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Vol. 21, No. 20

August 8, 2024

\$2.00



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Photo by Steve Zaitz

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# Pencils? Check. Notebooks? Check. Don't forget about back-to-school sleep.

BY DANIEL DUNAIEF  
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Imagine a typical school classroom filled with adults, listening as intently as they can to a detailed lecture about the finer points of tax law or multivariable calculus.

The adults in the room who weren't particularly interested in the topic might struggle to concentrate, and several of them might try — perhaps unsuccessfully — to stay awake.

Now, bring a group of eight-year-olds into the same room, with the same instructor, and the same material. The likelihood that any of those younger students would fall asleep in their chair is far lower.

One reason for that difference is that the younger set, consistently, gets more sleep, while the older generation, from high school students on up the chain, typically, are not as well-rested.

"We think it's normal, if you're bored, to fall asleep, but it's not," said Dr. Steven Feinsilver, director of the Center for Sleep Medicine at Northwell Lenox Hill Hospital. "Falling asleep in a lecture that doesn't interest you means that you either have a sleep [problem] or, more likely, are sleep deprived."

Indeed, the percentage of the population that is sleep deprived is estimated at around 50% or more, a staggering number, which means that at least half the population needs more restorative sleep.

With the start of another academic year just under a month away, sleep experts are urging students to start shifting back to their respective school sleep schedule in the coming weeks.

These sleep experts suggest that students who may sleep until 9 a.m. or later during the summer,

but will soon get up for school at, say, 6 a.m., are experiencing a type of jet lag people often feel when they travel across the Atlantic.

Sleep experts say that changing an adolescent's schedule to an earlier waking routine, a week or more before school starts, can ease that school-year transition, while others recommend shifting up wake-up time, by an hour earlier per day during the September lead-up.

"If you know you're going to have to be waking up at 6 a.m. for the first day of high school, you should be starting to wake up within that hour, within three days or so, before that so your body gets used to it," said Lauren Hale, professor of preventive medicine and sleep behavior expert at Stony Brook Medicine.

Routines, including getting enough sleep, are important in preparing for the mental effort required to meet daily learning challenges.

"Our brains like a consistent schedule," said Brendan Duffy, director of Sleep Services at Catholic Health, which includes Port Jefferson-based St. Charles Hospital and Smithtown-based St. Catherine of Siena. "It's important to get up at the same time," even on weekends.

## Teenagers need more sleep

The academic age group that needs the most sleep is the one that is often getting the least.

High schools often start just after 7 a.m., in part because after-school activities such as athletic practices and events, as well as other extra-curricular activities, take up the hours between the end of school and the onset of darkness.

"Between 15 and 25, everybody's clock tends to run slow," Feinsilver said.

The school districts that have pushed high school start times back have seen their test scores go up, added Feinsilver.

He acknowledged that it's challenging for parents who are managing their own work schedules to balance their children's academic hours. Parents and schools can and should try to compromise, he urged.

## Benefits on the athletic field

A return to school also means the restarting of athletic programs, some of which begin before the first day of the new academic calendar.

Student-athletes are pushing their minds and bodies, as they juggle demanding academic requirements with training and competition.

Sleeping the estimated optimum of seven to nine hours per night not only helps improve an athlete's competitive skills but also helps prevent physical problems.

Sleeping enough is a "way to avoid injuries," said Duffy, who has been talking to students in a range of ages all the way through college.

Duffy added that professional teams are also encouraging athletes to budget for the sleep their minds and bodies need.

Additionally, he suggests sleep is a form of prehab, as sufficient rest can prevent injuries that would require rehabilitation.

Duffy has spoken with several area teams about the importance of sleep, including the Stony Brook women's soccer team.

"For 90% of the players, this is the first time" they hear about the importance of sleep athletically, said Tobias Bischof, the head coach of SBU women's soccer team. "My players are 18-to-22 years old and it's not on their radar yet how important sleep is."

He describes sleep as "probably the greatest recovery tool we have" and believes it's "super important for injury prevention."

As a coach, Bischof has started journaling his

sleep patterns and believes he and others can be better coaches with enough rest.

He suggested that coaches are under tremendous pressure and sleep helps him become more patient.

Numerous factors contribute to success on and off the field with these student athletes, including nutrition, hydration, self-care and relationships with their families, as well as sleep, Bischof added.

