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Judge Rules That Hezi Aris/Yonkers Tribune is NOT A Journalist



Hezi Aris

“We hope this gives pause to all of the so-called journalists out there and that they are put on notice that if they print lies about people, they will be held accountable,”

**Det. Keith Olson
Plaintiff in lawsuit**

By Dan Murphy

A defamation lawsuit filed by three Yonkers Police Officers against the owner of the Yonkers Tribune website raises interesting legal questions, including what journalistic standards should online websites, or publications, be held to?

The suit, filed by Yonkers Police officers John Mueller, (now Commissioner), Det. Keith Olson (PBA President) and Det. Brian Moran, challenged whether Hezi Aris, publisher of the Yonkers Tribune, had any sources for many of the controversial tales he posted on his site, of whether they were made up fiction, with no veracity.

NY Supreme Court Judge Joan Lefkowitz ruled on June 2 that Aris was not a journalist, and as a result not entitled to any of the protections given to journalists regarding protecting their sources. Aris was also ordered to reveal his sources to the three police officers, resulting in an astonishing admission that in many cases, he had no sources for many of the stories he concocted and posted on the Yonkers Tribune.

Ironically, many of Aris’s controversial stories were titled –Blue Truth, and the most salacious, which have been denied by the officers as nonsense, included:

* That Mueller, before he was named Yonkers Police Commissioner “ committed multiple criminal, unethical and immoral acts, inter alia, offering an illegal monetary bribe to a county political leader and state political leader; committing the felony of perjury and maliciously claimed that plaintiff submitted perjured police reports to the YPD; stealing funds from a charity event

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Sen. Schumer Joins STSI at St. John’s Hospital to Fight Black Maternal Health Crisis



Senator Charles Schumer, kneeling, with State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, STSI founder Cheryl Brannon, with St. John’s Hospital staff

Standing at St. John’s Riverside Hospital, where 67% of maternity services are delivered to women on Medicaid or Medicaid Managed Care, surrounded by frontline workers, local officials, and advocates determined to change maternal outcomes among Black women, Sister to Sister International, founder, Cheryl Brannon stood with U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer as he unveiled a comprehensive three-part plan to address the national maternal mortality crisis and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes nationwide and at the only maternity ward in Yonkers at St. John’s Riverside Hospital, in New York’s fourth-largest city.

Sister to Sister International, Inc. (STSI) links women, girls, and families of African descent globally, to the resources that connect, advance, and strengthen them. STSI published a first ever report on the Status of Black Women & Girls in Westchester County in 2019, revealing major health disparities in Black maternal health outcomes compared to their white counterparts. STSI researched the issue further in Westchester County and found that Black women are more likely to deliver babies with low birth weight (12.4%) than white women (6.9%). This trend continues for premature births (8.4% for white women and 12.0% for Black women) and infant mortality (2.1% for white women and 7.8% for Black women).

Moreover, Black women were 2.3 times more likely to experience such complications. In the Hudson Valley, rates of complications were 214 out of 10,000 births. In 2020, New York exceeded the national average for maternal morbidity and maternal mortality.

“We are truly in a state of emergency when it comes to black maternal health outcomes and we need all hands-on deck, therefore STSI is pleased to

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City Carting Employee Charged With Concealing \$135K in Strip Club Payments-\$40K in One Visit!



Christopher Oxer

The manager of a company that provides solid waste removal and recyclables processing for Westchester County and the company itself were arraigned today on charges related to the filing of false financial data with Kroll Associates, a monitor overseeing the company’s contract with the county, Westchester District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced.

City Carting of Westchester receives more than \$20 million annually under its contract with the county. The charged false filings were made in 2018 and 2019 and were meant to conceal payments to strip clubs. The total amount of the false filings charged today comes to \$135,000, including one instance in which \$40,000 was spent in a single visit to one such establishment. The investigation is ongoing.

Christopher Oxer, 35, of Darien, Connecticut, the manager of City Carting of Westchester, and the company itself are charged with six counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a felony. Oxer paid for services at the strip clubs with a City Carting of Westchester credit card, but the expenditures were entered into the company’s accounting records as legitimate business expenses for items such as tires, maintenance, and tolls.

“The Westchester District Attorney’s Office has zero tolerance for public corruption and misuse of public tax dollars by government employees or contractors,” DA Rocah said. “The actions of Christopher Oxer and City Carting of Westchester represent a brazen attempt to rip off county residents by including expenditures for items that clearly are not covered under their contract.”

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Andy Jassy, From Scarsdale, Takes Over for Bezos as Amazon CEO



Andy Jassy

By Dan Murphy

On Jan 5, Andy Jassy became President and CEO of Amazon.com, replacing Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. Jassy, 53, founded and led Amazon Web Services (AWS) from its inception and served as its CEO from April 2016 until July 2021. He joined Amazon in 1997 and, prior to founding AWS, held various leadership roles across the company, including both business-to-business and business-to-consumer.

“Andy is well known inside the company and has been at Amazon almost as long as I have. He will be an outstanding leader, and he has my full confidence,” said Bezos. “As Exec Chair I will stay engaged in important Amazon initiatives but also have the time and energy I need to focus on the Day 1 Fund, the Bezos Earth Fund, Blue Origin, The Washington Post, and my other passions.”

Jassy is a Westchester native, and a 1986 graduate of Scarsdale High School. He has an AB from Harvard University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

In 2014, Jassy came back to Scarsdale High School and spoke with students about the impact the community has had on his success at Amazon.” I had a fantastic experience at Scarsdale High School,” he explained that his AP History teacher Eric Rothchild, “really changed my opinion that year about how I thought of myself as a student and had a big impact on my life.”

Scarsdale Mayor Jane Veron said the village is proud of Jassy, and that he received “the commitment that the Scarsdale community has to education”, and the town’s “commitment to making the world a better place, to educating, and to teach others about different perspectives.”

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“Diversity Train” Arrives at Lakeland Schools; Bold Innovation or Three-Card Monte?

OPED by Stephen Mayo

The Lakeland Central School District (LCSD) at a June 10, 2021 meeting presented an update on its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiative for the 2020-21 year.

Superintendent Brendan Lyons answered questions about the “DEI initiative” including the New York State Culturally Responsive Teaching framework, Critical Race Theory, and concerns about ideological indoctrination. He called the program a “framework,” not a “mandate” or “curriculum.” He said the school board is intent on “revamping the lens” through which schooling is accomplished; but has the case for a radical reinvention of primary education been made?

Traditions of free-speech advocacy in legislatures and other forums have always called for minimal standards of inquiry: a statement of hypothesis or theory, production of empirical evidence in support, adjudication of the issues, and a resolution or decision. The Lakeland educators have offered none of this in justification of their new “framework.”

Where are: specific cases of injustice or bad individual outcomes, a consideration of causes, an open search for solutions? Whatever sources school systems claim as authoritative, the evidence must be clear and compelling. Most significant, the effective basic education of students must be paramount.

