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Exploring our beaches

A winter walk showcases Cedar Beach in a new light

A9

Sharon Soderstrom retires

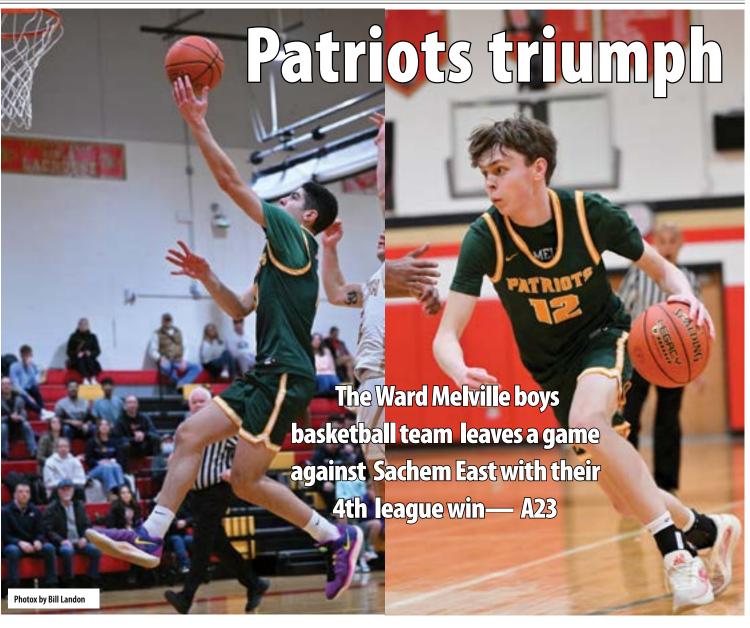
The Stony Brook native was former Sen. Mitch McConnell's Chief of Staff

A4



Staller Center announces season line-up Also: Review of 'Don't Die' documentary,' Calendar of Events, SBU Sports

B1





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Eye on the street: Goals for 2025

BY KATHERINE KELTON

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Welcoming 2025 can mean many different things to different people. Do people still believe in setting goals for the new year, or has this practice become outdated, with goal setting becoming more or less infrequent?

TBR Media asked Long Islanders about their New Year's resolutions to understand this phenomenon across different groups better.



Jake Schwarzbard, East Setauket

The Ward Melville High School senior is looking forward to the warmer weather, which will help him stick to his New Year's

resolution of "being on my phone less." "I feel like it is taking up too much of my day. I would like to try doing more activities, like golfing."



Cara Macedonio, Stony Brook

The Emma Clark Library clerk discussed a few of her resolutions: "Go to the gym is basic, but that was one of them. My resolution is to find a fun job that I like."

Claire Sloniewsky, Old Field

Sloniewsky declined to have her picture aken.

The senior at Ward Melville shared some of her

"several" resolutions, which she wrote down on her phone to remember throughout the year: "One of my main resolutions was to spend more time outside, whether on a daily walk or something more high-impact, like going on a run or looking at nature. I feel more grounded when I do that, and it's pretty isolating and tiring when I'm inside. Another was to read more. I'm already a pretty big reader, but I want to prioritize it this year."



Angie Zang, Coram

The elementary school student shared her goal for the year while roasting a marshmallow outside of The Frigate, "I would like to get better at ballet."



Lindsay Day, Three Village

Another Emma Clark Library clerk shared her goal: "My New Year's resolution is to make more meals at home instead of dining out."



Spencer Edelbaum, Three Village

A Local Druther's Coffee frequenter shared his New Year's resolution, which he states is his permanent goal: "I have a nonprofit called The Spot. I do a lot of helping; I just love a lot of people. I would just continue loving into people's lives."





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Local woman named "101st Senator" at her retirement

BY D. BRUCE LOCKERBIE DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Just before its Christmas recess, the U.S. Senate met for an unusual ceremony, the retirement of an employee who, after 43 years on the job, had become known as one of "the most powerful" women in Washington (The Atlantic, May 20, 2015)

PROFILE

and, according to former Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), even the 101st Senator. Her name is Sharon

R. Soderstrom, former chief of staff for McConnell.

Few ordinary citizens understand the inner workings of our national government; in particular, the "sausage-making process" of passing bills into law to fulfill the policy expectations of voters who sent politicians to high offices.

The U.S. Senate describes how a senator's hired staff functions: "Senators depend on the assistance of staff on Senate committees and in their individual offices, both in Washington, D.C., and in their home states. Senate committee staff include clerks, staff directors, staff assistants, legal counsel, researchers, policy analysts, press assistants, and archivists. Most senators' offices include a chief of staff to manage the office, legislative correspondents to communicate with constituents, and legislative directors and assistants to help develop legislation, as well as schedulers, communications and press staff, and other administrative assistants."

Sharon Soderstrom filled the role of senior adviser for three Republican majority leaders: Trent Lott (R-MS), William Frist (R-TN) and McConnell.

Soderstrom's father Karl E. Soderstrom was the head of The Stony Brook School; her brother Mark Soderstrom is a senior captain on the Port Jefferson/Bridgeport Ferry. With their younger sister Cheryl, they all attended North Country Elementary School through sixth grade, then enrolled at The Stony Brook School.

She was valedictorian of the class of 1978 before going on to the University of Virginia, where she majored in English; her intended graduate studies were interrupted by an opportunity to work in the Washington, D.C., office of then Senator Paul Trible (R-

"I thought I'd work there for a year or two before I found my real job," Soderstrom said. "I started answering phones but soon moved into a role that I found stimulating — learning about policy issues and thinking about how to strategically advance causes through the legislative process."

The Hill, a widely-circulated insider publication, acclaims her as "an expert on Senate rules and procedure" and "well regarded for the counsel she provides to McConnell and members on Senate strategy. . . . Former aides in the office say that she constantly has her finger on the pulse of the [Republican] conference and the full trust of the longest-serving leader in Senate history." (Sept. 12, 2023)

McConnell's spoken tribute began, "For several months now, I've been calling the Senate's attention to the extraordinary people who have me, this institution, and our nation so well — and for so long in the Republican Leader's office. Today, I've reached the end of the list. My one remaining task is to prepare our colleagues for a Senate without Sharon Soderstrom."

McConnell ended his tribute by stating, "Come January, the Senate will convene again. The 119th Congress will bring us a new slate of weighty business, new moments of minor crisis, and new opportunities to better serve the nation we all love. But in the most trying moments — and the most triumphant ones — a great many of us will feel like something is missing. We will miss Sharon — the 101st Senator. Sharon, you have served the Senate with honor. You are the greatest at what you do."

As for her own retrospective, Soderstrom says, "One of the joys of my work through the years has been the opportunities to mentor public-spirited young people. The role placed me at the intersection of operating between the White House, the House leadership and Senate Republican leaders. Among the many things I'm proud of is despite the stresses on our institutions, in moments of crisis I have been part of national leaders who led during 9/11 and 1/6/24 — two different evacuations of the Capitol, two different Republican leaders, and one imperative: Return to the Capitol the same day and demonstrate national resolve for the country and for the world."