The soccer coach doesn't ask about sleep when he's speaking with high school players who might join the SBU team, but it comes up when athletes ask about ways the school works with athletes beyond training.

He describes mental health support as well as sleep education.

"You always want to make them a better version of themselves," Bischof said.

Jim Taylor, who specializes in the psychology of sports and parenting and who has been a consultant to the U.S. and Japanese ski teams, met Duffy when they were on a podcast panel related to sport psychology in 2022. Taylor suggested that sleep is much more than a physical process, as it has psychological and emotional implications.

"One of the most powerful tools that athletes have is sleep, which impacts them in so many ways," he explained in an email.

Taylor, who competes in triathlons, has seen his results improve from top 20 in his age group to two national championship titles and three world championship podiums.

"Of course, I'm sure other factors contributed to my improved results, but I know that improved sleep was a key contributor," he explained.

Consider sleep a "competitive advantage."

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# Kevin Denis, owner of Professor's Diner, retires along with his restaurant

PRESS RELEASE

For four decades, Kevin Denis has been a beloved figure in the Kings Park community. After 40 years of service at the town-staple, Professor's Diner on Indian Head Road, he is finally retiring.

A man known for his exceptional work ethic, warm hospitality, strong commitment to his customers and his certain je ne sais quoi, Denis' retirement marks the end of an era for both the diner and the community it serves.

Denis began his journey at Professor's Diner in the 1980s, and quickly became a fixture at the Kings Park establishment. Over the years, his friendly outgoing demeanor and dedication to quality service made him a

favorite amongst patrons. He has been a constant presence, ensuring that each customer felt welcomed and valued, contributing to the diner's reputation as a cornerstone of the community.

Beyond his work at the diner, Denis has been a major part of the Kings Park community. With the help of several friends, he started the community's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2011 — a now-cherished tradition.

Additionally, he initiated a popular car show, with Dave Pendola, in the diner's parking lot, which brought together car enthusiasts from all over the area.

Denis' fundraising efforts have supported numerous local organizations, including the Sunrisers Drum Camp & Bugle Corps, and he is currently serving as a board member of the Kings Park Chamber of Commerce.

Tony Tanzi, president of the Kings Park

Chamber of Commerce, and a lifelong Kings Park resident, spoke about the next chapter of his friend's life

"I can say honestly that Kevin Denis and the Professor's Diner will be greatly missed. Many, many community events and initiatives have been organized in booths of his restaurant. I wish him nothing but the best in his retirement," Tanzi said.

While Denis is retiring, and Professor's will be no longer, don't think for a minute that Kings Park will no longer see him. Despite the bittersweet emotions he is experiencing, he has no intention to stop his unwavering loyalty to the community he loves.

"I would like to thank the community and my staff, especially Carlos, Cathy, Tony and of course, my son Joe-Joe, and everyone in my family for supporting Professor's Diner through

the years that the doors were open," Denis said. "Also, my friends who stood by my side — I thank you. I will miss all of you who have been fixtures here dining, coffee drinking and socializing every day."

"I've been in this diner for a majority of my life, and enjoyed the company of you all. It's been a long time ... it's time to put my feet up!"

Professor's Diner will be closing its doors on Aug. 31.



Kevin Denis. Courtesy David Hobart

## COMMUNITY

## Officials express concern at high rate of drunk and drugged driving incidents

Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney (R), New York State Sen. Dean Murray (R-East Patchogue) and county Sheriff Errol Toulon Jr. (D) released public safety announcements to remind the public of the dangers of drunk and drugged driving. They further discussed the importance of staying at the scene of a crash, as well as the legal and financial ramifications of a criminal arrest.

"We are more than half-way through this year's '100 deadliest days of driving.' In Suffolk County alone, there have been at least 20 fatalities since Memorial Day weekend, many of which were caused by drunk or drugged drivers. That is almost three lives lost per week, many of which were completely preventable, and despite the prevalence and convenience of ride-shares," Tierney said.

"Drunk and drugged drivers threaten the lives of random and innocent roadway users of every age, gender, ethnicity and economic status, every single day throughout [our state]," he added.

In 2022 Long Island saw 245 people die in crashes, with 164 in Suffolk County alone — a third of which involved DWIs. According to a member of the SCPD, "Suffolk County holds the trophy for [these accidents], and it's not a good trophy to hold."