The values of diversity, equity and inclusion, and consideration of novel racial theories may be of interest in university faculty lounges, but parents can be expected to ask that school boards direct their attentions to the preparation of children for future intellectual, economic, civic and personal achievement.

Lakeland’s board has failed to explain the urgency of New York state DEI-related lesson goals. In terms of historical background, what wrongs have been inflicted on district students? Are cases of educational failure and personal difficulty attributable to traditional teaching? The district hasn’t said. But rather than dumping a speculative plan on the public, supposed educational objectives might have been better served by simple polling; cable TV presentations, town hall meetings and parent, teacher and student assemblies, or; publication of the curricula on the web and in area weeklies. How about a simple manual on “Increasing Ethnic Outreach in Schools?”

Lakeland educators seem to think that by the simple incantation of complex educational and social science theories, parents, residents, taxpayers and stakeholders will unquestioningly clamor support. A recognition of present realities, however, might have revealed the folly of abruptly fusing radical, untested methodologies onto ordinary lesson plans.

The nation has just emerged from the worst domestic public calamity in over a century. In terms of societal dislocation and disturbance, the pandemic was equal in effect to World War II! So how on earth, does the Lakeland board think ordinary parents will in their conscious moments accept the radical reorganization of traditional public education that it is proposing? By one account, the district focus on diversity has obtained for only “the past couple of months.”

If the board wants to make “revolution” the order of the day in the environs of Cortlandt, and nearby Westchester and Putnam, perhaps it should find a better way to explain itself to a community in which schoolchildren have been confined to their homes for over a year. After all, public schools have a special obligation to the benefit of the general public. If any “framework” is deserving of support, then a full public reviews in order, including a definition of terms and objectives, study groups, and maybe even a public referendum.

The pandemic’s costs to families have been amply reported: limited in-person school attendance, the diversion of home-life space to disruptive remote-teaching, technology upgrades, upheaval to student care and transportation and parents’ work schedules. So, upon what fantastic premises can a “revolution” in primary education “revolution” be justified now? After an unprecedented 15-month suspension of children’s intellectual development, what is most needed today, “immediately if not sooner,” is a comprehensive program of educational and emotional “catch up!”

The Lakeland Central School District seems to comprehend nothing of this emergency. Is it seeking to “change the subject” of public discourse because of a failure of its own confidence? Are district planners distracted by a self-indulgent intellectual frolic? The board ignores, or at the very least, misunderstands the very real concerns of its parents.

Judy McLaughlin, Save our Schools (SOS), Westchester leader pleaded the board to resume the “fundamental education” of the general student population. Eight more parents firmly but calmly insisted that the board address their children’s urgent everyday needs.

The local school system’s arrogant disregard of parent concerns about a revolutionary restructuring of day-to-day lesson planning is deeply troubling. Does Lakeland not understand the complex and compelling stakes of the public education of children? Following the Covid-19 emergency, can the school board not muster just a little bit of compassion for the families affected?

Stephen Mayo, Esq. - Westchester public school parent; President, Mayo Linoleum Works, Port Morris, NY; Board of Directors, Save Our Schools (SOS) for Westchester Children, an organization devoted to supporting traditional American public education.

Editor’s Note: This Op-Ed is the first in our coverage on Critical Race Theory, CRT, in the Westchester County schools. Email us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com to opine.

Westchester Luxury RE Market Shows Double Digit Increases in Q2



21 Stratford Road, Harrison, listed by Houlihan Lawrence for \$11 million

Sales of luxury homes north of NYC in Q2 continued to post double- and triple-digit gains compared to Q2 2020, according to the Houlihan Lawrence Luxury Market Report released today.

Luxury sales in Westchester (\$2 million and higher) rose 174% while luxury sales in the Putnam-Dutchess market (\$1 million and higher) rose 172.7%.

During the second quarter of 2020, the real estate markets in New York and Connecticut were greatly impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently Q2-2021 vs. Q2-2020 percent gains may render a skewed analysis of the luxury markets. A more meaningful comparison is the number of closed sales in the first half of 2021 (post-Covid) vs. first half of 2019 (pre-Covid). In every area north of NYC, the number of luxury sales is higher in the first half of 2021 vs. the same period in 2019, indicating the Covid effect is still impacting the luxury markets.

According to the report, pending sales, which is a forward-looking indicator, provide the most relevant data points to best analyze luxury markets in the northern suburbs. The absorption rate of homes for sale north of NYC is strong. Buyers are motivated and decisive due to limited supply, and competitive bidding is not uncommon. Approximately 30% of luxury sales closed over asking price in Westchester County since the beginning of 2021.

“Some luxury homes are still sitting on the market. Sellers who want to capture the momentum are reducing their price to be more attractive to price-sensitive buyers. The duality of the market – competitive bidding alongside price-sensitive buyers – appears contradictory. However, price is always a primary consideration in real estate decision making. Value has to be displayed even when supply is tight, and often, multiple offers signal to a potential buyer that strong demand now may be a precursor to future strong demand as well,” said Anthony P. Cutugno, Sr. Vice President, Director of Private Brokerage.

Cutugno said increasing vaccination rates and eased restrictions in NYC have led to euphoric feelings of life returning to normal. “The energy has returned and NYC is back on the radar for buyers, an about-face from last year when NYC dwellers fled the city for less densely populated areas. Simultaneously, Wall Street is summoning its employees back to the office, voicing the competitive advantage of interacting and collaborating under one roof. It will be interesting to see how this affects the luxury housing market north of NYC and those buyers who purchased with the intent of commuting less and continuing to work from home more,” he said.

Cutugno concluded, “Market conditions are healthy and all indicators point to more of the same for the remainder of the year. However, we are reminded that the speed with which a collapse occurred in early 2020, and the amazing recovery that followed, are unlike anything in recent history.”

Westchester County Luxury Home Sales /\$2M and Higher-Homes Sold: Up 174%-Median Sale Price: Up 10.6% -Highest Sale Price: \$8,500,000 Scarsdale

For more information visit: <http://www.houlihanlawrence.com>.

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Siena Poll: Cuomo Should Not Run for a Fourth Term

WOULD YOU VOTE TO RE-ELECT GOV. CUOMO?
SIENA COLLEGE POLL



- ▶ **RUN FOR RE-ELECTION: 33%**
- ▶ **FINISH TERM BUT DON'T RUN AGAIN: 39%**
- ▶ **RESIGN IMMEDIATELY: 23%**

Should NY Governor Andrew Cuomo run for a fourth term in 2022? According to a Siena College poll, 62% of voters polled said 'Don't Run Again.'

