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Raising funds and spirits

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Congressional candidates debate ahead of Democratic primary

BY AIDAN JOHNSON
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

The Democratic congressional candidates for District 1 — Nancy Goroff and John Avlon — attended a meet the candidates night at C.P. La Manno’s restaurant in Miller Place April 30. During the debate, Goroff and Avlon discussed issues such as foreign aid, social media, Social Security and more. The congressional seat is currently held by Nick LaLota (R-NY1).

Introductions

Avlon, who served as an anchor on CNN before deciding to run for Congress, said that he joined the race because he “didn’t feel like this was a time for talking, I think this is a time for doing.” He also described being frustrated that the district was being seen as a battleground swing district, and that it was important to win both Democrats and Independents “to build the broadest possible coalition to defend our democracy, defeat Donald Trump [R] and win back the House.”

Goroff, who has formerly served as chair of the Department of Chemistry at Stony Brook University and previously ran for the congressional seat in 2020 against former Congressman Lee Zeldin (R-NY1), described how she co-founded a nonprofit called the Long Island Strong Schools Alliance, along with a nonpartisan political action committee to get “good people elected to the

school board.” According to LISSA’s website, its mission is “to support policies that strengthen education in our public schools, with a focus on critical thinking skills, civic engagement, diversity, equity and inclusion.” Goroff said that LaLota has “not been there for the people of this district.”

Social Security and Medicare

Goroff described Social Security and Medicare as being “two of the most successful programs this country has ever had.” She said that Medicare’s age should be lowered from 65, and that the income level tax cap for Social Security, which currently stands at \$168,600, should be increased.

Avlon also supported raising the income tax cap for Social Security. “The one thing we got to do is make sure we’re rebuilding and strengthening the middle class, and making sure that people have a path from the working class to the middle class, and making sure that we’re keeping our promise on a federal level with Social Security and Medicare,” he said.

Social media

Avlon supports the law that will force ByteDance, a Chinese technology company, to divest itself of TikTok or have it banned in the United States, saying, “If you’re owning a major media platform or company, it’s reasonable that you’re not being owned by a hostile foreign power that’s trying to propagate its own disinformation.”

Goroff pointed out the distinction between “keeping platforms free and open for fair

information and banning people on those platforms,” stating that having TikTok either banned or sold is about not subjecting people to disinformation, with this issue also extending to making sure that other platforms, such as Facebook and X, formerly Twitter, are “fair and open platforms.”

Ukraine and Israel

Avlon said that he would “absolutely” support funding for Ukraine. For Israel, he said that when seeing “a vicious act of terrorism like October 7, I believe instinctively and deeply that we need to stand with the victims of terrorism and not blame the victims of terrorism.” He also stated that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made it difficult to have more broad and bipartisan support for Israel, due to his policies and the level of civilian casualties, along with “the hamstringing of humanitarian aid.” Avlon called for a two-state solution with a demilitarized Palestinian state.

Goroff also supported aid for Ukraine. For Israel, she stressed that the conflict is very complicated, with its history extending far past the current conflict. She explained that Hamas is a terrorist organization that is “absolutely not helping the people of the Palestinian communities.” However, she said that the Palestinian National Authority is not helping either, due to extensive corruption that provides no alternative to Hamas. Additionally, she said that Netanyahu has “done everything he can” to strengthen Hamas against

the Palestinian National Authority. Overall, Goroff called for a regime change in Israel, and a legitimate government in the West Bank, along with Israel increasing trade with its bordering countries, and for these countries to increase trade and stop worrying about uprisings within their populations.

Water quality, septic systems and sewers

Avlon called cesspools and septic systems a “fundamental issue of infrastructure and investment that needs federal dollars.” He said that it is necessary to protect the Long Island aquifers, which will require federal investment, some of which “has already been allocated to expand our sewer system and get us off septic.” If elected to Congress, Avlon would want to serve on the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, in order to help bring solutions to these issues.

Goroff said that water quality was an extremely important topic: “Voters across the political spectrum care about what our coastline looks like and what the water that comes out of our tap looks like.” She noted that there are places on Long Island that need sewers, which could bring opportunities for businesses, but there are also some places where sewers would not make financial sense.

