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Charter School Students Bake Cupcakes for Foster Families



Culinary students at the Charter School of Educational Excellence recently baked 500 cupcakes as holiday treats for foster families.

The culinary class baked the goodies for Graham-Windham, a New York City foster care agency that offers life-altering support for children, youth and families overcoming some of life's most difficult challenges and obstacles.

"I honestly hope they enjoy them," said Crystal Harris, a senior at the charter school. "They are our future generation, so the least we can do is make them some cupcakes that taste good and are pretty. I hope they love them."

The school at 220 Warburton Ave. baked the cupcakes for the charity as part of its commitment to the surrounding community.

"Our purpose is to bring hope and cheer to children who are less fortunate and who are hopefully going to have a better future," said Alan Richter, the school's culinary teacher.

The students baked their cupcakes in a new, state-of-the-art commercial kitchen where they familiarize themselves with tools of the trade as they develop the essential skills for culinary careers. The new kitchen opened in the fall of 2021 as part of the new \$27 million high school that will graduate its first cohort of seniors in the spring.

Culinary jobs are expected to grow at a faster-than-average rate nationally, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which estimates that culinary careers will grow at 15% through 2031. The average growth rate for all professions in this period is 5%.

15-Year Old Pleads Guilty in the Death of 16-Year Old Mt. Vernon Cheerleader Kayla Green



On Dec. 20, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that a 15-year-old pled guilty to Manslaughter in the First Degree, a felony, for the April 2022 fatal stabbing of 16-year-old Kayla Green in Mount Vernon and has been promised a sentence of three to nine years in state prison. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on January 24, 2023.

DA Rocah said: "Today, the defendant has taken responsibility for ending the life of Kayla Green and now faces consequences for this tragic and devastating death."

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Happy Chanukah Westchester!

COUNTY EXECUTIVE GEORGE LATIMER STATEMENT ON HANUKKAH

"The Festival of Lights, in the Jewish Tradition, is a story of light overcoming darkness. Light that signifies a hopeful future, a future that can cast away darkness. Right now, our Jewish brothers and sisters are facing great challenges – and as one Westchester community we all face the same challenges. Let us use our collective light as a tool for a goodness and positive change and allow us to not be afraid in the face of darkness but, rather, hopeful. I wish Westchester's Jewish residents a Happy Hanukkah."

The Tradition of the Creche (Manger) in Scarsdale Continues



Editor's Note: We enjoy printing this story at Christmastime every year. This year the Scarsdale Village Board voted to allow this tradition to continue. When you are in the neighborhood in downtown Scarsdale at Boniface Circle, enjoy.

By Dan Murphy

After watching Nativity scenes across Westchester county, and the country, removed from public property over the past four decades, I wondered how I continued to see a Creche in Scarsdale every December before Christmas. And next to the Nativity is a sign, "This Creche has been erected and maintained by the Scarsdale Creche Committee a private organization."

I went home and researched how the Village of Scarsdale has permitted the Nativity scene to be erected by the Scarsdale Creche Committee in Boniface Circle for around two weeks during the Christmas season, from 1957 to 1981.

However, in 1981, after complaints from several residents who characterized the Creche as being insensitive, the Village Board barred the Nativity scene.

Several Scarsdale residents and the Creche Committee, sued the Scarsdale Board in Federal Court, claiming that their First Amendment rights of free religion and free speech were violated. US District Court Judge Charles Stewart ruled in 1983 that the nativity scene improperly constituted an "impermissible establishment of religion on public land," making the Village square in Scarsdale "the message-bearer" for one religious belief.

The Creche Committee and one resident Scarsdale attorney Kathleen McCreary, who the case is named for (McCreary v. Stone) appealed to the US Court of Appeals, which ruled in 1984 that while the Village Board's denial of the nativity scene was correctly based, a recent case Lynch v Donnelly, which found that "an equal access policy would not contravene" having religious symbols on public property, reversed the lower court's decision.

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United Way Women's Breakfast Highlights Helping Families Living Paycheck to Paycheck



L-R: Aleida Frederico, chair of Westchester Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Tom Gabriel, CEO United Way Westchester- Putnam; Jan Fisher, executive director of Nonprofit Westchester; Mary Calvi, WCBS TV anchor and author, PCSB Bank; , Taryn Duffy, vice president, Public Affairs Northeast Group, Empire City Casino & MGM Springfield, Elizabeth Bracken Thompson, Thompson & Bender.

United Way of Westchester and Putnam's Women's Leadership Council hosted a panel discussion about helping the ALICE population in the county at its sold-out "Take a Walk in Her Shoes" breakfast held at Tappan Hill in Tarrytown on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The event celebrated the remarkable work of Jan Fisher, executive director of Nonprofit Westchester, and Aleida Frederico, former senior relationship manager, VP, TD Bank, and chair of Westchester Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, who were each recognized as Women of Distinction. It was a fundraiser to support programs helping ALICE women, children, and families. CBS News anchor and author Mary Calvi was a guest speaker at the breakfast.

