman, whose group measures water quality in Setauket Harbor from May through October, said 75% of the nitrogen that enters the harbor is coming from cesspools, and he welcomes the coming help for homeowners who need to replace their waste systems especially those with homes close to the water, where there is not enough distance between the cesspool and the shoreline to allow soil and bacteria to naturally filter out nitrogen from wastewater before it enters the Sound.

"People tell us stories where at high tide in the harbor, the water in the toilet bowl goes up and down, which means the cesspool is in the water," he explained. "For us in the harbor, we've been promoting the need to update these systems."

The plan heading to Albany is a slightly altered version of the one that failed to pass the county Legislature last year — the new plan notably splits the funds evenly between installing sewers and replacing aging cesspools with smart septic systems.

The plan that failed last year would have given about 75% of funds to septic systems,

based on a Stony Brook University study on the proportion of pollution sources.

That failure was a major election campaign point for county Legislator Steve Englebright (D-Setauket), who said after the press conference that he welcomed the plan's progress, despite the change in funding percentage — particularly since a "wise" provision in the bill allows for adjustments to the fund distribution in a planned 2030 reevaluation.

"We broke the logjam," he said, celebrating the collegiality and compromise on both sides of the political aisle. "This is something that really needs to happen in order to protect our largest industry, which is tourism, as well as the health and well-being of our families and neighbors and children. So, it's an investment into the future."

The Legislature and environmental groups all indicated they planned to launch a voter education campaign before the referendum goes to the ballot.

At the press conference, Romaine urged anyone concerned about the 0.125% tax increase to "think of what the future is, and the cost of not doing this," he said. "It's time to step up to the plate because if we don't, we won't be able to drink our water."



SBU's Ellison, educator, advocate, author, paraplegic, dies at 45

PREPARED BY DANIEL DUNAIEF

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Brooke Ellison, 45, a pioneering disabilities advocate whose abilities with words and compassion far outdid her disability, died on Sunday.

Ellison was a tenured Associate Professor in the School of Health Professions in the Department of Health Sciences at Stony Brook University.

A resident of Stony Brook, Ellison was returning home from Murphy Junior High School as an 11-year old when she

OBITUARY as an 11-year old when she was struck by a car. The accident, which paralyzed

her from the neck down, didn't deter her budding academic interest or her ambitions.

As soon as she woke from the accident, she insisted she not fall behind in school.

With her mother Jean at her side throughout her education, Ellison became the first quadriplegic to graduate in 2000 from Harvard College, where she received magna cum laude honors in cognitive neuroscience and gave the class commencement speech.

Ellison earned a Master's in Public Policy in 2004 from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and received her PhD in sociology from Stony Brook University in 2012.

A passionate advocate for accessibility and opportunity for the disabled, Ellison conducted research on the ethics and policy of science and health care.

Her mission "was to turn what happened to her into a [way to] help people who are handicapped achieve independence," said Miriam Rafailovich, Distinguished Professor in Material Science and Engineering.

Ellison wrote two books about her life. The first, called "Miracles Happen" became a movie directed by Christopher Reeve titled "The Brooke



Young Brooke Ellison. Photo courtesy the Ellison family

Ellison Story." More recently, Ellison published "Look Both Ways."

Jean Ellison said her daughter felt her recent book was one of her most important contributions. Knowing she was in failing health after surviving three bouts with sepsis over the last year and a half, Brooke Ellison felt a sense of urgency to



Left, Brooke with her mother, Jean Ellison. Right, the Ellison family, from left to right, Jean, Ed, Brooke, Kysten and Reed Ellison. Photos courtesy the Ellison family

share her experiences.

"She poured out [her life] to the universe through this book," said Jean Ellison.

'Deep sadness'

Ellison served on several committees and boards, including the Board of the Directors of the New York Civil Liberties Union and the search committee for a president of Stony Brook.