The Democratic primary is on Tuesday, June 25.



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Stony Brook University grapples with student protests

BY SAMANTHA RUTT
EDITOR1@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

In the early hours of Thursday morning, May 2, Stony Brook University was rocked by a series of events that culminated in the arrest of 29 individuals, including students, faculty members and external affiliates for violating various legal statutes and university policies.

What began as a peaceful demonstration on the university's Staller Steps escalated into a tense standoff between protesters and university officials, ultimately resulting in police intervention. The pro-Palestinian protests were against Israel attacking Gaza following the Hamas atrocities Oct. 7 last year.

The university administration, in a statement released shortly after the arrests, expressed disappointment at the turn of events.

According to university officials, efforts were made to deescalate tensions throughout the day on Wednesday, with administrators offering to meet with protest leaders to discuss their grievances. However, these attempts were rebuffed, and the situation continued to deteriorate as protesters erected tents and engaged in behavior that violated university policies.

"What began on Tuesday as a peaceful demonstration in compliance with our rules escalated to include intimidation and harassment of other students, the erection of tents in violation of the university's policy and the continued occupation of a space that must continue to be available to other student groups that had reserved its use well in advance," said Maurie McInnis, university president, in a statement.

McInnis lamented the need for police intervention and emphasized the university's commitment to upholding the rights of free speech and peaceful assembly. She acknowledged the complexities of the situation, recognizing the importance of allowing all voices to be heard while ensuring the safety and well-being of the campus community.

"I am deeply saddened that we reached a point where police intervention became necessary. University administrators made every effort to avert this outcome. Nevertheless, I want to express my appreciation to all involved for the peaceful manner in which the events of yesterday evening unfolded.



Yellow tape blocks off grass area nearby the early May protests.
Photo by Samantha Rutt

The police acted professionally and with restraint, and most of our students comported themselves peacefully and with dignity in a manner that contrasts sharply with the scenes we are seeing from many other campuses.

"As we have stated previously, Stony Brook supports every individual's right to free expression and peaceful assembly. As a campus community, we have hosted numerous demonstrations and events, for the most part, mindful of our responsibility to treat one another with respect and civility," the statement continued.

The events at Stony Brook are reflective of broader tensions surrounding issues of free speech, activism and campus governance that have been playing out on college campuses across the country. With protests related to the Israel-Hamas conflict sparking controversy and debate, universities like Stony Brook find themselves navigating challenging terrain as they seek to balance the rights of students to express their views with the need to maintain order and uphold institutional policies.

After the conclusion of the protests, U.S. Rep.

Nick LaLota (R-NY1) made a visit to the Stony Brook campus. "Upon my return from Washington, I visited Stony Brook University to thank my friend Larry Zacaese [vice president for enterprise risk management and chief security officer] for his leadership and his officers' work following the recent protests on campus and subsequent unlawful conduct. Their professionalism has ensured students' safety and an environment much different and better than the abhorrent and antisemitic harassment and assaults at Columbia University," LaLota said in a statement. "Every American has a First Amendment right to free speech, free assembly and free expression. Yet, our laws prohibit trespass, assault and battery and I applaud law enforcement and university officials for taking swift action to hold those who violated campus rules and our state's laws accountable. Jewish students should not fear for their safety and Stony Brook's actions are a model for other universities to follow."

As the campus grapples with the aftermath of the events, questions remain about the future of student activism and student life at Stony Brook, and the university's approach to managing protests and demonstrations. While the administration has made clear its commitment to supporting free speech, it also stresses the importance of adherence to university guidelines and policies.

Ronald McDonald House holds ceremonial groundbreaking at Stony Brook Children's Hospital

Ronald McDonald House Charities NY Metro held a ceremonial groundbreaking event for its new house, to be built on the Stony Brook Medicine campus, to provide

HOSPITAL

a safe, secure and comfortable environment for families of children who are receiving medical care at Stony Brook Children's Hospital. Construction is set to begin later this year with completion scheduled for 2026. Of the \$30 million needed to complete the project, \$24 million has already been raised.

This will be the first Ronald McDonald House located in Suffolk County, and only the second on Long Island. The other Ronald McDonald House is in New Hyde Park in Nassau County, located adjacent to Cohen Children's Medical Center.