Murray, Toulon and Tierney doubled-down on their pledge to fight for the safety of all New Yorkers.

"Drunk and drugged drivers threaten the lives of random and innocent roadway users of every age, gender, ethnicity and economic status, every single day throughout [our state]," Tierney said.

They further urged all Long Islanders not to drive under the influence of any alcohol/drugs,

regardless of the amount, since the officials want everyone to remember that any amount of alcohol or drugs in a person's system is too much when it comes to driving.

Furthermore, these officials stressed the desire to have the Deadly Driving Bill passed in Albany, "to save countless lives, and make our roadways safer across New York State."

This bill would call on lawmakers to close a great many of the loopholes in drugged driving laws. More specifically, the Deadly Driving Bill would end the allowance of an individual to avoid arrest and prosecution for operating a vehicle while drugged, unless the officer can pinpoint the drug by which the driver is impaired — while said drug must be listed in Section 3306 of the Public Health Law, as well.

Murray voiced concern over the specifics of legalized marijuana, as he feels that many have been left wondering whether it is appropriate to ingest any amount of it before taking the wheel.

"When New York State rushed through legislation to legalize marijuana, it was done so in a way that left many questions unanswered. Who can legally sell it? Who can legally buy it, use it or consume it?" Murray said. "There is definitely a need to educate the public [on this], and I'm thrilled to team with Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney and Suffolk County Sheriff Errol Toulon Jr. to put these PSAs out to the public, to help facilitate that process."

All public safety announcements can be found on the Suffolk County District Attorney's website at [www.suffolkcountyny.gov/da](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/da).

## LEGALS

To Place A Legal Notice

Email: [legals@tbrnewsmedia.com](mailto:legals@tbrnewsmedia.com)

Notice of formation of Liza's Cookies, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/16/2024. 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 Penataquit Place, Huntington, NY, 11743. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

220090 7/25 6x thn

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: ILLUMINAIT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/15/2024. Office location: Suffolk Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and address SSNY shall mail a copy of process is C/o The LLC, 176 Cedrus Ave, East Northport, New York 11731. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

22040 7/25 6x thn

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL

ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE'S FINANCIAL REALTY MORTGAGE SECURITIES TRUST, SERIES 2006-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-1,

-against-

PERA SAINT LOUIS, ET AL.

### NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Suffolk on December 5, 2023, wherein HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE'S FINANCIAL REALTY MORTGAGE SECURITIES TRUST, SERIES 2006-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-1 is the Plaintiff and PERA SAINT LOUIS, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the HUNTINGTON TOWN HALL, 100 MAIN STREET, HUNTINGTON, NY 11743, on September 9, 2024 at 10:00AM, premises known as 133 WINDING STREET, HUNTINGTON STATION, NY 11746; and the following tax

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## Three Farmingdale men indicted for kidnapping and murdering Amityville man

Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond A. Tierney announced on Aug. 2 that Gustavo Hernandez, 38, Walter Ramirez Jeronimo, 19, and Wilson Ramirez Jeronimo, 18, each from Farmingdale, were indicted for Murder in the Second Degree, Kidnapping in the First Degree, and Attempted Kidnapping in the Second Degree, for their alleged participation in the abduction and murder of Juan Carlos Diaz Jeronimo, 48, of Amityville.

According to the investigation, on the evening of June 21, 2024, the victim was walking on Broadhollow Road in Farmingdale when he was allegedly spotted by the defendants, who were in a Blue Isuzu Rodeo.

There is no known familial relationship between the victim, Juan Carlos Diaz Jeronimo, and the defendants.

Video surveillance shows the defendants allegedly exiting the vehicle, attacking the victim, and attempting to drag him toward the Isuzu. Their efforts were thwarted by a passing motorist, allowing the victim to escape to a gas station across the street.

The defendants allegedly followed the victim to the gas station. Video surveillance showed the Jeronimo brothers covering

their faces and then, along with their uncle, allegedly beating the victim, knocking him to the ground, choking him, and violently forcing him into the trunk of the Isuzu.

After allegedly forcing the victim into the trunk of the SUV, the defendants drove to Belmont Lake State Park, and then back to Farmingdale where surveillance video captured them allegedly dumping the victim's body on a residential street.

The Suffolk County Medical Examiner's office noted that the victim suffered numerous injuries including but not limited to asphyxia due to neck compression, severe blunt force trauma of the abdomen, and what appeared to be a stab wound to his upper chest.

