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Westchester Rising

YonkersTimes.com

Friday July 26, 2024

Pelham Swimmer Kate Douglass Goes for the Gold at Paris Olympics



See story on pg 14

Breaking Makes its Olympic Debut

Member of the NYC Breakers from Yonkers Hopes to Find the Next Generation of Olympians in Westchester



Members of the USA Olympic Breaking Team L-R- Victor Montavlo (B-Boy Victor) Sunny Choi (B-Girl Sunny) Jeff Lewis (Bboy Jeffro) Logan Edra (B-Girl Logistx)

See story on pg 13

Fly Like a Siegel!

Yorktown Democrat Elected to Town Board



left, Susan Siegel on special election night

Congratulations to Yorktown Democrat Susan Siegel, who won a special election to the Town Board on July 23. According to the Board of Elections, Siegel got 1,867 votes, 51%. Republican Donna Diana got 1,814 votes, 49%.

Siegel becomes the only democrat on the Yorktown Town Board. The special election was held when Ed Lachterman won a special election for Supervisor in April.

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Democrats Feel Yonkers Mayor Spano is a Viable Option for Westchester County Executive



Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, left, endorsing Mayor Mike Spano for reelection last year

By Dan Murphy

A recent story in City & State, Latimer's win paves way for Westchester's first Black county executive, (www.cityandstateny.com/politics/2024/07/latimers-win-paves-way-westchesters-first-black-county-executive/397797/) caught the eye of many Westchester democrats.

The story promoted the upcoming candidacy of Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins for his yet to be announced run for County Executive. "According to Democratic Party insiders in Westchester, it is Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins' job to lose," writes Austin Jefferson.

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Westchester's First Woman Owned Cannabis Dispensary to Open in New Rochelle Aug 3



Highlife Health LLC owner CEO Jennifer Gierum. See story on pg 13-

Where's My Package? Ossining Man Arrested for Threatening to Kill USPS Workers and Blow Up Facility



SDNY US Attorney Damian Williams, announced on July 19 that

Anthony Alfano, left, was arrested after he made a series of graphic and violent threats to kill U.S. Postal Service ("USPS") employees and burn down U.S. post offices in Ossining, New York. ALFANO was arrested in Yorktown Heights, New York, this morning and is expected to appear this afternoon in White Plains federal court before U.S. Magistrate Judge Victoria Reznik.

U.S. ATTORNEY DAMIAN WILLIAMS SAID: "THE CHARGES AGAINST THE DEFENDANT UN-

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Westchester's First Chick Fil A Opens in Yonkers



Yonkers Police Officers with Chick the Cow

The first locally owned and operated Chick-fil-A® restaurant in Westchester County will begin serving the Yonkers community on Thursday, July 25. Chick-fil-A, Inc. has selected Israel Allmand as the independent franchised local Owner-Operator of Chick-fil-A Central Park Ave and Roxbury.

Located at 2205 Central Park Ave. in Yonkers, Chick-fil-A Central Park Ave and Roxbury will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Designed for speed and efficiency, this location will serve customers through its drive-thru lanes, and also offer carry-out and delivery for added convenience.

Chick-fil-A's franchise model is essential to how the restaurant serves others. Most Chick-fil-A restaurants are owned and operated by a single individual, which means Chick-fil-A's local Owner-Operators are small business owners, not passive investors, who work in their restaurants side by side with their Team Members each day.

In Yonkers, Allmand will be responsible for all day-to-day activities of the business, including employing approximately 100 full- and part-time Team Members, serving Guests, cultivating relationships with local organizations and businesses, and tailoring philanthropic efforts to meet the Yonkers community's needs.

Allmand was 15 years old when he began working as a Team Member at his local Chick-fil-A in Orlando, Florida. Immediately, he fell in love with the culture of fun, the excitement of the restaurant and Chick-fil-A's focus on community giving and generosity. Allmand went on to attend the University of Central Florida to earn a bachelor's degree in hospitality management and worked as a Team Member at a Chick-fil-A near campus. It was during this time that his local Owner-Operator saw his heart for service and encouraged him to pursue a career path with Chick-fil-A. With his sights set high on becoming a local Owner-Operator one day, Allmand climbed the ladder through the organization and even earned a Chick-fil-A Remarkable Futures™ Scholarship. For the past three years, Allmand, his wife Monica, and their daughter have called Yonkers home, and Allmand is grateful to now welcome the Yonkers community into Chick-fil-A Central Park Ave and Roxbury.

"The mentorship and opportunities that Chick-fil-A has presented to me over the last 18 years is something I will never forget. Within the company, I've crossed paths with countless inspiring people, and I have them to thank for helping me chase my dream of becoming a local Owner-Operator," Allmand said. "As I dive into this role, my goal is to empower individuals to reach their fullest potential, fostering a vibrant community where everyone thrives. I want my team and our guests to have amazing experiences at my restaurant, a place where everyone feels restored and refreshed."

In celebration of the opening, Chick-fil-A, Inc. has donated \$25,000 to Feeding America to support local hunger relief efforts of Feeding Westchester, a Feeding America partner food bank, in honor of the new restaurant.

Allmand's restaurant will plan to participate in the Chick-fil-A Shared Table® program, an initiative that redirects surplus food from the restaurant to local soup kitchens, shelters, food banks and nonprofits in need. To date, more than 25 million meals have been created from Chick-fil-A Shared Table donations from over 2,000 Chick-fil-A restaurants throughout the U.S. and Canada.

In addition, Chick-fil-A Central Park Ave and Roxbury is recognizing 100 local heroes making an impact in the Yonkers area by providing them with free Chick-fil-A entrées for a year.

For more information about Chick-fil-A and stories about the Brand's food, people and customers across the country, visit chick-fil-a.com.

Dawn French Named New Chair for American Heart Association West/Fairfield Board



American Heart Association
Westchester/Fairfield Board of Directors
2024-2026



Dawn French
Board Chair

Senior Vice President for Marketing,
Communication and Community Relations
White Plains Hospital



Dawn French Brings in Extensive Healthcare and Communications Experience to Leadership Role Across Westchester and Fairfield Counties

The American Heart Association, a global force for longer, healthier lives, is pleased to announce that Dawn French has been appointed as the new chairperson of the Westchester/Fairfield Board of Directors. French's term begins July 1, 2024, and will conclude on June 30, 2026.