When asked to cite both high and low points in her career, she replied, "I have also been grateful at different moments in time to drive agendas that have been consequential in the moment. After Putin's invasion of Ukraine. I was with Leader McConnell in Finland, then Sweden, the day they voted to join NATO. We then were part of the legislative team to drive early U.S.



Former Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Sharon R. Soderstrom, his former chief of staff. Photo courtesy of Sen. McConnell's website

the Prime Minister the day he presented the accession papers to the State Department to make it official."

"I did ask on behalf of my Norwegian grandparents what took them so long," she added.

"I credit my upbringing at The Stony Brook School for modeling lessons that helped me in this role. At the end of his life, my Dad told me of his deep satisfaction in doing purposeful work with talented colleagues, many of whom became lifelong friends. I too was able to work with the best and brightest, and as a team we were each better than our individual parts. Building and managing a team that maintained our reputation for excellence and high morale through the tenure of the longest serving leader in Senate history was a great good

"But I think my greatest disappointment of the Three Villages.

ratification of the treaty, and met again with through the years has been watching politics become more performative among each party's base, making progress more difficult. Mark Shields once said, 'There are two types of political parties like there are two kinds of churches: those who seek converts and those who root out heretics.' I hope that we can return to a moment when we try to persuade through the weight of a winsome argument rather than shutting down dissent and vilifying fellow citizens.'

> For the first time in more than four decades, Sharon Soderstrom's daily routine is no longer at the behest of 100 men and women who live their lives in six-year cycles and count to 51 (or 60), depending on the nature of the case before them. She plans to take a well-earned break from Senate arithmetic.

D. Bruce Lockerbie is a longtime resident

2024 climate data reveals record highs in Suffolk County

BY SABRINA ARTUSA

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The past two years in Suffolk County had the warmest average mean temperature and the warmest average low temperature of any two consecutive years on record.

According to data recorded by the Southeast Regional Climate Center (SERCC), January 2023 to January 2025 were the hottest 730 days of the past 42 years.

The data, recorded at a station in Islip, reported the area's average mean temperature as 55.1 degrees Fahrenheit, making it the third warmest year following 2023 and 2012, which both experienced an average mean temperature of 55.3 degrees Fahrenheit.

The average low temperature was 47.1 degrees Fahrenheit, tying with 2012 as the warmest average low temperature, followed by 2023 with an average low temp of 47.0, only .1 degrees cooler.

The years 2023 and 2024 rank high in most of the temperature charts, although 2024 was not among the top five highest average temperatures.

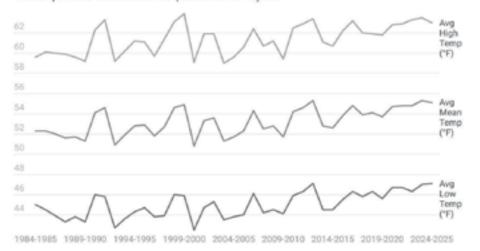
Long Island's higher than normal temperatures are not unique; according to data obtained by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the average temperature of the continental U.S. was the warmest to date.

Compared to the baseline—the temperature from 1900 to 2000—the average temp of the U.S. in 2024 was almost 3 degrees Fahrenheit warmer. The base is 52.01 degrees Fahrenheit while 2024 experienced an average of 54.94.

Dr. Elizabeth Watson, an associate professor at Stony Brook University's Department of Ecology and Evolution, specializes in climate change and its effects on coastal environments.

Suffolk County Temperature

The temperature recorded at an Islip station over 42 years



According to Watson, global warming is generally felt more intensely in the winter months. As greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane continue to trap heat within our atmosphere, the Earth isn't releasing heat as rapidly as it has in the past.

The warming Earth doesn't reach freezing temperatures as often, resulting in less snow to reflect the solar energy away from the Earth's surface.

"Snow affects the seasonal energy balance, so if you have more snow it reflects the light," Watson said.

This positive feedback loop has exacerbated warming and explains why there is such a noticeable change of temperature in winter months.

The temperature increase is an indication of

a change that is impacting Long Island weather and ecology. Extreme weather events like storm surges impose a threat not only to the coastal environment, but also infrastructure.

In December 2023 and January 2024, Long Island experienced a storm surge—when a storm pushes water inland. Watson observed its effects in Patchogue, as water flowed out from the drains, blocks away from the Patchogue Bay.

"When I think about climate change in this area I think about flooding and high sea levels," Watson said. "If you have high temperatures that lead to more energetic storms that can lead to more storm surges." She emphasized the danger flooding would have on Long Island communities, especially coastal towns like Port Jefferson, Northport, and Huntington.

David Ansel, the vice president of the center

for water protection at Save the Sound, interpreted the data in the context of what it means for the Long Island Sound.

"As it is getting warmer and warmer, that is negatively impacting a number of things," Ansel said."One is water pollution and also the actual warming of the water itself, which makes the water less healthy for biodiversity and plant life."

A warming climate correlates with severe single-day precipitation events, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Heavy rainfall in itself is cause for alarm—it can erode land and damage crops—but the potential for it to cause flooding is among the most detrimental to our community.

Currently, Watson is studying the causes of forest dieback—a condition that leads trees and plants to weaken or die. Watson said. "Episodic storms seem to play a role. It seems [forest dieback] has accelerated a lot more in the past 10 years. It is not something that has started with Hurricane Sandy."

Long Island infrastructure is ill-suited to deal with the mass amount of rainfall that data shows is becoming increasingly common as temperature rises. The data secured from SERCC did not reveal abnormal rain in recent years, but national studies suggest an increase.

"When it rains a lot in a short amount of time it overwhelms water treatment and for communities," said Ansel, who is advocating for the replacement of outdated septic tanks and more efficient wastewater facilities.

The Central and Western Basins of the Long Island Sound are healthy, according to a study released by Save the Sound in 2023 that tested the dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll levels, dissolved organic carbon, and water quality. Port Jefferson, Stony Brook, Old Field, and Nissequogue neighbor border this portion of the sound

The Eastern Narrows, which extend from New York City to Eaton's Neck, is rated lower.

Increasingly, town officials are approaching Ansel for advice on how to improve their stormwater management and prepare for flooding.

Drivers may be owed "millions" after red-light camera ruling

BY DYLAN FRIEDMAN

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Suffolk County's red-light camera program officially ceased on Dec. 1.

The program generated hundreds of millions of dollars in fines and fees since its inception 14 years ago.

"The intent for it was to make things safer for our roads," Suffolk County Legislator Robert Trotta (R-Fort Salonga) said.