The three-story, 60,000 square-foot building will include 30 private bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms for families, a media center, outdoor playground, interactive playrooms, a community kitchen providing free meals made by volunteers and fully



Suffolk County Legislator Steven Englebright, SBU President Maurie McInnis, State Senator Mario Mattera and State Senator Monica Martinez at the Ronald McDonald House groundbreaking ceremony on April 30. Photo from Legislator Steven Englebright's office

stocked pantries, a fitness center, meditation room and laundry facilities.

"We've been planning this for 10 years and now we're finally able to provide for families in Suffolk County the way they need," said Matt Campo, CEO, Ronald McDonald House

Charities NY Metro. "All of our programs provide a place for families to rest and recharge so they can focus on the health and well-being of their child."

"This facility will stand as a beacon of hope, compassion and support for families facing

their toughest challenges," said Dr. William Wertheim, interim executive vice president for Stony Brook Medicine. "Our partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities highlights the strength of collaboration, and I am delighted to be joining our resources and expertise to meet the diverse needs of our community."

"The soon-to-be-built Ronald McDonald House will be able to serve as a respite for patients and families whose infant or child is ill by offering a place to stay, food to eat and a place to rest and recharge that is in close proximity to the hospital," said Carol Gomes, CEO, Stony Brook University Hospital. "There is nothing more cherished than the ability to be able to focus on the care of your child without having to worry about daily life logistics."

"It's been a labor of love recruiting the financial support to make this house a reality," said Cynthia Lippe, chair, RMHC NYM Stony Brook House Fundraising Committee. "Our entire committee is proud of our work and know we have the momentum to raise the final funds to open the house to the public."

Garbage truck driver indicted for crash that killed motorist in Hauppauge

Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond A. Tierney announced on May 3 that Jaswinder Singh, 52, of Bellrose, Queens, was indicted for Criminally Negligent Homicide and other related charges, for allegedly driving a sanitation truck at an unreasonable speed and crashing into multiple vehicles that had been stopped at a red light on the South Service Road of the Long Island Expressway in Hauppauge. The collision caused the death of Joseph Kelly, 24, of West Islip, who was in one of the other vehicles.

“This defendant, who was allegedly driving a 19-ton truck, had a responsibility to drive prudently and cautiously. Instead, he is alleged to have been speeding, causing him to crash into a line of cars stopped at the traffic light, resulting in the loss of Joseph Kelly’s life,” said District Attorney Tierney. “Today’s indictment reflects the solemn duty of law enforcement to hold individuals accountable for their actions, particularly if their alleged crime results in the loss of life.”

According to the investigation, on July 3, 2023, Singh was allegedly driving a sanitation truck from Brooklyn to a commercial establishment in Suffolk County, where it was to be outfitted before being put into service with the New York City Department

of Sanitation. At approximately 8:50 a.m., Singh, who was allegedly headed eastbound on the Long Island Expressway, exited at Exit 57 onto Express Drive South in Hauppauge.

Singh allegedly continued to drive on Express Drive South at a high rate of speed that was as he approached a steady red light where cars were stopped. Singh then allegedly failed to slow down or apply the brakes of the truck, causing him to crash into the back of multiple vehicles that had been stopped in front of him, and barrel through the red light at the intersection.

The 38,900-pound garbage truck allegedly first collided with a Honda Civic that was being operated by the victim Kelly, causing a chain reaction of multiple car crashes. Kelly died on impact. The multi car collision involved damage to five vehicles, including a school bus, and left a debris field of approximately 300 feet.

The judge ordered Singh to surrender his passport, placed him on supervised release and suspended his driver’s license. Singh is due back in court on May 17. If convicted of the top count, the maximum sentence allowable under current New York State law is one and one-third to four years in prison.

—SUFFOLK COUNTY D.A.’S OFFICE

POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by Suffolk County Police:

CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Do you recognize this woman? Photo from SCPD



Do you recognize this man? Photo from SCPD

Wanted for Petit Larceny

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Sixth Precinct Crime Section officers are seeking the public’s help to identify and locate the woman who allegedly stole merchandise valued at \$350 from HomeGoods, located at 4810 Nesconset Highway in Port Jefferson Station, on April 26 at 11 a.m.

