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Shimsky to Challenge Abinanti for Assembly Will COVID Vaccinations Become an Issue?



Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, left, and his challenger, County Leg. MaryJane Shimsky

By Dan Murphy

It is rare when one Westchester democrat challenges a democratic incumbent in a democratic primary. But the announcement by County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky that she will challenge Assemblyman Tom Abinanti in a democratic primary for his seat in the 92nd District, (Greenburgh and Mt. Pleasant) is big political news and will be the most talked about political item over the holidays.

Why is Shimsky running against Abinanti? Several democrats we spoke to said that Abinanti's anti-vaccination stances during COVID have become "untenable" "Tom has been against vaccinations for many years even before COVID, but now, in the middle of a pandemic, many Westchester democrats have come to the conclusion that 94% of Westchester residents who have been vaccinated believe: We have to trust the science in order to move forward," said one Westchester democrat.

Shimsky, who has built the respect and admiration of many Westchester democrats, did not specify vaccinations in her announcement, but did speak about trusting science. "I am excited to announce my candidacy for State Assembly. As we continue to battle the resurgent pandemic, we need progressive, proactive leadership to advocate and deliver for us, and I believe I have the experience and commitment to be that voice in Albany. From infrastructure to public health to resiliency, I have secured major wins at the local level by building coalitions, working with my colleagues, and following the facts and science. I'm eager to get to work in the Assembly," said Shimsky, who was first elected to the county board in Westchester in 2011.

"We deserve an Assemblymember who believes in our progressive values, stands up for immigrants and tenants, supports and believes scientists, leads with transparency, and works collaboratively with other leaders and organizations to ensure a complete recovery from the pandemic and put our communities on the best path forward. I'm running for Assembly to be that leader and I look forward to talking with residents about my vision," said Shimsky, who currently serves as the Majority Leader on the county board and who earned her law degree from New York University School of Law and her PhD in History from the City University of

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Exclusive: Christian Hostages in Haiti Were Freed and Ransom Paid



17 members from Christian Aid Ministries, CAM, that were held hostage in Haiti

By Dan Murphy

Our story posted on YonkersTimes.com concerning the Dec. 16 release of 17 Christian hostages held for 60 days in Haiti, (<http://yonkerstimes.com/what-happened-with-the-christian-us-hostages-in-haiti-were-they-released-or-freed-was-a-ransom-paid-where-was-the-calvary-the-us-army-rescue/>) resulted in a high volume of emails and calls from our readers, and from interested Americans across the country.

On October 16, a group of missionaries from Christian Aid Ministries, CAM, were in Haiti serving the poor and spreading the word of God when they were taken hostage. Two hostages were freed on Nov. 20, and another three were released on Dec. 5, including a young boy, teenage girl and their mother who was forced to leave two of her children behind. On Dec. 16 CAM made the announcement that the remaining 12 hostages were back in the USA and in relatively good health.

Our story raised the question of whether the hostages escaped or were released? And was a ransom paid for their release?

One of our readers contacted us with information on this story. After a lengthy phone interview, we determined that this source had direct and detailed knowledge about what happened during Nov. and Dec. in Haiti, based on details that have never been published. Some of these facts we will share with you, and you will not find anywhere else.

But let us be clear, while we completely believe that this person was involved in helping free the Americans held hostage in Haiti, we have decided to withhold certain pieces of information that were shared with us, to protect this person and the people on the ground in Haiti and in the US, who helped secure their release.

The two biggest takeaways from this follow up story are that the hostages were freed by their captors and they did not escape. And that a ransom was paid for their freedom.

"This was a long, tortuous process, and a number of wild things happened

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Gov. Hochul Gets 5 Million COVID Tests Out New Test Sites in Mt. Vernon & SUNY Purchase



"People are testing positive at a higher rate, but the severity of this variant is much less. I am grateful that a month later, we can say with certainty, that the cases are presenting themselves to not be that severe as far as health goes."

-Governor Kathy Hochul

By Dan Murphy

On January 1, 2022, NY Governor Kathy Hochul laid out her plan to get New Yorkers through the next phase of the COVID pandemic. Calling it her Winter Surge Plan, 2.0, Hochul announced that the state had secured 5.56 million test kits, which have already been sent to schools across the state.

Another several million test kits will be ready for distribution this week, and are set to be distributed to local emergency management offices and then distributed to families. With another 31.5 million test kits ordered and on the way, the Governor is being applauded for making sure New York State is ready for that first critical step in the new year: making sure that test kits are available to those who think they might be COVID positive and to make sure that students, teachers, staff and first responders are tested and healthy.

"As we head into the holiday weekend, New York State is mobilizing every resource at our disposal to fight the winter surge and keep New Yorkers safe," Governor Hochul said. "We can get through this surge through targeted actions, partnerships with local leaders, and by taking common sense steps to keep us all safe: get vaccinated, get boosted, and wear a mask indoors."

The Winter Surge Plan 2.0 focuses on five core areas: keeping students in school, doubling down on masks and testing, preventing severe illness and death, increasing access to vaccines and boosters, and working together with local leaders.

Keep Schools Open: After two years of remote learning and school closures, Governor Hochul is focused on keeping students in school in the upcoming year. The first plank of Governor Hochul's 5-part plan includes:

Providing tests to students and school districts: 5.56 million tests arrived for schools this week and between six and seven million more are expected to arrive in the coming days. New York has mobilized 40 trucks and 86 state personnel to distribute tests. Overall, New York State has secured 37 million tests for distribution.

Keeping college students and faculty safe: SUNY and CUNY will be introducing a new requirement for all students to get boosters, campuses will require mandatory mask wearing in public indoor spaces, and will require all faculty to

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Dr. Eric Small, Mount Sinai Doctors, Discusses Winter Sports Injuries, Detection & Prevention



By Dan Murphy

With many of our readers, and their children, returning to outdoor winter sports like ice skating, skiing, and snowboarding, we spoke to Dr. Eric Small, from Mount Sinai Doctors, Westchester, to discuss common winter sports injuries, and ways for parents to detect when they happen, and how they can be avoided.

Dr. Small has over 20 years of experience practicing sports medicine exclusively and is the only board certified Pediatric Sports Medicine Physician in Westchester County. He also serves as team physician for local high school and colleges and sets policy regarding sports injury management and return to play protocols.

"Kids don't participate in winter sports year-round, and as a result, we see acute injuries from falls, like fractures, dislocations and concussions. The most common injury from a fall is a fracture, but adults and children can experience different types of fractures."

"A typical fracture for an 8 to 12-year-old is called a growth plate fracture. This type of fracture occurs when they fall on their wrists. Sometimes, this type of fracture is hard to diagnose, and parents think that because the wrist isn't swollen there isn't a fracture. But often, these types of growth plate fractures get missed, so it's important to come in for an X-Ray to make sure," said Dr. Small.

"There is a unique bone in the wrist called the Scaphoid bone, that can get fractured and doesn't get diagnosed. Sometimes this results in the base of the thumb not healing properly and could result in having to wear a cast for 6 to 8 weeks. And if it isn't diagnosed at all it could become a dead bone and surgery will be required, and they may never recover full strength and function."

"It's important not to miss this type of fracture, so if your kids are out skiing or snowboarding or ice skating, and they fall and feel some pain, an x-ray or other type of imaging is recommended," said Dr. Small.

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Westchester Table Tennis Center Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary, Survives COVID



Visit the Westchester Table Tennis Center for some 'fitness for the body and mind'.

Owner operator Will Shortz, left

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to the Westchester Table Tennis Center, located in Pleasantville, NY in Westchester County, for recently celebrating its 10th anniversary and for surviving the COVID pandemic. The owner of the Westchester Table Tennis Center, (WTTC) is Pleasantville resident Will Shortz, who is better known as the legendary crossword puzzle editor for the NY Times.

Shortz and this reporter share a love for crosswords and for ping pong. Shortz has played table tennis, or ping pong, every day for the past 10 years, not only at the Pleasantville club, which has recently expanded to 19 tables and is open to the public, (westchestertabletennis.com).