"The allegations in this indictment are deeply disturbing. The brazen nature of this alleged crime, occurring in a public place during daylight hours, shocks the conscience and undermines our sense of community," said District Attorney Tierney. "This indictment is our first step in pursuing justice for Juan Carlos Diaz Jeronimo and his family."

All three defendants were remanded without bail during the pendency of the case and are due back in court on Sept. 10.

—SUFFOLK COUNTY D.A.'S OFFICE

# POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by Suffolk County Police:

### Melville pharmacy burglarized

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Second Squad detectives are seeking the public's help to identify and locate the people who allegedly burglarized a Melville pharmacy in July.

Three people allegedly burglarized 110 Pharmacy & Surgical, located at 459 Walt Whitman Road on July 30 at approximately 4:45 a.m. They stole cash and other items. They fled in a black four door Mercedes-Benz, possibly a S550, with no front license plate.

Detectives are asking anyone with information about the burglary to contact the Second Squad at 631-854-8201.

### Farmingdale man killed in car crash

Suffolk County Police First Squad detectives are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a man who was pronounced dead after a motor vehicle crash in West Babylon on Aug. 5.

Thomas Parietti was driving a 2023 Hyundai Elantra northbound on Great East Neck Road at Railroad Avenue when he veered into the southbound lanes of travel, crossing all lanes and striking bushes and trees on the side of the roadway.

Parietti, 63, of Farmingdale, was transported to Good Samaritan Universal Hospital in West Babylon where he was pronounced dead. Detectives believe Parietti suffered a medical condition prior to the crash.

The vehicle was impounded for a safety check. Detectives are asking anyone with information about the crash to contact the First Squad at 631-854-8152.

Visit [www.tbrnewsmedia.com/police](http://www.tbrnewsmedia.com/police) for more press releases from the Suffolk County Police.

— COMPILED BY HEIDI SUTTON

### CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Do you recognize these men? Photo from SCPD

### Wanted for Grand Larceny

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Second Squad Detectives are seeking the public's help to identify and locate two men who allegedly stole from a Melville store in August.

Two men allegedly stole assorted clothing and sports equipment from Dick's Sporting Goods, located at 870 Walt Whitman Road, at approximately 4 p.m. on August 3. The merchandise was valued at approximately \$1,630.

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.

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# Northport Little League team wins 9U Crown

BY STEVEN ZAITZ  
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

It took over 48 hours to play and endured a torrential downpour, but the Larkfield-Northport 9 and Under Little League baseball team finally got a chance to celebrate this past Monday — for a game that had started two days earlier.

The baby Tigers scored a 13-6 victory over the Babylon nine-year-olds at Ostego Park in Commack in a game that started Saturday night, Aug. 3. After Northport took a 3-0 lead in the first inning, the heavens opened and the game resumed on Monday, Aug. 5.

Starting pitcher Jordan Ellis went three innings and gave up four runs on three hits and he struck out six Babylon batters. Kellyn Repetti,

who started the game as the Tiger third baseman, pitched an inning and two-thirds, allowing two earned runs, and Jack Sheedy closed out the game, working the final inning and a third.

Northport pitchers issued 13 total walks, which was the cause of much of the Babylon traffic on the basepaths and extended the length of the game to almost three hours. But they got big out when needed and allowed no more than two runs in any inning.

On offense, Northport jumped out to a 9-2 lead after two and a half innings, scoring at least a run in every inning but the fourth and exploding for five runs in the third. Sheedy and Repetti both had RBI triples in the third inning off of Babylon starter Thaddeus Skarulis. The number two through six in the Larkfield-Northport batting order were an astounding nine for nine, with eight runs scored, and seven runs batted in.

Ellis, Sheedy and first baseman Jackson Spoto were all 2 for 2 and Repetti was 3 for 3. Right fielder Dominic Elliot smacked a two-RBI single in the fifth inning, as the 9U Tigers just kept adding on. They led 11-4 after four and half innings, as the afternoon began to darken to dusk.

Wayne Kaifler, Reilly Cheffo and James Domanick also registered hits for Larkfield-Northport in the final game.

To make it here, the Tigers won an 8-7 nail-biter against West Islip in the semifinal game, which took eight innings to decide. Spoto, who led the pitching staff all season, threw 75 pitches in that game and was ineligible to pitch in the championship game, so Larkfield head coach John Sheedy turned to his three-headed monster of pitchers to piece together the victory.