Wanted for Petit Larceny

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Sixth Precinct Crime Section officers are seeking the public’s help to identify and locate a man who allegedly stole approximately \$460 worth of Pokemon cards from Target, located at 265 Pond Path in South Setauket, at 4:12 p.m. on April 25.

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Teen arrested for DWAI/drugs after fleeing scene of fatal Centereach crash

Suffolk County Police arrested a teenage male for driving a stolen vehicle while impaired by drugs after he attempted to flee the scene of a fatal motor vehicle crash in Centereach on May 4. A 16-year-old male was driving a stolen 2008 Land Rover LR2 eastbound on Middle Country Road when he crashed the vehicle into the rear of a sedan being driven by Marion Napolitano, 73, who is undomiciled, at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Napolitano was transported to Stony Brook University Hospital where she was pronounced dead. A 50-year-old male passenger in the sedan was transported to the same hospital for treatment of serious injuries. Their identities are being withheld pending notification of next of kin. The teen, who was not injured, attempted to flee the scene on foot but was apprehended by an off-duty Suffolk County Police officer.

Detectives are asking anyone with information on the crash to call 631-852- 6555.

East Northport Middle School student arrested for making threat of mass harm

Suffolk County Police arrested an East Northport student on May 6 at approximately 3 p.m. after she made threats of mass harm to several students. Second Precinct Crime Section officers responded to East Northport Middle School, located at 1075 5th Ave., after a student made a verbal threat of mass harm to other students at the school.

Officers located and isolated the 13-year-old student, and an investigation was conducted. There were no weapons brought to the school. She was arrested at the school at approximately 3 p.m. and transported to the Second Precinct. The student was charged with Threat of Mass Harm, a Class B Misdemeanor, and released to her parents. She will be arraigned in Suffolk County Family Court on a later date.

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.

Congratulations to the top two Rocky Point students

Rocky Point High School is proud to congratulate Isabella Rooney as its Class of 2024 valedictorian and Sofia Haviland as its salutatorian.

Isabella Rooney

Rooney is honored to be named the top student, calling it a privilege to earn the title in such a phenomenal class of peers. "Our school is full of so many talented, dedicated and hardworking individuals," she said. "I could not be more excited and grateful."

SCHOOL

The valedictorian has taken more than two dozen Advanced Placement, honors and college-level courses while at the high school. In her senior year alone, she has taken seven AP classes while dancing and training for more than 20 hours each week.

"It has been extremely difficult to balance studying and homework with the physical and emotional demands of Irish dance," she said. "But this year has taught me a lot about time management and the value of a positive mindset in achieving one's goals."

Rooney is a member of the History Honor Society, Homecoming Float Design team, Math Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, National English Honor Society, National Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Student Council and Yearbook Club.

Her community involvement includes participation in various back-to-school and toy drives for the Heather N. Kaplan Foundation. She is also involved in the National Art Honor Society's Mr. Gobbles charity, the Student Council holiday clothing drive, peer tutoring with the English, Math and Science honor societies and teaches classes at Inishfree School of Irish Dance in Sayville, sharing Irish culture through community performances.

Among many other awards, she has been honored as a third-place recipient in the Mid-Atlantic Region in Irish Dance, placed eighth in the country in Irish Dance, 18th in the Irish Dance World championships and honorable mention in the 2023-24 Suffolk County High School Art Exhibition.

Rooney plans to attend university to study molecular biology. She also looks forward to traveling more after graduation, studying abroad in the United Kingdom and Ireland to further her education and Irish dancing career.

She will leave her fellow high school peers with these wise words, "You will never regret hard work."

Sofia Haviland

Sofia Haviland takes pride in her accomplishment as salutatorian. "It makes me feel like all of my hard work the past few years has finally paid off," she said.

When asked about her greatest accomplishment in high school, Haviland noted her role in organizing a clothing swap event as the president of the Human Rights Club, helping to promote sustainability in fashion and discourage the overconsumption of clothing. "This experience taught me the importance of community and



Rocky Point High School valedictorian Isabella Rooney (right) and salutatorian Sofia Haviland.