In a column he wrote about his consecutive streak, Shortz writes, "How long do you have to play for it to count? My rule is — 10 minutes. I probably average an hour or more of table tennis a day, but 10 minutes is the minimum. Also, it has to be on a regular table with an opponent."

"I do this because I love the game. I love the people I meet by playing. And I feel that daily table tennis helps keep me in good health. In the eight-plus years I've been doing this, I've never been seriously sick (knock on wood)," wrote Shortz.

The recent 10-year celebration at the WTTC included a ping pong tournament, "we celebrated the 10th Anniversary Westchester Open. As it turned out, it was our sixth-largest tournament ever, with 182 players — just 10 shy of tying the record. While the pandemic isn't over, as we're well aware, this is an encouraging sign.

Every month, Shortz and the WTTC hold a tournament for "Pongers," some of which include top ranked, world players. "For the second month in a row, one of the top players in the world will be competing — Nigeria's Olajide Omotayo, world-ranked #92 by the ITTF and #4 in Africa. Jide competed here before, in August 2016, when he lost in the final to Jian Li," posted WTTC.

The club adheres to all masking and COVID health guidelines. "Please note: Mask Policy. We will strictly follow New York State masking rules. A mask must be worn at all times at the club unless you can show proof of vaccination. The proof can be the vaccination card itself, a photo of the card, or other digital verification. This rule applies to spectators and players alike. For anyone who's vaccinated, a mask is optional. Thanks. Stay safe. Hope to see you soon.—Will," writes Shortz.

Like many pongers, Shortz started playing ping pong as a kid in the basement or family rec-room. Shortz won several table tennis trophies in high school but then turned to crossword puzzles and dropped his paddle for 15 years.

After taking up the sport again in 2001, Shortz began playing locally here in Westchester at small clubs or tournaments, before deciding to open up the WTTC in 2011, with his fellow ponger and table tennis champ Robert Roberts. Roberts manages the club today.

Shortz, 68, still works as the crossword editor for The New York Times, where he has worked since 1993. Over the past four decades, Shortz has become the dean of crosswords. While I love taking a look at the puzzle every day, (I used to enjoy buying the paper and filling out the puzzle with a pen, but the \$4 daily cost has made that difficult) but I was never able to complete a puzzle after Monday's edition. The puzzles get more difficult with every day in the NYT, but it's always fun to try and get a couple of boxes filled.

Shortz still authors more than 150 NYT puzzles every year, and with the help of his assistants, reviews more than a hundred submissions every week. He also hosts a yearly Westchester Crossword Puzzle Tournament at St. John's Episcopal Church in Pleasantville, which raises funds for the Pleasantville Fund for Learning. The tournament was COVID cancelled in 2021. Shortz also hosts a larger crossword tournament in Stamford, Ct every year for master puzzle solvers.

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Latimer Calls Fans to Iona College for Slam Dunk HS Hoops Showcase, Sunday Jan. 9



Mount Vernon's boys High School basketball team is scheduled to play

See some of the area's best high school basketball match-ups during the Slam Dunk Showcase on Sunday, January 9 at Iona College's Hynes Athletic Center in New Rochelle.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "This is the perfect opportunity for our student athletes to demonstrate their talents and athletic abilities to their families, friends and Westchester's basketball fans."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said: "We are excited to host twelve high school basketball teams at the Slam Dunk Showcase this year. I'm sure it will be a day filled with competitive play and our local stars will shine on the Iona Gaels NCAA Division I College basketball court."

This year's one-day event is presented by the Westchester County Parks Department. The showcase will feature six extremely competitive high school match-ups, featuring teams from Westchester, Rockland, and surrounding counties as follows:

Girls	Putnam Valley vs. Walter Panas	10:15 a.m.
Girls	Harrison vs. Albertus Magnus	12:00 p.m.
Boys	Middletown vs. Mt. Vernon	1:45 p.m.
Boys	Walter Panas vs. White Plains	3:30 p.m.
Girls	Ursuline vs. Mahopac	5:15 p.m.
Boys	Briarcliff vs. Hastings	7:00 p.m.

Admission is \$5 per day. Tickets can be purchased at the door on the day of the event and parking is free. Iona College is requiring all guests 5 years of age and older to provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19* or a qualifying negative COVID-19 molecular/PCR or antigen test** to gain entry into Hynes Center.

* Fully Vaccinated: For this purpose, an individual is "fully vaccinated" against COVID-19 at least 14 days after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series (e.g. Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or at least 14 days after they have received a single-dose vaccine (e.g. Johnson and Johnson/Janssen).

**Qualifying Negative Test: PCR/molecular test (sampled within 72 hours of the event) or a negative rapid/antigen test (sampled within 24 hours of the event) administered by a healthcare professional that includes their name and the date of the test as proof. Self-administered at-home rapid/antigen tests will not be accepted.

All spectators are expected to wear masks at all times in the Hynes Center, regardless of vaccination status.

Iona College is located at 715 North Avenue in New Rochelle. It is also accessible via the Westchester County BEE-LINE bus system.

Go to <https://events.westchestergov.com/> or call the Westchester County Parks Department at (914) 231-4500.

Governor Hochul testing, continued from pg 1-

be vaccinated. Students will also be required to submit negative tests upon returning to campus.

Keep Masking, Keep Testing: Governor Hochul recognizes that to stop the spread of the virus, New Yorkers must continue wearing masks and getting tested for COVID. Governor Hochul will:

Extend the mask-or-vax requirement: the Department of Health will extend the mask-or-vaccine requirement for an additional two weeks, protecting workers and allowing businesses to remain open.

On Jan. 3, Governor Hochul announced a partnership with SUNY and Syracuse University in which 10 new testing sites will be opening on State University of New York campuses across the state and at Syracuse University the week of Jan. 3. More campus sites will open in the coming weeks as the project expands.

"We are getting creative in our approach to make testing easier for New Yorkers," Governor Hochul said. "With testing now available at SUNY campuses and Syracuse University, we are expanding access across the state to make sure that we limit the spread of COVID-19. Get tested, wear a mask, and get your vaccine, second dose, and booster to keep yourself and your community safe as we get through this winter surge."

SUNY testing sites to open later this week include: Binghamton University, SUNY Plattsburgh, SUNY Cortland, University at Buffalo, Buffalo State, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Albany, SUNY Stony Brook, SUNY Purchase.

On Jan. 2, NY Governor Hochul announced 6 new State testing sites including Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon. "We want to start the New Year strong and use every tool at our disposal," Governor Hochul said. "By mobilizing testing sites throughout the state, we will make sure testing is more accessible and convenient for New Yorkers. We will continue to expand testing availability to every corner of the state, evaluating where more capacity and additional sites are needed soon. I encourage every New Yorker to take advantage of a site near them."

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "I want to thank the Governor for her commitment to expand COVID testing sites including the one at Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon. Adding additional sites here in Westchester and throughout New York is a top priority for the Senate. I know the last few weeks have felt like a step back on all of the progress we have made. But this is not a repeat of March 2020. We now have a strong arsenal of tools to fight this virus and We need everyone to get vaccinated, get boosted, wear masks and get tested."

The following information was provided by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Last week, through Jan. 1, 5,282,626 rapid tests were distributed to school districts and BOCES throughout the state. Of that figure: 2,147,040 tests delivered to NYC for NYC schools, 3,135,586 for schools outside of NYC. Regional numbers: Hudson Valley: 655,112, Long Island: 854,374. Dozens of State employees worked over the New Year weekend to deliver test kits from their location in Guilderland, NY. The test kits were transported by truck to either local school districts, or regional BOCES, where they were picked up by smaller districts.



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Byrne & Local Parents Stand Against Taxpayer Funding Tied to DEI Initiatives



Assemblyman and Putnam County Executive candidate Kevin Byrne

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne held a press conference last month to call on the NYS Department of Education (NYSED) to scrap any effort to tie state financial assistance for school districts to the firmly recommended, but highly controversial “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Framework and Policy Statement.”