Dawn French, who currently serves as the Senior Vice President for Marketing, Communication and Community Relations at White Plains Hospital, brings a wealth of experience to her new role. Before joining White Plains Hospital, French held key communications leadership positions at Hudson Valley Hospital and Westchester Medical Center. She began her career in broadcast media, where she worked for over a decade in various roles, ultimately becoming an executive news producer before transitioning to the healthcare sector in 2005. French holds a B.S. in journalism from the University of Rhode Island and a master's degree in public health from New York Medical College. She is also a two-time Emmy Award recipient for her work in television news.

"I am honored to be appointed as the chairperson of the American Heart Association Westchester/Fairfield Board of Directors," said French. "Heart disease is the leading cause of death globally, and while many risk factors are preventable, combatting it requires education and preventive measures. I look forward to working with my fellow board members to advance the Association's mission and make a significant impact on the health and well-being of our community here in Westchester and Fairfield, and beyond."

Amanda Palumbo, Executive Director of the American Heart Association for Westchester/Fairfield, expressed her enthusiasm for French's appointment. "We are incredibly excited and honored to have Dawn French lead our Westchester/Fairfield Board of Directors. Her extensive experience in healthcare and communications, coupled with her dedication to our mission, makes her an invaluable asset to our leadership team. We are fortunate to have such a high-caliber team of community leaders working together to combat heart disease and stroke."

In her role as chairperson, French will collaborate closely with Patrick Thomas, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology at the Columbia University Irving Medical Center and the current Westchester/Fairfield Board President, as well as with Marla Koroly, M.D., Associate Ambulatory Physician Executive for Northwell Health's Westchester and Connecticut regions and the incoming Westchester/Fairfield Board President.

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Moody's Rates Town of Eastchester Bonds at Aaa

On July 3, 2024, Moody's Investors Services assigned the Town of Eastchester bond rating of Aaa. This rating applies to the new bond issue and any outstanding debt the Town currently has and is the highest rating that can be awarded by Moody's.

The Aaa rating reflects the Town's strong fiscal management and ample reserves and liquidity. The Town Supervisor and Town Comptroller have kept a tight rein on the Town's finances during these challenging economic times. The stable outlook reflects expectation of continued strong operations given the Town of Eastchester's prudent management.

Supervisor Tony Colavita said, "We are very proud of our Moody's Aaa rating in this inflationary period we are in. It's difficult but we work hard to control spending and keep Eastchester an affordable place to live and raise a family".

Harckham Nominates Col Jeffrey Roth Into NY Senate Veterans Hall of Fame



(L-R) New York Army National Guard Maj. Adam Connolly, Col. Jeffrey Roth, State Sen. Pete Harckham and Retired Brig. Gen. Loree Sutton. Photo by Tito Davila.

New York State Senator Pete Harckham honored New York Army National Guard Col. Jeffrey Roth today as his 20204 inductee into the State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame, citing the colonel for his distinguished military and public service for more than two decades.

"Colonel Roth is a lifelong public servant with over 20 years of dedicated service to his nation and New York State," said Harckham. "I am proud to honor him as the 40th Senate District's 2024 inductee to the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame."

Harckham presented Col. Roth with a Hall of Fame plaque, a State Senate Proclamation and a special 40th Senate District Medal during a ceremony here at Camp Smith attended by more than 40 members of the state National Guard and other officials, including retired Brig. Gen. Loree Sutton, a former New York City Commissioner of Veterans' Services. To see a video of today's special ceremony, click here.

"Colonel Roth's entire career in the National Guard and in New York City has been about prioritizing others above himself," said Major Adam Connolly, New York Army National Guard, who hosted the ceremony. "This is a well-deserved honor. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone who doesn't feel the same way about him. He is a true public servant and deserves this."

Roth, who currently lives in Peekskill, NY, joined the Michigan Army National Guard after earning a commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 2001. During his tenure with the Guard, he deployed with the Multinational Force and Observers, a peacekeeping force established in

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GENERAC

So Where Do We Go From Here?

By Eric Wolf Schoen



I congratulate the President of these United States for making the tough decision to end his candidacy for the most important job in the world. The man was in no physical shape to continue and would have been an embarrassment to the American people. Joe Biden did a lot of good things for the country during his service as a Congressman and Senator. He has nothing to be ashamed of.

And now we have the delegates all lined up to support Biden's Vice Presidential selection, Kamala Harris for the most difficult task of running this country, bringing the price of goods and services down, peace at home and abroad, and looking to be sure those who attend events around town can participate safely expressing themselves and that in which they believe in.

What do we know about Kamala Harris. Sadly not much. She was given prime responsibility for securing our nations borders and failed the task miserably! Some say in 3 1/2 years she barely kept out a single person who wanted to enter using anyway they could. Her list of accomplishments is a blank slate and no one can name anything that She has accomplished during her term. With the complex world we live in things are going to go bad if no one is minding the ship. This will be a major problem for our country.

We watch on the The networks that the only legal means for our country to cleanse itself of its wrongs is by changing the way this country does business. But no one steps to the plate to force change. We take another pill but it doesn't make for a better country.

Should there have been a conversation about who the nominee should be to take President Biden's place. Would it set up challenges to see who is most qualified. Or do we let the status quo be the case, without any competition for the nomination. I would like to see fresh candidates present themselves to the those responsible for the selection of those governing our land opening the doors to new ideas and fresh faces. Sadly that will not be the case and there are many unhappy with the process.

Donald Trump will be very hard to beat because people do not like the direction this country is going in. Harris raised the most amount of money ever for a candidacy for President in a few days, and I firmly believe A good fight for the nomination would have been good for this primary challenge period.

So we sit back in the television chair and await the outcome. Will there be enough people concerned with issues like Abortion where we know Trump and Harris Have major differences to throw the race to the Democratic nominee? All I can tell you to do is watch and wait!

And don't believe for a Republican second that the Republican Party is as unified

As was shown on television. That simply will never be the way it is!

SECRET SERVICE

Can you believe the embarrassment the head of the Secret Service brought to congress this week! Every Time we have a major issue with security on Capitol Hill it ends up the secret service did something to screw things up. Democratic and Republican, no matter the party that is in power in Congress things simply go crazy.

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Join the Fight Against Hunger: Hillside Food Outreach Seeks Volunteers for Food Delivery



Hillside Food Outreach volunteer JayVon Downer prepares food packages for delivery to local neighbors in need.