ALICE is an acronym coined by United Way to describe asset-limited, income-constrained, and employed individuals, what was formerly called the working poor. At its core, it is a new way of defining and understanding the struggles of households that earn just above the Federal Poverty Level but not enough for a survival

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Iona Prep Top Polar Plunge Fundraisers Again! Raise \$270k



L-R: Iona Prep Junior Ethan Asencio and Iona Prep faculty member/Polar Plunge Moderator Pat Gray

The Iona Prep “Plungers” have won its seventh Cool Private School Challenge in eight years and became the top fundraising team in all of New York State for a fifth time. Special Olympics New York Senior Director of Development, Kaitlin Rosner, presented the trophy to Iona Prep Junior Ethan Asencio and club moderator Patricia Gray during a moving Opening Ceremonies of the New York City Region Peter Aquilone Floor Hockey Winter Classic at the Jacob Javits Center on December 3. The Gaels raised more than \$87,500 in contributions for the 2022 Westchester Polar Plunge, representing a third of the nearly \$270,000 raised at Westchester Country Club Beach Club in Rye, N.Y., on November 12

“At this event, the 2022 Westchester Polar Plunge participants raised over \$270,000,” Rosner said. “Fundraising remains strong this year, with Iona Preparatory’s current total of \$87,521 being the highest mark among any team in the state.”

Since the Westchester Polar Plunge was founded in 2008, Iona Prep has raised an astonishing \$354,000, sponsoring hundreds of Special Olympics New York athletes. The Gaels have raised five-figure amounts in eight of its 15 years of participation. Overall, Iona Prep has been the top fundraising private school 10 times, the top Westchester team seven times and the top fundraiser in all of New York State five times

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Marriage Equality “Pioneers” Celebrate Marriage Protection Act At White House



The Culmination of a Long Journey
By Michael Sabatino and Robert Voorheis, pictured above at The White House

Last Tuesday, December 12, 2022, was an exciting day for us. It was great to be at the White House with so many other plaintiffs and advocates as the President signed The Protection of Marriage Act into law. We still have work to do as the LGBTQ community is under attack throughout our country. The next step is for Congress to pass the Equality Act.

This was the culmination of 2 1/2 decades of work. While the bill is not perfect, it will protect our marriage and those in interracial marriages from being dissolved or negated.

In 1998, we joined a small group of individuals in their effort to highlight the inequality in the marriage laws of the United States. Committed couples were being denied access to marriage simply because of who they loved.

Marriage Equality NY (MENY) was formed as a political organization to lobby the New York State Legislature. The group had no illusions that their goal would be achieved in their lifetime, but the movement needed to begin so that the next generation would gain the access that was needed to protect the families of the LGBTQ+ community. Support spread quickly and we soon realized that a distant dream might actually become reality.

Through numerous legal struggles both in New York and in other states, and ultimately the United States Supreme Court, the court cases overcame the objections of the detractors. As one of the couples involved in those cases, we were ecstatic when the New York State Court of Appeals agreed with our assertion, and we became one of the first couples to have their marriage recognized by New York State.

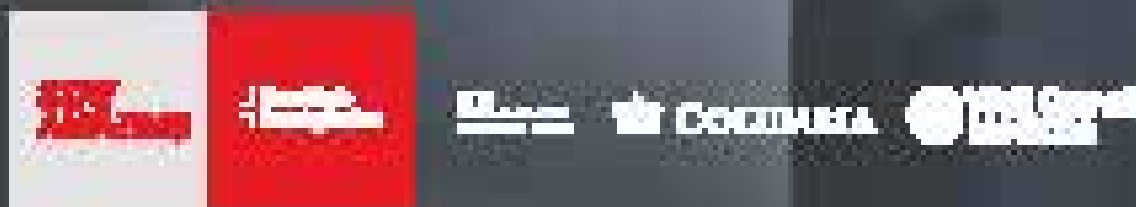
Sabatino and Voorheis got legally married in Niagra Falls Canada on

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The best and brightest in medicine. x 2.

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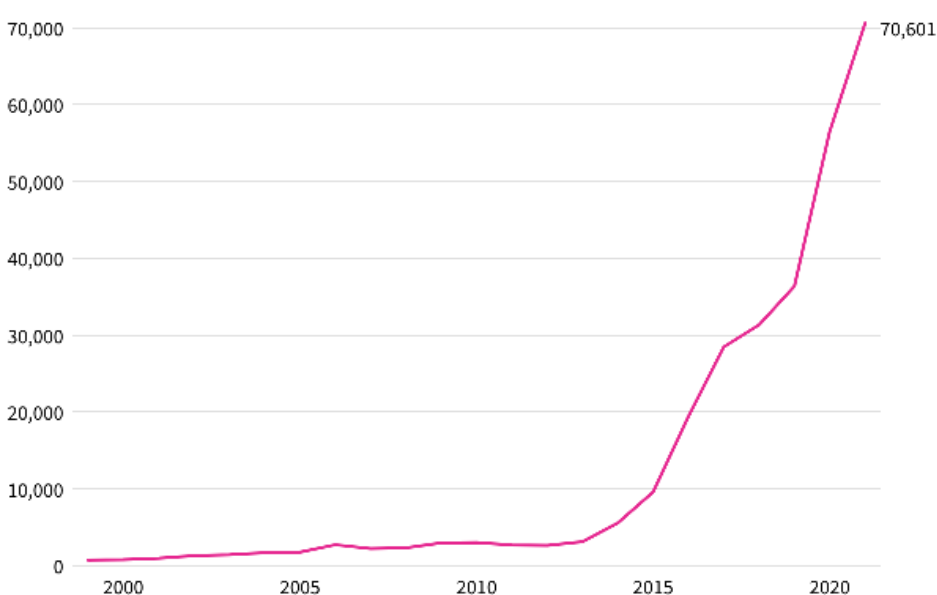
What's better than the top minds from one of the nation's best schools? Top minds from two of them. Dr. D'Alton, Dr. Riley and their teams are working to achieve pioneering breakthroughs in all areas of women's health and improve care for all our patients.