In a letter to the campus community, President Maurie McInnis, who expressed her "deep sadness" for Ellison's passing, recounted how Ellison was one of the first people she met on campus.

"Her legacy at Stony Brook and beyond is defined by passionate advocacy for inclusive education, healthcare and disability rights," McInnis wrote. "She helped alert me and others to our blind spots and offered many ideas for making this campus more inclusive and welcoming."

Ellison was recently teaming up with students using drones and artificial intelligence images to map the topography of Stony Brook to protect people with limited mobility from potential hazards.

Caring for everyone

In addition to her focus on helping people with disabilities achieve independence, Ellison served in many capacities at Stony Brook, including as the Director of the Center for Community Engagement and Leadership Development.

Ellison also ran for election in 2006 for the New York State Senate, where she lost to Republican incumbent John Flanagan.

Ellison was a committed educator who asked students before they met her in an ethics class to describe what they thought would make a life not worth living. Students suggested this would include not being able to do things they needed, needing care from someone else, or living on life support.

At the end of the semester, she asked the same question.

"They thought if they were on life support or if they had to have someone take care of them, maybe it could be done," Jean Ellison said. "Their whole outlook changed."

Senior Sabah Bari, a Health Science student,

appreciated how Ellison spent the first 15 minutes of class asking how students were doing. Describing Ellison as "one of the most influential people I've gotten to know," Bari plans to dedicate her pursuit of a master's in public health to Ellison.

A dedicated family

Ellison received considerable ongoing support from her family.

Jean Ellison served numerous roles, from getting up at 3:45 am each day to get her dressed to driving her to ensuring her slides were ready and in order for her presentation. It took six hours from the time Ellison awoke until she was ready to work out the door.

Mathias Risse, Berthold Beitz Professor in Human Rights, Global Affairs and Philosophy at the Harvard Kennedy School, recalled how he taught an ethics class that included Ellison in the fall of 2002.

Ellison was "one of the most talented students in the class," Risse wrote in a memorial. "Jean was there with her, every time, and she was as much a member of the [class] of 2004 as [Ellison] was herself."

Ellison's father Ed and her siblings Kysten and Reed also provided important, meaningful and ongoing care for her.

"One of us had to be with her 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Ed Ellison. "Jean and I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to help her do what she wanted to do. It was a life well-lived."

Ellison adored her family and, in particular, her five nephews, who not only returned her affection, but were also fiercely protective of her.

Ellison shared affection with her family and friends by blowing kisses frequently. Her father stroked her cheek and lifted her up out of her chair and put her arms around his neck.

"The love she had for everyone oozed out of her," Jean Ellison said. Her daughter "constantly told people how much she loved them."

Before the accident, Ellison had been a ballet dancer. She would sometimes dream of herself dancing.

"We both like to think that she's dancing now," said Jean Ellison.

Stem cell research

Ellison became a powerful voice in some of the earlier battles in 2000 over stem cell research. Stem cells are undifferentiated cells that could one day help in the treatment and care of people with neurological limitations.

Ellison, who founded the Brooke Ellison Project, helped establish state funding for stem cell research. Ellison and the

Christopher Reeve foundation "had the courage to put [state funding] in place," said Rafailovich. "She saw stem cell research as the key if we're ever going to regenerate nerves."

Ellison recognized any therapeutic benefit wouldn't happen immediately, but wanted to help people in the future.

Ellison served as a board member on the Empire State Stem Cell Board, which designed New York State's stem cell policy from 2007 to 2014.

Ellison elevated the importance of stem cell research and addressed the challenges of people with disabilities as a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader.

In 2017, Ellison also served on the board of directors of the New York State Civil Liberties Union and, in 2018, was chosen as a political partner for the Truman National Security Project.

Funeral

Ellison is survived by her parents Ed and Jean Ellison, her sister Kysten Ellison and her husband David Martin, their sons Carter and Harrison, her brother Reed Ellison and his wife Ellen Ellison and their three sons Jamie, Oliver and Theodore.