However, despite the original intent, the

COUNTY

program's effectiveness has been a frequently contentious issue. Supporters emphasize a decline in severe accidents and fatalities as proof of its

success. Conversely, detractors argue it has led to an uptick in rear-end collisions due to individuals stopping suddenly to avoid camera detection. Critics also label it a "cash grab" for the county, which reported earning approximately \$13 million from the program in 2023.

In a recent CBS News report, county data showed an 11.3% drop in accidents with injuries and an 8.6% overall increase in crashes.

"The data showed that the rear-end accidents skyrocketed in those intersections [where the cameras were placed]," Trotta said.

According to Newsday, while Suffolk County had independently decided to terminate its red-light camera program, the decision swiftly followed a recent appellate court ruling invalidating Nassau County's \$100 surcharge on top of the standard \$50 red-light camera ticket. The court found that Nassau County's surcharge violates state law. It is worth noting that Suffolk County also previously collected a similar surcharge until 2023.

"If I saw road improvements or it went back to the school system, it would make me feel better

about paying for these tickets," said Nicholas Harding of East Patchogue in a CBS News interview.

Nassau County intends to challenge the recent court ruling that invalidated the county's ability to levy surcharges on red-light camera tickets. Notably, the county's red-light camera program remains operational during this appeal process.

However, according to a Fox News report, the recent appellate court ruling regarding the collection fees from these red-light cameras could potentially entitle drivers to "hundreds of millions of dollars," although the exact amount remains uncertain.

"The purpose of the lawsuit is to get back every dime that was paid in excess of the statutory amount of \$50 and \$25 in Suffolk. In Nassau, it was even worse. It was an extra \$100," attorney David Raimondo said in a recent statement. "I'm hoping the residents of Nassau and Suffolk have

some sense of justice ... let's hope they're happy when they get their refunds."

So, if the recent ruling is not directly related to the ending of the red-light camera program in Suffolk County, why else is the program ending?

According to Newsday, although former Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele Jr. (D-Sag Harbor) sponsored an extension bill in the state assembly, no member of Suffolk's senate delegation, comprised of four Republicans and one Democrat, introduced a corresponding extension bill prior to the adjournment of the last legislative session in June

Additionally, according to Newsday, extending the program in Suffolk County would have required approval from both the county and state legislatures, a process that would have occurred during an election year, potentially increasing complexity and political considerations.

Editorial

Protect Long Island's natural treasures

The Long Island Sound has attracted many residents to the area. While walking across the beach and appreciating waters that change with the tides and weather, the beauty of a landscape we share with seagulls calling to each other and fiddler crabs racing in and out of the surf provides a comforting setting for our busy lives.

While the Long Island Sound seems resilient and constant, it faces an ongoing threat. After decades of existing adjacent to population-dense Long Island, its chemical makeup has suffered.

About 9 million people live in the Long Island Sound watershed, which extends almost to Canada, with 1.5 million of those people residing in Suffolk County. The large population puts pressure on the sewer systems, which if ineffective, affect water quality.

Ineffective wastewater management not only impacts drinking water, but also has profound and noticeable impacts on the Long Island Sound where the toxic runoff often ends up. Wastewater is adding nitrogen to the water, contributing to the growth of harmful algae blooms that overwhelm the surrounding ecosystem and cause beach closures.

Since we live on a watershed, how we use our water has the potential to erode the quality of the beaches we adore. To maintain the natural havens like Cedar Beach, Long Beach, and Sunken Meadow State Park we need a capable sewer system and modern septic tanks.

Our area poses a unique threat to the Sound: Long Island is highly developed, containing paved roads and concrete essentially leading straight to the beach. The lack of undeveloped land to absorb the excess water causes it to flow into the Sound, with all the contaminants it picks up on the way.

Our communities, too, will inevitably be impacted, unless we can make the proper preparations and implement mitigation techniques. Without improved sewage systems our community will not be able to cope with the escalating effects of climate change. Rising temperatures lead to more rainfall and more treacherous storm surges. We need to make sure our infrastructure can handle the strain to avoid flooding our towns

Last year, the Suffolk County Water Quality Restoration Act was a step in the right direction. Passed on Nov. 5, the bill will provide the county with \$4 billion to upgrade our water infrastructure.

As the temperature rises, year by year, understanding how the qualities of Long Island interact with the changing climate can help us know what is at stake and how to protect it.

We need to keep the momentum going. We must learn how to protect what we have. This may mean reducing our use of fertilizer to minimize contaminated runoff from entering the water. Or it may mean doing the best we can to encourage others to protect the shared treasure that is the Long Island Sound.

Fortunately, the portion of the Long Island Sound in our coverage area is relatively healthy; but we must take steps now to become informed and protect a valuable resource we can appreciate and enjoy.

Letters to the Editor

Cancer Prevention in Action

We have the power to prevent cervical cancer.

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Over 11,500 people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2025. However, almost all of these cases are preventable. Through cervical cancer screening and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, we have the power to prevent cervical cancer.

Stony Brook Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention in Action (CPiA) program is here to help you and your loved ones reduce your risk of cervical cancer with these prevention tips:

Schedule your screening: Cervical cancer screening tests can find cells that lead to cancer so that they can be removed before cancer grows. In addition to the Pap test, testing for HPV cells within the cervix is now recommended as a primary screening method. The American Cancer Society recommends routine cervical cancer screening for people with a cervix starting at age 25 through 65.

Get vaccinated: Almost all cervical cancers are caused by HPV. The HPV vaccine prevents cervical, and five other types of cancer, by preventing the virus that causes them. HPV vaccination is recommended for children of all genders beginning at age 9. It is also recommended for adults not vaccinated in childhood through age 26. With over 135 million doses administered in the United States in the last two decades, the HPV vaccine has proven to be extremely safe and effective in preventing HPV cancers.

Raise awareness: Cervical cancer is preventable. Raise awareness amongst your family, friends, and community that cervical cancer can be prevented through vaccination and screening. Consider organizing an awareness event or education session for your workplace, organization, PTA, or other community setting with Stony Brook Cancer Center's CPiA program.

The CPiA program works to increase HPV vaccination and reduce cancer rates on Long Island. CPiA educates people of all ages in a variety of community settings about cancer prevention and healthy living.

To learn more about cervical cancer prevention or to get involved with CPiA at Stony Brook Cancer Center, go to www.takeactionagainstcancer.com or contact us at 631-444-4263 or at COE@ stonybrookmedicine.edu.

Stony Brook Cancer Center's Cancer Prevention in Action

The implications of the R-word

Dear anyone who uses the R-word,

As the father of a young man with Down syndrome and the leader of a business where more than half of our colleagues have differing abilities, I feel compelled to address leaders who have used the R-word.

There is no denying your place in the world. That power and influence comes with a greater sense of obligation. Your statements matter. Your words matter. There was a time when using that term was acceptable. Yet in those times that word dehumanized people with differing abilities, people like my son John. That term denied people a sense of dignity and a place in our society.