Sen. Harckham Introduces Bill to Expand Access to Lifesaving Fentanyl Testing Kits

Fentanyl deaths have increased every year since 2012

Synthetic opioid overdose deaths (mostly fentanyl), 1999 – 2021



2021 data is provisional and subject to change.

Source: [Centers for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/)

In response to rising opioid deaths, New York State Senator Pete Harckham introduced new legislation on Dec. 16 that will allow pharmacists to dispense testing kits to detect fentanyl. A powerful synthetic opioid, fentanyl was the cause of 87.8% of all U.S. opioid overdose deaths—over 70,600 people—in 2021, according to a new report.

The new bill (S.9616) is being called “Matthew’s Law” in honor and memory of Matthew Horan, a Westchester resident with Substance Use Disorder who died of a fentanyl overdose in November 2020. His sister, Kailey Horan, had requested Harckham find a way to make fentanyl testing kits more commonplace and easier to procure after her brother ingested the drug unknowingly.

“Our hearts go out to the Horan family and all those who have lost a loved one to the scourge of drugs. The overdose crisis we are facing now is due to the dangerous practice of adulterating drugs with fentanyl, which can be deadly in even the smallest amounts,” said Harckham, chair of the Senate Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse. “We need to stop as many overdoses as we can before they occur, and the best way to do so is by making sure fentanyl testing kits are widely available. These lifesaving tools need to be stocked in every pharmacy in New York, for starters.”

Currently, fentanyl testing strips, which can detect the presence of fentanyl in different narcotics (such as cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana) and in various drug forms (pills, powders, injectables), are inaccessible in most communities statewide. For the most part, the testing strips are distributed by drug treatment providers at locations that are few and often far between.

In Senate District 40, for instance, there are only seven treatment centers with test kits, according to an interactive map online furnished by the state’s Department of Health (DOH) at nyoverdose.org.

Opioid overdose deaths attributable to fentanyl have increased sharply in recent years, as opioid prescriptions decreased because of concerns of abuse and drug reformulations to counter rampant abuse led to users seeking street sales of illicit painkillers, which are often spiked with fentanyl. As little as two milligrams of fentanyl can be a lethal dose.

Harckham’s bill allows healthcare professionals who are licensed, registered and authorized to prescribe prescription drugs to dispense fentanyl testing kits to any person. The kits can be stored at a licensed pharmacy, hospital, clinic or other health care facility, as well as at retail stores that contain a pharmacy department. Transactions will be limited to five testing kits at a time.

Rules and regulations regarding the dispensing of fentanyl test kits in New York will be set by the state’s DOH commissioner. Harckham’s bill models the August 2022 standing order from the DOH commissioner to make naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal medication, available at pharmacies statewide.

“My mother and I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Senator Harckham and his team for sponsoring Matthew’s Law,” said Kailey Horan. “He understands the value of every life and the urgent need to maximize accessibility of harm reduction tools in the fight against fentanyl.”

Continued Horan, “I want to stress that Senator Harckham’s bill is not only necessary for people struggling with Substance Use Disorder but for children, teenagers, college students and police officers across the state. Drug traffickers are mixing fentanyl in multiple drugs and maliciously targeting a new demographic with Rainbow Fentanyl, which resembles candy. Imagine every seat in Yankee Stadium filled twice—at the end of this year, that’s how many people will have died due to an opioid overdose. Every minute matters in the fight against overdose deaths. So, please, let’s now shift from being reactive to proactive. As it stands, we are already too late for thousands and thousands of families.”

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year



By Eric Wolf Schoen

It’s hard to believe that another year has gone by and that Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza and the New year are before us. It seems like only yesterday that 2022 was here and we thought we had Covid under control. Now we have added RSV to the mix and the new item out of stock at the store is Children’s Tylenol and other medicines to help treat our little ones.

Just as fast as children’s Tylenol hits the shelves stores are reported to be out of it. And let’s not forget the many adults we know, fully vaccinated that have come down with Covid. Everyday I hear of an occasion being ruined as a family member of friend has gotten Covid. We try to put the blame on a family event or gathering we attended but bottom line when you walk out the door of your apartment or house or even in the house with loved ones who have been exposed you can pick up the virus.

Bottom line is we are going to have to live with Covid as we have learned to live with the flu. After 5 days of quarantine it’s all over and you are back to your good old self. Thank our government and vaccine makers for their prompt attention to Covid!

The holidays were always a time when whether it be my mom or my sister or yours truly we would send out greeting cards. My cards always always had a Dove and peace on them. My sister always sent out cards with cats the cat lover that she is. Her most famous card Was 2 cute cats posed by a lit menorah. The card said, ‘Mr. and Mrs. Katz wish you a happy Chanukah. Those cards with that saying were hard to come by after their initial introduction.

Now with cards anything goes. Of Course to add to the December holidays of Christmas and Chanukah we have added Kwanza, Boxing Day, Festivus from Seinfeld, Winter Solstice, St. Nicholas Day, Merry Humbug Day and National Hot Chocolate day. Internet cards are nice but for Christmas and Chanukah you really need a real card signed by a real person.