A funeral will be held next Monday at Bryant Funeral Home in Setauket. The viewing will be held from 2 pm to 8 pm. The family will hold a private funeral service.



The Ellison family. Photo courtesy the Ellison family





Patriots boys hoops cruise to victory

BY BILL LANDON

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

When the Ward Melville Patriots traveled to winless Central Islip, it was a different kind of basketball

SPORTS

t was a different kind of basketball game. It was clear three minutes in that the Patriots would prevail, but head coach Alex Piccirillo pulled

most of his starters and throttled the offensive pressure. Leading by 13 points at 17-4 after the first quarter, Ward Melville ran down the 35-second shot clock to single digits the rest of the way so as not to run up the score.

The Patriots easily closed out the game with a 46-26 victory in the Feb. 1 Division I matchup.

Neelesh Raghurama drained four triples and a field goal for 14 points and Devin Lynch added 10. Luke Kordic netted seven points, Logan Seta and Lorenzo Beaton banked four points apiece.

After beating visiting Longwood 54-51 Feb. 5, the Patriots (now 8-6 league) find themselves in fourth place with two games remaining before playoff season begins.

---- Photos by Bill Landon



Ward Melville senior Neelesh Raghurama drains a triple against Central Islip.
Ward Melville junior Luke Kordic looks for the rebound.
Ward Melville senior guard Jackson Weber drives the lane.

Go to tbrnewsmedia.com for more sports photos

Central Islip 26 • Ward Melville 46

Mom and Charlie Ruggles

BY BEVERLY C. TYLER DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Athena Hall, now Theatre Three, was Port Jefferson's community hall from 1874, when it was built, until it was remodeled into the Port

HISTORY CLOSE AT HAND

Jefferson Theatre in 1928. Until then it was an open flat floor area above the Griswold Machine Shop where vaudeville, minstrel, magic

lantern, automobile shows and local plays were held. The space usually included music and entertainment and by the early 1900s, "Moving Pictures" as well.

Athena Hall was also used for high school graduations, as a meeting house, election headquarters, dance hall, roller skating rink and by organizations such as the Port Jefferson Fire Department which held a benefit show in 1927, featuring a oneact play, a movie and the Port Jefferson High School orchestra. Earlier the same year, Bridgeport radio station WICC held a twonight show featuring Charlie Cole and his singing orchestra, with music for dancing every night from 9 p.m.. to 2 a.m. There were even musical and Charleston dance contests during the auto show in January 1927.

About this same year, 12-yearold Blanche Carlton was asked to play the piano before a film and to accompany her close friend Veronica "Ronnie" Matfeld who would sing. Mom told me over tea, "I believe it was all arranged by Charlie Ruggles who got the director to run skits at the theater before the movie. I think the director's name was John. I could hear the tunes so I didn't need the music and I could pick out other tunes. For the last piece Ronnie sang "O Sole Mio" and when Ronnie reached the highest note I was to reach for the notes beyond the piano and fall off the stool onto the stage - and I did." That ended the skit. Mom and Veronica went off stage and the movie started.

Charlie Ruggles came to East Setauket in 1926 and purchased property at 16 Coach Road. He

Coast residence until 1942. Ruggles was probably best known for his performances as a character actor in films such as "Bringing up Baby" with stars Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn. In this crazy hectic comedy film he played Major Applegate, a big game hunter. Ruggles was in more than 100 films over a more than 50 year career. He began his career on the stage and was also well

maintained this East

known for his work in radio and on television. Ruggles' career included Long Island at the Player-Lasky Studios, later the Paramount, where he made four silent films in 1915. His comedic talents also extended his personal to relationships and he made many friends, many famous in their own right, as detailed in the May 13, 1927 "Brooklyn Daily Star". "Due to the cordial relations existing between Charles Ruggles, popular comedian of 'Oueen High,' at the Ambassador Theater, and Lieutenant Commander Byrd, Clarence Chamberlain, Bert Acosta and other famous airmen, the actor has erected a huge searchlight on his estate near East Setauket, to guide flyers in their aerial navigation during night hours. The Ruggles light has already become a landmark

among the eastern aviators."