Last week, Assemblymembers Kevin Byrne and Colin Schmitt joined with their colleague, ranking member of the NYS Assembly Education Committee, Doug Smith, in writing a letter to NYSED Commissioner Dr. Betty A. Rosa stressing the importance of respecting local control and their opposition to heavy-handed state mandates or incentives tied to the implementation of DEI. Several specific concerns with the DEI policy were cited in the letter sent to Commissioner Rosa.

Last week in their list of Budget and Legislative Priorities for the 2022-23 School Year, the NYS Board of Regents included a new one million dollar funding request to subsidize schools who adopt Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives and the Culturally Responsive-Sustaining framework.

“We should trust in our families, respect parents, and honor local control. Our educators should continue to teach history, the good and the bad, but not rewrite it,” said Assemblyman Kevin Byrne. “We firmly reject any attempt to tie state funding of schools to the implementation of DEI or CRS in our schools. Our elected school board members and local officials often talk about the costly mandates forced on them from Albany, and with good reason because they come at a price. If you tie highly controversial and divisive policy to state aid, it will be perceived by many as a new mandate. We ask the rest of our state elected leaders to honor local control and respect parents who seek to advocate for their children at a local level.”

Although he was unable to attend in person, Assemblyman Colin Schmitt provided the following statement, “The State Education Department is attempting to use the state budget process to trample local control of our schools and implement CRT and its underlying principles. This is wrong, and it once again demonstrates the Albany bureaucrats’ disrespect for parents and elected school boards. Our children deserve a high-quality education that prepares them for college and to compete in a global economy. That’s the State Education Department’s sole responsibility. There is no place for CRT and other aspects of this partisan political agenda in our classrooms.”

“With the cute way incentives are done with state aid, the state will dictate what goes on in our local school curricula,” said Frank Del Campo, former Putnam Deputy County Executive and school administrator. “From my experience in school administration, the best sources in writing curricula are the actual school administrators, teachers and stakeholders within your own school district, and not bureaucrats in Albany.”

“As a parent, I feel compelled to educate myself on what is happening in our schools and engage other parents and community members to encourage them to get involved,” said Sarah Hanganu, Chair of Dutchess County Moms for Liberty. “We are here to ask Commissioner Rosa to not tie conditional funding to the implementation of these divisive educational frameworks.”

“Since the start of January of this year, Moms for Liberty has grown to over 160 chapters across 33 states with more than 70,000 members,” said Abby O’Brien, Vice-Chair of Putnam County Moms for Liberty. “I’m here today on behalf of all New York chapters of Moms for Liberty to oppose the tying of state funds to DEI in our schools.”

While unable to attend in person, John Curzio, member of the Carmel Central School District Board of Education, did provide a personal statement on his own behalf stating, “The statement I am making today are my personal comments and I am not speaking on behalf of the board or any other board member... The idea that Albany would tie critical school funding to the implementation of the controversial, and so called ‘Diversity, Equity and Inclusion framework’ is absurd. This framework seeks to divide us at a critical time when we need to unite as a community, as a state, and as a nation. We should not be planting the idea amongst our children that they are defined by their race, which this framework endorses.”

Assemblyman Byrne is also a candidate for Putnam County Executive.

Happy New Year! Now Back to Work!



By Eric W. Schoen

I hope your Christmas and Chanukah were as wonderful as my holidays were this year. Chanukah featured the dedication of the magnificent new sanctuary at Scarsdale Synagogue Temples Tremont and Emanu-El. Kudos to everyone from those who were responsible for raising the funds to those who designed and built the facility during not such normal times for a job well done.

Christmas followed an over 50 year tradition. Christmas Eve Day with our dear friends the Costantini family. Patriarch Adelmo ‘Chubby’ Costantini presided over the festivities, god bless him at 94 years old. Not everyone was able attend but those who did enjoyed a traditional Italian fish dinner and they are still eating the desserts. We even had two reindeer in our midst! Chubby’s granddaughter Erica and her husband Keith donned reindeer antlers and we played Christmas Reindeer games! You throw 2 red and 2 green round rings onto the large Reindeer Antlers on your friend’s head! Oh what fun!

Late Christmas Eve afternoon brought the call every family wants. A new beautiful baby girl was born to one of Chubby’s granddaughters. It capped a wonderful holiday! The gorgeous couple didn’t announce the sex of the baby in advance, so about 5:00 p.m. give or take a few minutes I got busy on my iPhone to see what stores would still be open Christmas Eve to buy clothes for the baby girl. One store closed in 40 minutes, the other in an hour and 40 minutes. All agreed to wait until the stores were open Sunday to lavish the baby in beautiful new clothes!

Mazel Tov to Chubby, the charming, loving, talented grandparents and the proud mother and father of the precious baby girl on this blessing!

So now back to work. A lot has occurred in the two weeks since we last met. I hope you and your family had as wonderful a holiday as my sister and I and the Costantini clan did. Yes, Covid is in the the air and many have taken ill. For the fully vaccinated (2 shots and a booster for Pfizer and Moderna, 2 shots for J & J) chances are the breakthrough infections may have no symptoms and many may not even be aware they have the virus. For those who do feel sick, the symptoms are usually mild and last a few days to one or two weeks. These symptoms typically include headache, cough, fever, and fatigue. Serious symptoms are unusual.

Figures are all over the place but 80% of those being hospitalized are unvaccinated. It’s your body. But stay away from me and my loved ones if you are unvaccinated. The Fox News and other conservative media who opine on vaccine mandates, Dr. Fauci, and all topics Covid? You bet your ass they are fully vaccinated. Most of their media companies won’t let them in the door unless they are fully vaccinated!

Some pointers on what you should be aware of out in the real world:

If you are going to a restaurant or even for a cup of coffee at Panera or Starbucks, call to make sure the location you are going to is open, what hours and if the seating area is open.

Going shopping at the Supermarket or Department Store? Call before you go to make sure the store is open and what the specific hours they are open which might deviate from posted or online hours. Covid has hit the retail world hard, and many stores have cut back hours due to lack of personnel.

New York requires masks in places of business unless you have a medical condition or are consuming food. Don’t give the poor \$15 an hour clerk (happy the minimum wage has gone up, but stores are still having a hard time getting workers) a hard time. They nor their managers make the laws. They try to enforce them, but there is always the idiot looking for a fight. If you don’t want to wear a mask, have things delivered or use outside pickup services most stores have.

I’m no doctor. Check with yours for medical advice. But nervous people are crowding emergency rooms making it difficult for those who truly need true emergency rooms services from being treated. And with a lot of health insurance plans, if you use an Emergency Room and don’t get admitted to the hospital you will be stuck with a big bill.

A good rule of thumb: The most basic guidelines for what makes a situation emergent is if your life, limb or vision is at stake. If any of these things are in danger, it’s an emergency. Other conditions outside of life, limb, or vision also warrant immediate intervention because of the likelihood of the condition getting worse and possible organ failure. There are patient populations that are at higher risk of death — this includes children under 2 years of age, geriatric patients, and those with weakened immune response.

I don’t want to hear of a hospital that does not allow a 97 year old patient coming in for a new pacemaker to have a visitor as I heard this week. If this should happen to you ask to see the hospital administrator in charge. Every hospital has one. Familiarize yourself with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) if you

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Elected Officials Should Make Transparency Their New Year Resolution
Op-Ed: Paul Wolf, Esq., President, New York Coalition For Open Government

In January, many will start the New Year with goals to exercise more, eat better, lose weight etc. January will also be when newly elected public servants or incumbents starting another term take office across New York state.