Hillside Food Outreach, a nonprofit dedicated to delivering high-quality, nutritious food to low-income and limited mobility families, seniors, and the chronically ill in Westchester, Putnam, and Fairfield Counties, is calling on the community to join its mission. The organization, which provides food deliveries free of charge to over 2,000 individuals twice per month, is in urgent need of volunteers to help meet the rising demand.

Hillside Food Outreach relies on a dedicated network of more than 350 volunteers to deliver nutrient-dense groceries to those in need. The organization is seeking additional delivery volunteers to ensure that no household on its waitlist of over 100 families goes hungry. Volunteers typically deliver to up to six households, fostering trust and long-term relationships with the clients they serve.

“Hillside volunteers are a lifeline for many in our community,” said Kathy Purdy, CEO and Founder of Hillside Food Outreach. “They play a critical role in providing not only food, but also companionship and hope to those who are often isolated and struggling.” Clients include elderly residents who lack transportation and who are unable to carry heavy grocery bags, veterans, people who are housebound due to disability, and patients suffering from chronic illnesses who require healthy diets.

A recent study by the New York State Department of Health indicates that food insecurity is on the rise, with nearly one in four adults (24.9%) facing the threat of hunger. This alarming trend is part of a national issue, with more than 17 million American households experiencing food insecurity in 2022, the largest increase since the 2008 economic crisis. Hillside Food Outreach is witnessing this surge firsthand and is struggling to meet the increased demand for its services.

“Food insecurity rarely exists alone,” noted Purdy. “It can cause significant emotional and psychological distress, contributing to a deeper sense of isolation. Our mission is to combat these issues by providing nutritious food and human connection.”

Community members have several options to support Hillside Food Outreach: Become a Delivery Volunteer: Help deliver food directly to those in need.

Volunteer at the Warehouse: Assist in stocking shelves and preparing deliveries.

Make a Donation: Financial contributions are crucial for sustaining Hillside’s operations. Consider a one-time donation or join the Hunger Heroes program with a monthly contribution.

Advocate for Change: Raise awareness about food insecurity with elected officials and push for policies that improve access to healthy food.

“Working to reduce food insecurity is a challenging task, but it’s incredibly uplifting when clients share how our food deliveries have positively impacted their health and overall quality of life,” Purdy said. “Even a few hours a month can make a significant difference. In our latest survey, 98 percent of Hillside clients reported feeling more food-secure, and 97 percent of parents said their children are eating more fruits and vegetables.”

Hillside Food Outreach is headquartered in Mount Kisco, N.Y. and operates in Fairfield County through its Danbury, CT satellite location. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call 914-747-0095 or visit hillsidefoodoutreach.org.

Longtime Community Fixture RJ Puma Needs a Miracle from Yonkers



RJ Puma, left, with Deirdre O’ Mara and Pat Quinn

The legend from McLean Needs a Kidney Transplant

By Dan Murphy

A man who gave so much to the Yonkers community he and his family called home for generations is now asking for our help. RJ Puma, who was a fixture in the McLean Avenue community for decades- as the owner operator of his family’s bakery, Anna Artuso Pastry Shop on McLean, as President of the McLean Avenue Merchants Association, and Co-Chair of the Yonkers Saint Patrick’s Day Parade, needs a kidney transplant and is searching for matching donors. He also has a GoFundMe Page, (gofund.me/edb06f93) to raise much-needed funds to offset medical costs and an extended leave from work.

RJ headed to Florida a few years ago, to take a position with Disney. His Yonkers family pastry shop is now closed, but for the thousands of customers and community members both he and his family touched over many decades this is a chance to reciprocate kindness and generosity and say -”God Bless”.

On May 8, Puma posted on Facebook, “Dear friends and family, I’ve been dreading making this post for some time now. Main reason is, I don’t like asking for help, unless I really need it. Well, I need it.”

“For those friends on here who don’t know, I’ve been living with Chronic Kidney Disease for some time now. I was born with only one kidney, and the one that I have has declined rapidly over the past few years. Even though I’m at stage 5 CKD. Thankfully I haven’t needed dialysis just yet, but it’s coming, sooner rather than later.”

“The ultimate goal here is to survive and continue living, and the only way that happens is with a kidney transplant. I’m now on donor lists in a few hospitals here in Florida.”

“However, it could take up to 2-6 years to receive one and with me being at stage 5 with only 12% of my one kidney functioning, the odds aren’t great.”

“Which brings me to my ask, the big favor. If you are at all interested in seeing if you are a good match as a living donor to help expedite this process and get me on the road to healing faster and living longer, here is the link.” (<https://ufhealth.org/conditions-and-treatments/living-kidney-donation?>)

“What does being a donor entail? Tons of paperwork, cancer screenings, other tests and visits with your PHP and then of course, major surgery. From what I’ve looked at, my health insurance would cover the donor.”

“Please note, UPDATE: any blood type is fine (they will be able to match multiple donors and patients), you need to be in good health, a non-smoker, heart healthy and even age is taken into consideration. They are able to match multiple patients at a time if you’re not a perfect match for me. Meaning your kidney would go to another patient, whose donor is a perfect match for me. Hope that makes sense.”

“I am keeping very optimistic and continuing doing the things I love. While I do have my moments of weakness, they don’t last too long. For those of you who truly know me, I welcome new adventures and change. I got this, just need a little help.”

“If it wasn’t as bad as it is, I would not be putting this out on social media. I appreciate those of you who took the time to read this all the way through and those of you who are interested in testing to be a donor. There is no pressure here at all, just covering all my bases. Thank you all. Also, if you could please share this post. You never know where a miracle will come from. If interested, please follow the link, it answers most questions.”

RJ updated all of us with a post last week. “Just got the letter: I’ve been approved for a kidney transplant!”

“Your support and kind messages have been amazing and overwhelming. To

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Westchester Rising

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The 100th Birthday of the Honorable Mr James Baldwin



James Baldwin

Op-Ed by Clifford Jackson, Larchmont

August 2, 2024 would have been the 100th Birthday of James Baldwin. He was born in Harlem near 125th not to far from where I was raised in Wagner houses 37 years later. He is buried at Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale near his friend Malcolm X who he debated about Americas history of racism in 1963.