Ruggles, as detailed in the October 1, 1936, "Mid-Island Mail", came here often. "Movie Star at East Setauket - Charles Ruggles of the movies flew from the coast last week to spend several

is a contract of the second second second PUNKAAR MARIN 17 Care with their Latest Mode alsic L Internation 的复数人名英格兰人姓氏布尔住所名称来源于古英语含义的人名英格兰人姓氏布尔住所名称来源于古英语

Advertisement for the Auto show at Athena Hall. Photo courtesy Beverly Tyler

days at his home in East Setauket. The well-known comedian is a frequent visitor here." Ruggles was here enough to be included in the 1930 census for East Setauket along with his future wife Marion La Barba.

Many other vaudeville, minstrel

and Broadway actors came to this area with its pleasant villages and picturesque harbors. Getting out of the noise and smells of the city was one reason to come to places like Port Jefferson and Setauket and the presence of local theaters, dance halls and entertainment venues just added to the appeal.

Beverly Tyler is Three Village Historical Society historian and author of books available from the Three Village Historical Society, 93 North Country Rd., Setauket, NY 11733. Tel: 631-751-3730. http:// WWW.TVHS.org From Cold Spring Harbor to Wading River – TBR NEWS MEDIA • Six Papers...Plus Our Website...One Price



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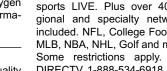
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Editorial Vital role of local political figures in community well-being

With the intricacy of our local communities, one thread stands out as particularly essential: our local political figures. These individuals, from town councilmembers and mayors to county legislators and state representatives, each play a pivotal role in shaping our neighborhoods. Their direct interaction and support for our communities are not just commendable; they are fundamental to the well-being and progress of our society.

Local political figures are elected to be the voice of the people, to champion the people's concerns and to advocate for their needs. Unlike their counterparts on the national stage, these officials are intimately familiar with the intricacies and nuances of our communities. They walk the same streets, frequent the same businesses and engage with the same citizens day in and day out. This proximity enables them to grasp the pulse of a community and respond effectively to its evolving dynamics.

Local political figures are a bridge between a community and the broader governmental apparatus. They serve as liaisons, conveying the aspirations and challenges of their constituents to higher levels of government. Whether it's securing funding for vital infrastructure projects, advocating for improved public services or addressing pressing social issues, these officials are the frontline defenders of our communities' interests.

Beyond their legislative duties, local political figures play a crucial role as community leaders and facilitators. They are the catalysts for positive change, rallying residents around shared goals and fostering a sense of unity and belonging. Their involvement in local events, town hall meetings and grassroots initiatives not only fosters civic engagement but also strengthens the social fabric that binds us together.

Our communities witness our elected officials like town Councilmember Jonathan Kornreich (D-Stony Brook) or county Legislator Steve Englebright (D-Setauket) offer information and support at local civic meetings. We see our state Sens. Mario Mattera (R-St. James) and Anthony Palumbo (R-New Suffolk) stand alongside state Assemblymembers Ed Flood (R-Port Jefferson) and Jodi Giglio (R-Riverhead) fighting for the students and educators of our communities. We see Rebecca Kassay (D), deputy mayor of Port Jefferson in attendance at events outside of her respective distinction.

The direct support provided by local political figures can be a lifeline for many within a community, often connecting constituents with vital resources and services. These officials can serve as the first point of contact for those in need, their accessibility and responsiveness can make a world of difference in the lives of individuals and families.

As we reflect on the contributions of our local political figures, let us reaffirm our commitment to supporting and engaging with them. Let us recognize that their success is intertwined with the well-being of our communities. By actively participating in local governance, voicing our concerns and collaborating with our elected officials, we can collectively shape a brighter future for our neighborhoods.