Old habits are hard to change in people and especially hard to change in government. Elected officials should begin 2022 by conducting the public's business in an open and transparent way. To show their commitment to open government, elected officials serving on a village board, town board, city council or a county legislature should introduce and pass a New Year resolution stating they will:

- 1) Post timely notice of all meetings at least one week prior to a meeting.
- 2) Post meeting agendas and all meeting documents online, at least 48 hours before a meeting.
- 3) Post draft meeting minutes online, no more than two weeks after a meeting.
- 4) Allow members of the public to speak at the beginning of a meeting regarding agenda items and non-agenda items whether attending in person or remotely.
- 5) Support live streaming of meetings by video and posting the video recording online afterwards.
- 6) Only conduct private executive sessions on rare occasions in accordance with the New York State Open Meetings Law. We understand that a motion to hold an executive session to discuss "litigation", "personnel" or "collective bargaining" is not sufficient, as the Open Meetings Law requires motions to state more information when holding an executive session.
- 7) Support having our elected members complete and post an Annual Financial Disclosure Form on our government website. (Just as state elected officials do)
- 8) While private political party caucus meetings are allowed under the law, we agree to not hold such meetings. There is no reason at the local level to hold private political party caucus meetings to discuss political business or public business.
- 9) We support the public's right to obtain records and will ensure that information regarding the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), is posted in a visible place on our website. We will proactively post documents online as much as possible so that the public can access information without having to file a FOIL request. We will also post an easy fill in the blank form that assists the public in filing a FOIL request by email on our website.
- 10) We are committed to having all FOIL requests responded to in a timely manner and will on a quarterly basis request a status report regarding FOIL requests from an appropriate staff member to monitor compliance with the law.

Abinanti-Shimsky, continued from pg 1-

New York.

Two years ago, Abinanti faced a challenge from democrat Jen Williams in the democratic primary. Running in the middle of a pandemic, Williams gave Abinanti all he could handle, almost beating the five- time incumbent 55%-45%. Another Westchester democrat told us, "The fact that MaryJane has stepped forward to challenge Tom is a sign that many members of the establishment wing of the Westchester democratic party believe that it's time for Tom to go."

We spoke to Abinanti, who disputed the characterization that he is anti-vax. "Nothing can be further from the truth. I have acted to promote vaccinations and make them available. I have voted for all appropriations to make sure vaccinations are available, and I voted for legislation to allow pharmacies to administer vaccinations," said Abinanti, who has made robocalls to his district urging all to get the COVID vaccination.

"I have been an advocate for getting the COVID vaccination from day one, and for wearing a mask, and I tell as many people as possible to get vaccinated. The science is sound and shows that the COVID vaccines are effective in preventing serious complications from COVID. The science is sound and its effective at preventing serious complications from covid infection," said Abinanti.

Several years ago, Assemblyman Abinanti did vote to preserve religious exemptions for other vaccines, which passed in the Assembly. "I supported a small number of religious exemptions where there is a valid religious reason. I wanted that religious exemption because it is a protected right in the constitution. For that reason, some have tried to portray me as being anti-vaccination.

"But the truth is that I have done whatever I can to support vaccinations, and I will put up my record against anyone else on promoting vaccinations. When constituents, friends and family call me and ask about getting the COVID vaccination, I ask two questions. Have you gotten the other vaccinations, and are you allergic to any vaccinations? When the answer is no to both, I say, then you should get vaccinated."

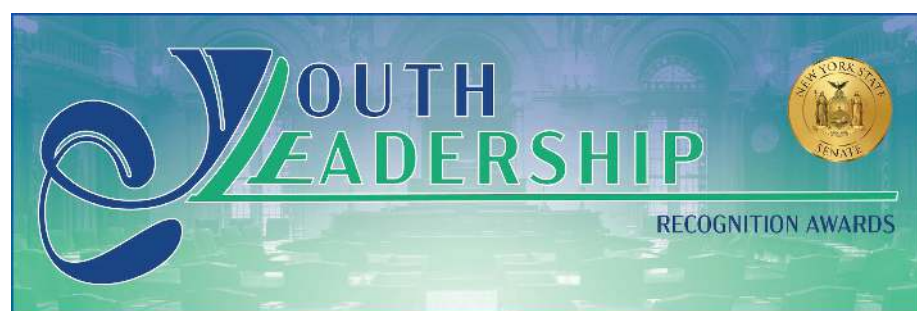
Abinanti did not share with us the fact that he is not vaccinated, until we asked him.

"Unfortunately, not yet, as I am following my doctor's advice to delay vaccination since I have recovered from covid and have a contraindicating medical condition. Thus, I recognize the importance of vaccinating as many as can be vaccinated to protect those with medical conditions who can't be vaccinated."

Abinanti said that Shimsky is challenging him because she is term limited from running for the County Board. Other democrats say, "MaryJane is term limited in two years, but she has a lot of options about what will come. That is not the reason she is running against Tom."

And the election of 2022 has begun.

State Senator Shelley Mayer Seeks Nominations For Youth Leadership Recognition Award



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37th New York State Senate
Senate District

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Haiti hostages, continued from pg 1-

during the 8 weeks," said our source who we will call Emma. "Through intermediaries with a longstanding history of work in Haiti, contact was made and a dialogue started with the 400 Mawozo gang who was holding the hostages. A ransom was negotiated and paid to secure their release."

"While many believe that the hostages escaped, they were allowed to leave by leaving a door partially open and the guard left, leaving them free to leave. And any Haitian who may have seen them on their long walk to freedom were instructed to leave them alone, and only to get involved and help them if asked. The guards were right there and saw everything and let them walk away.

Another one of our readers emailed us saying that the FBI was monitoring the situation closely on the ground in Haiti, based on an interview account from one of the hostages. "The missionaries saw planes circling above where they were held. These planes were FBI presence watching the situation. The missionaries confirmed they were FBI after the fact," writes Anna.

"The ransom that was paid did not come from the US government, and it did not come from CAM who refused to pay a ransom. The ransom money came from a Good Samaritan, an American private donor who wanted to help and didn't know the hostages nor the church," said Emma.

Specific details about how much of a ransom was paid was not provided to us. According to published reports, the Gang was seeking a ransom of \$17 Million, or \$1 Million per hostage. Emma said that after negotiations were conducted over a ransom price, the Good Samaritan "gave almost all of what was asked for after the negotiations."

Why did it take so long to secure the hostages release? Because of the lack of trust with the Haitian police. Many published reports have referred to the troubles with the Haitian police as the reason that many gangs in Haiti hold control and power over various parts of the country.

"There were also discussions about trying to rescue the hostages, but CAM didn't want violence, and that was the best decision made by those who considered a military option and rescue. The best way to handle this, even though it took so long, was to negotiate with the hostages and get everyone freed without injury or death. And that is what happened," said Emma.

"Sometimes in Haiti, gangs demand a ransom, receive payment and then demand more. 400 Mawozo demanded a ransom, kept in touch with intermediaries, and kept the hostages in relatively good health.

"When one hostage got sick, medication was obtained and provided, but when that person needed to be hospitalized, he was freed with his wife. They were the first two hostages to be released. The gang never asked for more, which happens frequently, and they ultimately kept their word and released the hostages.

"Most people with knowledge of the situation in Haiti never believed the narrative that the hostages escaped. That is not the way things happen in Haiti, and if they did escape, someone would have contacted the gang before they got to safety," said Emma. "This gang is not about killing hostages. They run this like a business and were trying to get the transaction done.

According to published reports, after walking several miles, the hostages did ask a Haitian to use their phone so they could be rescued. For those of us who have read all reports on this matter, neither President Biden nor the U.S. Government took credit for the resolution and freedom of the 17 American hostages.

We have also not heard from CAM acknowledging that a ransom was paid, and their thanks to whoever it was who helped free 17 members of their church.

"The one issue that many of us, and our friends in Haiti have with CAM and their missionaries is that they should know not to bring young children into Haiti. It is simply too dangerous. I would never bring my children there. You can try and help the people, but leave young children at home," said Emma.

Editor's Note: We have received numerous emails from readers who propose that the hostages were freed with an act of God, and that is how they escaped. I would put it another way. Perhaps God intervened on their behalf and touched the heart of the Good Samaritan who paid the ransom. It is good news that they were all freed and are all home. And it's a classic Christmas story.