“Each of our pitchers did really well in this game and I am extremely proud of them and every member of this team,” said Sheedy, whose son Jack finished the game with a strikeout. “This championship is so well deserved for these kids. Every one of them put in a lot of hours of practice and they, as well as their families, were so dedicated during this season. To see everything to come to fruition is just a wonderful thing.”

Repetti, who for every game wears a shiny, multicolored necklace that his mom made for him, was ecstatic on his his team winning the championship jewels.

“It feels great to win,” Repetti said. “We are a good team, but I think the necklace brought us the good luck we needed.”

And with that, the entire team and their families were off to Coach Sheedy’s house for a little pizza celebration.

Said the coach — “It was the best tasting pizza we’ve ever had.”



1. Larkfield-Northport 9U catcher Michael Carp slides into third base; 2. Starting pitcher Jordan Ellis fires one in vs. Babylon; 3. The 9U Tigers celebrate after the final out of the District 34 championship game. Photos by Steven Zaitz



◀ Go to [tbrnewsmedia.com](https://tbrnewsmedia.com) for more sports photos ▶

Larkfield-Northport  
Babylon

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# County Executive Romaine shares his plans for Long Island during press conference

BY TONI-ELENA GALLO  
EDITOR1@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine (R) held a Zoom press conference with local media publications Friday, July 26.

Romaine's opening remarks emphasized the importance of local media, and his desire to give the press an opportunity to "write the stories you need to write."

He then briefly discussed some of his seven-month tenure's accomplishments, including the approval of the Water Quality Restoration Act that aims to rectify Suffolk's sewer systems subject to a referendum on Election Day, Nov. 5.

Romaine is looking to put sewer infrastructure "on steroids," as 70% of the county utilizes pollutant-rich cesspools." His plan is to put "densely populated areas of Suffolk, whenever possible, on sewers," and the less densely-populated areas on Innovative/Alternative septic systems that will denature the ground and surface water.

## POLITICS



Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine (right.) File photo

Romaine stated that the county will be purchasing new vehicles for the Suffolk County Police Department as well, and he intends to improve police and county government's mental health services.

Additionally, the county executive expressed concern that Long Island is being "short changed" by the state and federal governments, in which the Island "does not get its fair share."

"I want to know what happened to the infrastructure money that I supported that President Biden [D] put forward, or the environmental bond issue that the governor put forward, which I supported. ... I just don't see that money flowing to Long Island," he said.

He gave a local example where Suffolk is deprived of comparative support: "For bus transportation and funding, we get \$40 million.

Nassau County, which is one-third the size of Suffolk, gets \$103 million."

Romaine went on to share that recently he submitted "one of the largest capital budgets in Suffolk's history."

This comes from his wish to fix many of the county's dilapidated properties that have lacked maintenance. "It's time that we maintain our roads, our bridges and our infrastructure," he said.

Romaine went on to discuss his objective to lessen the Island's high traffic congestion: "How about redoing the bridge over Nicholls Road? How about adding a third lane to the Sagtikos/Sunken Meadow Parkway?"

Furthermore, Romaine spoke of some of his disappointments with the state's relationship with Suffolk.

For example, when discussing the Long Island Rail Road, Romaine said, "I come from a county where electrification stops at Babylon, Huntington and Ronkonkoma, and everything east of that being diesel. Really? Why aren't we subject to getting electric trains? Why do we have to put up with dirty diesel?"



## Eye on the Street: Summer on Long Island

BY AVA HIMMELSBACH  
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Long Island prides itself in its beautiful weather, more specifically, its gorgeous summers.

That is why Port Jeff locals and visitors were asked this weekend: "What do you like to visit or do during summer on Long Island?"



Carolyn and Julie

Many Long Island residents thrive in the summer weather and enjoy spending time outdoors when the sun is out. Julie highlighted her relaxing visits to the local beaches: "We just got a parking permit for the beach, so we go on the beach, drive on the beach, that's fun." She also noted her enjoyment of going fishing and eating out.

"She's from Florida," Julie added with regard to Carolyn, who replied, "I used to live here!"