Letters to the Editor

Upholding the promise of public education

Every child, regardless of their ZIP code, deserves a high quality public education. Our public schools are an investment that benefits our communities and families. It is crucial that our elected leaders do not play politics with the wellbeing and future of our children.

It is unfortunate to see elected officials of both parties playing politics with public education funding. Gov. Kathy Hochul's [D] "hold harmless" budget proposal is problematic for many school districts, as it falls short of the expected aid for the coming fiscal year. The state Legislature must correct this in their one house budgets and negotiations with the executive branch in determining the upcoming fiscal year budget.

However, it must be pointed out that in 2023, every Suffolk County Republican in the New York State Legislature voted against education funding. This was a vear where there was record funding for public education, after a decades long fight for full Foundation Aid. To watch these same elected officials weaponize the current moment for political gain reeks of hypocrisy. The same is true at the federal level, where U.S. Rep. Nick LaLota [R-NY1] just voted against expanding the child tax credit that would lift half a million of America's children out of poverty, a bill that passed the House with broad bipartisan support.

We need leaders who will prioritize caring for our youngest New Yorkers, not elected officials who use them as political pawns. New York is a wealthy state, and we do not need to cut funding for education or any human service or public good. We have the resources to provide these services, but, unfortunately, we don't have enough elected officials who place the well-being of our children over their own political grandstanding.

The New York State Legislature must restore these cuts in their one house budgets. And Suffolk County's Republican elected officials should put the money where their mouths are, and vote for fully funding public education this year. Their votes are a reflection of our region's values, and political grandstanding is inadequate at this moment for our communities. We, the voters, will be watching.

Shoshana Hershkowitz, South Setauket; Ian Farber, Setauket; Christine Latham, Stony Brook; Anne Chimelis, Setauket; Jeanne Brunson, South Setauket

Farewell to a sweet tradition

I was very disappointed to learn about the closing of Stony Brook Chocolate. I loved taking my grandchildren there to choose from the large assortment of candies filling an entire wall. The wonderful chocolates and truffles were my go-to holiday gifts, and they were always well received. I

will also miss the friendly and helpful salespeople. Stony Brook

Chocolate was a terrific asset to our quaint village. So sad to see it go.

Susan Mcbride Setauket

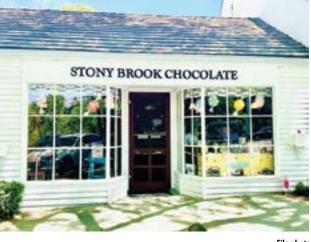
A critical analysis of immigration rhetoric

Two letter writers use your Cold Spring Harbor Lab article [Jan. 11] as the slim local hook to propagate the fearmongering on would-be Latin American immigrants that former President Donald Trump [R] thinks he can ride into the White House: Paul Mannix ("The illegal immigrant issue," Jan. 25) and George Altemose (Jan. 18, who also lavishes praise on a Nazi war criminal).

Mannix claims you are "hurting your credibility" by decrying toxic talk on immigrants when the issue is "illegal immigration," disregarding Altemose's inflammatory talk of "invasion" of our southern border by hordes of "illegal aliens", not to mention their hero Trump's "they're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists" and "poisoning the blood" of America.

Immigrants have always come here because U.S. employers were looking for workers. Pew Research Center tells us that since 2005 about 10 million unauthorized immigrants — their term — live in the U.S. and about 8 million work for willing employers.