Why hasn't the media covered this story? Some believe that it is because the hostages are Christians, and that there is a lack of interest from the American public, and a reluctance from the media to report on it. We hope that is not the case. All 17 were American citizens, and deserve our interest, and yes, our prayers.

Thanks to our source for coming forward and for speaking the truth about what happened. And thanks for your involvement in winning their freedom.

And to the Good Samaritan who paid the ransom—thank you! And God Bless You! Another reason why we write this story and our proud to do so, is because the people involved, and the Good Samaritan wanted the truth to come out. And the truth is that a ransom was paid and that the hostages were freed.

Notice of formation of youRmore LLC LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/09/2020. 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, 10 Dassern Drive Apt I Dobbs Ferry NY 10522 . Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of SHINE SIGNINGS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/26/2021. 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, 27 Ravine Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Thomas Family Taste LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LCC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 268 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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News in Yonkers and around Westchester

In David Boies We Trust, to Seek Justice for Epstein Victims After Maxwell Verdict

Hillary is Back! Meetings with VP Harris, Master Class, Interview at Crabtree Kittle House



The picture that can't be explained: Prince Andrew, holding 17 year old Virginia Giuffre, with Ghislaine Maxwell, right



Westchester based attorney David Boies, left, represents Giuffre and other Epstein victims

By Dan Murphy

Millions of Americans were horrified when they learned about the sexual abuse of underage, teenage girls at the hands of Jeffrey Epstein, who committed suicide in his Manhattan jail cell in 2019. His death deprived many of us the justice that we sought for the victims.

On Dec. 29, Ghislaine Maxwell was convicted in Federal Court in lower Manhattan of 5 counts of sex trafficking-related charges, related to her grooming minor girls to be sexually abused by Jeffrey Epstein. Maxwell, 60, now faces up to 65 years in prison, and will appeal the verdict. She has already served one and a half years in prison prior to her trial.

The charges against Maxwell were filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office related to her interactions with four teenage girls from 1994 to 2004, when Maxwell was romantically involved with and then working for Epstein. "The road to justice has been far too long. But, today, justice has been done. I want to commend the bravery of the girls — now grown women — who stepped out of the shadows and into the courtroom. Their courage and willingness to face their abuser made this case, and today's result, possible," said U.S. Attorney Damian Williams.

One of the girls recruited and sexually abused by Maxwell and Epstein is Virginia Giuffre. Giuffre did not testify at the Maxwell trial but was named as one of the victims. Giuffre is represented by perhaps America's greatest living and practicing attorney, David Boies, who resides in Armonk in Westchester County, where his law office is also located.

Boies, 80, took Giuffre's case in 2014, pro bono, after Giuffre accused Epstein and Maxwell of sexually trafficking her to a series of famous men, including Prince Andrew. Why did Boies, who has had a legendary legal career which includes representing Al Gore in the 2000 Presidential election, serving as a special counsel for the U.S. Government in their case against Microsoft, and who worked for marriage equality, decide to get involved in this case?

His public comments point to a simple answer: That believed his client and wanted to see justice served, as this reporter, and millions of Americans also want. Most of us are not satisfied with the conviction of Maxwell, and want to know more, and find out who else was involved.

In 2015 Virginia Giuffre made her allegations of sexual abuse against Epstein, Maxwell, and Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, public. When Maxwell publicly denied the charges, Boies filed a defamation suit on behalf of Giuffre.

That lawsuit entitled him to take a deposition of both Epstein and Maxwell,
continued on pg 7-

Classifieds

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Vice-President Kamala Harris, left, and former Sec. of State Hillary Clinton

By Dan Murphy

Many in the far-right media 'freaked-out' when news leaked that former Secretary of State, U.S. Senator from New York and First Lady Hillary Clinton was speaking regularly with, and has visited The White House to meet with vice-president Kamala Harris. But the relationship between the two, and the circumstances surrounding VP Harris becoming the first female VP in our history, makes the meeting and the dialogue make a lot of sense.

First the story is true, if you believe the New York Times, who reported on Dec. 23, "Faced with declining approval ratings, a series of staff departures and a drum-beat of criticism from Republicans and the conservative news media, she has turned to powerful confidantes, including Hillary Clinton, to help plot a path forward. Since arriving in Washington, Ms. Harris has sought the counsel of other women — including Mrs. Clinton, the first female Democratic presidential nominee — who have achieved historical political success to help her find a path," writes Katie Rogers and Zolan Kanno-Youngs, (<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/23/us/politics/kamala-harris-biden-administration.html>).

According to the story, "The two speak every few months on the phone; in November, Mrs. Clinton visited Ms. Harris in her West Wing office." "There is a double standard; it's sadly alive and well," Mrs. Clinton said in an interview. "A lot of what is being used to judge her, just like it was to judge me, or the women who ran in 2020, or everybody else, is really colored by that."

The visit to The White House by Secretary Clinton got on the radar of many in the right wing media, but the relationship between Vice-President Harris and Hillary dates back several years, and the mutual admiration and shared experiences in American politics between the two has formed a bond that only now is being noticed by the public.

Harris recently flew back to her home state of California to meet with several prominent female democratic strategists, and many friends of Bill and Hillary Clinton, including former Hillary Clinton spokeswoman and Democratic strategists Adrienne Elrod and Karen Finney, and Jennifer Palmieri, who worked on Clinton's 2016 Presidential campaign.

Vice-President Harris' younger sister, Maya, worked for then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. And a podcast that aired in 2020 between the VP and Hillary shows how much they connect. "My heart was so full speaking with Hillary Clinton about Ruth Bader Ginsburg's legacy and our ongoing fight for equality under the law. And, of course, we talked quarantine cooking. Listen to our conversation on Hillary's new podcast, You And Me Both," said Harris. The link to the podcast is below.

The next step in this story concerns the return to the public spotlight by Secretary Clinton. Here in Westchester, Hillary conducted a one hour interview with NBC's Willy Geist at Crabtree Kittle House Restaurant in Chappaqua, one of Bill and Hillary's favorite places and only a mile from their home. That interview link is below.

The other Hillary media appearance that got a lot of coverage was a Master Class course that Hillary is teaching online. You must subscribe to listen and learn about Hillary's advice concerning how you overcame setbacks and disappointments and became resilient. But one clip that has been shared online is Hillary giving the speech that she never got a chance to give. It was her acceptance speech when she won the Presidency in 2016. Hillary lost the presidency to Donald Trump, but read from the speech for Master Class, and gets emotional when parts of the speech includes a conversation with her mother in which Hillary tells her mom, "you will survive, you will have good family, and believe it or not, your daughter will become President of the United States."

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/business/2021/12/08/hillary-clinton-masterclass-2016-victory-speech-orig.cnn-business>

This show of emotion is new for Hillary, and is touching to most who watch it. It's a kinder, more gentle Hillary, and for both her supporters and her critics, it is a sign that a return to political life is not out of the question for the 74 year-old Clinton. Joe Biden is 79.

So lets play this out. Hillary is back in the spotlight and conferring with the vice-president. Vice-President Harris has whispered that she would like to be a part of an all female Presidential ticket if the opportunity presents itself. "The talk in the White House is that Kamala has stated she wants to pick a woman to create the first all-female administration," said far right commentator Jack Posobiec.

How would that opportunity present itself to Vice-President Harris? Only if President Joe Biden decided not to run for re-election in 2024.

The second, unanswered question is, would Hillary take the vice-presidency if it were offered to her? I didn't vote for Hillary or Trump in 2016. I voted for Gary Johnson, the Libertarian, third party candidate. But my political observation is that Hillary looks well rested and ready to return to the political ring. And if the republican candidate is Donald Trump again, we could have that rematch of Trump-Hillary, or Trump-Harris with Hillary as the VP.