That word gained prominence during a period when people with intellectual development disabilities were often shunned, relegated to institutions, denied an education, barred from employment and rejected by society. They were treated as sub-human.

Thankfully, times have changed. People with differing abilities have become full members of our society, many playing a prominent role. My son John is an entrepreneur like you and has co-founded the world's largest sock store. And John is only one of a growing number of entrepreneurs, business leaders, artists, actors, athletes, and political activists with a differing ability. At our business, more than half our colleagues have a differing ability, and we succeed because of the excellent work they do.

People with differing abilities have been patient waiting for the rest of us to catch up, to recognize their strengths and ability to contribute to our society. We need them. We need them in our schools, our businesses and our communities. Terms like the R-word have faded away as people learn how much it hurts, see the negative impact it has and, most importantly, how wrong-headed the description is.

I urge you to consider how your words and actions might advance this progress rather than hinder it. Language has the power to uplift or harm, to unite or divide. You have the opportunity to champion a vision of inclusion, where every person—regardless of their abilities—is treated with respect and celebrated for their unique gifts.

I invite you to visit our business, John's Crazy Socks. Come meet John and our colleagues with differing abilities. Come see first-hand the potential and humanity that outdated stereotypes obscure. As someone who has defied expectations and pushed boundaries, you have the ability to model a future that leaves no one behind.

This moment can be a turning point. By choosing compassion, understanding, and inclusion, you can inspire others to do the same and help build a world where dignity and opportunity are extended to all.

Will you join us in this mission? Your voice could be a powerful catalyst for change.

Regards, Mark X. Cronin Father, Advocate, and Co-Founder of John's Crazy Socks

More details needed about lithiumion batteries

We have under consideration at least two

large lithium-ion battery installations in our local neighborhoods. One, according to Ira Costell, the president of the Port Jefferson Station/Terryville Civic Association, will be an 8-10 MW system, to be provided by New Leaf Energy. The other, also according to Mr. Costell, will be a mammoth 350 MW facility from Savion, although the Renewables Now website lists this as having a rated power of only 110 MW.

In any case, if we are to understand the capabilities and limitations of these installations, a more complete definition of their energy storage capabilities is required.

This must include not only a power rating, e.g., 10 MW, but also the length of time for which the power can be delivered by the battery. For example, if a battery can provide 10 MW of power for 5 hours, its energy rating is 50 MWh (megawatt hours). Thus, if we know the energy rating of a battery, and we also know the load power, we can calculate the time for which the power will be supplied. For example, a 50 MWh battery can provide 1 MW for 50 hours, or 5 MW for 10 hours, and so forth. At the end of these periods, the battery becomes fully discharged, and must be recharged for further use.

The energy capacities of these batteries are important, because of the intermittent and unpredictable nature of the mandated future energy sources, which will be solar arrays and windmills. When these sources are generating their full rated power, they will be both powering the commercial customers and charging the batteries. As an example, let us assume we have 2,000 houses, each with a load of 1,000 W (1 kW), or 2 MW total. A 50 MWh battery can therefore provide the required power (2 MW) for 25 hours. When the solar/wind power is available, it powers the customer houses and also charges the battery. When the solar/wind input power stops, the load power is provided by the battery, for up to 25 hours. If the input power outage exceeds 25 hours, the 2,000 customers will be without power until the input power becomes available.

The key point is that the energy (MWh) capability of the battery must be sufficient to provide the required power for at least the longest possible down time of the primary power source. If this condition is not met, prolonged power outages and blackouts will be the inevitable result.

If we are to understand and evaluate the capabilities of these proposed battery facilities, it would be most helpful to have New Leaf Energy and Savion provide the energy specifications to us, rather than simply some undefined power numbers, which leave us in the dark with regard to the time for which the power will be available.

George Altemose Setauket

WRITE TO US ... AND KEEP IT LOCAL Email letters to: editor1@tbrnewsmedia.com or mail them to TBR News Media, P.O. Box 707, Setauket, NY 11733

Opinion

A fourth born prepares to take over the White House from an eldest

ere we are, teetering on the precipice of James Madison and included Lyndon Baines the transition from Joseph Biden back to Donald Trump at the White House.

What better time than now to ponder some random facts, such as birth order, about the



D. None of the above BY DANIEL DUNAIEF

presidency? I used a Potus Presidential Facts website that included siblings and half-siblings for the first part of this column and a host of other websites. including Wikipedia for the second part.

For starters, none of the men (it's a men's only club so far) who were the commander in chief were only children. Three meanwhile, presidents, had only one sibling. That

list includes Calvin Coolidge, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan.

Now, I figured that more presidents were first children than subsequent children, in part because first children often rule the roost, as primogeniture would suggest. But I was wrong.

Yes, first children are well represented, as 11 presidents were the oldest in their families.

First born children who would go on to become president started with John Adams and Johnson, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, George W. Bush (43) and the soon-to be ex-president Joseph Biden, among others.

Second children, however, constituted the greatest number of presidents. After a lifetime of being described as number two, I now realize what a compliment such a designation is, at least in terms of presidential history, where number two is number one.

Starting with James Monroe, that list includes such luminaries as Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy and, well, Richard Nixon. Okay, so, Nixon didn't exactly cover himself in glory, resigning in disgrace after the Watergate Scandal, but he doesn't bring all second children down.

First and second children constitute 56 percent of the presidents.

Going to the presidents who had numerous older siblings, the three presidents who were born seventh all shared the same first name: William. The seventh born commanders in chief were William Henry Harrison, William McKinley and William Howard Taft. If history is any guide, that means a seventh born William, assuming somehow your parents didn't choose the name for any of your older siblings, has a path to the presidency.

Four presidents were born sixth, starting with George Washington. Joining the first president in the number six club are Martin Van Buren, John Tyler and Franklin Pierce.

The fifth born list only has three entrants: James Garfield, Chester A. Arthur and Grover Cleveland, who shares the distinction of being the only president elected in two nonconsecutive terms with Trump.

Fourth born presidents also have three members, starting with Zachary Taylor, continuing with Rutherford B. Hayes and going to Trump.

And, finally, seven presidents were born third in their families. The list started with Thomas Jefferson and included Andrew Jackson. Andrew Johnson, Woodrow Wilson, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

Now, seven presidents were the youngest child, including Herbert Hoover, Ronald Reagan, Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield and William Henry Harrison.

On average, presidents had a little over five siblings. Biden had three siblings and Trump had four, making him the penultimate child.

James Madison, who served as the fourth president, had the most siblings, at 11.

While similar lists for first ladies are harder to find (at least for me), I did find some interesting factoids about a few first ladies.

During the war of 1812, Dolley Madison, whose first name originally had an "e" then didn't in historical records and then did again as of 1958, rescued artifacts from the White House before the British burned it down. Frances Cleveland, meanwhile, was the youngest first lady and the only one who got married in the White House. At 21, she wed 49-year old Grover Cleveland.