More important, only 45% of New York Democrats want Cuomo to run again. "Since his poll numbers took a significant hit earlier this year, Cuomo's favorability, job performance and re-elect ratings have remained largely stable the last few months. But 16 months from the next gubernatorial election and less than a year from the primary, only one-third of New Yorkers – including just 43 percent of Democrats – think Cuomo should run for re-election," said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

When New York voters were asked what they would like Governor Andrew Cuomo to do, 23 percent say he should resign immediately, 39 percent say he should serve out his term but not seek re-election, and 33 percent say he should continue to serve and run for re-election. Separately, 35 percent say they are prepared to re-elect Cuomo if he runs, while 56 percent would prefer 'someone else' (from 37-53 percent last month), according to a new Siena College poll of registered New York State voters.

Overall, voters approve of Cuomo's handling of the pandemic, 51-32 percent. Specifically, voters say Cuomo did a good job on managing vaccines (66-20 percent), keeping New Yorkers informed (60-27 percent), and reopening the state (54-33 percent). However, voters say Cuomo did a bad job, 60-22 percent, addressing questions about his handling of nursing homes. Cuomo's 45-47 percent favorability rating is little changed from 44-48 percent last month. His job performance rating is negative 41-56 percent, from 42-55 percent in May.

Greenburgh added that "Twenty-seven percent of white voters want to see him run again, as do 40 percent of Latinos and a majority, 52 percent, of Black voters."

The question for New York Democrats is, if not Cuomo then who? The Siena poll also asked about NY Attorney General Letitia James, who has a 34-21 percent favorability, with 45 percent having never heard of her or not knowing enough to have an opinion.

A possible list of NY Democrats includes James, Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, Westchester State Senator Alessandra Biaggi, New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.

Stormy Weather



By Eric Schoen

What is going on with the weather we have been experiencing recently? Have you ever seen so many baseball games called on account of inclement weather? The double header featuring 7 inning games? Whose brilliant idea was that?

A separate admission double header featuring a 7 inning game. You don't get your money's worth. This phenomenon was introduced in the middle of the Covid pandemic. Now that it's over, let's bring back 9 inning games, including double headers. By the way the single admission double header is a treat to the fans. After what they want through over the last 15 months they certainly deserve it.

It's good to see so many people back in the stands. People want to get out of the house after being cooped up for so long. But this weather we have been having. What's up?

Did you see the picture of the crazy lady practically swimming through the water to get her subway train. Down the steps, into the murky waters up to her chest, trying to get to a subway that clearly because of the water in the station wasn't getting there. What possesses someone to do what that lady did? Was she trying to prove to her boss that she did everything in her power to get to work?

On the one hand as a boss you like someone dedicated to wade their way through waters to be on time for their job. On the other hand you must question her sanity. Not only was she not going to get her train but that disgusting, dirty water she trod through? I would worry more about picking up a virus from that muddy water than getting Covid 19.

An article in a New York newspaper said that New York City subways are not prepared for global warming. People are so funny when they discuss global warming. You have three 90 degree plus days and global warming is upon us. Never mind the next day is in the 60's and 70's. Come to think of it have you seen Al Gore lately?

Hurricane season was something experienced in Florida, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas but not in our areas. Tornados? That's something Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz experienced. Thunder and lightning seems more plentiful, and you better have an umbrella and a light jacket in the the car to protect yourself.

I'll leave the determination as to what is or isn't global warming to someone with a little more atmospheric knowledge than I have. Prepare for everything as you never know these days what to expect. On to some other topics of the day!

The Surfside Florida Collapse

How many buildings throughout Westchester are over 40 years old. We hear the phrase 'pre-war' buildings. That phrase usually refers to buildings built between 1900 and 1939. Those buildings are over 80 years old. Do we

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A Diverse Workforce for a Diverse County



Dr. Dial Hewitt and his colleagues in the Westchester County Department of Health have been on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic for the past year, working exhausting hours and putting their own health and safety on the line to serve others.

Despite the risks and the challenges they face, the Department's doctors, nurse practitioners, public health nurses, lab techs and support staff remain firmly committed to their mission: protecting the health and safety of the people of Westchester.

"You go into this field because you care about people and you get gratification from helping them," said Hewlett, who is board certified in Internal Medicine and in the sub specialty of Infectious Diseases.

"I am fortunate and blessed to work with such dedicated professionals," he said of his colleagues at WCDOH. Most recently, he has been helping oversee the County's vaccination clinic on Court Street in White Plains.

Hewlett noted that Westchester was ground zero for the Covid-19 pandemic, where an outbreak occurred in New Rochelle.

The virus spread through houses of worship, congregate care settings and other locations – and the Health Department staff mobilized swiftly to respond.

"They were willing to put their lives on the line when we didn't know very much about this disease," Hewlett said of the entire Health Department team. "Whatever we have asked of them, they do it."

Dr. Hewlett has also been involved in outreach to Westchester's minority communities to provide "accurate, scientific information" and encourage people of color to get vaccinated. He said he hopes to alleviate the hesitation of some Black and Latino residents to get the vaccine.

The executive team at the Health Department has been praised for its leadership during the pandemic, including: Dr. Sherlita Amler, commissioner; Renee Recchia, first deputy commissioner; Dr. Hewlett; Dr. Marisa Montecalvo, Dr. Ada Huang and Lori Smittle, PhD (doctor of nursing).

To receive notifications of all upcoming civil service exams, people can sign up to receive email notifications at <https://exams.westchestergov.com/webexam/emailSubscription/subscribe.htm>.

NYAG James Helps Shut Down Purdue Pharma: Secures \$4.5 Billion From Sackler Family for Role In Opioid Crisis



New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced a resolution of her lawsuit against the Sackler family and their company, Purdue Pharma, for their role in fueling the opioid crisis. The agreement will, first and foremost, shut down Purdue Pharma and end the Sackler family's ability to manufacture opioids ever again. The agreement will also deliver one of the largest payments that individuals and entities they control have paid to resolve a law enforcement action in U.S. history — more than \$4.5 billion will be paid to fund prevention, treatment, and recovery programs in communities across the country. Additionally, the agreement will make public tens of millions of documents related to the company and the family's roles in igniting the opioid crisis — requiring unprecedented disclosure about the role Purdue and the Sacklers played in hooking Americans on opioids.

“For nearly two years, since Purdue Pharma declared bankruptcy, the company and the Sackler family have used every delay tactic possible and misused the courts — all in an effort to shield their misconduct,” said Attorney General James. “While this deal is not perfect, we are delivering \$4.5 billion into communities ravaged by opioids on an accelerated timetable and it gets one of the nation's most harmful drug dealers out of the opioid business, once and for all. We'll be able to more quickly invest these funds in prevention, education, and treatment programs, and put an end to the delays and legal maneuvering that could possibly continue for years and across multiple continents. While no amount of money will ever compensate for the thousands who lost their lives or became addicted to opioids across our state or provide solace to the countless families torn apart by this crisis, these funds will be used to prevent any future devastation.”