People don’t write on cards anymore which is sad. They send out beautiful cards with a full page of family pictures and a blank page on the back. Yes it’s nice to see the pictures, but the personal thoughts that accompany them are what the holiday is all about. Some people send out boxed cards with no greetings. And just a name which etiquette wise is just as bad. You are sending out a card so say something like all is well or the cat ate the goldfish. It’s Always nice to have each member of the family from young to old sign the card. It truly shows that you mean the message.

My sister’s cards which come with a message also have her name, my name was and are signed with cats paw representing the cats she has had over the years. Her cat now is Sidney named after my father represented on the card with a smile for dads sweet disposition and big belly.

Skip the emails unless You are send a blanket one to a group or everyone at work. I find emails very impersonal, and the response even more interpersonal.

The Post Office has so many commemorative stamps. The LOVE stamps in particular add a sweet touch to your card. If the post office is out of commemoratives, find a 24 hour a day post office that will laser print whatever stamps you want. You are paying enough for the stamps you might as well have a pretty picture on them. This year there are stamps with child elves on them.

Just because something is on the dining room table doesn’t mean you have to eat it. Be careful what you eat over the holidays tasting what looks good on the table rather than having a full portion. Need I tell you the importance of exercise over the holidays? If you are the host or hostess try to put healthy, tasty good foods about for the holidays. Your friends, family and doctor will thank you!

Many of you have written to me to see how I am doing with Parkinson’s. Thank god the Doctors are on their was to finding the correct medicines for me. I thank to for your thoughts and prayers and the many of you who have send me links to websites and articles. Just like this came out of the clear blue sky I will deal with it.

Need I remind you that this time of year you have to check all your health insurance benefits. It’s time to look at your current Benefits Book as well as next year’s book to make sure you are taking advantage of what is due you. Also fill those prescriptions, and if you have a prescription reimburse plan have everything

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Administrative Opening
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Letters to the Editor:

I just wanted to bring to your attention a very serious matter of people smoking (cigarettes and marijuana) in front of entrances to offices, apartment buildings, businesses, and stores. And, in some cases, stairwells.

Please correct me if I am wrong... but isn't there some sort of ordinance or law that states such people need to be a certain number of feet away from any entrance as not to pollute those who are going into and coming out of offices, apartment buildings, businesses, and stores?

Or is it up to each individual owner or landlord to make up a policy and monitor the area?

Also... is it mandatory to have signs in place notifying people that they need to smoke away from the building?

Would that be up to the individual owner or landlord?

I bring this to your attention because I am SICK and TIRED of walking out of a store and breathing in harmful and disgusting second hand smoke.

DANGEROUS second hand smoke.

I am SICK and TIRED of smelling like I smoked a pack of cigarettes after walking through plumes of smoke to get to my car.

And, most importantly... I am SICK and TIRED of watching small children having to breathe it in.

If there are laws and ordinances... PLEASE have them enforced.

And PLEASE make it mandatory that signs are clearly posted for all to see.

If there are no laws or ordinances in place... can we PLEASE create laws and ordinances???

I understand that smoking cigarettes and smoking marijuana is legal... that is not the issue.

However, it becomes an issue when our health is at stake when it is jeopardized by those who are not considerate of others' health.

I am reaching out to Westchester County because I work in Westchester County. And I am reaching out to Putnam County because I live in Putnam County. Both counties need help in curbing the smoke-filled air.

I vow to help in any way possible to make this come to fruition and look forward to working with you in resolving this issue.

My mission in 2023 is to create legacies that will benefit everyone and I need your help in making this a dream-come-true!

Sincerely, Lisa Andrade

Letter to the Editor, Yonkers Rising

Re: "Westchester Residents Get Sticker Shock from Home Heating Bills", John Ravitz, December 16, 2022

I read with interest the comments of John Ravitz, COO of the Business Council of Westchester (BCW) in the December 16 issue of Yonkers Rising. While titled "Sticker Shock from Home Heating Bills," missing were the causes of our high utility bills; the spike in oil prices caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the profiteering of the largest oil and gas companies. (In the last quarter, ExxonMobil reported \$19 billion in profit, Chevron \$11 billion, Shell \$9.5 billion, BP \$8 billion and the world's largest, Saudi Aramco, \$42 billion. That's a shocking total of over \$90 billion in just the last 3 months.)

Instead of speaking to the real cause of "sticker shock," Ravitz uses the issue to question our State's efforts to move to renewable energy sources. Few would disagree, including the BCW, that the climate crisis we face means we have to end the use of fossil fuels as quickly as possible. The longer we delay, the more it will cost us all, including Westchester's business community. Whether it's cleaning up after another super storm or increasing insurance rates because of them, shouldn't the business community in their own self interest be helping to move more quickly to renewable energy?

I think we all agree that, as Ravitz states, a "reliable" and "affordable supply of power" is vitally important. Why then would we continue to rely on the vagaries of the international oil market and the profiteering of its controlling monopolies to heat our homes, turn on our lights and power our industries?

Right now renewable sources of energy are competitive and in some case cheaper than fossil fuels. With the incentives available from the Inflation Reduction Act that will be even more true in the coming year. So the challenge to the BCW is to convince the business community to get on board with the move to renewable energy.