Helen Taft was the first to ride with her husband in the inaugural parade and the first to ensure staff were treated equally in the White House. She planted the first of 3,000 cherry trees Tokyo had sent as a gift, helping to establish cherry trees as a staple along the Potomac river.

As for pets, Trump, James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson were the only White House occupants who didn't have pets, according to Wikipedia. I'm guessing that some of the Secret Service members bitten by Biden's dog Commander would have preferred that the incumbent didn't

Teddy Roosevelt had numerous pets when he was president, including snakes, dogs, cats, a badger, birds, and guinea pigs.

Numerous presidents received larger animals that they sent elsewhere. Eisenhower, for example, received a baby Forest Elephant from the French Community of African Republics that he shipped to the National Zoo.

Gone are the party hats and champagne as reality enters our lives

t may have started as a new year filled with hope, but this is a difficult week. The terrible fires in Southern California have burned

work, study or are retired there, driving the



Between vou and me BY LEAH S. DUNAIEF

entire neighborhoods to the ground, from mansions to mobile homes. We already know about the displaced and the deaths, but more destruction may yet come. Weather forecasts from the National Weather Service are predicting fierce winds ahead that may drive the fires into new areas.

The end is not in sight. While this horror is on the other side of the country, it is not remote. Many of us have friends and relatives who live,

tragedy right into our midst and into our hearts in a deeply personal way. These are not only abstract numbers of people and homes about which we would feel a humanitarian empathy. These are our people. These are our forests and our lands. The dreadful irony of it all, remembering the 1972 Albert Hammond song, "It Never Rains in Southern California."

While there was already a serious homeless population for Los Angeles, the newly displaced are trying to figure out what to do next. The lucky ones have relatives or friends with whom they can seek shelter. It may be long weeks, even months before they can return, if their homes miraculously are still standing. What if they are not? Will the insurance companies hold up to enable rebuilding, or will some of them declare bankruptcy, as they have done in similar cataclysmic situations, like the one in the Caribbean Island St. Croix? Can FEMA bear the entire load?

Private citizens can be counted on to respond generously, as we have with virtually every disaster in the world. With such an enormous catastrophe, the entire national economy could take a hit. How will the new administration respond?

Speaking of the government, we have less than a week before the new administration is sworn into office. The change of political parties may in itself contribute to some emotional reaction this week, regardless of one's party affiliation.

Many Dems are worried, while many members in the GOP are optimistic. There has been much talk of changes to come, from buying Greenland for its exotic minerals to changing the name from the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. Perhaps more seriously, there may be a tax cut in the future, some change in

immigration policy and new tariffs imposed or at least threatened.

Some good news did emerge this week. There may be a truce in Gaza after 15 months of violence, with some hostages to be exchanged for Palestinian prisoners and specific movements of Israeli troops. While the atmosphere surrounding the peace talks remains tense, according to media reports, there now seems some hope.

According to Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the negotiators are only awaiting Hamas's sign off. Perhaps the imminent changeover of presidents from Biden to Trump in the United States hastened the deal. The governments of Qatar and Egypt have also directly participated in the talks.

Perhaps now the fighting in Ukraine and the fires in Southern California can also be brought to a halt. Then we could return to hope.

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Suffolk County D.A. activates 'Operation Bloodhound' to prevent animal cruelty

Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond A. Tierney announced on Jan. 7 the first round of results from "Operation after investigators found him in possession Bloodhound," which is an ongoing initiative between the DA's Biological, Environmental, and Animal Safety Team (BEAST) and the Suffolk County Police Department. The joint law enforcement venture is to ensure that all laws and court mandates pertaining to animal cruelty prosecutions are strictly enforced.

BEAST detectives arrested four convicted animal abusers for failing to renew their registration for Suffolk County's Animal Abuse Offender Registry, as required by Suffolk County Local Law. Three of those four defendants had pleaded to engaging in dogfighting in their prior case.

BEAST detectives also conducted numerous unannounced spot-check visits of defendants' homes to ensure that they were in compliance with their criminal court sentences or orders. During one of the visits, a Calverton woman was found in possession of eight dogs and was accordingly arrested for eight counts of criminal contempt for violating a court order that prohibited her from possessing additional animals while her animal cruelty case was pending.

Additionally, a Mastic Beach man was arrested for four counts of criminal contempt of four cats in violation of a court order that prohibited him from owning or possessing animals for 10 years after a conviction on a prior animal neglect case. That defendant was also charged with not registering for the Suffolk County's Animal Abuse Offender Registry.

Suffolk County police officers apprehended two defendants on outstanding warrants for absconding from pending criminal proceedings and charged them with additional bail jumping charges on top of their original cruelty charges. One of these defendants had allegedly stolen a kitten from the Southampton Animal Shelter Foundation and then attempted to kick the arresting officers. Detectives also located a defendant with an active warrant for animal abandonment at a detention center in Virginia.

Numerous other defendants that were checked during this enforcement initiative were found to be in compliance with court orders or the conditions of their probationary sentences.

- SUFFOLK COUNTY D.A.'S OFFICE

POLICE SLOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by Suffolk County Police:

85-year-old man killed in Coram crash

Suffolk County Police Sixth Squad detectives are investigating a motor vehicle crash during which a Port Jefferson Station man was killed in Coram on Jan. 12.

Timothy McGreevey was driving a 2019 GMC Sierra pickup northbound on County Road 83 when his truck collided with a 2018 Ford Mustang traveling northbound on Route 112. The Mustang struck two other vehicles on County Road 83 before coming to a stop. The Sierra struck a van that was stopped in the turning lane on County Road 83.

The operator of the Mustang, David Black, 85, of Port Jefferson, was transported to Stony Brook University Hospital where he was pronounced dead. McGreevey, 35, of Rocky Point, and the drivers of the other vehicles were not injured. The Ford Mustang and GMC Sierra were impounded for a safety check.

Detectives are asking anyone with information on this crash to contact the Sixth Squad at 631-854-8652.

Smithtown massage parlor raided

Suffolk County Police arrested two women on Jan. 9 for alleged prostitution, criminal nuisance and unauthorized practice of a profession during a massage parlor raid in Smithtown.

In response to numerous community complaints, Suffolk County Police Fourth Precinct Crime Section officers and Fourth Squad detectives, in conjunction with the Town of Smithtown Fire Marshal, conducted an investigation into Yan Yang Spa, located at 172 Terry Road, at 4:35 p.m.

Fen Xu, 46, of Flushing, was charged with Unauthorized Practice of a Profession, a Class E felony, Criminal Nuisance 2nd Degree, and Prostitution, both misdemeanors.

Le Wang, 30, of Farmingville, was charged with Unauthorized Practice of a Profession, a Class E felony, Criminal Nuisance 2nd Degree, and Prostitution, both misdemeanors. The Town of Smithtown Fire Marshal issued multiple violations to the business and deemed the about Meatloaf's injuries or the circumstances location unsafe for occupancy.