The resolution of the lawsuit — which was filed in bankruptcy court late last night and is subject to approval — requires the Sacklers to pay \$4.325 billion over the next nine years, with New York state expected to receive at least \$200 million, and possibly more, for abatement of the opioid epidemic. Thousands of individual victims of Purdue's misconduct will also receive compensation as part of the bankruptcy process. Additionally, the resolution requires the Sacklers to relinquish control of family foundations — which will hold no less than \$175 million in assets — to the trustees of a contemplated National Opioid Abatement Trust dedicated to abating the opioid crisis, thus increasing the total being delivered to communities nationwide to more than \$4.5 billion. Further, the Sackler family will be prohibited from requesting or permitting any new naming rights in connection with charitable or similar donations or organizations for the next nine years.

Moreover, the resolution shines a spotlight on the activities of Purdue and the Sacklers by making public more than 30 million documents, including privileged communications about the original Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of OxyContin, as well as all documents relating to the manufacturing, sale, or marketing of opioids in the United States. Purdue will also waive its attorney-client privilege to reveal confidential communications with its lawyers about tactics used for pushing opioids, “pill mill” doctors and pharmacies diverting drugs, and about the billions of dollars Purdue paid out to the Sacklers. Specifically, Purdue will turn over for public disclosure the evidence from lawsuits and investigations of Purdue over the past 20 years, including deposition transcripts, deposition videos, and 13 million documents. Purdue will also be required to turn over more than 20 million additional documents, including every non-privileged email at Purdue that was sent or received by every member of the Sackler family who sat on the Board or worked at the company.

In March 2019, Attorney General James filed the nation's most extensive lawsuit to hold accountable the various manufacturers and distributors responsible for the opioid crisis. The manufacturers named in the complaint included Purdue Pharma and its affiliates; members of the Sackler Family and trusts they control; Janssen Pharmaceuticals and its affiliates (including its parent company Johnson & Johnson); Mallinckrodt LLC and its affiliates; Endo Health Solutions and its affiliates; Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. and its affiliates; and Allergan Finance, LLC and its affiliates. The distributors named in the complaint are McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health Inc., Amerisource Bergen Drug Corporation, and Rochester Drug Cooperative Inc.

The cases against Mallinckrodt and Rochester Drug Cooperative are now in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. A settlement that ended Johnson & Johnson's sale of opioids nationwide and delivered \$230 million to New York alone was announced less than two weeks ago. The trial against all other defendants is currently underway.

Separately, earlier this year, in February, Attorney General James co-lead a coalition of nearly every attorney general in the nation in delivering more than \$573 million — more than \$32 million of which was earmarked for New York state — toward opioid treatment and abatement in an agreement and consent judgment with McKinsey & Company

News 12's Tara Rosenblum Gets Interview With Jill Biden's Ex, Who Claims Affair With Kathie Durst Before Her Disappearance-Murder



Bill Stephenson

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to news 12 reporter Tara Rosenblum for getting an exclusive interview with Bill Stephenson, ex-husband of first lady Joe Biden. Stephenson reveals in the interview that he had an affair with Kathie Durst, was married to the infamous Robert Durst when she disappeared from her Northern Westchester home in 1982.

Stephenson believes, like many others, that Robert Durst killed his wife Kathie. But perhaps the greatest take away from the interview is that Stephenson, while married to Jill Biden, spent a three-day weekend with Kathie and Robert Durst in 1974. While the couples retreat occurred eight years before the disappearance/murder, it is both notable, interesting and creepy that the first lady of the United States spent a long weekend with one of the most disturbing individuals of our time.

The interview can be viewed at <https://westchester.news12.com/turn-to-tara-exclusive-jill-bidens-ex-husband-alleges-affair-with-kathie-durst-before-her-disappearance>

Bill Stevenson, was married to the first lady from 1970 to 1975. During the interview, Stevenson expresses remorse at the disappearance and murder of his former lover, saying that he believes the affair between the two “absolutely” had something to do with Durst “flying off the deep end” and allegedly killing his wife.

Why Did Facebook Temporarily Disable Yorktown Police Department's Page?



Yorktown Police Officer Joyce “Pags” Pagliuca at recent Grange Fair truck show, from the YPD Facebook page

Yorktown Police officials got an unpleasant surprise on July 7 when they discovered that their Facebook page was disabled for almost 24 hours. The disruption of service came to the department's attention when the police received a message from Facebook that the page was unpublished. On Thursday morning, Facebook restored the department's with no explanation for the temporary outage.

“We were given the option to request a review and we did. No specific reason was provided, and we have no idea why this happened,” said Police Chief Robert Noble.

On Wednesday, the Town Board sent a letter to Facebook asking that the police's Facebook page be restored. “The suspension of this account without any notice or explanation has hampered the police department's ability to communicate with our residents and this comes on the heels of a severe storm that left thousands of people without power last night into this morning,” stated the Town Board's letter. “On behalf of our residents we demand the account be restored immediately.”

Once the YPD's account was restored, they joked about it on their page, with a reference from the movie Animal House

“For reasons unbeknownst to us, the Yorktown Police Department Facebook Page was unpublished roughly 24 hours ago. After a requested review, we have triumphantly returned. We might be on double secret probation, but our page should be available if you're so inclined to view. For the conspiracy theorists, gasoline on the fire or just friendly curious minds out there, our time spent in the unpublished zone is a mystery to us. For those who took up our cause, thank you! Let's have a safe Thursday out there. We're keeping an eye on Elsa and also reminding yooz to lock those unattended vehicles. Thus far, looks like a soaker overnight. Anything changes that is of serious concern, we'll publish. Remain calm.....all is well ;)”

While we have seen a few of our friends have their accounts suspended temporarily, or longer, we wonder who it was who made the decision to suspend the YPD account, and stories and photos like the one above. We can verify that it is truly an officer with the Yorktown Police Department, and not a foreign Bot account.

Westchester Rising

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Congressman Jones Calls on Biden Administration to Return “Unjustly Deported Individuals”



Rep. Mondaire Jones

With hundreds of thousands of undocumented, or illegal immigrants, crossing the US-Mexico border, on July 7, Westchester Congressman Mondaire Jones led 30 members of the Congressional Black Caucus in calling on the Biden Administration to return individuals unjustly deported from the United States. In their letter to President Biden and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, the lawmakers point out that the vast majority of unjust deportations have targeted Black and brown immigrants, and call on the Administration to establish a centralized process to evaluate and authorize returns going forward.

“For decades, the U.S. immigration system has deported hundreds of thousands of individuals, permanently separating them from their loved ones and communities,” write the lawmakers. “In some cases, people were deported despite having strong legal grounds for being permitted to remain. In other cases, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) abused its considerable discretion to decide whether, and when, to order deportations. All unjust deportations separate families, destabilize communities, and undermine public safety and public health.”