Photo courtesy of the Rocky Point school district

working together to create an impact and real change," she said.

Haviland has taken advantage of many of Rocky Point's AP, honors and college-level courses, including 12 AP courses and 12 honors courses. She is a member of the high school's Human Rights Club, where she has served as president for the past two years, and is secretary of the National Science Honor Society. She is a member of the History Honor Society, National English Honor Society, National Honor Society and the New York State Math Honor Society. She is also a member of the school's pit orchestra and the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York.

Among many different awards, she has been selected to both the Long Island String Festival Association Division III Orchestra and the Suffolk County Music Educators' Association Division III Orchestra. She looks forward to joining the freshman class at Boston University where she will major in chemistry.

Haviland leaves her classmates and future high school seniors with the wise words, "Relax, don't stress over the little things."

The 2024 Rocky Point High School graduation will take place Wednesday, June 26, at 6 p.m. at the Upper Turf Field.

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Romaine unveils vision for a safer, stronger Suffolk in State of the County address

BY SAMANTHA RUTT
EDITOR1@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

In his inaugural State of the County Address, Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine (R) outlined a comprehensive four-year plan to revitalize and fortify Suffolk County, emphasizing key priorities such as fiscal responsibility, public safety, infrastructure enhancement and social services reform.

“I am extremely hopeful about the future of this county and there are 18 reasons for that and they all sit around me,” the executive said of his Legislature. “I have watched this Legislature for many years. I was part of this Legislature for many years and I am so impressed with the dedication and commitment of these people,” Romaine said as he stood before the podium.

Addressing an audience May 7 at the William H. Rogers Building in Hauppauge, Romaine outlined his administration’s achievements within its first 100 days while charting a course for the county’s future.

“Let me start off by saying that the state of the county is good — but it can be improved,” Romaine said. “I am going to be working with the 18 people behind me, men and women of goodwill. Men and women of intellect. Men and women to lead this county forward, because I believe our best days are ahead.”

Fiscal strength and accountability

Romaine heralded significant strides in Suffolk County’s financial standing, citing a notable upgrade in the county’s credit rating by S&P Global Ratings.

“One thing I’ve learned over a long life is all issues of government are issues of money,” he emphasized. “Right now our general obligation bonds are rated ‘AA-’. I am happy to say that we got our first upgrade this quarter and we are now ‘A+’.”

With an upgraded rating and a stable outlook, the county seeks fiscal stability and enhanced access to capital markets.

Additionally, Romaine announced initiatives to ensure budgeting practices, including a commitment to adhere to the state-mandated 2% property tax cap and the establishment of a centralized grants office to maximize state and federal funding opportunities.

“New York State has a 2% tax cap, inflation is running a lot higher than 2%,” Romaine explained. “I will submit a budget this



Scenes from Executive Romaine’s State of the County Address on May 7. Photos by Samantha Rutt

September for next year that will not exceed the 2% property tax cap. We cannot afford to do that.”

Investment in public safety

Recognizing the importance of public safety, Romaine announced key appointments within the Suffolk County Police Department and outlined plans to expand law enforcement capabilities.

“Public safety is a concern — we have new leadership in our department,” Romaine said. “As I promised, I’ve hired more detectives, and we have more cops on the street. It’s important because two things that I’ve heard from the voters and residents of Suffolk County is we need the county to be safe and we need it to be affordable.”

Investments in new personnel, equipment and technologies aim to uplift public safety efforts and address emerging challenges. Notably, Romaine emphasized the significance of fair and efficient operations within the Traffic and Parking Violations Agency, a growing concern among residents across the county.

Infrastructure revitalization

Romaine touched on the imperative to modernize and

maintain county facilities, highlighting initiatives to renovate and upgrade critical infrastructure. With a focus on improving constituent affairs and enhancing employee morale, the administration plans to address long-standing deficiencies in county facilities, including the Suffolk County Police headquarters and the Medical



Examiner’s Office building.

Additionally, plans to reacquire the former John J. Foley nursing home property in Yaphank signals a strategic approach to meet evolving community needs while realizing significant cost savings.