Xu and Wang were both issued Desk Appearance Tickets and are scheduled to be arraigned at First District Court in Central Islip on a later date.

Wanted for animal cruelty

On November 5, 2024, a male bully mix with brindle coloring was brought to the Smithtown Animal Shelter with extensive injuries, including

CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Do you recognize this man? Photo from SCPD

Wanted for alleged petit larceny

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Fifth Precinct Crime Section officers are seeking the public's help to identify and locate the man who allegedly stole groceries from Stop & Shop, located at 700 Yaphank Road in Medford, on December 29 at approximately 3:30 p.m.

what appeared to be chemical burns and infected wounds. The canine, named "Meatloaf" by the shelter staff, was reportedly found wandering on Croft Lane near Creek Road in Smithtown.

A Good Samaritan discovered the injured dog and transported him to the Smithtown Animal Shelter for care. Unfortunately Meatloaf injuries were too extreme so he did not survive.

The Suffolk County SPCA is offering a \$3,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for this heinous act of animal cruelty.

SPCA detectives are actively investigating this case and urge anyone with information that led to his condition and ultimate death to come forward.

If you have any information, please contact the Suffolk County SPCA at 631-382-7722. Reports can be made anonymously.

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

— COMPILED BY HEIDI SUTTON

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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.

Winter Wonderland Walk

BY BILL LANDON

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

With a break in the incessant wind, Saturday afternoon, Jan. 11, featured a Town of Brookhaven sponsored Winter Wonderland Walk at the Cedar Beach Nature Center in Mount Sinai. The

COMMUNITY

attendees were treated to a guided tour where they observed the cold

and stark beauty of the beach and the salt marsh and learned how wildlife adapted to survive the winter conditions and the important role that native plant life plays in the fragile ecosystem.

For more information visit www. brookhavenny.gov.





Cedar Beach Winter Wonderland Walk Saturday, Jan. 11. Photos by Bill Landon





California fire particles detected on Long Island

DANIEL DUNAIEF DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Small particles from the raging wildfires in Los Angeles that have killed residents, destroyed homes and businesses and have caused massive evacuations have crossed the country, reaching Long Island.

"Our instruments are picking up evidence detecting California wildfires already," said Arthur

ENVIRONMENT Sedlacek, III, Aerosol Processes Group leader in

the Environmental & Climate Sciences Department at Brookhaven National Laboratory. "What's happening 3,000 miles away can impact us" just like the fires in Quebec did.

The amount and concentration of particles on Long Island from these particles doesn't present a health risk to many people in the population.

"For those who are sensitive to inhalation irritation, it opens up the possibility" of developing breathing difficulties or adding particles that could irritate their lungs, Sedlacek continued.

To be sure, the majority of people on Long Island and the east coast may not react to levels of particulates that are considerably lower than for residents of Los Angeles and the surrounding areas.

Local doctors suggested that these particles can trigger a range of health problems for those who are closer to the flames and smoke.

"The general rule is the larger the exposure, the greater the effect," said Dr. Norman Edelman, a pulmonologist at Stony Brook Medicine.

Researchers have shown that the exposure doesn't have to be especially high to affect health.

'We more we look, the more we see that lower and lower doses will have negative effects," said Edelman.

If and when particulates build in the air where patients with lung challenges live, pulmonologists urge residents to take several steps to protect themselves.

First, they can adjust their medication to respond to a greater health threat.

In addition, they can wear a particle mask, which is not an ordinary surgical

Over time, continued exposure to particulates through pollution, wildfires or other emissions may have a cumulative





Arthur Sedlacek, III Aerosol Processes Group leader at Brookhaven National Laboratory and Normal Edelman, a pulmonologist at Stony Brook **University.** Photo courtesy Stony Brook University website.

health effect.

In the South Bronx, about 40 percent of children have asthma, compared with closer to 10 percent for the rest of the country. While genetics may contribute to that level, "we believe it's because they are exposed to intense, continuous air pollution from motor vehicle traffic," said Edelman, as cars and trucks on the Cross Bronx Expressway pollute the air in nearby neighborhoods.

The cumulative effect on people with existing disease is more pronounced.

Even when exposure and a lung reaction end, people "don't quite come back to where [they] started," said Edelman. "They lose a little bit of lung function."

Particulates not only can cause damage for people who have chronic lung issues, like asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, but can also cause problems for people who have other medical challenges.

"We do know that this kind of pollution generates heart attacks in people with heart disease," said Edelman. "That's relatively new knowledge."

A heating cycle

The ongoing fires, which started on Jan. 7 and were exacerbated by the Santa Ana winds of 70 miles per hour, have been consuming everything in their path, throwing a range of particles into the air.

These can include organic particles, black particles, which is akin to something that comes out of the tailpipe of a school bus and all sorts of particles in between, Sedlacek said.

These particles can form condensation nuclei for clouds and water droplets and they can absorb solar radiation and light.

Heating the upper troposphere with particles that absorb radiation alters the typical convention dynamic, in which hot air usually rises and cool air sinks

These changes in convection, which can occur with each of these major wildfires. can affect local air currents and even, in the longer term, broader air circulation patterns.

Sedlacek suggested that some areas in California and in the west may have reduced the use of controlled burns, in part because of the potential for those fires to blaze out of control.

'With the absence of range management and controlled burns to clear out the understory, you don't have those natural fire breaks that would otherwise exist," said Sedlacek. "In my opinion, you have to do controlled burns."

Wildfires, Sedlacek added, are a "natural

part of the ecosystem," returning nutrients that might otherwise be inaccessible to the

Without wildfires or controlled burns, areas can have a build up of understory that grows over the course of decades and that are potentially more dangerous amid a warming planet caused by climate change.

Indeed, recent reports from the Copernicus Climate Change Service indicate that 2024 was the hottest year on record, with temperatures reaching 1.6 degrees Celsius above the average in preindustrial revolution levels. The Paris Climate Accord aimed to keep the increase from the late 19th century to well below 2 degrees, with an emphasis on a 1.5 degree limit.

The fires themselves have become a part of the climate change cycle, contributing particulates and greenhouse gases to processes that have made each of these events that much worse.

"These fires generate greenhouse gases and aerosol particles in the atmosphere that can then further increase or contribute to a warming of the globe," said Sedlacek. "We have this positive feedback loop."

In the climate change community, researchers discuss feedback, which can be positive, pushing an event or trend further in the same direction, or negative, which alters a process.

Sedlacek likens this to driving in a car that's heading to the right towards the shoulder. In negative feedback, a driver steers the car in the other direction while positive feedback pushes the car further from the road.

Wildfires, which contribute and exacerbate global warming, can push the car towards a ditch, Sedlacek said.

Some scientists have urged efforts to engage in geoengineering, in which researchers propose blocking the sun, which would cause negative feedback.