He was one of the greatest writers and novelists that I have ever had the privilege of reading. "The Fire Next Time" and "Notes of a Native Sun" Baldwin was able to speak to the pathological violence and racism of white America."He was a gay black man that was a trail blazer in the LGBTQ plus community. Long before stonewall there was James Baldwin. His book "Giovanni's Room" touched on and talked about what gay men dealt with socially and internally as far as their rejection in a dominant heterosexual society. He grew up with a father who was very strict from a religious standpoint.

He had 5 other brothers and sisters who were younger than him. Being the oldest with an inchoate sense of duty growing up in American Apartheid in the 1920s and 30's made him grow up faster than most. He went through unspeakable treatment as a black man in America including being physically assaulted by white police officers when he was 10 years old in Harlem. He was there in 1943 when the infamous "Harlem riot" occurred precipitated by police violence in the community.

In 1948 he went to France and met his future partner and lover Lucien Harpersberger who was by his side when Baldwin died in France in 1987. Baldwin said "when I went to France in 1948 nothing worse could happen me to me there that had not already happened to me living in the United States". Baldwin said "American History is the history of the Negro and it is not a pretty one". He was friends with Malcolm X and said regarding Malcolm X's Firebrand condemnation of how evil white America was "What black people find in Malcolm X is a truth that has been so long denied in this racist society, he corroborates their reality!". He appeared at the March on Washington along with Harry Belafonte, Sidney Poitier, Marlon Brando and Charleton Heston. When Heston was on the right side of history before his perversion of his legacy later with the NRA. There

Was a round table discussion including all of these gentlemen after the March on Washington that was headed and hosted by Joseph Mankiewicz that I suggest everyone see, it is quite historically informative. Brando's friendship with Baldwin at that time led to Brando's support of the Black Panthers financially supporting them for years as well as Brando speaking and eulogizing at the funeral of 17 year old black panther member Bobby Hutton who was slaughtered by Oakland Police in 1968. Baldwin marched with Dr. King and the March against American apartheid in Selma in 1965 and faced the brutality and savage behavior of the Alabama state police.

He also faced homophobia from some black nationalists leaders who were just as ignorant as their white counterparts. James Baldwin, Bayard Rustin and Lorraine Hansberry were all part of the LGBTQ Community and were all human rights heroes. Notwithstanding Rustin's support of Israel which certainly tarnished his legacy. Baldwin debated William F. Buckley at the Oxford Union in England on the question of "Has the American Dream been at the expense of the American Negro on February 18th 1965 three days before Malcolm X's assassination. Baldwin said "Black people built this country working and bringing the goods to market for nothing, for nothing for 400 years". James Baldwin was my HERO and was the best of humanity and he rejected the pathologically depraved sickness of white America and like Malcolm X, Dr. King and Medgar Evers said "I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO!".

New Yonkers Cop Charged with DWI



Yonkers police officer Shannon McAuley, pictured above, was arrested in Croton on July 5 and charged with Driving While Intoxicated. McAuley, 28, was a probationary Yonkers cop and was hired in January. She then completed her training at the Westchester Police Academy.

Reports have McAuley driving in Croton at 3am on Route 9, when she was pulled over for erratic driving. Her license was suspended and as a result she was temporarily placed on suspension by the YPD.

McAuley refused to take a breathalyzer test, which is the same as admitting guilt.

Her suspension is now completed, and she is placed on modified duty, pending a review and a criminal outcome of her DWI case.

McAuley comes from a police family, with her father serving in the YPD as a Lieutenant. He is now retired.

The people of Yonkers, and in law enforcement, are disappointing in McAuley's arrest. Police officers should be role models for the community they seek to serve. "There are too many options today to driving drunk. Take an Uber," said one former Westchester police officer.

Dear The Yonkers Times,

I'm a mother who fears for my family in a warming world.

I am writing to urge you to cover the significant differences in climate policy between the 2024 Democratic and Republican party platforms. Having informed voters is crucial for a healthy democracy, and as a leading news source, you have the power to share this critical information.

The 2024 Republican Party Platform notably lacks any mention of climate change. Instead, it promotes increased production of oil, gas, and coal with the emphatic line, "We will DRILL, BABY, DRILL."

In contrast, the draft 2024 Democratic Party Platform outlines a robust climate strategy, including scaling up solar, wind, and geothermal projects via the Inflation Reduction Act and investing in clean energy R&D. President Biden aims to expand the clean energy workforce, triple the American Climate Corps by the decade's end, and ensure clean energy jobs are accessible to marginalized communities.

Reporting on these stark differences will help voters make informed decisions about the future of our nation's climate policy.

Thank you for considering this important topic.

Sincerely,

Diana Wendell

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Notice of formation of Lee & Mazie's LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 04/02/2024 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : Lee & Mazie's LLC 1 Sherwood Terrace Apt 5D Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

Notice of Formation of KW Services NY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 3/30/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 875 King Street Chappaqua NY 10514. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Resonance Interactive LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/14/2024. 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, 17 Arlington Road, Scarsdale NY, 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of WIT SOCCER LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/18/2024. 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, 390 Heritage Hls, Unit D, Somers, NY 10589-1989. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Fortunately the head of the Secret Service tendered her resignation after she made a complete fool of herself appearing before Congress. We worry about the protection of our Presidents, his Counselors and advisors less than we worry about security of officials stationed abroad. This has to stop. Bring the money from abroad back to America, and make sure we have those in charge with the knowledge they need and the backup power they require to keep our officials and public safe. If we can't do this we will have to cut off access to our officials from the public something we certainly do not want to do.

COMPUTER FAILURE

The massive computer failure we had last weekend continues through press time. A friend went to a supermarket where the failure had hit, and could not buy his groceries. So many people I know got stuck at the airport waiting days for flights to take them to their destination. We never knew about the Cloud Strike thing before the blackout, and pray it never happens again. This event just goes to show the power of computers in our lives, and garbage in, garbage out. Congress must hold hearing on this mess as in the end it will cost us billions of dollars.

CAMPAIGN SIGNS

Almost a month after the Primary Election I still see signs for Tom Abinati and other politicians illegally placed on public ground. I saw the most ridiculous letter from the head of police in Hastings saying that people cannot remove campaign signs from municipal property and if they did they would get arrested. With the exception of Yonkers. Which has an active illegal sign removal program, rather successful than other towns the laws regarding the placement of signs are haphazardly enforced causing signs all over illegally placed on public Land and causing sign pollution

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisonkers@aol.com, or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers!