Amanda, Michelle, Kaitlyn and their children

"My favorite thing to do in the summer is go to the Shirley Beach splash pad with the toddlers," Michelle said. She loves that spot due to its free admission combined with the opportunity of play time outside for her children. "Going to the ocean, [especially] Smith Point," Kaitlyn added. She mentioned that she enjoys the beaches closer to home, as well. "My favorite thing is to go to the parks around us," Amanda stated.

Gallya (right) and her friends Sima and Sandra

Gallya, a Long Island resident, was joined



by her visiting friends Sima and Sandra, who had just arrived on the Island that day.

"Walking through Port Jefferson, it's such a great little village," Gallya noted. "I like to go on the fishing boat, I like to go eat ice cream at the shack, I like to bring my closest friends that come from different parts of the world — presumably in reference to her friends Sima and Sandra — to share the beauty of this part of America." Port Jefferson is undoubtedly a favorite for locals and visitors alike in the summertime. "I like to go to the restaurants in town, the meditation center and all the little boutique shops. I love to walk on the waterfront where they do sailing and rowing," Gallya added.

As for the rest of Long Island, she enjoys visiting the wineries and farms out east, as well as hiking at Avalon Park.



Anne and Zoey

"The beach!" Zoey said when asked about summer activities. "Yes, the beach. We love to go to West Meadow Beach with the grandchildren while they're here. Anything fun for kids to do, like Rocketship Park," Anne added, in regard to the location of the interview. Zoey and Anne agreed that Kilwins in Port Jefferson is a fun spot to grab ice cream. "There's a wonderful park up near Ward Melville [High School], I think it's Washington Avenue Park," Anne continued. "We love going there."

"Also the library, Emma Clark Library [in Setauket]," Zoey concluded. "We spent a lot of time there yesterday. It's amazing how much energy you can spend in a library with two kids."



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Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (3 times).

Oh Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands. (3 times).

Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can obtain my goals. You gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me, and that in all instances of my life, you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. I.D.P

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Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 24 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 32 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 40 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 48 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 56 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 64 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 72 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 80 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 88 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 96 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 104 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 112 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 120 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 128 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 136 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 144 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 152 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 160 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 168 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 176 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 184 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 192 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 200 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 208 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 216 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 224 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 232 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 240 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 248 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 256 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 264 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 272 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 280 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 288 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 296 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 304 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 312 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 320 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 328 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 336 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 344 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 352 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 360 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 368 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 376 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. 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Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 432 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 440 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 448 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. 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Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 480 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 488 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 496 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. 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Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 528 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 536 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 544 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 552 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 560 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 568 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 576 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 584 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 592 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024. Additional \$100 off per purchase, minimum purchase of 4, taken after initial discount. When you purchase 600 or more windows or entry (patio door, etc.) and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry (patio door between 8/1/2024 and 8/31/2024

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## Editorial



METRO Creative Connection

### With drunk and drugged driving plaguing Suffolk County, what can we do to keep ourselves and our roads safe?

It is, unfortunately, not a new phenomenon.

According to Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney (R), motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for people between the ages of 15 and 24, with the leading causes being reckless driving and distracted driving while, often, under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Since Memorial Day weekend, drunk/drugged driving in Suffolk has claimed approximately three lives a week, and since 2018, the trend of drugged driving deaths has grown exponentially — 35% — statewide.

Suffolk County is a prime contributor to that number.

Maureen McCormick, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office Vehicular Crimes prosecutor, recently said that the innocence of most of these vehicular crime victims is what is truly alarming about these cases.

And, with the state's push to treat individuals intoxicated with drugs as firmly as those found drunk at the scene of a crash — as of now, a drugged driver in the state can only be charged with a DUI if the officer can name the drug the person has taken, and if said drug is included in a catalog of substances commonly tested for — why has a coalition of advocates been getting turned down in Albany for many years? And, why is America one of a quarter of countries that has a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.08, while the rest of the world only allows a limit of 0.05?

So, what can we do about the dangers of drunk/drugged driving? Here are some tips to stay safe on the roads.