Cybersecurity preparedness

Reflecting on the cyberattack of 2022 and acknowledging the enduring threat posed by cyberattacks, Romaine outlined measures to reinforce the county’s cybersecurity infrastructure. Through comprehensive audits, strategic hiring and resource allocation, the administration shifts its aim to mitigate vulnerabilities and safeguard sensitive data.

Social services reform and environmental preservation

“Now I come to the Department of Social Services, a department that needs a little bit of attention,” Romaine shared. “When I came into office and I read the Newsday article that Suffolk County was one of the worst in the state at processing SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] applications and that we were way behind in processing social service applications ... that is going to change. We are going to put staffing in, we are going to be on top of things.”

Additionally, Romaine reaffirmed the county’s commitment to environmental preservation — just like preservation was a staple of Romaine’s time as Brookhaven Town supervisor — citing investments in farmland preservation and open-space conservation as critical components of sustainable development. The county executive recently appropriated \$15 million to preserve farmland across the county. Since taking office, nearly 100 acres of farmland and open space throughout the county has been preserved with additional acquisitions planned later in the year.

Looking ahead

“I believe working together, investing in our infrastructure and rebuilding what is needed in this county as our best days are ahead,” the county executive remarked.

In concluding his address, Romaine articulated a vision of optimism and collaboration, emphasizing the collective efforts needed to propel Suffolk County forward. With a dedicated team and a commitment to transparency and accountability, he expressed confidence in the county’s ability to overcome challenges and realize its full potential.

“Let’s step up to the plate, we have a lot of challenges ahead,” Romaine concluded.

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Eye on the Street: Mother's Day

BY SAMANTHA RUTT
EDITOR1@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

As Mother's Day rolls around, TBR News Media took to the streets throughout our coverage area, asking locals what this special day means to them.

It's a day which makes people remember the importance and significance of mothers in their life, and to express love, appreciation and gratitude toward mother figures for their unconditional love, support and sacrifices. TBR wants to know, "What does Mother's Day mean to you?"

— Photos by Samantha Rutt

Seema Pandya, Smithtown

I think it means the honoring and passing of traditions and wisdoms of mothers to mothers to mothers. Usually, I spend time with my kids, calling my parents and wishing them well.



I used to work at a restaurant in Colorado and for Mother's Day they would make chocolate-filled buns with raspberries and they looked like breasts! They were so clever. It was a bun with a chocolate areola and a raspberry for the nipple

— they were so good!

Jordan Mahmood, Stony Brook



Mother's Day is a day to appreciate my mom for what she does. She is a single mom and she literally means the world to me and my family. Each year we celebrate by spending time together and doing whatever it is she wants to do — it's really nice spending time with my mom.

Tyler Stephenson-Moore, Queens



I love my mom a lot. Mother's Day to me is just like the day-to-day stuff, acknowledging all the sacrifices she's made, honoring her for everything she has done for me.

Usually, I'll go to Queens to see her with cards and flowers.

Rubens Meza-Henderson, Centereach

The United States was the country that enacted this holiday. I can say that because before the enactment, nobody cared about that — but now many countries in the world follow the U.S. example.

Typically, because I am in the restaurant



is very important.

I do believe in the Bible and one of the commandments says that you have to honor your parents. The Bible encourages you to honor your father and mother and there are many ways to honor them. One way is behaving well and another is through words — you have to express your gratitude. I was with my mother a couple of weeks ago in South America. She was a little sick, but she's well now. I took time off to go see her, to honor and love my mother.

Jen and Jillian Dunn, Setauket



On Mother's Day, Jillian values time well spent with mom Jen: "I really don't get to spend too much time with her, so just being able to see her is a gift — that is what is most important to me." Jillian usually takes her mom out to

lunch and goes for a nice walk through one of their favorite spots, Avalon Nature Preserve.

Jen loves to spend time with her family on Mother's Day: "This year my son is graduating that weekend, so we will take a trip down to see him." On a typical year, Jen and her family like to celebrate with a daytime activity like a drive out east or a day exploring local farm stands. "One of my favorite things is picking out flower flats and the kids will help me plant them."

Steve Frederico, Stony Brook

My mother has passed and there isn't a day that I don't think about her. But on Mother's Day we always commemorate her.

I seem to quote her unconsciously — she had these infamous sayings, like, "It's a great life if you don't weaken."