"That might be a great idea on paper, but I don't know if you want to play chemistry on a global scale," said Sedlacek. Considering efforts to reduce solar radiation has merit, he suggested, but requires a closer analysis under controlled circumstances to understand it.

"I sincerely hope that the powers that be will appreciate the importance of what we do to understand" these processes, Sedlacek said. Understanding the models researchers have created can inform decisions.

A small taste of history from the Middle Country Public Library

Among the Middle Country Public Library's many historical artifacts are a few that explain just how far the area has come from its pastoral roots

WRITTEN BY MIDDLE COUNTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF

Middle Country and Horseblock Roads

Driving along Middle Country Road today, it is hard to imagine that only 100 years ago, this busy four-lane highway with its many intersections, signs and streetlights started out as little more than a hard packed

HISTORY

dirt road. Go back 100 years more, and you'd only see a narrower, rutted path. We take our nicely maintained, hard-

paved roads for granted today, but it wasn't always such a smooth ride. Today's network of streets and highways have their origins in simple trails which were used by people and wildlife leading to sources of water and shelter. These paths measured only two to three feet wide in places, but they were sufficient for the needs of the times. Early English settlers began to use these footpaths as they established homesteads on Long Island, widening and improving these paths, using them as cart-ways to allow for easier travel between their farms. The cart-way needed to be wide enough for a livestock-

drawn cart to traverse with ease. In those days a cart would be hauled by cattle, ox or horse power.

Those paths were the only way to travel around Long Island until 1703, when the NY General Assembly appointed highway commissioners in King's County (Brooklyn), Queens County and Suffolk County to direct the building and maintenance of roads "four rods wide." The early measurement of "a rod," equals approximately 16.5 feet or 5 meters in today's terms. These highways were simply packed earth, hardened over time by travelers. It took some time for conditions to improve, and eventually drainage systems were constructed, and logs or planks were laid across some roads to pave them. These log-covered roads were known as "corduroy roads" because of their bumpy surface. Thirty years after the highway commissions laid out the routes, arranged rights-of-way between existing properties and physical construction took place, Long Island boasted three major thoroughfares: North Country Road, parts of which follow today's Route 25A; Middle Country Road, now known as Route 25 or Jericho Turnpike;

and South Country Road, portions of which serve as Montauk Highway.

of stone or wood used to help a person climb high enough to mount a horse or to enter a

An organized system of roads was needed for many reasons as the population grew. Though most homesteads were self-sufficient at that time, people would barter for goods and gather together to socialize. Mail needed to be delivered across the Island, and prior to the establishment of the U.S. Postal Service in 1775, England's Royal Mail System was utilized. Before reliably passable roads were built, that mail was delivered from Connecticut by boat. It was faster and easier to travel 19 miles by water than 120 miles over land from New York City.

As the farmland was cultivated and enriched over time, it produced more than one family or village could use and farming became a burgeoning industry. Means to transport the surplus produce was required. Farm to Market Road (also called Horseblock Road) filled this need. Farm owners would load their wagons full of fruits and vegetables to ship by rail to New York City.

The term "horseblock" refers to a block

of stone or wood used to help a person climb high enough to mount a horse or to enter a stagecoach with ease. With many homes, farms and taverns located along these miles of roadway, horseblocks were a familiar sight. We call this same Farm to Market Road by its old nickname, Horseblock Road to this day.

Through the years, several popular taverns and rest stops were located on Horseblock Road. As far back as Revolutionary times, Sam "Horseblock" Smith owned and ran a tavern at the intersection of Horseblock and Middle Country Roads in Centereach. A Smith genealogy relates that on March, 2, 1806 Sam sold the inn and land to Lake Grove resident, Titus Gould. It appears that part of the tavern was dismantled and moved to another location. Generations later, Alfred Elsmann ran Al's Tavern, at the corner of Horseblock and Granny Roads. It was advertised in the Patchogue Advance of March 7, 1946 as specializing in home cooking and "the best in beer, wines and liquors," and was a popular destination for local festivities for several decades.

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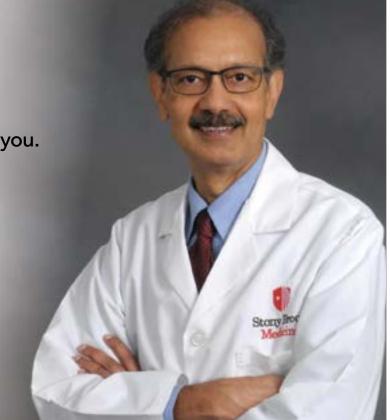


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Remembering Eric Botticelli

September 22, 1984 – December 17, 2024

PREPARED BY THE BOTTICELLI FAMILY

On Dec. 17, 2024, Eric Botticelli died. He was a son, brother, friend, musician, and a brilliant mind.

Eric's flame burned out far too soon, leaving his loved ones with hearts heavy with sorrow but also overflowing with love and gratitude for the time they shared with him. Eric was born on Sept. 22, 1984, and from the moment he entered the world, it was clear he was something special. Even as a young child, he had a sensitivity

OBITUARY

and curiosity that set him apart. He saw beauty in the smallest things. On walks through a park as a young boy, he would often stop

to pick tiny flowers for his mother, a gesture that captured the depth of his kindness and thoughtfulness.

Music was a defining part of Eric's life. Just before his third birthday, he began playing the violin at the local Suzuki School. His love for music grew alongside him as he progressed from performances in grade school concerts to joining the NYU Orchestra in 2002.

To watch Eric play the violin was to witness the purest form of expression. It wasn't just notes on a page; it was a glimpse into his soul. Eric's talents didn't stop there. Academically, he was a force to be reckoned with: He excelled in mathematics and science and earned a full scholarship to New York University as a computer science major.

However, Eric was never one to be confined to a single path. He had a deep appreciation for the arts. Literature, music, and painting enriched his world just as much as equations and algorithms. Eric was a man of contrasts and harmony. He was as analytical as he was creative, as logical as he was tenderhearted. He left an indelible mark on everyone who knew him, whether through his music, his intellect, or his gentle spirit.

Today, his friends and family grieve his sudden passing but also celebrate the life he lived—a life that was vibrant, meaningful, and beautiful. His loved ones find solace in memories of Eric: his bright eyes, his music, his laughter, and the countless ways he touched their lives.

Eric is survived by his parents, Paul and Louise Botticelli; his brothers, Damon and Brian; his three nephews, Axel, Hiro, and Nathan; and his niece, Ella.

If you would like to share your memories, thoughts, feelings, or pictures of Eric on a Kudoboard, please send a request to 631-987-4817, and a link will be sent back to you. A

Celebration of Life Memorial will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, at 2 p.m.







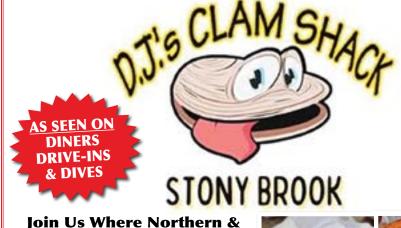
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Sheila Murray, Classifieds Director. We welcome your comments and ads.