The lawmakers go on to highlight the stories of several individuals who have been unjustly deported, including Paul Pierrilus, a constituent of Rep. Jones who was unjustly deported to Haiti earlier this year despite not being a Haitian citizen and never having been to Haiti previously. Jones was initially able to halt Pierrilus’s deportation, only for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to deport him weeks later.

“For children growing up without their parents, single mothers and fathers struggling to cope with the loss of their life partners, and communities robbed of beloved members, each day that passes without justice is a day too many,” the lawmakers conclude. “Building trust between the U.S. government and Black and brown communities devastated by decades of unjust deportations must begin with providing a meaningful opportunity for families and communities to be made whole again. We cannot wait to welcome everyone unjustly deported from our communities back home.”

“Establishing a centralized process to review unjust deportations and give people a meaningful chance to come home is a necessary step toward redressing the racial injustices of the U.S. immigration system under previous administrations,” Nayna Gupta, associate director of policy, National Immigrant Justice Center. “The National Immigrant Justice Center is grateful for the leadership of Congressman Jones and members of the Congressional Black Caucus as they stand in solidarity with immigrant communities seeking to reunite with their unjustly deported loved ones.”

MDG Design + Construction is currently seeking construction Section 3 eligible applicants for a moderate rehabilitation project, Calcagno Homes Located in Yonkers, NY.

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Section 3 residents are:

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For more Section 3 information: <https://www.hud.gov/section3>

Eligible applicants must have an active Osha 30 card. If interested in applying, please send a resume with the position desired to:

Jeffrey Goritz; jgoritz@mdgny.com

Byrne Passes Legislation to Help Move Forward Renewable Energy Project



Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater, left, with Assemblyman Kevin Byrne

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne is pleased to announce the passage of legislation he authored (A07590A) to allow the Town of Yorktown to lease town property for a renewable energy project. Specifically, this change will permit the town to lease a portion of land on the Granite Knolls Sports & Recreation Complex to HESP Solar for the construction of a solar canopy, energy storage system, and four electric vehicle-charging stations.

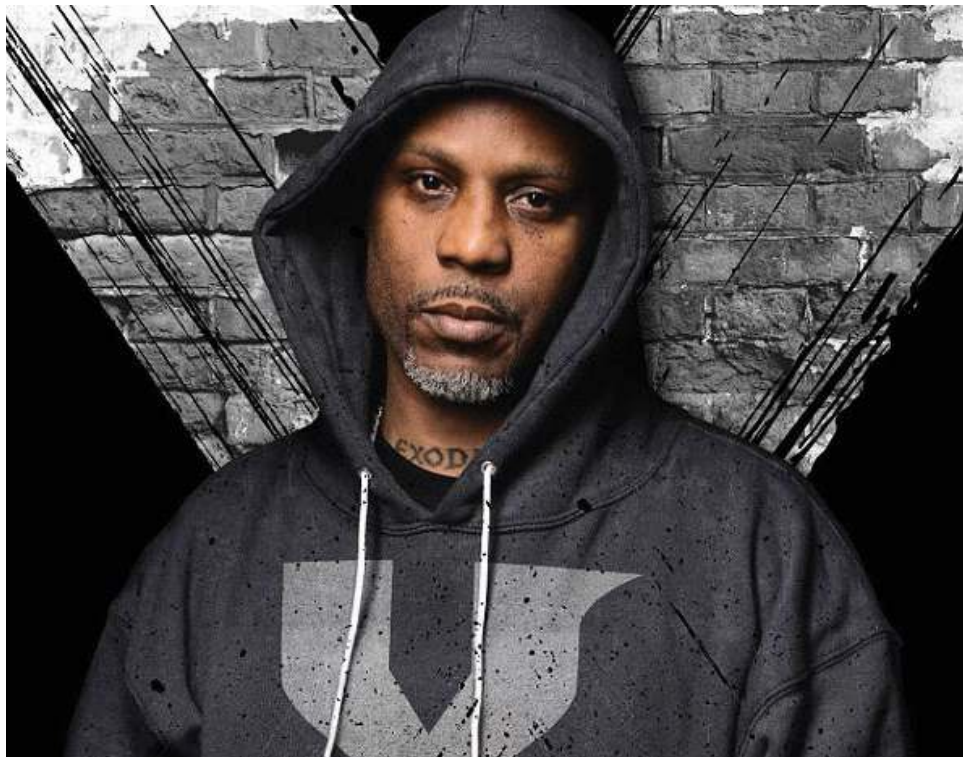
“The passage of this bill is the result of a lot of hard work from our colleagues in local and state government,” said Byrne. “By passing this enabling legislation, we are able to support this important project with both the town and HESP Solar, providing great potential to positively serve the town and its residents financially and environmentally for years to come.”

Town of Yorktown Supervisor Matthew Slater added, “This legislation enables Yorktown to proceed with a milestone renewable energy project at our Granite Knolls Sports Complex. This project with HESP will serve the environment by installing a solar energy canopy, battery storage and electric vehicle charges all of which will generate critical revenue for our Parks and Recreation Department without putting the burden on local taxpayers. We thank our partners on the State level for making this happen.”

Since joining the New York State Assembly in 2017, Assemblyman Byrne has introduced and passed 21 bills, all with sweeping bipartisan support. Sixteen of which have already been signed into law by the governor.

The Senate version of this bill (S06553), carried by Senator Peter Harkham, passed the Senate earlier this year and now awaits the signature of Governor Cuomo to become law.

DMX Died of “Cocaine Induced Heart Attack;” Yonkers Memorial With Mural at Housing Complex Where He Grew Up



Vulture.com, New York magazines culture website, wrote on July 8 that according to sources at the Westchester County medical examiner’s office, rapper DMX died from a cocaine-induced heart attack. Vulture reporter Victoria Bekiempis writes “DMX6 officially died from a cocaine-induced heart attack that caused a lack of blood circulation to his brain, a source from the Westchester County medical examiner’s office told Vulture. “It was cardiac arrest for a period of time, so there was no circulation to the brain,” the source said, later explaining that acute cocaine intoxication had “caused this chain of events.”

DMX, who grew up in the projects of Yonkers, died on April 9 at the age of 50. He was hospitalized on April 2 with some reports claiming a drug overdose. He remained in a vegetative state until his death on April 9.

According to the Vulture report, the claims of a drug overdose are true. It is very uncommon for causes of death to be leaked from the Westchester County medical examiner’s office before a final report and autopsy are presented to the public.

In Yonkers, a memorial mural will be unveiled on July 13 at the Calcagno homes, the housing project where DMX once lived. Artist Floyd Simmons, a.k.a. 90°, and artist Ray Wilcox, executive director of Yonkers Arts, will unveil the mural at that time. The residence at Calcagno had asked for a memorial to their most famous former resident.