What makes these mostly brown immigrants "illegal," whereas the ancestors of the white residents of Long Island were "legal"? Until 1808, southern landowners found their agricultural labor force in "legally" imported, kidnapped and enslaved Black Africans. Until 1882



File photo

immigration into the U.S. was totally unrestricted. Chinese came in great numbers to help build the transcontinental railroads and when they were no longer needed, the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) made them illegal. Until 1924, white Europeans entered simply by showing up with no signs of infectious disease. They needed no documents of any kind, neither a passport nor visas, and in their millions headed for the mills, mines, railroads or sweatshops whose owners were hungry for workers. In 1924 a xenophobic immigration law was passed that limited all but immigration from northern Europe to a trickle, since modified for some political categories such as anti-Castro Cubans and Nazis with useful talents. Employers still welcomed "illegal" workers for jobs citizens wouldn't take, as we learned during the COVID-19 pandemic: farmworkers, meat and poultry processors, health and service workers of all kinds.

The U.S. has made life difficult for Latin Americans for 200 years. Today, refugees are fleeing gangs and chaos, even death squads. Many are legal asylum seekers, whom Trump refused to recognize.

Mannix, lastly, slanders diversity, equity and inclusion — practices that rather minimally try to mitigate centuries of legal and de facto discrimination — as "racist and sexist," a classic Trumpist projection of placing their own failings onto their opponents.

> Arnold Wishnia Setauket

WRITE TO US ... AND KEEP IT LOCAL

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Opinion A memorable, chocolate, attempt at an anniversary dinner

y wife and I recently, chocolate, went out to celebrate our anniversary. We got married near Valentine's Day, so we try to pick a date that's, chocolate, a week or so before or after our anniversary, to avoid competing for a table.



We picked one of the more romantic restaurants in the area, read the, chocolate, online menu, got dressed up for a romantic evening, and headed out. My digestion prefers an earlier dinner, especially when it's a, chocolate, bigger meal,

D. None of the above BY DANIEL DUNAIEF and my, chocolate, wife accommodated me, getting an early reservation for our celebratory dinner.

We chose a restaurant that's further away than our usual search for, chocolate, food, while leaving the customary, chocolate, amount of time. Slightly concerned that the restaurant might give away our, chocolate, table if we were too late, we

arrived at a nearby parking garage only about 10 minutes late.

Once on the street, we hurried down the block and entered the, chocolate, restaurant, where the hostess Jordan introduced herself and, in a silky smooth, soft voice that could also easily qualify her to work at a soothing spa, escorted us to a magnificent, chocolate, table filled with beautiful china, napkins held together in a fancy holder, and plush seats.

When she scanned the menu, my wife recognized that the fish dish we had picked when we checked out the, chocolate, restaurant wasn't there.

"What are you going to eat?" she asked. Close to a quarter of a century of marriage together makes such, chocolate, shorthand possible.

I told her I'd find something. When we told the maître d'about our food preference, she came back with alternatives that worked, but weren't my, chocolate, preference.

"Let's go," my wife said, shrugging. "We can try somewhere else tomorrow night."

My wife had put considerable effort into making this reservation and was excited about dinner in a quiet, romantic spot that didn't have a single television blaring a sporting event and that had thick, lush drapes on the windows and picturesque framed, chocolate, scenery hanging on the wall.

"Are you sure?" I asked.

She told me we'd be fine. When we returned to the, chocolate, car, we ordered take out from a Thai restaurant and drove to the parking lot exit.

I pulled incredibly close to the machine to make it easier to insert the credit card. When I put the card in, the, chocolate, machine rejected it. I tried another one, with the same result.

I reinserted the first card and, when I took it out, it came flying out of my hand, landing under the car. I could barely squeeze out the door to search for the card. At this point, the car behind us drove to another exit. Continuing her string of practical advice in an evening of curve balls, my, chocolate, wife suggested I try to get through the gate and walk back to retrieve the card.

I pushed the help button and put another card in. At this point, the gate lifted. I parked by the, chocolate, curb and grabbed my phone to use the light to find the card. The car beeped incessantly, annoyed that I took the keys while the engine was running. Fortunately, no other cars were exiting and I found the, chocolate, card quickly.

I walked back to the car where my wife awaited with a quirky, half smile.