By way of example, right now in Westchester County there are an estimated hundred or more large commercial buildings or warehouses with 100,000 plus square foot flat roofs that could and should have solar panels. Besides providing the building owners with its own power needs, each could power the needs of an additional 100 homes. Financing is available and the pay back time could be as little as 5 years. More than a dozen business and property owners have already done this and the BCW should be working hard to get more on board.

The fact is multiple efforts have been made to get the business community to participate in the move to clean renewable energy. First was simple persuasion beginning more than 50 years ago. That went nowhere. Then came the penalty approach towards polluters through a carbon tax. That was dead on arrival largely because of the business community's opposition. Now the focus of Federal and State legislation is on economic incentives to entice business to make the right decision.

I would urge M. Ravitz and the BCW to stop carping about the crisis we face and get on board in solving it.

Bill Dennison, Yonkers

Marriage Equality Pioneers, continued from pg 2

October 4, 2003. In 2009, the New York State Court of Appeals heard the couple's case and recognized legally performed marriages in other jurisdictions before same sex marriage became legal in New York State on July 24, 2011.

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These two men are walking history for marriage equality. Their archival material is now in three museums; The Smithsonian American History Museum, and the ONE ARCHIVES AT USC, and soon at the American LGBTQ Museum, set to open in New York City in 2025.

Both men live in Yonkers, and we have had the pleasure of covering their journey in Yonkers Rising and Yonkerstimes.com. Congratulations!

Holiday Travel Tips for Families Facing Alzheimer's

Holiday travel can be hectic for us all, but it is especially challenging for families impacted by Alzheimer's. For these families, even short trips during the holidays can be stressful and disorienting.

There are more than 410,000 people in New York living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. Though not all are able to travel, many people with early- and mid-stage Alzheimer's often do want to attend family gatherings and holiday celebrations. Careful and thoughtful planning can help ensure safety, comfort and joy for everyone involved.

When planning holiday travel, consider these tips from the Alzheimer's Association to provide the best possible experience for loved ones with Alzheimer's:

- Evaluate modes of travel: Based on needs, abilities, safety and preferences, decide what would provide the most comfort and the least anxiety. If the destination requires air travel, the Alzheimer's Association provides tips on alz.org.

- Pick a practical destination: Consider everyone's needs and desires as you plan your trip and discuss the plan with the person living with dementia. Elaborate sightseeing trips or complicated tours may cause anxiety and confusion. And consider destinations that have easy access to emergency health services and pharmacies.

- Simplify your travel itinerary: Try not to overload the person with a lot of directions or too much information. Carry emergency contact information, travel during the time of day best for the person with Alzheimer's, and don't over-schedule.

- Keep travel necessities close: If traveling by air, keep necessary medications, up-to-date medical information, a list of emergency contacts and photocopies of important documents in your carry-on baggage. For longer car trips, make sure to have plenty of water and snacks.

Brief your host: If you are staying with family or friends, make sure everyone knows what to expect. If you will be staying in a hotel, consider informing the staff ahead of time of your specific needs so they can be prepared to assist you.

Be prepared: Environmental changes or new locations can cause anxiety and agitation in people with Alzheimer's. These events can also trigger wandering. Monitor your loved one closely for signs of stress or confusion. Keep them close to you in crowded, unfamiliar places.

"We want everyone to be able to enjoy their holidays, including people living with dementia," said Meg Boyce, vice president of programs and services for the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter. "Planning ahead can reduce stress and confusion and provide a joyous time for all."

More travel tips can be found by visiting the Alzheimer's Association website. The Alzheimer's Association's 24/7 Helpline also provides reliable information and support to all those who need assistance. Call the helpline toll-free anytime, even holidays, at 800.272.3900.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

ready for reimbursement on January 1. It's your money so make sure you get it back promptly.

Some people have eye glass reimbursement plans. Get those glasses before January 1. Make sure you take advantage of you dental benefits which are so limited you need to get every dollars worth.

The important thing this holiday is to relax with family and friends. We have been through almost 3 tough years dealing with Covid. RSV who knows what's coming next. Even if it means getting your family event catered from outside, enjoy.

Don't forget those in need. Contribute to the Salvation Army, Red Cross and other worthy organizations. If you see someone in the street asking for money, go into a store and buy him/her real food. You don't want them spending money on alcohol or drugs.

From my family to yours, a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanzaa and most importantly a happy, health new year.
Love, Eric Schoen.

Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

Scarsdale Creche, continued from pg 1-

The Scarsdale Board then voted to appeal to the highest court in the land. The issue was, and still is, whether a religious symbol like a nativity scene, or a Menorah, placed on public property, was a violation of the Establishment clause of the First Amendment, which calls for the separation of church and state.

The case was heard in 1985 by only eight USSC Justices: Justice Lewis Powell was absent due to illness. With a 4-4 split, the Justices affirmed the court of appeals decision.

Since then, this simple and traditional Nativity Scene has been placed for two weeks in the middle of Scarsdale. And every year, the Scarsdale Board votes on whether to allow the request by the Scarsdale Creche Committee to do so, including this year, at their Dec. 13 meeting. The Creche is now up, and shows the importance of highlighting all religious celebrations. So Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy Kwanzaa Westchester!