Stephanie Moncavage, Coram



I love my mom. We spend the day golfing and then my sister and I will make her a nice dinner — of mom's choice of course.

Sound Beach Civic Association celebrates 50 years

BY SAMANTHA RUTT
EDITOR1@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

The past was alive as the Sound Beach Civic Association gathered with members, friends, family and neighbors at the Heritage Center in Mount Sinai Sunday, May 5, to celebrate

50 years of serving the community. Students from the Rocky Point High School band played as eventgoers gathered.

Bea Ruberto, the civic's current president,

organized the event, which included a silent auction of almost 50 baskets and a 50/50 raffle. After taking the audience on a tour along New York Avenue of the projects that have made Sound Beach what it is today, she announced that the civic is launching a new revitalization initiative. Under this initiative, the proceeds from the auction — almost \$1,000 was raised — are earmarked for the children's park on New York Avenue.

The Sound Beach civic filed a certificate of incorporation in 1974 with the purposes of promoting the civic and general welfare of Sound Beach, disseminating information on ordinances affecting the area and promoting

a more friendly relationship among the hamlet's residents. Ruberto said, "It didn't take long for the association to start making waves on several fronts."

Vilma Rodriguez, who was an officer of the association in its early days, shared what life was like back then in giving an account of the many improvements identified and advocated by the association. Ruberto, who wrote a book on the history of Sound Beach — "Sound Beach: Our Town, Our Story" — said that over the years she learned a lot from Rodriguez.

Several local elected officials presented the civic with proclamations acknowledging the service it has provided Sound Beach: Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine (R), U.S. Rep. Nick LaLota (R-NY1) through Peter Ganley, his director of operations, and New York State Sen. Anthony Palumbo (R-New Suffolk). Councilwoman Jane Bonner (R-Rocky Point) presented a proclamation deeming May 5 Sound Beach Civic Association Day in the Town of Brookhaven. District 1 congressional candidate, Nancy Goroff (D-Stony Brook), and District 1 state Senate candidate, Sarah Anker (D-Mount Sinai), were also in attendance.

Ruberto ended the program with the message, "not with the past but with the future." She said the civic has been committed



Town of Brookhaven Councilwoman Jane Bonner presents civic president Bea Ruberto with the Sound Beach Day proclamation.

Photo by Samantha Rutt

to engaging young people in public service as it helps grow the next generation of the civically-minded local population. So, the present will become the future for all in Sound Beach.

Ernestine Franco contributed to this story.

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SWR Lax Out Cancer annual fundraiser

BY BILL LANDON

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

What began with the inaugural battle for the Cat Cup back in February — a fundraising event to help three local families battling cancer — culminated with the annual Lax Out Cancer games at the Thomas Cutinella Memorial Field in Shoreham Saturday, May 4.

The event was met with brilliant sunshine in a day-long event that featured lacrosse games, food, 50/50 raffles, auctions along with activities sponsored by the Police Athletic League, with special event gear for sale where the smell of barbecue filled the air.

SPORTS

The event has been held annually since 2009 which is run entirely by volunteers along with generous donations by local businesses.

The girls kicked off the competition with the varsity lacrosse team, which beat Long Beach, 10-7, in a non-league game which was followed by the boys varsity lacrosse team squaring off against Hauppauge. The Wildcats edged Hauppauge 8-6 in the Division II matchup.

These victories made the day an even bigger success.



1



3



2

❶ Lax Out Cancer fundraiser. ❷ Wildcats score. ❸ The Shoreham-Wading River dance team provided halftime entertainment.

— Photos by Bill Landon

THIS WEEK:
Romaine's State of the County Address,
Meet the Candidates for CD1
and more!

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The Three Village Central School District plans to apply to the New York State Education Department for an exemption from serving breakfast in their five elementary schools during the 2024-2025 school year.

This yearly exemption will be based on the results of a survey taken by parents of elementary students.

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Editorial



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National Nurses Week, a time for recognition

In the heart of the medical field lies the nurturing presence of nurses.

As National Nurses Week unfolds from May 6 to 12, it's time for communities everywhere to pause and reflect on the indispensable role nurses play in our health care ecosystem. Beyond being health care providers, nurses embody the essence of compassion, advocacy and expertise. They are heroes whose contributions resonate far beyond the confines of hospital walls.