The leak from the Medical Examiner’s Office also added that the cause of death was based upon documentation furnished by medical professionals and police, and that an autopsy was not performed.

A new DMX song, “X Moves” was passed humorously released on the day of his passing. In May, a new full album “Exodus,” was released, and was supposed to be the major comeback set of tunes from the legendary rapper.

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Notice of formation of Daphne Cuts, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/10/2021. 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, 59 Fairmont Ave, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of The Vision Junkie 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 The Vision Junkie LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C., Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of SaucyGuava, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/21/2021. 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, 332 Palisade Ave Apt C1, Yonkers, NY 10703-2918. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of iFantasy, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the SSNY on 6/8/2021. 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, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228 . Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of THE LAST PACK LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/05/2021. Office: Westchester County, New York. SSNY has been designated as Agent of the LLC upon whom the process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, Joseph A. Candelario 74 Radford Ave., Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of Capital Efficient Strategies LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on May 10, 2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 128 Fuller Road Briarcliff Manor NY 10510. Purpose: any lawful act or activity

Notice of Formation of Pumpkin Vine Publishing, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 6/11/21. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Pumpkin Vine Publishing LLC, 22 Boulder Trail, Bronxville, New York 10708. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of MJV Construction LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/29/2021. Office location: 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, 455 Tarrytown Road, Mailbox 1135, White Plains, NY 10607. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF SALE**SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company, a/k/a M&T Bank, successor by merger with Hudson City Savings Bank,
Plaintiff
AGAINST
Nigel B. Kelly a/k/a Nigel Kelly a/k/a Nigel Brian Kelly, Defendant(s)

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated November 4, 2020 I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction in Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, New York on July 23, 2021 at 9:30AM, premises known as 221 Betsy Brown Road, Rye Brook, NY 10573. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Village of Rye Brook, Town of Rye, County of Westchester, State of NY, Section 135.44 Block 1 Lot 12. Approximate amount of judgment \$956,569.17 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 50722/2019. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the Ninth Judicial District.

Ralph D. Amicucci, Esq., Referee

LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC
Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff
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Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

have laws that mandate periodic structural assessments of those buildings?

Are these assessments, if they are done handled by government agencies or coordinated privately by local building owners? Are they reviewed by coop or condo boards, and is it mandated that the information contained in the reports be provided to the owners?

Everyone who was an owner of a unit in the Surfside, Florida collapse was well aware that there were problems with the buildings. They heard of \$100,000 assessments to address the problems that existed, and coughing up that kind of money just wasn't possible for many owners. A large residential building was being built next to the collapsed building, and its' owners offered something like \$400,000 to the owners of the fallen building if they wouldn't challenge the new construction. When a building needs \$12 million in repairs, \$400,000 is simply a drop in the bucket.

The point of this story is to remind those of you who live in pre-war buildings and buildings newer than that to have periodic inspections of your buildings and their structural integrity. What is to say that something like occurred in Surfside, Florida could not occur around here. Granted we don't have as many high rises on top of the ocean like Florida has (everyone wants that ocean view and smell of fresh ocean air) but when you see these new buildings both residential and commercial going up in record time, you wonder how long these buildings are going to last.

There are 2 types of people on coop and condo boards. Those that are retired and are around a lot. They keep their eyes on the property and bring to the attention of those in charge issues of concern. Then there are the young whippersnappers who have never managed anything before and want to show off their potential. I think a lot of people are going to have second thoughts after Florida about sitting on the Board of any organization that manages property people have to live or work in.

Briefs: The Board that governs the New York State Thruway Authority is talking about rebuilding many of the plazas where people dine, stretch their legs and take a leak. Many in the LGBT community are questioning the addition of Chick-fil-A to the plazas as the company has donated to anti-LBGT causes. I'm no fan of Chick-fil-A to begin with, but anyone who knows the chain knows they are closed on Sundays. Isn't that a pretty busy travel day for a roadside restaurant to be closed?

Controversy in New Rochelle regarding building a drive thru Starbucks close to a residential housing complex. Car emissions. Having been through enough Starbucks drive thru locations in my lifetime, I never saw emissions from cars as being a problem. Would the residents rather have an empty eyesore?

A friend wanted to go to Niagara Falls. I said now is not the time to go because the border to Canada is closed. If you have been to Niagara Falls you know the better view is on the Canadian side. So when is Canada going to open the border to American citizen tourists? This is one of the most bizarre things to occur during the pandemic. It's got to be having a real financial impact on both sides of the border!

Maybe someone in Washington read last week's article. The security fencing has been removed around the Capital in Washington, D.C. Maybe soon Americans will get to visit their legislators in the offices.

Glad to see so many young people getting their COVID-19 vaccines at the CVS over the weekend. With the Delta Variant out there New York City announced at press time that COVID cases are going up in areas where people are not vaccinated. Everyone who has not been vaccinated has his or her own reason. And I must admit with news like a small number of people who got the J & J vaccine getting Guillain Barre' syndrome people are as worried as they have ever been. But despite this, it still is important to get vaccinated for you, your loved ones and society.

One in three nursing home staffers not vaccinated. In Pennsylvania inmates are getting vaccinated but prison guards are not. Scary stuff!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisonkers@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.

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Defamation suit Hezi, continued from pg 1-

and diverting the stolen money for his own illegitimate purposes; harassing and employing intimidation tactics against other members of the department to further his own future ambitions; improperly hosting a ‘beer party’ in his police precinct in violation of departmental rules.”

The alleged bribe to a county leader came at a lunch, that never occurred. Hezi wrote that Mueller and Olson attended the lunch with County Executive George Latimer and a State Senator that Hezi cursed at in his story. .Aris characterized the lunch as an attempt by Mueller and Olson to get Mueller the Westchester County Police Commissioners post, but in fact never happened.

The other claims made against Mueller also never happened, including the Blue Truth story that Olson and Mueller collected \$30,000 from an annual Toughman charity boxing event, and that \$30,000 in cash was donated to the School for Special Needs Children, and given to Len Spano, director of the school, in cash.

Aris also falsely wrote that Olson and Mueller “were complicit in the death of a police officer by denying him medical leave and subjecting him to increased risk of contracting COVID-19,” and that Olson “used city employees and resources to complete personal tasks in violation of the penal law and city including performing work at his home,” and that Olson “routinely drives while intoxicated.”

The sources:

Aris was ordered to reveal his sources to the police officers and the court. Last year, Aris told Yonkers Rising that he would “never, never, never” reveal his sources, revealed two sources to the court: Yonkers Police Detective Ray Montero and former Police Commissioner Charles Gardner. Montero had long been rumored as one of Hezi’s source, but the name of Gardner was a surprise to many including this reporter and will become a shocking revelation to many in Yonkers City Hall and at Yonkers Police Headquarters when this story is shared around the city.

While Hezi claimed in his initial court documents that he had other sources, in a subsequent court document he claims that only Montero and Gardner were his sources and that they had corroborated many of his fictitious postings.