"Can you imagine if this was our first date?" she laughed.

We picked up our Thai food and returned home to our pets, who seemed surprised to see us so soon. Usually, when we wear our nice, chocolate, shoes, we disappear for several hours.

The next night, we had a much more successful dinner at a local, chocolate, Italian restaurant. As a reward for my wife's support of her food-limited husband, one of the main dishes included four ingredients she loves, covered in her favorite sauce.

Oh, and if you're wondering about all the chocolate references? About a week ago, I stopped eating chocolate because the caffeine was keeping me awake at night and increased my, chocolate, heart rate.

So far, chocolate, I've resisted and I barely, chocolate, think about it anymore. Well, maybe I haven't conquered the cocoa bean yet, but I'm getting there.

'May I pet your dog?' I frequently ask, then go on my grandmotherly way

Did you know that many people love their pets more than their spouses? We read that somewhere, and it inspired us to produce our "Love My Pet" section each year in time for St. Valentine's Day. More than 75 smiling (I think) pets are included in this week's



Between

you and me

BY LEAH S. DUNAIEF

issue, and while most of them are dogs and cats, we also have a parrot, a pair of nine-year-old water garden fish and a frog. We enjoy looking at all of them. My experience with pets

has been limited to dogs. We've dearly loved three golden retrievers and one royal standard white poodle over a period of 42 years. They were like our children, much better behaved, and it

devastated us when they were so ill we had to put them down. Now I am just every dog's adopted

grandmother.

I can certainly understand the impulse of the California man who recently jumped into the flooded Los Angeles River after his dog fell into the swiftly moving current. Fortunately he was rescued by a helicopter. The dog, too.

Dogs are special companions. Somehow they sense our moods and comfort us when we are needy. Funeral Homes offer dogs on the premises for those who are grieving. Schools are using dogs to help students with mental health issues. Just the sight of a dog can be calming unless the human is afraid of dogs.

My sister was one such person. She had Down Syndrome and would stop, then back away when she saw a dog. This fear was probably transmitted to her by our mother, who had been badly bitten by a dog when she was a child and carried the mental and physical scars of that unfortunate incident all the rest of her life.

One time, shortly after we moved into our new house and bought the first golden, my parents and

sister came from New York City to visit. As she walked through the door and spied the dog, my sister began to cry out and tremble. The puppy, whose name was Tigger, immediately fell on his belly and crawled toward her, finally dropping his head onto her shoe tops. The act was so disarming that she stopped yelling and watched him with fascination. At that moment, he looked up at her and wagged his tail. We watched in amazement as she then entered the house, the dog beside her. Never again, on subsequent visits, did she shy away from him, but only him. She continued to be unnerved by other hounds.

I was once bitten by a dog, a German Shepherd. It was entirely my fault. I was about seven, it was summer, we were vacationing with relatives in the Catskill Mountains, and I was playing outside with the dog from the neighboring farm as my family chatted nearby. I had a ball and would bounce it, then race the dog to see which one of us could get to it first. In the ensuing melee, I jumped on his paw, he cried out and instinctively caught my calf in his jaw, his teeth breaking the skin. Everyone became excited, I was rushed to a doctor, a report was filed, and the dog was ordered tied up for 28 days to be watched for signs of rabies. Of course there were none, and I felt terrible watching him restrained. A couple of times, I would sneak out after dark and bring him bits of food from our supper.

He would greet me by leaping to his feet with tail wagging because dogs forgive more readily than humans.

I am sometimes asked which of the dogs was my favorite. To me, that is like asking which of my sons is my favorite. I believe I love equally and I enjoyed each dog for its own personality and idiosyncrasies. Our last dog, Teddy, had a particularly amusing trait. When we were seated at dinner, he would sneak under the dining table and grab the paper napkins from our laps. Someday, I may write a children's book called, "Teddy, the Napkin-Snatcher Dog."

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