They are not just caregivers; they are companions on the arduous journey of illness, offering solace and support when it's needed most. In moments of vulnerability, it's often the gentle reassurance of a nurse that brings comfort and hope to patients and their families. In this role, nurses serve as a beacon of empathy, providing not just medical care but also emotional sustenance.

Nurses serve as invaluable liaisons between patients, families and the broader health care team. They bridge the gap between complex medical jargon and everyday understanding, helping patients to make informed decisions about their health. Through clear communication and advocacy, nurses ensure that patients receive the personalized care they deserve. Whether it's coordinating treatment plans, advocating for patient rights or providing vital education, nurses are the linchpins of effective health care delivery.

In the intricacy of individualized health care, nurses act as threads binding it all together. They possess a unique ability to see patients not merely as cases but as individuals with distinct needs and preferences. By tailoring care plans to suit each patient's unique circumstances, nurses uphold the fundamental principle of patient-centered care.

"Nurses are the lifeline and lifeblood of our Stony Brook Medicine health care system," said Carol Gomes, chief executive officer, Stony Brook University Hospital. "They provide exceptional and compassionate care for our patients. I'm so grateful and proud of their dedication and commitment to quality care. We celebrate our team during Nurses Week and applaud their talents every day of the year."

As we honor National Nurses Week, let us not only acknowledge the tireless dedication and sacrifices of nurses but also advocate for the recognition and support they truly deserve. Let us continue to invest in their professional development, provide them with the resources they need to thrive and ensure their voices are heard in shaping health care policies. Because a health care system that truly prioritizes the well-being of its citizens is one that honors and uplifts its nursing workforce.

Letter to the Editor



Stony Brook University's Staller Center for the Arts. Photo courtesy Stony Brook University

At SBU's Staller Center on protest night

Last Wednesday evening, May 1, my wife and I, along with our teenage grandson, went to the campus of Stony Brook University to enjoy a wonderful concert given by the Stony Brook Wind Ensemble of the Department of Music.

Imagine our surprise, as we walked to the front door of the Staller Center and found the adjacent grassy area to be hosting a large group of pro-Palestine protesters. We had no problem telling who they were, because they were echoing chants provided by a person wielding a megaphone, most were wearing masks, the grass was covered with small tents and sheets of blue plastic, and many were holding poles flying the flags of Palestine. There were also quite a few signs and posters, carrying messages such as "From the River to the Sea," "Globalize the Intifada" and "By Any Means Necessary." We found the whole operation to be interesting and educational, and we approached the assemblage to observe and take pictures with our cellphone cameras. If we had any thoughts that we might be welcome, these were quickly dispelled by a young lady in the group who told us where to go (not to the Staller Center), and provided visible reinforcement by flipping us the bird, which we dutifully recorded on my grandson's camera.

The concert featured around 65 wonderfully talented musicians, all of them students at the university, one of whom happens to be another grandson — and we enjoyed it immensely. The concert ended around 9:30 p.m., and we went outside to find the protesters still in place, practicing their chants and carrying their Palestine flags. By this time, however, they had been joined by two dozen or so uniformed members of the New York State Police, who were standing in a group and watching them.

Everything appeared to be under control, so my grandson and I went over to the officers and started a conversation with one of them, who happened to be a sergeant. He was very pleasant and accommodating, told us who they were and why they were there, and seemed to really enjoy talking with my grandson, who is a big fan of the police. The sergeant told us that there was a deadline of 11 p.m., and the protesters would be vacating around then. That

was a little late for us, since the next day was a school day, so we wished them luck and went home.

The next day, we tuned in to News 12, and we learned that the protesters were indeed gone, with 29 of them having been arrested. I was thinking about revisiting the grassy area, to see if the protesters have returned, like the swallows in Capistrano. If they have, I was thinking of giving them a few tubes of Super Glue, so that they could glue themselves together, as other protesters have found helpful. This would present a more challenging dilemma for the police officers, but I think they could figure it out.

*George Altomose
Setauket*



Stony Brook University Police posted around campus on Thursday, May 2. Photo by Samantha Rutt

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