Officers Mueller, Olson, and Moran, through their attorney Andrew Quinn, asked for the original sources of the false stories, resulting in Hezi, through his attorney, Michael Sussman, that he had no original sources, leading to only one conclusion-that the story were not true and made up.

The Deposition:

Police Officers Mueller, Olson and Moran were able to get Aris to sit for an 8 hour deposition, which is described by Judge Lefkowitz in her decision as follows:“During his deposition on March 29, 2021 Aris testified that he never took any journalism courses, he read approximately 10 books about journalism but was unable to recall their names or authors, he is not a member of a professional journalism organization, he was issued press credentials approximately 20 years ago by the now former Yonkers Police Department Commissioner Charles Gardner, that he no longer has those press credentials, and that he was provided those credentials without providing proof that he was a journalist. He further testified that he works for the Tribune which he created about 20 years ago, the Tribune does not have a board of directors, the Tribune does not have any employees other than Aris, the Tribune is without any assets and has only generated revenue in 2020 and 2021 from advertising but that he was not paid by the Tribune. He testified that he has not been paid for almost 20 years and any revenue made by HMI and the Tribune has been reinvested in the companies. He testified that the Tribune is not insured. He testified that he is the only author of the Blue Truth article series for the Tribune and that he is the editor and publisher of the Tribune. He testified that he destroys notes and emails from confidential sources because he is concerned about retribution for his sources. He testified that “[a]ll of my sources are anonymous” and refused to reveal the sources of information relied upon by him in writing articles “because there is retribution in Yonkers.”

“Aris also stated that he did not know the identity of those who commented on his articles, nor could he produce their registrations or IP addresses. He further stated that to the extent that information exists defendants’ webmaster is the only person with access to that information,” writes Lefkowitz.

After the deposition, the plaintiffs argued that Hezi’s failure to identify his sources impeded their ability to present their case. Protecting the identity of a journalist’s sources is protected in New York State by the “Shield Law,” but based on Hezi’s answers, (that he has never been paid by the Yonkers Tribune, that he has no press credentials, and that he does not print an actual newspaper), plaintiffs argued that Hezi was not in fact a journalist.

Judge Lefkowitz writes, “Plaintiffs contend that defendants are unable to invoke the Shield Law to protect their sources because defendants are neither journalists nor a qualifying news agency under the Shield Law. Plaintiffs argue that the Shield Law applies only to professional journalists as defined by the statute. They argue that Aris is not a professional journalist pursuant to this statute because he does not engage in news gathering for gain or livelihood, he is not and has never been a regular employee of a newspaper or news agency as a journalist, and the Tribune does not meet the criteria of a newspaper or news agency that collects and supplies news to subscribing outlets,” writes Judge Lefkowitz, who concluded in her decision that

“Defendants have failed to establish that the Tribune or HMI fall into one of the news entity categories as defined by the statute. Defendants have admitted that the Tribune is published online and therefore it does not qualify as a newspaper which by the statute’s definition “is printed”. Additionally, there has been no proffer by defendants that it has a paid circulation which is required to be deemed a newspaper or magazine under the statute. Nor have defendants argued, let alone provided evidence that the defendant entities are “news agencies,” “press associations”, or “wire services” as defined by the statute. Other than Aris’ own self-serving statements that he is a journalist, defendants have also failed to show his entitlement to invoke the Shield Law privilege.”

“As reflected by his deposition testimony, he admittedly is not engaged in the activities of the Tribune for gain or livelihood but lives off his savings. He has failed to demonstrate that he is paid by the defendant entities or that he is a regular employee of or otherwise professionally affiliated for gain or livelihood by them. And as previously noted, defendants have failed to show that the Tribune and HMI are qualifying news entities under whose umbrella Aris could invoke the Shield Law privilege.”

The lawsuit has yet to be concluded, but so far that it is safe to say that the decision by Lefkowitz, and the revelation of his sources, or lack thereof, have not gone well for the Publisher of the Yonkers Tribune.

If this case continues on its present course, Hezi will be found guilty of defamation, and the court will impose damages. The three police officers are suing for a combined \$17 Million. Because of his First Amendment right to freedom of expression, Aris can continue to publish the Yonkers Tribune even if he is found guilty of the defamation of Mueller, Olson and Moran. There is no mechanism to make him cease operations.

But if he did in fact fabricate many of the Blue Truth stories, he should not be trusted by his readers and the people of Yonkers. “This lawsuit has always been about what is right and what is wrong. No one should be able to write defamatory lies about people without an honest attempt of verifying the information. We are glad to see this lawsuit move forward, and we look forward to a positive outcome. We hope this gives pause to all of the so-called journalists out there and that they are put on notice that if they print lies about people, they will be held accountable,” said Olson.

New Amazon CEO Jassy, continued from pg 1-

Jassy’s father was an attorney in a New York City law firm, while his mother was a homemaker. “You never got away with telling a story without being interrupted constantly with questions about the details or decisions you made,” said Jassy about his family’s dinner table.

A teenage Andy Jassy was a good tennis player and was more of a jock than a geek. “School was a bit of a game to me.” A love of sports came to Jassy before Amazon. He worked at ABC and Fox in the hopes of becoming a sportscaster. He also worked for a collectibles company and helped create a startup company before returning to Harvard Business School and eventually Amazon. His path can be a lesson to all that you don’t have to succeed at your first career choice.

One of his first jobs with Amazon was in the music business, which suited Jassy’s love of music, bands, and songwriters. Hard work and long hours were what caught Bezos’ eye on Jassy, and in the early 2000’s, Bezos asked Jassy to shadow his work for eighteen months, after which Bezos essentially named Jassy a possible successor, naming him “one of our most high potential people,” because Jassy told Bezos was not afraid to tell the Chairman the truth.

Jassy is known to have a photographic memory, and an encyclopedic knowledge of sports music and movies. Inside Amazon, Jassy is known as one of the nicer executives, but it was Jassy’s leadership of AWS, Amazon’s cloud service, that sealed his ascension to become CEO and replace Bezos.

Jassy’ claim to fame at Amazon is his leadership of AWS, Amazon’s cloud service, now a \$50 Billion a year business on its own. “So very quietly around 2000, we became a services company with really no fanfare,” said Jassy who explored and experimented with Bezos before launching its first cloud product in 2006.

Today, AWS is Amazon’s most profitable components, making up almost two-thirds of the companies’ profits. Amazon now controls more of the cloud market than Microsoft and Google combined. Amazon, under Jassy’ leadership, has made it easier for companies to use AWS than build their own cloud operations. AWS clients include Netflix, the CIA, and the Democratic National Committee.