- When going out, be sure to secure a nondrinking driver, ahead of time, to ensure a plan, and avoid in-the-moment confusion.
- Alternate drinking alcoholic beverages with soda, juice or water.
- Do not mix alcohol with other drugs, including over-the-counter and prescription medications.
- Do not get into the car with an impaired driver. Use other means of transportation such as a taxi, public transportation or driver who is sober.
- It is wise to have no substances in your system when operating a vehicle, even if you are within legal limits.
- Keep in mind: Even if you take prescription medication, avoid driving if it makes you drowsy, or lowers your energy levels. A substance does not have to be illicit to cause danger to yourself and others on the roads. Have someone drive you, when possible.
- Buckle up! If hit, a seatbelt reduces the risk of serious injury by 50% in the front seats, and up to 75%, in the rear seats.
- If you suspect an impaired driver is near you while on the road, slow down and consider turning away. When it is safe to do so, pull over and dial 911.

In this way, we will keep ourselves and our roads safe in Suffolk County and elsewhere.

## Letters to the Editor

### Brother, can you spare the MTA \$15 billion

Port Jefferson Branch LIRR riders should be concerned that MTA Chairman and CEO Janno Lieber said he will take Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) at her word — when she promised to restore the \$15 billion she cut from the transit agency's \$51 billion 2020-2024 Five Year Capital Plan due to her pause of congestion pricing — is wishful thinking on his part.

Hochul continues to not provide the financial source for her \$15 billion. She has kicked the can down the road until the next state budget is adopted — nine months from now.

In 2019, Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) and the state Legislature, instead of providing hard cash, gave the MTA congestion pricing. This was supposed to raise \$15 billion toward the MTA 2020-2024 capital plan. Albany's financial watchdog, State

Comptroller Tom DiNapoli (D), said nothing. With real cash, virtually all of these state-of-good-repair projects would have already been under way.

Hochul claims she can find additional state and federal funding to make up for the missing \$15 billion in congestion pricing. The MTA will receive \$1.8 billion in annual formula grants supplemented by competitive discretionary grant program allocations from the Federal Transit Administration in federal fiscal year 2024 (Oct. 1, 2023-Sept. 30, 2024).

Other than these resources, there are no other FTA pots of gold to cover the missing \$15 billion previously accounted for from congestion pricing.

Clearly Hochul and her staff, who advise her and ghost write her speeches, have little understanding of how Washington funding for the MTA works. When it comes to MTA financing, Hochul reminds me of

the old cartoon character Wimpy. He was fond of saying, "I'll gladly pay you on Tuesday for a hamburger today" — or in this case \$15 billion worth of MTA capital transportation projects tomorrow.

*Larry Penner  
Great Neck*

### Poor choice of word

The word "divisive" in the headline of your article regarding the "In Trump We Trust" banner in Port Jefferson (TBR News Media, Aug. 1) is misleading. It infers that the banner indicates former — and, hopefully, future — President Donald Trump (R) is "divisive." I'm sure that the papers wouldn't have used the word "divisive" in the headline had the banner stated the name of the actual divider-in-chief currently occupying the White House.

*Art Billadello  
East Setauket*



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## Opinion

## Cut it out! Celebrating the misery of others could hurt us, too

I'm tired, crabby, angry, annoyed, frustrated, disappointed, appalled and short tempered. Sleep, as a feature in TBR News Media this week suggests, will cure some of that.

But I'm just so fed up with the nonstop negativity in the country. Half the country not only wants to win, but seems thrilled with the prospect that the other half will lose. The worse the losers feel, the happier they are.

We've become a society of stomping toddlers, eager to crush the careful creations and ideas of those we oppose under our feet. Cut it out! This isn't helping.

Okay, let's take a step back from politicians and discuss us, you know, John and Joan Q. Public.

We are generally sleep deprived, according to statistics and people who pinch themselves not out of sheer joy but out of the necessity of

staying awake each day.

More than one out of two people in the cars next to us may not only be texting and/or talking on the phone, but is also likely struggling to stay awake. That's not good for them or for us.

Think about it: when you go to a store for stuff, call a company to send someone to fix your air conditioners in overbearing heat, or need someone to provide a skill set that you don't possess, you don't ask a long list of questions to make sure they were on the winning political team or that they believe everything you believe or even that they got enough sleep the previous night.

But, wait, what if the help we need is part of the other political team or, even going outside the realm of politics, is a devoted fan of the Red Sox, believes in red herrings, or is a fan of the color red?

You might privately enjoy the victory of your team or your would-be political leader, but are you really eager for them — you know, the "others" who are a part of our lives — to be miserable?

Their misery could become your misery.

It might tickle you to watch them cry and to ponder the existential threat that the person you support won and the person they supported lost, but you still need them even if you have no use for their political leaders.