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EMPLOYMENT Buy 2 weeks of any size BOXED ad get 2 weeks

The Classifieds Section is published by TIMES BEACON RECORD NEWS MEDIA every Thursday. Leah S. Dunaief, Publisher,

CONTACT US: OFFICE • IN-PERSON

TBR News Media 185 Route 25A (Bruce Street entrance) Setauket, NY 11733 Call: 631-331-1154 or 631-751-7663

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The following are <u>some</u> of our available categories listed in the order in which they appear.

- Garage Sales
- Announcements
- Antiques & Collectibles
- Automobiles/Trucks etc.
- Finds under \$50
- Health/Fitness/Beauty
- Merchandise Personals
- Novenas
- Pets/Pet Services
- Professional Services
- Schools/Instruction/Tutoring
- Wanted to Buy
- Employment Cleaning

DEADLINE: Tuesday

at Noon



Electricians

Computer Services

Financial Services

Handyman Services

Home Improvement

• Furniture Repair

- Power Washing
- Roofing/Siding
- Tree Work
- Window Cleaning
- Real Estate
 - Residential Property
 - Commercial Property
 - Out of State Property







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with resume if interested.

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Food Service Workers Needed Full-Time Cook, Full-Time Food Service Worker

Part-Time and Substitute Food Service Workers- \$17.50/hr. Submit letter of interest/resume to:

Brian Heyward, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, 250B Route 25A, Shoreham, NY 11786 or via e-mail to:

bheyward@swr.K12.ny.us

Help Wanted

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL MEDICINE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE WTC HEALTH PROGRAM **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** MD or equivalent; board certified/eligible in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Preventative Medicine or Occupational Medicine.

DESCRIPTION: This position requires clinical participation involving both the identification, treatment and monitoring of WTC responder-related problems primarily at our Commack clinic and on occasion at our Westbury location. No evenings or on-call hours required.

To apply: https://apptrkr.com/5884619

TO SUBSCRIBE CALL 751-7744

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or via e-mail to: bheyward@swr.k12.ny.us

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

Department of Medicine - WTC Health Program

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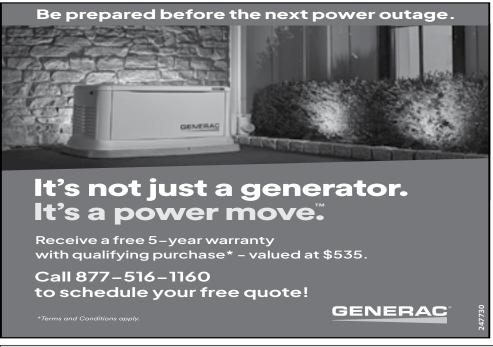
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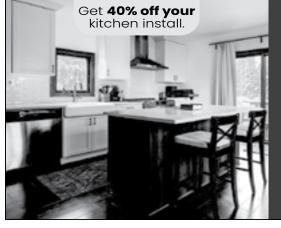
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ABERDEEN BETHESDA ENTERPRISES LLC Notice of formation of ABERDEEN BETHESDA ENTERPRISES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/8/2024. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 6 Cedarwood Court, East Setauket, NY 11733. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

245650 12/19 6x vth

NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUSINESS MEETINGS

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS SETAUKET FIRE DISTRICT

The Setauket Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners will hold their Business Meetings for 2025 as follows:

January 23rd

February 13th
March 6th & 27th
April 17th
May 8th & 29th
June 26th
July 17th
August 7th & August 28th
September 18th
October 9th & October 30th
November 20th
December 11th

All meetings will begin at 6:00pm at 26 Hulse Road, East Setauket, NY.

Dated: January 6, 2025

248470 1/16 1x vth

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE STONY BROOK FIRE DISTRICT FOR 2025

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Stony Brook Fire District will hold its regular monthly meetings for 2025 on the following dates at times:

February 13 at 7:00 p.m. March 13 at 7:00 p.m. April 10 at 7:00 p.m. May 8 at 7:00 p.m. June 12 at 7:00 p.m. July 10 at 7:00 p.m. August 14 at 7:00 p.m. September 18 at 7:00 p.m. October 9 at 7:00 p.m. November 13 at 7:00 p.m. December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

All meetings will be held at the Stony Brook Fire District, Station 1 firehouse located at 147 Main Street, Stony Brook, New York 11790.

Dated: January 9, 2025 Stony Brook, New York

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS STONY BROOK FIRE DISTRICT

Christopher Schwenker, District Manager

249430 1/16 1x vth

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Animal Health & Wellness:

"Advertising in the TBR newspapers has given our business a visual presence in the community and North Shore of Long Island. We feel that we can share our joy of serving the community in photos and print. Clients comment about how they enjoy seeing photos of our doctors, staff, and animals! TBR gives us the small town feel with the effect of a large newspaper. We would recommend the services of TBR because of the attention, care, and expertise of the advertising staff and writers. Our 15 year experience with TBR has been very positive. It is one of the only publications that we choose for advertising, both in print and online. Thanks, TBR!"

Ward Melville Heritage Organization:

"All ad staff are very professional and accurate with their work, we are pleased with their results for SB Village. TBR is outstanding community newspapers, offering balanced stories and are overall professional."

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Carpet Your World:

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For advertising inquiries call **631-751-7744** or email **addirector@tbrnewsmedia.com.**Experience the difference with TBR News Media today!

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● Neelesh Raghurama shoots from the top of the key for the Patriots. �Ward Melville senior Brennan Kurtz lays up for two for the Patriots. �Freshman James Coffey drives the lane.

Patriots escape with a win

BY BILL LANDON

DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

With six minutes left in the fourth quarter of a League II matchup between the Patriots of Ward Melville and the Sachem East Arrows,

the game began anew with both teams deadlocked at 49-49.

Ward Melville senior Neelesh Raghurama did what he's done all season, seemingly able to score from anywhere on the court and looking particularly comfortable from long range. Whether it was knocking down seven free throws, hitting a trio of three-pointers, or making three field goals, the senior topped the Patriots' scoring chart with 22 points to lead his team to a 63-56 road victory Thursday night, Jan. 9.

Teammates Eddie Shields and Jack Degen scored 9 points each, while Logan Seta and James Coffey netted 8 points apiece, and Brennan Kurts added 7.

The win lifts the Patriots to 4-0 in league play and 9-3 overall, while the loss drops Sachem East to 5-6.—Photos by Bill Landon





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You've come to know us for our exceptional personal care, but we are also nationally ranked for our clinical expertise.

We're recognized as one of the best hospitals in the nation for consistently delivering some of the highest clinical outcomes and patient safety scores in the region.

Backed by the most experienced health system in NY state, Northwell's Mather Hospital is proving that exceptional care can come from the heart of your community.

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Northwell Mather Hospital