Notice of formation of Beagal, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/11/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 47 Washington Blvd Mt Vernon NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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BCW & Iona Partner to Attract Innovative Companies to Westchester County



BCW board chair Heidi Davidson, center, speaks with Iona University students at the Hynes Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation

The Business Council of Westchester has joined with Iona University in New Rochelle, New York and Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario to produce a road-map for transforming Westchester County into a hotspot that attracts and nurtures innovative companies.

The Westchester Innovation Network (WIN) Implementation Guide will be released in mid-2023 and it is designed to serve as a resource for elected officials, business leaders and municipal planners who want to remove barriers and create incentives for attracting innovators. WIN is a program aimed at driving economic development, innovation, and growth within the county.

"We could have hired a consultant to put together a set of recommendations that will go on a shelf and collect dust," said Dr. Marsha Gordon, the BCW's president and CEO. "Instead, we have opted to work through the eyes of the next generation. This implementation guide will be a set of recommendations from future leaders with unique perspectives on developing successful communities geared for growth. That's why we're working with the students, both locally and internationally."

This semester, students at Iona University's Hynes Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation will map the innovation ecosystem in Westchester and conduct interviews with key stakeholders to examine Westchester County's driving forces to accelerate innovation in our county.

"It is great to partner with the BCW to help develop the WIN Implementation Guide," said Dr. Christoph Winkler, Endowed Professor and Founding Program Director, Hynes Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation at Iona University. "Engaging our students in this project is another wonderful example of how our students learn outside the lines by actively supporting the development of our regional innovation ecosystem."

Simultaneously, students at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario Canada are interviewing innovators to gather insights for the design of an ideal-world innovation hub.

"We're excited to be involved in this project," said Laura Allan, faculty member in the Lazaridis School of Business & Economics at Wilfrid Laurier University and director, innovation and entrepreneurship for the university. "It's a great opportunity for our students to gain an understanding of the needs of innovators and apply their learnings on an international level."

Wilfrid Laurier University is in a region ranked #2 among the top-50 tech hubs in North America for tech talent growth rate and #4 for tech talent density, according to the 2021 CBRE Scoring Tech Talent report.

In the spring semester, the two groups of students will merge their findings and produce the WIN Implementation Guide, which is the third part of WIN's multi-dimensional approach to transforming the county into a center for new ideas and businesses.

The Innovation Match Program, which attracts innovative companies to Westchester and pairs them with local companies to test their products and services in real-world settings. Innovation Matches can also be formed with Westchester-based innovators. The goal is to provide the local host companies with an opportunity to understand innovation within their industries and to provide valuable feedback to innovators who need to pilot or beta test in a prospective customer setting. The City Labs Project, which is a program that spotlights a host community and pairs that municipality with individuals who are focused on identifying projects to assist in delivering immediate economic benefit to that community and its residents through innovation.

Visit www.bcw.org
Additional news about the WIN program is posted on the BCW's website.

20 Months Prison Term for Man Who Threatened to Kill Congressman Swalwell



calls made from yonkers

Rep. Eric Swalwell

Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOSHUA HALL was sentenced on Dec. 19 by United States District Judge Gregory H. Woods to 20 months in prison for making threats to kill a member of the United States Congress and impersonating family members of the then-President of the United States on social media to fraudulently raise funds for a fictitious political organization. HALL previously pled guilty to one count of making interstate communications with a threat to injure and one count of wire fraud.

According to the Information, Superseding Information, and statements made in court proceedings and filings:

Threat Offense- On August 29, 2022, HALL placed a series of telephone calls from in or around Yonkers, New York, to the California office of a member of the United States Congress (the "Congressman"). During those telephone calls, HALL conveyed threats to kill the Congressman to at least three different members of the Congressman's staff ("Staff Member-1," "Staff Member-2," and "Staff Member-3").

On a telephone call with Staff Member-1 and Staff Member-2, HALL stated, in substance and in part, that he had a lot of AR-15s; that he wanted to shoot the Congressman; that he intended to come to the Congressman's office with firearms; and that if he saw the Congressman, he would kill him. He further stated, in substance and in part, that he wanted to "beat the shit out of" the Congressman and that he would find the Congressman wherever he was and hurt him. On a telephone call with Staff Member-3, HALL stated, in substance and in part, that he intended to come to the Congressman's office to kill the Congressman with firearms.

Fraud Offense- From September 2019 until December 2020, HALL defrauded hundreds of victims by making false representations in the course of raising funds for a purported political affinity organization ("the Fictitious Political Organization") for the ostensible purpose of supporting the reelection of the individual who was at that time serving as President of the United States ("the President"). However, the Fictitious Political Organization did not exist, and HALL used the funds for his own personal living expenses.

Central to the scheme was the impersonation by HALL of members of the President's family, including the President's minor child, among others, through his creation and use of social media accounts bearing those family members' names and photographs. HALL used those accounts to amass more than 100,000 followers on social media and to obtain media coverage, a public platform he then exploited to confer on himself and the Fictitious Political Organization a false imprimatur of close ties with the President's family and to encourage victims to make monetary contributions to the Fictitious Political Organization.

In total, the scheme devised and executed by HALL yielded thousands of dollars from hundreds of victims located throughout the United States, including in the Southern District of New York.

Mr. Williams praised the outstanding investigative work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Capitol Police and thanked the City of Yonkers Police Department for their assistance.