If they lose sleep and are worse at their jobs, you might have to wait longer in line, deal with an incorrect bill you have to keep fighting, or suffer through the consequences of getting a meal that contains an allergen you told the waitress you couldn't eat.

Even if you feel a momentary satisfaction that people who are supporting the wrong candidates lost, you shouldn't be too eager to push their head in the mud or to throw tomatoes at them. You might need those people and your tomatoes.

What happened to agreeing to disagree, to the art of compromise or even just to listening?

If whichever side loses feels like they still have a seat at the table, an ability to affect policies, an opportunity to help our children learn — is anyone on this campaign talking about education, ever? — and confidence that

someone will listen to their ideas, the political and cultural temperature wouldn't be so high and we the people would sleep and work better.

Yes, the extremes on each side can be absurd and frustrating, but even those people with the most ridiculous signs can be agreeable and helpful outside the context of political ideology.

So, just to recap, we might want to consider this great experiment in democracy as a team effort. We don't always say and do the right things and we don't always back the right horses, but, together, we can be greater than any one election or one would-be leader.

Unless we're ready to live on a farm and eat our own food, educate our children, provide our own energy and entertainment and perform necessary surgeries on ourselves, we need each other. Once we remember that, we might have a better chance of sleeping well at night, which will make us better at our many roles, from parenting, to working, to contributing to our communities.



**D. None of the above**

BY DANIEL DUNAIEF

## A modern day spy story that could turn into a series

If you like spy stories, read on. The riveting part about this one is that it is real. The account jumped off the front page of The New York Times to me on Tuesday and speaks to the state of the world today. The recent large East-West prisoner exchange unearthed this tale that could be a streaming series but is really.



**Between you and me**

BY LEAH S. DUNAIEF

Slovenia, once part of Yugoslavia, is a small country in central Europe. It is bordered by Austria and Hungary on the north, Croatia on the east, the Italian port city of Trieste on the southwest and it has coastline along the Gulf of Venice. Although controlled by the Soviet Union for most of post WWII, it is now a member of NATO and the European Union.

It was there that Russian Anna Dultseva and her husband, Artem Dultsev, set up an online art gallery and passed themselves off as Argentines. He started a bogus high tech business. Using the name Maria Rosa Mayer Munos, she organized frequent trips to Britain and even arranged for art exhibitions in Edinburgh.

Tipped off by intelligence in Britain, the couple was arrested in December 2022 in their comfortable home near the capital, Ljubljana, as they were communicating with Moscow, using special equipment that bypassed phone and internet lines.

Their lives must have been constantly tense for the wife and husband. They had two children, a daughter, now 12, a son, now 9, and a small dog. They kept to themselves, spoke to no one, and seldom had visitors, according to neighbors in the suburb. The children attended the nearby British International School, and the family spoke Spanish and English at home.

Although people sometimes gossiped about

them, wondering what they were doing there, they were mostly ignored because they did not cause trouble. Their financial filings might have sparked interest, since they showed little income, yet they lived in a three-story house with a small garden and a wooden fence and sent their children to a school that charged \$10,000 per pupil. The art they sold was the kind bought in China for little money.

The authorities are still trying to figure out what the couple was up to since their arrival in 2017, although probably not fully activated until war with Ukraine five years later. Large sums of cash were found in the house, causing speculation that they were paying off a network of sleeper agents and other Russian operations throughout Europe.

Apparently Russian intelligence has an elaborate network of deep-cover sleeper spies trained to impersonate citizens of other countries by Russia's foreign intelligence agency, the SVR. This is, apparently, a real life version of a television series called "The

Americans," that was in turn inspired by the arrest in 2010 of a ring of sleeper spies in the United States.

According to NYT reporter, Andrew Higgins, Russia has a long history of fielding such undercover spies "who burrow deep into target countries over many years." This is something that President Putin has supported since his days in the K.G.B. These "illegal" spies have no diplomatic cover, no obvious connection to Russia, and suffer the consequences on their own if caught.

Whatever the pair did is considered to have been extremely important because, when they were released, were rejoined by their children, and landed in Moscow, they were greeted by a smiling Putin, who addressed the children with the Spanish words, "Buenas noches."

They were also greeted by Sergey Naryshkin, the head of the SVR intelligence agency. If unaware of their parents' real jobs, as the Kremlin asserted, those must have been two very confused children.



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