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NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF KD CONSULTANTS GROUP LLC AS AN AUTHORIZED FOREIGN LLC. APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY FILED WITH THE SSNY 07/16/24. OFFICE LOCATION - WESTCHESTER COUNTY. PRINCIPAL BUSINESS LOCATION: 208 BENNET RD, FREEHOLD, NJ 07728. THE SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS TO DOROTHY G. VASTOLA, 208 BENNET RD., FREEHOLD, NJ 07728. THE ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION WERE FILED ON 07/13/2021 WITH THE NJ SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPT OF TREASURY, PO BOX 002, TRENTON, NJ 08625 FOR ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of Intentional Journey Psychotherapy, LCSW, PLLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/8/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against PLLC to 1374 Midland Ave, Suite 410, Bronxville, NY 10708. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of formation of Freedenfeld Impact Advisors, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/23/24. 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, 350 Ringgold St., Peekskill, NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of RR 207 Consulting, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 03/27/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 603 Warburton Ave, Ste 2, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, 10706. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Toneske Management Services LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/27/2024. 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, 146 Catskill Ave., Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Any lawful activity

RJ Puma, continued from pg -4-

day, a coworker I've known for years, made me tear up over the beautiful words she spoke about me. I know how blessed I am to have all of you supporting and praying for me.

"If you can, anything at all, help with bills and life expenses, which are coming up faster than expected, the GoFundMe is below. I appreciate everything you've done, and your prayers mean a lot to me."

RJ has already identified a few potential donor matches, but there are numerous tests and administrative tasks that has have to happen first. When a donor match is confirmed and surgery is scheduled, RJ will face dozens of immune-suppressor medications and a long recovery ahead. He'll be out of work for quite some time and the financial costs will be significant.

This gives us time to help. There are discussions about holding a community fundraiser, or golf outing, to help contribute to the mounting medical costs. Let's make sure that everyone in Yonkers knows about RJ's need for our help.

This Yonkers treasure has always been the one people have gone to for assistance and he has gone above and beyond for our community. If you can support him with a donation, please do. He also needs all our Prayers. He deserves nothing less.

If you are a serious donor, you must put in his full name, Ralph J Puma, to register. RJ's insurer will cover the costs for the donor, and his GoFundMe will assist in travel expenses.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Co-Chair Deirdre O' Mara said, "RJ has been a great community leader, from his leadership of MAMA & the growth of the Fall Festival under his guidance to bringing the parade to Mclean Ave in 2012. The neighborhood owes him a debt of gratitude & I will always be grateful to him for getting me involved in the Mclean Ave Community and for his friendship. May God bless his on this journey."-Deirdre O' Mara

"RJ has been a cornerstone of the Yonkers community for decades, dedicating his life to uplifting those around him," said Taryn Duffy, vice president of public affairs at Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts. "His tireless efforts have brought positive change and hope to countless lives. Now, as he faces his own challenges, it's our turn to rally behind RJ. Together, we can repay his kindness and ensure he receives the support he deserves. Let's stand united in gratitude for his selfless contributions and extend a helping hand to our friend and former neighbor."

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Westchester Democrats Thank President Biden for His Service



President Joe Biden

On Sunday, July 21, President Joe Biden issued a statement which included, “My fellow Democrats, I have decided not to accept the nomination and to focus all my energies on my duties as President for the remainder of my term. My very first decision as the party nominee in 2020 was to pick Kamala Harris as my Vice President. And it’s been the best decision I’ve made. Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year. Democrats — it’s time to come together and beat Trump. Let’s do this.”

Westchester Democrats commented on Biden’s announcement.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said, “With over 50 years of service to this great nation, President Biden served with honor and distinction. History will show his leadership moved our nation forward and his legacy will be one of courage and grace.”

Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier said, “We thank President Biden for his many years of service to our country and for his leadership in some of our most difficult times. We especially thank him for his leadership now and taking steps to put his party and country first. I along with many leaders in the Yonkers Democratic City Committee full support Vice President Kamala Harris as our party’s nominee for President of the United States.”

Former Congressman Jamaal Bowman stated, “It has been an honor to serve alongside President Joe Biden during my time in Congress. When Democrats had control of the house from 2020-2022, we had the most productive Congress in US history. President Biden championed historic legislation like the CHIPS and Science Act, the American Rescue Plan, the Inflation Reduction Act and so much more. While I have disagreed with the president on his approach to Gaza, there is no question that he has secured transformational wins for the American people. He ushered us through a global pandemic and invested in the working class people of this nation. At this pivotal moment in history, with a rogue right wing Supreme Court, the threat of a second Trump presidency, and Project 2025 looming, I am glad to see President Biden do what is best for our democracy by suspending his campaign and passing the torch. Now, I strongly believe that we must place our full support behind Vice President Kamala Harris. Vice President Harris is an exceptional leader who is best equipped to finish President Biden’s agenda including passing universal child care and paid leave for all, investing in economic equity, building affordable housing, and taxing the wealthy. I am also excited to see her execute her own transformational vision for the future of our democracy and our foreign policy. It’s time to come together and rally the nation in support of Vice President Harris as our next president. She is the best candidate to beat the disgraced former president. Let us all follow her guiding light.”

Westchester County Executive and Congressional candidate George Latimer said, “It’s time for our party to unite behind @KamalaHarris as our nominee for President. She’s the right person to lead the Democratic ticket and energize voters this November, to deliver for the American people, and stop Donald Trump from returning to the White House. @JoeBiden ran for President to put the values of American Democracy first. From Day 1, he delivered and has been an outstanding President. After a lifetime of honorably serving our country, today is another selfless decision. I’m immensely grateful for all Joe Biden has done.”

17th Congressional District Democratic Candidate Mondaire Jones thanked Biden for his service in office and applauded the record he would leave behind. Biden was in office during Jones’ short tenure in Congress. “Thank

continued on pg 13-

Letter to the Editor: Lawler is Anti-Labor

Opinion Piece from Mark Lieberman, Yorktown

Project 2025, Trump, Johnson, and the Conservative movement are all anti-union! Mike Lawler supports all these factions. Mike Lawler is anti Labor!

Let’s take these in reverse order as reversing Labor’s gains over the years is their objective.

The Conservative Party makes it very clear that they want New York State to become a “right to work” state. A deceptive phrase which really means “anti-union.” Additionally, they want to strengthen the Taylor Law, repeal the Triborough Amendment, and do away with collective bargaining. Because of Lawler’s support for fracking and his law and order rhetoric he garners the support of some related unions. But these positions belie the fact that Lawler runs on the Conservative line and supports their platform. Mike Lawler is anti Labor!