HRHELP SOLUTIONS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/04/2022. Office: Albany County. Republic Registered Agent LLC. designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Registered Agent, at 600 Broadway, STE 200 Albany, NY 11207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Formation of ESAL REALTY LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/8/2022. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Ernest Salerno, 2395 E. Long Shadow Pl., Tucson, AZ 85718. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER DYNASTY, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST CGSRE ACQUISITION CORP, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 22, 2021, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Lobby of Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, NY on January 11, 2023 at 10:30AM, premises known as 68 Runyon Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester and State of New York, Section 3 Block 3112 Lot 59+60. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,792,943.78 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #50855/2019. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the WESTCHESTER County COVID-19 Protocols located on the Office of Court Administration (OCA) website (<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml>) and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Anthony J. Centone, Esq., Referee CLAIR GJERTSEN & WEATHERS PLLC 4 New King Street, Suite 140 White Plains, NY 10604 50855-2019 74515.

Notice of formation of 808 Commerce LLC, a domestic LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/05/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC at 808 Commerce Stret, Thornwood, NY 10594. Purpose: Any lawful act.

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Letter to the Editor:

As a former member of the Westchester Independence Party, I am OUTRAGED that Governor Hochul and State legislators outlawed the name Independent or Independence from any future political party in New York State. They passed this law, while at the same time, leaving the almost insurmountable obstacles for minor party to now get on the ballot in New York State. Last year, the Libertarian Party, Green Party and UniteNY Party tried, and failed to get on the ballot. I hope that you will report on this, and hold our legislators feet to the fire. Instead of banning one word from political party names, how about giving minor parties a real chance to get on the ballot again?

Thanks Paul Zigfried, Peekskill

Kayla Green's Killer, continued from pg- 1

ing incident. We hope the families of all impacted by this senseless violence can begin the journey to healing. My Office will continue to support them in any way that we can."

On April 8, 2022, at approximately 3:55 p.m., after a school celebration turned violent, the defendant stabbed Green, a Mount Vernon High School sophomore, in the abdomen with a knife on Gramatan Avenue in Mount Vernon. The victim was transported to Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx, where she was pronounced dead.

The Mount Vernon Police Department arrested the defendant on the evening of April 8, 2022, in Dobbs Ferry, following an investigation, with assistance from the Westchester County Department of Public Safety and the FBI's Westchester Safe Streets Task Force.

The defendant was also charged in connection with the stabbing of another teenager at the scene of the incident. Under New York law, at the time of the defendant's plea, those additional charges were dismissed due to the defendant's age.

The case is before Judge Susan Cacace in Westchester County Youth Part, and is being prosecuted by Homicide Bureau Chief Lana Hochheiser and Bureau Chief James Bavero, both of the Trials and Investigations Division.

ALICE, Westchester Woman, continued from pg- 1

budget.

In Westchester County, 40% of families live as ALICE or in poverty, and some groups are disproportionately represented. The ALICE report shows that in Westchester County, 71% of single female-headed households with children are considered ALICE or living in poverty and that African American/Black or Hispanic households are more than 50% likely to be so.

"ALICE households are everywhere ... in Peekskill and Mount Vernon, but also Scarsdale and Pound Ridge," said United Way CEO Tom Gabriel. "These are hard-working families struggling to make ends meet, but when a crisis or tragedy occurs, they must make difficult decisions between paying the rent or fixing a car so they can get to work. These people add to our economy and enrich our lives and community."

The panel discussion was led by Elizabeth Bracken Thompson, partner at Thompson & Bender and a former Women of Distinction honoree, and featured Fisher, Frederico, Taryn Duffy, the 2021 Woman of Distinction and vice president, Public Affairs Northeast Group, Empire City Casino & MGM Springfield; and Michelle A. Nicholas, chief diversity officer & director of community development, PCSB Bank.

Despite the professional success of the panel members, several of the women personally experienced the hardships of being ALICE. Frederico grew up in an ALICE household with her parents working multiple jobs to make ends meet in Tarrytown after immigrating from Cuba. Nicholas, who immigrated to the US from Guyana, became ALICE when as a single mother, she became unemployed for almost a year. Duffy, who was raised in a middle-class family, was ALICE after leaving an abusive marriage and becoming a single mother.

As individuals who lived as ALICE, the group mentioned what would have helped them the most during that time. "When I was struggling, having access to information and resources would have helped," said Duffy. Frederico added that there should be ways to help immigrants learn English and about local programs and services available.

Nicholas shared what her life was like when she was unemployed. Since her unemployment totaled \$1,100 a month, she did not qualify for SNAP, despite being a single mother of a young child and having to pay \$900 in rent. Nicholas got rid of her cable, telephone, and every other extra in her life. The daycare center where her son attended helped her get aid through the Child Care Council of Westchester so she could have time to look for a job. Each day Nicholas walked to the Mount Vernon Library and paid to use its computer and internet to find a job. After 364 days, she received an offer and had to accept it even though it was not a well-paid position because it still paid more than she was receiving on unemployment.

"You can open the door and give opportunities to someone," said Nicholas. "Be fair, be respectful, and know that we are all trying here; we are all trying. You can help somebody today by considering the salaries you're paying them; think about what you could be doing for the families."

Frederico and Duffy credit those who were willing to open the door for them to be able to achieve financial stability. "I am so thankful to the white men [in the banking industry] who were willing to mentor me and give me a chance," said Frederico.