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF LEGAL POSTPONEMENT 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 Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Courtroom 200, White Plains, NY on January 14, 2022 at 9:30AM, 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. Original Sale date: December 23, 2021 at 10:30AM. Anthony J. Centone, Esq., Referee CLAIR GJERTSEN & WEATHERS PLLC 4 New King Street, Suite 140 White Plains, NY 10604 50855-2019 70507

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER
JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff

AGAINST

Rosetta Silvestro as heir at law and next of kin of Luigia Silvestro a/k/a Luisa Silvestro; et al., Defendant(s)

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated July 8, 2021 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, NY 10601 on February 3, 2022 at 3:30PM, premises known as 147 Florence Street, Yonkers, NY 10704. 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, State of NY, Section 5 Block 5235 Lot 34 & 35. Approximate amount of judgment \$101,787.83 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 69552/2016. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the Ninth Judicial District.

John Gifford Molloy, Esq., Referee
LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC
Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff
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For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832

AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN THE AUDITORIUM at SAUNDERS HIGH SCHOOL (183 Palmer Road, Yonkers, NY 10701).

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV.

CURRENT CDC GUIDELINES SHALL CONTINUE TO BE OBSERVED REGARDING ATTENDANCE BY THE PUBLIC.

CONTINUED HEARINGS

5772 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Joseph Weiburg, owner, on premises known as 453 Bronxville Road, Block: 5603, Lot: 7, Zone: S-60 (A206)

NEW HEARINGS

5769 – Improvement and Intensification to a Non-Conforming Use & Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of Ghassem Khorassani, owner, on premises known as 527 aka 531 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Block: 39, Lot: 59.60, Zone: A (B22793)

5773 – Area Variance – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Laurie Hawkes, owner, on premises known as 56 Dellwood Road, Block: 5593, Lot: 86, Zone: S-75 (B24133)

5774 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of NOAM ONE LLC, owner, on premises known as 57 Locust Hill Avenue, Block: 2020, Lot: 1, Zone: A (B28896)

5775 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of Hudson Walk LLC, owner, on premises known as 409 Warburton Avenue, Block: 2121, Lot: 15, Zone: M (B29215)

JOSEPH CIANCIULLI, CHAIRMAN, ZBA

FOR FULL AGENDA, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: <https://www.yonkersny.gov/government/meetings-agendas/-selcat-97/-toggle-all>

Notice of Formation of Jovanna Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 5/14/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jovanna Realty LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C., Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NY Attorney General James Seeks Trump Children's Interviews in Ongoing Investigation

On Jan. 3, New York Attorney General Letitia James released the following statement after Donald J. Trump, Donald J. Trump Jr., and Ivanka Trump, this evening, filed a motion to quash upcoming interviews that would take place, under oath, in Attorney General James' investigation into Donald J. Trump and the Trump Organization:

"For more than two years, members of the Trump family and the Trump Organization have continually sought to delay and impede our investigation into Donald Trump and the Trump Organization, but despite their names, they must play by the same rules as everyone else. These delay tactics will not stop us from following the facts or the law, which is why we will be asking the court to compel Donald Trump, Donald Trump Jr., and Ivanka Trump to testify with our office under oath. Our investigation will continue undeterred."

In August 2020, Attorney General James filed a motion to compel the Trump Organization to provide the Office of the Attorney General with documents and testimony from multiple witnesses regarding several, specific Trump Organization properties and transactions. Since then, the court has ruled in Attorney General James' favor multiple times.

Last month, Donald J. Trump and the Trump Organization filed a lawsuit in a federal court in an effort to stop Attorney General James' investigation.

Reservations Open for Westchester County Parks Group Picnic Reservations for 2022 Season

Group picnic reservations are now open for the 2022 season. Due to an abundance of caution, reservations are only available by phone: (914) 231-4575, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said, "Our group picnic reservations fill up fast, reserve as soon as possible to secure your space!"

Picnicking, including outdoor pavilions, is allowed at the following parks: Blue Mountain Reservation, Peekskill, Croton Gorge, Cortlandt Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson, George's Island Park, Montrose Glen Island Park, New Rochelle, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla, V.E. Macy Park, Ardsley, Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale, Saxon Woods Park, White Plains, Sprain Ridge Park, Yonkers, Tibbetts Brook Park, Yonkers Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River, Willson's Woods Park, Mount Vernon.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

are still having problems, but we would hope most hospital administrators have sensitivity in situations involving 97 year olds!

Go out and get fresh air everyday, even if that means a walk around the block. Bodies are made to move, not stay static. If you are in a big, quiet park like Tibbetts in Yonkers or Saxon Woods don't wear a mask unless you are allergic to something in the park. You want to get fresh air in your lungs. Even in the cold, crack the windows open in your house or apartment to let fresh air come in.

Many gyms have good deals right now. Look for a less crowded gym or go at off hours. Your mask must cover your nose and throat. And we need synchronization between rules in Westchester and New York City and frankly the rest of the state. It can't be that I have to show my Vaccination Card over the Westchester line in the Bronx but in Westchester I need to be masked up with no need to show vaccination cards. We need uniformity in rules otherwise everyone will go nuts.

If we want to end this pandemic, workers in Westchester should have to show they are fully vaccinated to work. Customers must to protect the workers show proof of vaccination just like they do in New York City to enter a restaurant. Nobody likes doing this, but it keeps both employees and customers safe.

The folks that own Ridge Hill should open the Main Street that runs through the complex. It's impossible for handicapped people to park near the destination they are going to. The road was closed to allow for tables and chairs outside during the summer for al fresco dining. Too cold now. Ridge Hill 'tear down those gates' that block access to stores from the Apple Store to just in front of TJ Maxx by vehicle, and add more handicapped parking!

If you picked up one of those Covid tests at the Office of Emergency Management on Saw Mill River Road or in Mount Vernon or other municipalities that offered them, save the test for when you have symptoms. Don't just use it because you have it. Be careful and report to the Attorney General's office companies that price gouge you for getting tested. These services should be available free of charge at State, County and Local Government facilities.

I'll have more tips for you next week. If you have a tip you think I should include you know how to reach me. If we all work together, things will get better and back to normal sooner than you think.

Happy, Healthy New Year my friends!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoosyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy 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.

Westchester Table Tennis, continued from pg 2-

Is there any connection between Shortz's two passions? "They are both brain games—you are continuously adjusting your play to exploit your opponent's weaknesses, and they completely focus you on what you are doing. When you are solving a tough crossword clue, you forget everything else in the world. Your focus is solving the puzzle It's the same thing with table tennis, when you are playing a tough match, you forget everything else in the world, and with both activities, when you are done, you are relaxed, and refreshed, and you are ready to go back in everything else in life," said Shortz, in an interview at the WTTC.

Westchester Table Tennis Center is the premier table tennis club in the Northeast, and offers a lounge, lockers, shower facilities for men and women, over 100 parking spaces, group training, and one-on-one lessons available for kids and adults. The club is reasonably priced for beginners and families. Paddles and balls are provided.

Shortz said that COVID hasn't stopped his love for table tennis. "I am playing more than ever and haven't missed a day," he said. "These days, with concerns about the virus, table tennis is about the safest sport you can play because you are naturally spaced from the other player and because the tables are spaced out from other players and tables. You get great exercise and improve your stamina as well."

Notice of Formation of InnerRoot Wellness, LLC filed with SSNY on 01-19-21. Office: WESTCHESTER County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to LLC: 24 LORRAINE AVE 1 MT VERNON, NY 10553. Purpose: any lawful act or activity

Notice of formation of DREA'S PUNCH, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/04/2021. 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, 343 A S 5TH AVE, MOUNT VERNON, NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Aiyana's Creations LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY, 11228 designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. US Corporation Agents Inc shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 127 Ramsey Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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Epstein, Prince Andrew, continued from pg 1-

which took place in 2016. Epstein pled his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. And Maxwell, in her first deposition, was able to elude giving any details to Boies associate Sigrid McCawley.

But Boies got Maxwell for a second deposition, and that examination proved that he still had the legal brilliance, (or Michelangelo like skills of deposition taking) that deposed Bill Gates and General William Westmoreland in prior cases to the detriment of both.