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler stated that Mike Johnson has a history of being anti-labor. Johnson’s legislative history has been one of attacking the health, safety, and well-being of America’s working people. Johnson has voted against infrastructure packages that put Americans back to work, opposed legislation that raises wages and helps workers join a union, and rejected bills that would protect America’s workers, including veterans and pregnant workers. Mike Lawler is anti Labor!

According to the AFL-CIO, the IBEW, and Donald Trump himself, Trump has always used nonunion labor whenever possible for his own construction projects. While in office Trump filled the National Labor Relations Board with union-busting lawyers. While in office Trump Defended “right to work” in the U.S. Supreme Court.

According to the AFL-CIO “He (Trump) promised to protect jobs in the steel industry, but failed to follow through. In 2019 alone, more than 16,000 manufacturing workers in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan lost their jobs.” He promised to “bring back manufacturing jobs and invest \$1 trillion to rebuild U.S. infrastructure in Rust Belt states like Wisconsin.” But in his four years in office, Trump failed to advance any infrastructure legislation.

Lawler is a full-throttle Trump MAGA supporter. Mike Lawler is anti Labor!

Project 2025 highlights how they will replace civil servants (calling them “unelected bureaucrats”), with nonunion Trump loyalists.

Lawler will dutifully follow the Project 2025 script just like he supports everything the far right stands for.

Lawler, Johnson, Trump, and Project 2025 are all focused on the strategy of fear and loathing. Anger and resentment should not be reasons to vote.

Lawler is anti-union!

Now let’s move on to Lawler’s own personal decisions against Labor.

Lawler opposed steps to strengthen workers’ compensation, combat wage theft, and expand workers’ benefits. He voted against making it easier for workers with PTSD to receive workers’ compensation, expanded paid family leave, and equal pay wage data disclosure for state contractors.

Lawler voted against requiring employment contracts be written in plain language rather than in legalese and against protections against retaliation for employees or former employees who reported “illegal or dangerous business activities”.

Lawler was endorsed by the New York State Conservative Party, which opposed living wage legislation and expanding paid family leave.

The organization Americans for Prosperity—which seeks a reduction in public sector union benefits and pensions, in conjunction with curtailments of public sector collective bargaining rights, has opposed raising the minimum wage—has rated him 88%. And the National Federation of Independent Business and the National Retail Federation are both pro business and anti labor. They both rate Lawler 100%.

Lawler is anti labor!

So it’s no surprise that the AFL-CIO rates Lawler a lowly 10%.

Lawler may raise social issues that strike a chord with some people, but he strikes out with labor on wages, benefits, rights, and job security. What’s more important?

Mark A. Lieberman, Yorktown Heights

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Different Ways to Participate in ALS Ice Bucket Challenge in Memory of Pat Quinn



Yonkers resident Pa Quinn, diagnosed with ALS in 2013 at age 29, co-founded the global phenomenon event in 2014, which generated hundreds of millions of dollars in private donations for ALS research & medical advances to extend the lives of ALS patients. Quinn died in 2020 at the age of 37

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, and the family of ALS Ice Bucket Challenge co-founder and late Yonkers Native Pat Quinn announced the date of the 2024 ALS Ice Bucket Challenge set for Saturday, August 3 (see video announcement here). The annual event will once again take place trackside at the historic Yonkers Raceway located at Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts in Westchester, New York.

Festivities will begin at 1:00 p.m. with the ice bucket dump scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Participants should pre-register online at YonkersNY.gov/IBC. The event, co-founded by Quinn after his diagnosis of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in 2013 at the age of 29, became a global phenomenon as more than 17 million people around the world participated in the challenge via social media by dumping buckets of ice water on their heads. The event continues to remain a catalyst for raising funds to support research to identify a cure for the debilitating disease and raise awareness of the need for more research funding. It is reported that an ALS patient dies in the U.S. every ninety minutes.

ALS, often referred to as “Lou Gehrig’s Disease”, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Quinn lost his battle with ALS in November 2020, yet his drive and determination live on through his family, friends, community, and beyond to raise awareness and find a cure for the approximately hundreds of thousands of Americans suffering from ALS. While the prognosis for ALS patients 80 years after Lou Gehrig was diagnosed remains the same, technology now exists to keep those living with

continued on pg 10-

Please join Westchester Parks Foundation for our First Annual Duck Derby! On Thursday, August 1st (5:30pm - 7:30pm), WPF will be holding a rubber duck raffle race, using the Lazy River Pool at Tibbetts Brook Park (355 Midland Ave, Yonkers)!

Please join us for an evening of games, prizes, and music! Come out and support this great event, with all proceeds benefitting the Westchester Parks Foundation.

Food and drink will be available for purchase (alcohol for 21+). Free ice cream for kids!

You do not need to be present to win prizes. All adults must purchase at least one duck to enter (kids are free).

Visit the WPF.org/duckderby.com for more information.

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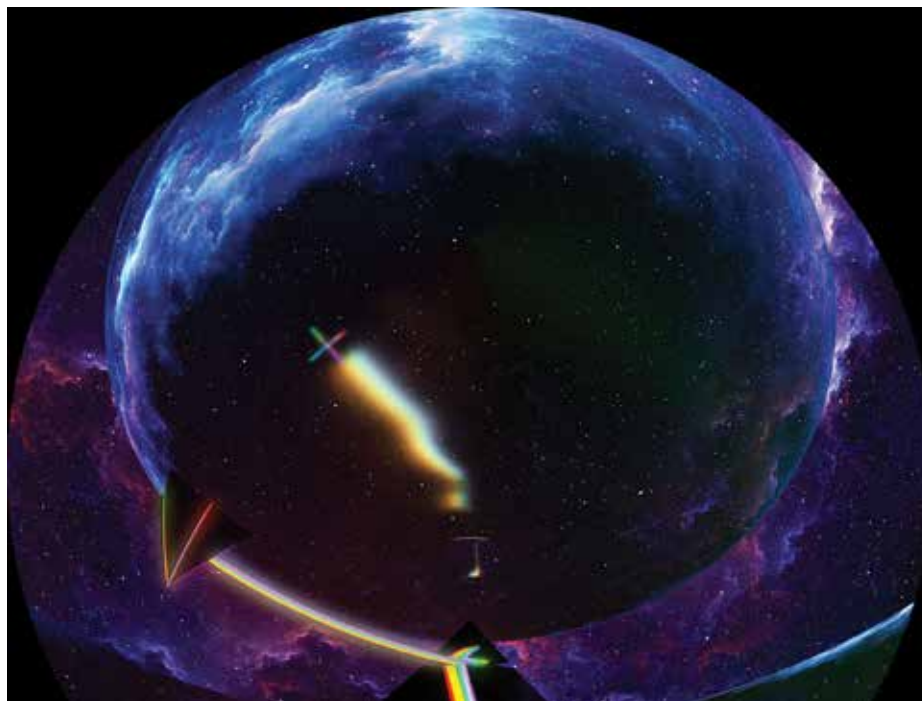
Free First Friday Yoga & Art at Hudson River Museum