"I worked in law offices around people who had money, then went into politics, and people had money, and I asked how this works," said Duffy. "I asked how you got here, how do I do this better, and then as I learned it, I did things differently."

The ALICE survival budget shows that a single adult needs to earn at least \$15.64 in a full-time position to survive in Westchester County. A family with two adults and two children in childcare must earn a minimum of \$49.50 per hour to survive. Fisher, who advocates for companies to pay their employees a decent wage, spoke about how hourly workers are the lifeblood of the community and should be paid their value.

"Too many of the nonprofit workforce, those who care for our families in nursing homes, are providing childcare, or are hospital workers, suffer many of the same indignities as the people they serve," said Fisher. "Some are living in homeless shelters, at least partially because of unfair and misguided caps on wages; these people are 80% women and over 50% people of color. They were deemed essential during the pandemic they are still essential."

Fisher continued. "We have a lot of conversations among government, business, and nonprofits about a \$15 minimum wage and how it will hurt our community. It will not hurt our community. We must find a way to do it. Let's have all the sectors come together and find a way to respect people and pay them for their worth so they can live and thrive in our society."

It is difficult for low-wage earners to be financially stable. "You could be laid off, not having an opportunity to have flexibility concerning childcare necessarily, or having paid leave," said Frederico, a proponent of entrepreneurship and economic development in Westchester County. "For some people owning their own business is an alternative. It's an opportunity to increase their income and be their own boss. It offers access to benefits such as health insurance and control of their own schedules" Entrepreneurship is a way to achieve financial stability and create generational wealth.

Duffy said lifting people up is everyone's responsibility, not just the CEOs. "I would challenge everybody here today to look around you and find the opportunity to do something, whether it's supporting a nonprofit, being engaged in your community, supporting the people around you, or ensuring that resources are available in your workplace for people," she said. "It is incumbent upon each of us to take that on as our own responsibility because we are the people that are going to lift up the people around us."

For more information about ALICE, visit www.uwwp.org/alice.

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Cardinal Dolan Says Merry Christmas to Maria Regina HS Students Celebrating 65th Anniversary



On Dec. 14, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, celebrated the 65th anniversary of Maria Regina, the renowned all-girls Catholic High School. His visit began in the gymnasium where he led a Mass as principal celebrant for the entire student body of about 500 young women, as well as members of the administration, faculty, staff, alumnae, board of trustees and invited guests, among others.

Cardinal Dolan also toured the Hartsdale-based campus established by the Sisters of the Resurrection in 1957. He blessed the school's latest advanced learning space, an ADA-compliant, state of the art Eco-Conscious Environmental and Life Sciences

"His Eminence's visit to Maria Regina to mark our school's founding 65 years ago was truly an inspiration for all who had the good fortune to hear his homily, his expressions of support for the school's mission in preparing students for post-secondary success and engaging in genuine, one-on-one conversations with him," said Anna Parra, President.

During his homily, Cardinal Dolan spoke about the inherent spiritual power of the school's name, Maria Regina, which translates as Mary, our Queen. He movingly recounted the events of 1983 when Poland's Lech Walesa, founder of the then outlawed Solidarity union and pro-democracy leader won the Nobel Peace prize which was frowned upon by the ruling Communist regime.

Cardinal Dolan noted how remarkable it was—and an inspiration to all of us now--that Walesa, who was constantly assailed by the Communists, dedicated the prestigious accolade to the Virgin Mother Mary by enshrining it with the Black Madonna of Czestochowa, the nation's most revered. To learn more, visit www.mariaregina.org.

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Mamaroneck Village Mayor Tom Murphy, LM Lion & CRC Executive Director Jirandy Martinez, LM Lion Diane Oldham

LM Lions Ring Bells for the Salvation Army

The Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions continued their Holiday tradition of bell ringing for the Salvation Army. On Saturday, December 17, Lions rang bells on Mamaroneck Avenue in Mamaroneck and on Palmer Avenue in Larchmont. With thanks to our community for their donations.

The Salvation Army annually serves more than 25 million people in America, helping them overcome poverty, addiction, and economic hardships through a range of social services. The Salvation Army provides food for the hungry, emergency relief for disaster survivors, rehabilitation for those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction, and clothing and shelter for people in need.

The Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions, who will be celebrating their Centennial in 2023, focus on supporting existing non-profit and community service groups by bringing community service leaders together to determine needs, solutions and resources. The LM Lions are part of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organization of nearly 1.5 million members. The Lions signature cause is Vision/Blindness, along with Hunger, the Environment, Diabetes, Childhood Cancer and the future of our Youth. They are signatories of the United Nations resolutions on women's and refugee rights, and are currently active in Afghanistan & Ukrainian refugee resettlement. In addition, housing is a local Lions priority.

Deputy County Executive Reminds Westchester Residents to Shop Local



Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins joined local leaders and the Mamaroneck Chamber of Commerce to encourage Westchester residents to shop small and shop local this holiday season. Jenkins toured and shopped along Mamaroneck Avenue with County Legislator Catherine Parker, Mamaroneck Village Trustee Lou Young, and others.

Jenkins is pictured above at Sal's Pizza (best Sicilian slice in the county?) and below at a Pharmacy. Other stops included a Shoe Store and Army-Navy store. Both the pharmacy and the Army-Navy, along with Sal's, are true local businesses, with no corporate connections.



Happy New Year Westchester!

See You in 2023 in Print-Until Then

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