Jassy has also underscored the importance of Amazon doing its part to address systemic racism. AWS, under Jassy’s leadership has been the target of lawsuits from former employees who sued claiming racial and gender discrimination. “We’re working on it at Amazon. It’s going to take several years of us working together, but we need to do it. The reality is for the last several hundred years, the way we treated Black people in this country is disgraceful and something that has to change.”

Bezos never seemed to care about the public perception of what Amazon was doing in philanthropy, once telling the Seattle Times that Amazon’s commitment comes from providing paychecks and jobs to its employees, and that customers benefitted from Amazon’s products and services.

Ten years ago, the Seattle Times wrote an article critical of the lack of philanthropy coming from Amazon. Bezos defiantly told the paper that his company provided jobs and paychecks to the public, and that his company was also a benefit to its customers.

Jassy has taken more of a welcoming embrace of social justice issues than Bezos, starting in 2011 when he reached out to Rainer Scholars, a nonprofit that helps people of color get through college. Jassy explained that he had a fortunate upbringing in Scarsdale and wanted to give back. He serves on Rainier’s board and has created an intern-employee pipeline into Amazon.

In September, he tweeted publicly about accountability for the killing of Breonna Taylor, and he’s been outspoken in his support for the Black Lives Matter movement and LGBTQ issues. Jassy has also been involved in Amazon’s decision to ban social media platform Parler after the Jan. 6- US Capitol riot.

For the past ten years, Jassy has been the face of Amazon at tech conferences and industry events. “It’s really hard to build a business that sustains for a long period of time. To do it, you’re going to reinvent yourself, and often you’re going to have to reinvent yourself many times over. “You want to be reinventing when you’re healthy. You want to be reinventing all the time,” said Jassy at one of the many online conferences held during COVID.

Like any corporate giant CEO, Jassy is known for his exhaustive work practices. “He will be just as ambitious and bold as Jeff has been, if not more so,” said Jennifer Cast, who hired Jassy at Amazon in 1997.

Back to the Scarsdale HS interview in 2014, when asked who inspires him, Jassy said, “My boss Jeff Bezos. He is the most brilliant thinker I know, he is unbelievably creative, has technical acumen and unusual empathy for the customer. He quickly got to the heart of an issue and added value. He is not set in his ways, does not rest on his laurels, is optimistic about change and does not believe there is a glass ceiling on what we can do.”

One word of wisdom for high school students from Jassy came when he was asked what he wished he knew then that he knows now. “I wish I knew then that trying to be cool or popular was overrated,” and that “a hunger to always learn” is something he wished he knew as a student in Westchester.

Jassy, who like Bezos, has become uber wealthy with the rise of Amazon, still lives in a modest Seattle home he bought with his wife Elana Caplan, in 2009. They have to kids, ages 17 and 20.

City Carting, Strip Clubs, continued from pg 1-

Under a contract with the county that has been in place since 2004, City Carting of Westchester operates transfer stations; operates and maintains a materials recovery facility for recyclables and hauls recyclables to that facility from certain locations in the county; and provides landfill capacity and other services relating to solid waste removal.

Per an agreement with the county, the monitor, Kroll Associates, ensures that City Carting of Westchester complies with criminal and civil laws and is not under the influence of organized crime. City Carting of Westchester and Oxer were arraigned before Judge John Collins, Jr. in White Plains City Court.

The case was investigated by the DA’s Office and is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Celia Curtis and Steven Vandervelden.

An attorney for City Carting, Bruno Gioffre told CBSNY, “From what our investigation has entailed and what we know, City Carting of Westchester, the actual company, did nothing here. I can’t speak on behalf of Christopher Oxer.”

Oxer faces up to five years in prison.

There’s always something happening on WVOX!



Senator Schumer, with State Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, St. John's Hospital staff and STSI members

Schumer, STSI, continued from pg 1-

partner with US Senate Leader Chuck Schumer, NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, St. John's Riverside Hospital, Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network, Birth from the Earth, Westchester County government, along with various community partners using a collective impact approach to improve outcomes" said Cheryl Brannan, STSI founder.

During the press conference U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, said "The bottom line is that Black women in New York are at an increased risk of complications, injury and worse related to childbirth and that is just not acceptable. The U.S., is falling behind the rest of the developed world when it comes to maternal health outcomes, including right here in New York, irrevocably and unconscionably altering families, communities and failing thousands of children who lose their mothers in preventable circumstances."

Leader Schumer unveiled a comprehensive three-part plan to address the national maternal mortality crisis and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes nationwide and at St. John's Riverside Hospital, the only maternity unit in Yonkers - New York's fourth-largest city.

Schumer said that in the upcoming recovery packages he will first fight to secure major investments found in Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021. Second, he will push to make permanent enhancements to Medicaid coverage for pregnant woman and new mothers, including instituting yearlong postpartum Medicaid coverage and expanding Medicaid benefits to include doulas and midwives. Finally, Schumer announced that he will push to invest over \$500,000 in the St. John's Riverside Hospital (SJRH) racial equity project, a crucial community-driven, multi-pronged effort to sustain and improve Maternity services in Yonkers, through his congressionally directed spending requests this year.

NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins was also a major advocate at the press conference, and has worked with STSI since they launched a "Maama Kit" Safe birthing Initiative for women in Africa, over a decade ago with the World Health Organization. "Since then, the glaring racial and ethnic disparities in maternal mortality have fueled a national health crisis, right here in the U.S. We in the New York Senate Democratic Majority are committed to tackle this crisis by passing legislation that addresses the unacceptable disparities in maternal mortality which is especially high among Black women in communities like Yonkers. That is why we championed legislation to extend the postpartum coverage period for Medicaid recipients for one year. I support Senate Majority Leader Schumer's fight to pass the Maternal Health Momnibus Act, the investment in St. John's Riverside Hospital (SJRH) racial equity project and making the extension of Postpartum Medicaid Coverage permanent. These strategies will save lives, empower women and create safe and respectful birthing experiences," said NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

continued at right--



L-R-Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Dr. Paul Antonecchia, Chief Medical Officer, St. John's Riverside Hospital, US Senator Charles Schumer, STSI Founder Cheryl Brannan

St. John's Riverside Hospital was the host of the press conference. "For over 150 years, St. John's Riverside Hospital has strived to provide comprehensive medical and nursing care in a compassionate, professional, respectful and ethical manner to every patient. Recently, with the guidance of St. John's Committee to Address Regional Equity in Healthcare, we seek to address the significant disparities in maternal health outcomes such as maternal mortality, premature births, low birthweight births and our percentage of cesarean sections in our black community," said Ronald J. Corti, President/ CEO at St. John's Riverside Hospital.

STSI and community partners have been partnering with St. John's Riverside Hospital on a Black Maternal Health initiative with interventions designed to promote racial equity and improve birth outcomes for Black women.

STSI looks forward to working with Senator Schumer, Senator Cousins, St. John's Riverside Hospital, Westchester County government and community partners on ending racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health. For more information check out the Still I Rise Report on their website s2si.org

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