The Boies vs Maxwell EBT is also believed to be the first step towards prosecutors, and the media, to begin to take a look at the criminality going on behind the gates of Epstein's mansions, planes and private islands.

"No one would pay attention until we actually pursued the case. I think if Virginia had not been prepared to bring that lawsuit in 2015, Maxwell might be free today," said Boies, in one of his many public comments and interviews based on his representation of Giuffre. "I don't think her lawyers did a good job of protecting her. I have said publicly for five years that she was making a mistake in not going in and trying to cut a deal with prosecutors. She could have cut a very good deal early on but she passed up that opportunity. I think that's proven to be a fatal mistake."

Boies was able to catch Maxwell in a series of lies under oath, including admitting to having "three-way sexual activities" with Epstein and two other women, but then claiming that "she was not aware of Epstein having sex with anyone other than her", and "She testified that she never gave anybody a massage. We had testimony from people that she did give people massages," said Boies. Pictured entered into evidence at the trial showed Maxwell massaging Epstein's feet against her breasts.

Two of the initial criminal charges against Maxwell were perjury, based on the Giuffre case and the deposition with Boies. "What was critical was that we proved that she was flat out lying in her deposition, committing perjury," Boies says. This was "very convincing in showing prosecutors they had a very strong case to go forward with".

After Maxwell's conviction, Boies said in several published reports. "This was a great day. It proved the justice system works. The jury concluded that the victims were telling the truth. They may not have perfect memories and they may not be perfect people, but these victims are telling the truth. The core truth that they were sexually abused and sexually trafficked was inescapable. The jury's rejection of the blanket denials and the jury's acceptance of the truth is something that I think foreshadows what will happen in the Prince Andrew case."

And now for Boies, his client Virginia Giuffre, and the American public seeking more answers and justice, this matter now moves onto Prince Andrew, the Duke of York. Giuffre is suing Prince Andrew in the Southern District of New York for sexual assault. Prince Andrew denies the allegations and his lawyers are fighting the suit and its claims vigorously. The prince also denies meeting Giuffre or remembering their meeting, but a photo of the two together with Maxwell tells otherwise.

Many legal experts claim that Maxwell's criminal conviction is bad news for Prince Andrew. Lisa Bloom, an attorney who represents several Epstein accusers said to Rolling Stone, "I think Prince Andrew should be quaking in his royal boots. I think he should be concerned. Reckoning is coming for everyone who enabled Jeffrey Epstein and participated in his scheme."

Attorney Adam Horowitz, who is also representing several Epstein accusers, called Maxwell's conviction "a huge setback for Prince Andrew and his defense. Had Maxwell been acquitted, she would have been a key witness for Prince Andrew. She could have denied all of the things that she's accused of doing with regard to Virginia and Prince Andrew. The lawsuit says... that Virginia was actually introduced to Prince Andrew through Maxwell... they can't call Maxwell now to refute anything."

Boies has said publicly that Prince Andrew's defense is similar to Maxwell's failed strategy. "It's an ominous sign for Prince Andrew. His playbook has been the same as Maxwell's — blame, shame, deny, deny, deny. Maxwell tried that with very experienced, high-priced, very aggressive lawyers and it failed totally. If Prince Andrew is even a little reflective, he'll understand that the idea you can deny what numerous witnesses testified to, what photographs show, what plane logs demonstrate... the idea that you can blame and shame a victim to distract attention for your own conduct, doesn't work," said Boies in several interviews.

Most legal experts believe that prosecutors will not move to bring any of the famous men who are in Maxwell's black book to justice, and that Maxwell's chance to 'name names,' was before she was convicted and as part of a plea agreement.

Among the many famous names who flew on Epstein's jet include Bill Clinton, Bill Gates and Donald Trump. The only other famous person being sued, in addition to Prince Andrew is attorney Alan Dershowitz.

In 2019, Giuffre sued Dershowitz, for defamation, after Dershowitz denied her claims and publicly called her a liar after she said that he sexually assaulted her several times when she was 16. Dershowitz then counter sued Giuffre for defamation and brought Boies into his case by claiming that he pressured Giuffre to make the claims against him. Dershowitz has admitted providing legal advice to Epstein, and a war of words has continued between the two American legal giants.

Boies said, "There certainly are both collaborators and participants that ought to be held accountable. Epstein and Maxwell did not act, and could not have acted, alone. The scope and scale and duration of their sex trafficking crimes depended on many wealthy and powerful collaborators and co-conspirators. They too are not above the law. They too must be brought to justice."

Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah re Tweeted an Op Ed that she wrote before she was elected DA. "As a federal prosecutor for over 16 years, I can tell you that, aside from cases involving murder and violence, there are two categories of crimes that make a career prosecutor's blood boil: schemes that target elderly victims for money and allegations that involve using children for sex. For six years, between 2001 and 2007, Jeffrey Epstein allegedly ran a sex trafficking ring that preyed on minor girls as young as 13. So why was he given a slap on the wrist by federal prosecutors in Florida?"

"A well-connected millionaire, Epstein was often seen in the company of men like Prince Andrew, Bill Clinton, Alan Dershowitz and Donald Trump. (Dershowitz told Axios he still provides legal advice to Epstein.)

"The case was investigated and initially pursued by the United States Attorney's Office in the Southern District of Florida (SDFL), headed by Alex Acosta. However, instead of pursuing the case, the SDFL entered into what is known as a non-prosecution agreement (NPA) with Epstein in which they agreed that the federal investigation (against Epstein and anyone else who may have been a subject of it) would cease and Epstein would plead guilty to certain state charges for which he would serve 18 months in prison and register as a sex offender. In addition, the SDFL agreed to give Epstein's attorneys a list of "individuals it has identified as victims." In short, this was a shockingly lenient deal for a crime of such magnitude.

"I was involved in many sex-trafficking and sexual exploitation cases involving minors as a federal prosecutor.

These cases usually involved one or two victims but were charged under the very same statutes that documents show federal prosecutors were planning to use in Epstein's case

"Individuals charged under these federal statutes, in my experience, were typically subject to strict mandatory minimums of 10 or 15 years in prison, per count, and those counts were often stacked one on top of the other.

"Epstein, however, was able to escape this punishment, despite alleged crimes that by all accounts were indeed heinous. Let me preface what follows by saying this: As a former prosecutor, I am reluctant to pass judgment on the decisions of other fellow prosecutors' decisions without the benefit of all of the facts. However, the known facts in this case cry out for an official, thorough inquiry.

"Finally, the government's agreement to suspend and hold in abeyance any grand jury investigation for other people potentially involved in these crimes is simply baffling. In my experience, prosecutors and investigating agents would have looked for every way possible to advance a case of this type, which means seeking out co-conspirators and enablers. Why was that opportunity surrendered here?"

Cases like Epstein's don't just hurt the victims, they undermine the legitimacy of the entire justice system," wrote Rocah in 2018, and her words and questions still ring true today.

Many of us here in Westchester think that this case still stinks, and even though Epstein killed himself and Maxwell was convicted, its still not over. We hope that David Boies will try and find the truth, perhaps from Prince Andrew, but perhaps this trial will open other doors. —and for our readers, who may have a young daughter, or have experienced sexual abuse in their lives, or have a friend or a family member who has experienced it, they are still looking for justice, and for more answers in this case. And perhaps if justice cannot be served on those who names we do not yet know, then perhaps the court of public opinion, and of public shame and humiliation, can give some peace to the victims.

Another Epstein victim and client of Boies, Annie Farmer, who testified at the Maxwell trial, said "I hope that this verdict brings solace to all who need it and demonstrates that no one is above the law,"

"My [soul] yearned for justice for years and today the jury gave me just that," Giuffre said in a statement. "I will remember this day always. Having lived with the horrors of Maxwell's abuse, my heart goes out to the many other girls and young women who suffered at her hands and whose lives she destroyed. I hope that today is not the end but rather another step in justice being served. Maxwell did not act alone. Others must be held accountable. I have faith that they will be."