Free First Fridays: Yoga & Art, Friday, August 2, 2024, 5–7pm
Where Courtyard, Galleries, Lobby, This event is free (no admission fee)

Celebrate the summer and free your mind and body with an evening of yoga in the courtyard (weather permitting). Karen Young, MPH, Founder of Key Wellness, leads 45-minute yoga classes suitable for all levels starting at 5 and 6pm. Please bring your own yoga mat and dress appropriately. In the event of inclement weather, the program will take place in the Greene Education Center. Visit HRM.org for more information.

Pink Floyd’s The Dark Side of the Moon at Hudson River Museum’s Planetarium



Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Pink Floyd’s iconic album The Dark Side of the Moon with an immersive fulldome planetarium show. The show is organized according to the 10 tracks off the album, some futuristically looking forward and some a retro acknowledgment to Pink Floyd’s visual history, all relating to a time and space experience. It promises to be immersive—an all-encompassing surround sound and visual treat that will take you way beyond the realms of two-dimensional experience.

Production of Pink Floyd’s official The Dark Side of the Moon planetarium show has been led by the award-winning UK production studio NSC Creative, working closely with Pink Floyd’s long-time creative collaborator Aubrey Powell from Hipgnosis. Tickets: \$20; Members \$15; includes general admission from 12–7pm. Recommended for ages 10+; 42-minute show. Advance reservations are encouraged. Visit HRM.org for more information.



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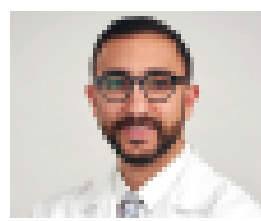
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www.stjohnshospital.org

Ice Bucket Challenge, continued from pg-8

ALS alive longer. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 5,000 individuals are newly diagnosed with ALS across the U.S. annually.

Leading the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge for another year is Quinn's father, Patrick Quinn, Sr., who continues to pay tribute to his son and ensure his mission continues. Hosting a variety of fundraising events throughout the year, Quinn's nonprofit organization, Quinn for the Win Find Your Smile Foundation ("Quinn for the Win"), continues to have significant impact at both local and national levels.

Locally, Quinn for the Win provides cash grants to local ALS patients and their families to offset expenses not covered by medical insurance, including wheelchair adjustments needed as patients' physical limitations change as the disease progresses and home renovations to accommodate wheelchairs, as well as providing financial support for organizations that serve families of ALS patients. Quinn For The Win also supports sleep studies at St. John's Riverside Hospital to help find solutions for sleep difficulties faced by ALS patients.

In the ten years since it was founded, ALS Ice Bucket Challenges have also significantly increased the awareness of this deadly disease globally. As one example, ten years ago only 80 multidisciplinary clinics for ALS were open around the country. Now, more than 240 are open nationally where ALS patients can see a pathologist and all the medical disciplines they need all in one place. Technology is also much more advanced with Pat Quinn Jr. using an expanded CPAP machine, one of the first prototypes, to help expand his lungs and make it easier to breathe. Social media also allows patients to connect from all around the world, including Pat Quinn Jr. while he was alive, engaging with patients across the globe.

And according to the ALS Association, more than \$2 million has been invested into the development of a new drug, Relyvrio, that was recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to help slow down the effects of ALS. In the last six years, three ALS drugs have been approved by the FDA with several others in clinical trials. Also, approximately 130 research projects are being funded in twelve countries around the world thanks to Quinn's efforts.

"I'm so grateful for the continued support of Mayor Mike Spano, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, and community members from Yonkers and far beyond who continue to fight onwards toward a cure through keeping the ice bucket challenge going each and every year," said Patrick Quinn, Sr. "ALS ruins families... I've seen it. The Yonkers community has been the champion of our family and ALS patients nationwide, especially in the last few years without Pat. My son built such a strong system of support and his Quinn for the Win - Find Your Smile Foundation is nothing short of remarkable. Pat laid the groundwork to find a cure, and now it's our job to finish his mission to defeat ALS once and for all. I look forward to seeing everyone on August 3."

Since 2015, Empire City Casino has hosted the annual challenge, with the exception of 2020 because of the pandemic. The City of Yonkers donates buckets and the stage for the event and organizes online registration for participants. Empire City underwrites the cost of the event and donates the space, staffing, and over 1,300 pounds of ice.

The 2024 Annual Ice Bucket Challenge will be held outdoors trackside, is free to participate, and attendees of all ages are welcome. Day-of, walk-up registration will also be available, but online advance registration is strongly encouraged to secure a space and bucket. For more information and to register, please visit www.empirecitycasino.com.

Veterans Hall of Fame, continued from pg 3-

1981 as part of a treaty between Israel and Egypt. While deployed to the Middle East with the 42nd Infantry Division in 2020, he served as the Operations Officer for COVID-19 Response and Deputy Officer in charge of Command Post Jordan. In 2021, Roth took command of the 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery, the New York Army National Guard's only field artillery battalion.

Roth has served as the Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Department of Veterans' Services since 2016. He is currently on leave from his duties, serving on State Active Duty as the Commander of Joint Task Force - Empire Shield for the New York Army National Guard.

He has received numerous awards for his actions and leadership including the Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Multinational Force and Observers Medal and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge.

"It is an honor to be recognized by Senator Harekham and New York State," Roth said. "I am humbled and honored to be in the company of so many who have served their country with distinction."

Slater & Lawler: New Washington Mandate Threatens Local Fire Services

On July 22, Assemblyman Matt Slater joined Rep. Mike Lawler at a press conference with local and state officials and members of local volunteer fire departments expressing opposition to a new Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) rule that could harm local volunteer fire departments.