We are glad that David Boies is on the case.

*Steam Across the Sound Shore**Weekly Learning Adventures for Kids***Across the Sound Shore**

Supported with federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to the New York State Library by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)."

The Westchester Children's Museum, Harrison Public Library, and the Rye Free Reading Room are pleased to announce, STEAM ACROSS THE SOUND SHORE! Introducing a joint STEAM program for kids.

Three Thursdays every month at 4pm. Special half-day classes during school breaks

Feb 21 to 25, April 11 to 15, June 27 to 30 at 10 am. Grades 3 to 5

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With a different topic each week, discover STEAM topics and careers throughout the year.

Mark your calendars for the school breaks! In February, April, and June, there will be special half day classes for kids to tinker, build, learn, and explore.

Sessions are free! Registration is required. For more information, or to register, contact the Rye Free Reading Room at 914-231-3162 or e-mail childrenservices@ryelibrary.org

Winter Sports Injuries , continued from pg 1-

"I also see many shoulder injuries in skiers and snow boarders, who frequently dislocate their shoulder. Sometimes it pops out of place and with some kids it becomes a recurring injury, especially if they also play football or soccer and then go into winter sports. The shoulder for these types of athletes can become unstable and we recommend rehabilitation therapy to strengthen the muscles around the rotator cuff. If they don't strengthen the muscles around the shoulder then dislocations will keep happening," said Dr. Small, who recommended resistance band exercises, and internal and external rotation exercises, which will help strengthen the shoulder and rotator cuff.

"With shoulder dislocations, your child should be assessed for strength in the muscles around the shoulder to determine shoulder stability. For many kids under the age of 16, I see recurring dislocations happening within 3-6 months, if they don't get physical therapy or treatment," said Dr. Small.

Concussions are also another common winter injury that Dr. Small sees in patients and wants parents to be on the lookout for. "Concussions are an important but sometimes confusing winter injury. A concussion is defined as a trauma to the head, neck, shoulder, or chest that results in a series of symptoms, but there must be a cognitive deficit. 95 percent of all concussions occur as a result of trauma to head. The mechanism is that the head whips back during the injury and that injures the brain. The most common symptom is headache. When you hit your head you may have immediate headache and dizziness but there may not be a cognitive feature until one week later. In 90 percent of concussion patients, we see confusion and cognitive deficits right away. Parents need to be aware of the symptoms, and if their child has had a recent head trauma, they should stop skiing or doing any other winter sports until they are evaluated. And parents need to be on the lookout to see if the symptoms arise after a few days.

Neck pain is another symptom to be looking for after a hit to the head or other area after a hard fall. Kids may suffer a compression fracture in the neck bones and should have a X-ray/CT scan taken to assess for a compression fracture or disc herniation.

Dr. Small said that the public is now more aware of concussions than five years ago, but suggested treatments are different. "Some emergency rooms and pediatricians want total brain rest... That will make it worse. We need to decrease screen time on computers and phones, but you can go back to school in one to two days and begin light walking at that time. Too much rest isn't good with a concussion. There should be relative rest and computer breaks and less time on our phone, but no need to shut everything down."

Frostbite is another winter injury to be cautious of. "If the hands or ears are exposed to extreme cold without protection, we see frostbite in our patients. Layering clothing and always wear gloves, mittens and cover your ears and nose. If you get your feet wet while skiing, sleigh riding or skating, change your socks. You don't want to have cold feet outside for long periods of time. Protection of the outer layers of the skin is the best prevention."

Frostbite victims experience poor circulation and are more common with patients that have underlying conditions or are on ADD medication. For those patients, the more exposed they are to the cold, the more their skin can become hypersensitive if not treated. Don't put your body at risk if you are outside for long periods of time, prepare for it by dressing properly."

One myth that Dr. Small wanted to debunk is that helmets prevent concussions. "Helmets don't prevent concussions; they prevent skull fractures. Just look at all the NFL players who experience concussions, they are all wearing helmets."

Dr. Small says the best way to prevent concussions for winter sports athletes is to strengthen your back and neck muscles.

Who is at risk for concussion? "Those who have had a prior concussion, and those with a learning disability and ADD. In addition, this subset of patients, once they have the concussion typically have prolonged symptoms."

Dr. Small said that while many people have been exercising at home for the past 18 months during COVID, "we are seeing some of the same overture injuries because they are jogging and doing push-ups and sit ups at home. We see a lot of stress fractures and tendinitis. People are staying active but in a different way. They are doing the same exercise over and over again."

Dr. Small recommends all parents, "when in doubt come in and have your child see their physician. It's better to hear your doctor say it's not a concussion or a fracture, than to sit on the symptoms for a month. Some of these injuries are hard to detect without an x-ray and if not treated they can get worse."

Dr. Eric Small, MD FAAP, CAQSM is a nationally recognized expert in Primary Care Sports Medicine and Pediatric Sports Medicine at Mount Sinai Doctors. With over 20 years practicing sports medicine exclusively, Dr. Small is the only board certified Pediatric Sports Medicine Physician in Westchester County. His practice focuses on sports injuries and concussion management. As team physician for local high schools and colleges, he sets policy regarding sports injury management and return to play protocols.

Notice of formation of Octopath LLC filed with the SSNY on 11/08/2021. 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, 150 S 10th Ave, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. Purpose: General contracting and handyman services.

**English Bulldog Puppies
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Team “Walk to Victory” Raises \$76,345 for Alzheimer’s Association Hudson Valley

Latimer Sworn in for Second Term as County Executive
Borgia Named County Board Chairperson



Julie Shanus Kivell and Amy Shanus

Team Walk to Victory has raised \$76,345 to date for the 2021 Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer’s, the most they have ever raised for the organization and a record-breaking amount for a family team.

Much of the money was raised at the team’s sixth annual Alzheimer’s Luncheon and Card Party: “Take Me To Provence!” that was held at Brae Burn County Club on Thursday, Oct. 14.

The themed event featured cards and luncheon tables outside, as well as raffles and 14 vendors. Several attendees who have been caregivers for loved ones with Alzheimer’s gave touching and informational speeches.

It was started by Amy Shanus of Chappaqua, New York and her daughters Julie and Maggie, who planned the fundraiser along with event committee members Abby Salzman, Tracey Greenfield, Linda Potash, Lee Leva, Sarene Shanus, Jill Hamburger, Laura Brounstein, Michelle Cohen, Nancy Taub, Amy Kramer, Leslie Gerson, Monica Levy, Jo Rosenfeld, and Karen Spiegel. Each year, the event has a different theme to keep it fresh and new.

“We are so grateful to be able to host this event each year and raise money for a very important cause that is close to our hearts,” said Amy Shanus.

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer’s Association’s Walk to End Alzheimer’s® is the world’s largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s care, support and research. The Westchester Walk was held on Sunday, Oct. 3, at Westchester Community College in Valhalla. To date, it has raised \$602,378. Fundraising will continue through Dec. 31.

To learn more about the programs and services offered locally,

visit alz.org/hudsonvalley.



After leading Westchester County with transparency, fairness and heart for the past four years, Westchester County Executive George Latimer was officially sworn in for his second and final term as County Executive. Latimer took the oath of office alongside Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, during a virtual inauguration ceremony at the Michaelian Office Building in White Plains. Latimer’s Oath was administered by New York State Supreme Court Justice Thomas Quiñones, 9th Judicial District, pictured above.

The Board of Legislators began the 2022-2023 legislative term electing District 9 Leg. Catherine Borgia as Chair, and District 6 Leg. Nancy Barr as Vice Chair, during a special meeting Monday night.

Borgia is only the second woman to serve as Chair, following the late Hon. Lois Bronz, who chaired the Board 20 years ago, in 2002-2003. This is the first time in the Board’s history that women will simultaneously fill both the Chair and Vice Chair posts. Chair Borgia is pictured below, left, with vice-chair Barr right



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