The federal government's unfunded mandate poses an existential threat to emergency services. These are selfless men and women with families and jobs outside their regular firefighting duties. The federal government's required annual fee of \$1,725 just to measure if a department is compliant with its thicket of new regulations is costly and insulting. The local 2% tax cap means departments will have to slash staff and scale back working hours or risk being out of compliance with Washington's new rules and therefore pay additional fees in penalties.

"This is the definition of an unfunded mandate, there's no doubt about it," said Slater. "Just like in Albany, Washington is actually proposing something without having a clear and direct conversation with the people it will impact the most; the brave men and women who answer the call during emergencies. Putnam County is serviced entirely by volunteers, and if you look at the FASNY analysis, property taxes are expected to go up by 45 percent if we lose our volunteer services."

"If these volunteer departments can't afford to meet the new requirements, we could see many of them shut down. Imagine the impact of communities left without essential emergency services. This is a matter of life and death," said Rep. Lawler. "I urge OSHA to reconsider this proposed new rule. We need a more balanced and realistic approach. Exemptions for small, rural, and volunteer fire departments should be on the table, and we must explore ways to reduce financial and logistical burdens. We have to protect our first responders without jeopardizing the very services that keep our communities safe."

"These unfunded mandates from the federal and from the state side have to stop, we've got to do something for our volunteers," said Putnam Valley Town Supervisor Jackie Annabi. "I know these men and women, and I know if this is put through, I know they'll do it, because they're volunteers, they have their heart in it. But it can't happen because we can't afford this to happen for our taxpayers."

"It seems to be extremely unrealistic to expect volunteers to do what they're talking about," said Putnam Valley Fire Chief Frank DiMarco. "It's not just training, it's equipment, trucks, and everything else. I think it would essentially cripple many, many volunteer fire departments. And I just think that's a lot to ask for at this point."

"As a former volunteer firefighter, I would never object to steps which enhance safety and protect the well-being of our volunteer, career, and combination fire departments. However, this rule has been imposed by Washington, DC without the time and adequate resources allotted to the selfless men and women who perform their life-saving duties every day in our communities. It's why I'm standing with local, state, and federal officials to sound the alarm about OSHA's unfair and costly new mandate," said State Senator Rob Rolison.

Susan Siegel, continued from pg 1-

Siegel has been a Yorktown resident for more than 50 years. She served as Supervisor in 2010-11 and on the Town Board in 2015.

Siegel has started a blog, which summarizes the issues before the Town Board. "This new blog resumes my meeting summaries, something I did from 2012 to December, 2020. Those summaries remain online at <http://www.ciy-info.org> and provide an historical record of many town issues, some of which are still current today.

"The new summaries are uploaded to a different web site, yorktownbettergovernment.org.wordpress.com. The summaries can be accessed by

month and/or by board. The meeting summaries below are an example of what each meeting's summary may contain. Residents who want more information about a specific are encouraged to view the meeting videos on the town's web site," said Siegel.

Classifieds

Man Threatens Post Office, continued from pg 1-

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USPIS Inspector in Charge Daniel B. Brubaker said: "The U.S. Postal Inspection Service does not take lightly any threats of violence against USPS employees. This behavior will never be tolerated, and we will work with our local and federal law enforcement partners to maintain a safe working environment for the postal employees we protect. That is our mission, and that is our unwavering commitment to the people we serve."

As alleged in the Complaint:[1]

On Saturday, June 22, 2024, ANTHONY ALFANO was awaiting the delivery of a parcel that had been mailed out via USPS from Florida the evening before. According to ALFANO, the parcel contained cremated remains. In a series of phone calls with USPS call center representatives before the package was scheduled to arrive, ALFANO threatened to kill USPS employees and burn down U.S. post offices because he apparently believed the parcel was not going to arrive when he wanted it to. ALFANO's threats included the following:

ALFANO threatened, "I am gonna start killing you guys one by one." He also said, "people are going to die," and that there would be "a lot of dead bodies," "hurt people," and people who would "not be returning home." ALFANO also swore to kill his local mail carrier, stating that he would "walk up to him" and "blow his brains out." Referencing a notorious "massacre," ALFANO warned that it would not "have shit on what I'm about to do" and that his actions would go down "in history."

ALFANO also made threats to kill members of the postal police by using incendiary ammunition, as well as threats to burn down U.S. post offices. For example, he welcomed the arrival of the postal police and said, "as soon as they show up at my door they're gonna catch a hot one," referring to shooting them with a "napalm round" from his 12-gauge shotgun. "I'm going to kill every one of those motherfuckers," he said. He further threatened, "I'm gonna burn all the post offices down to the ground" and said he would go to his local post office and "burn it down to the fucking ground."

Underscoring his commitment to carry out his threats, ALFANO said several times, "I don't make threats, I make promises." He also expressly swore to carry out his threats and said, "I really don't care if I go to jail or not."

On Monday, June 24, 2024, ALFANO received his parcel on the next business day after it had been mailed out on the Friday before.

ALFANO has a history of encounters with law enforcement because of prior threats he has made against others, including local police officers, delivery persons, and customer service representatives.

ANTHONY ALFANO, 46, of Ossining, New York, is charged with threatening interstate communications, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison, and willfully making a threat involving fire, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

The maximum potential sentences in this case are prescribed by Congress and are provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendant will be determined by a judge.

Mr. Williams praised the outstanding work of the USPIS in investigating the threats charged in the Complaint and undertaking security measures to protect USPS employees and facilities. Mr. Williams also thanked the Village of Ossining Police Department and City of Peekskill Police Department for their assistance in this case.

This case is being handled by the Office's White Plains Division. Assistant U.S. Attorney Reyhan Watson is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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Breaking Makes its Olympic Debut

Member of the NYC Breakers from Yonkers Hopes to Find the Next Generation of Olympians in Westchester

By Dan Murphy

The 2024 Paris Summer Olympics will include the art-sport Breaking, or Breakdancing, for the first time. And Westchester has one of the founding members of the NYC Breakers, one of the first breaking groups in the country, Yonkers resident London Reyes, about how it all came to be and what his plans are to search for the next Olympian breaker from Westchester.

Reyes has been featured on CBS This Morning and WPIX Channel 11 Morning News show to talk about the new Olympic sport. "I'm so excited that as kids and teenagers, creating hip-hop and breaking, to now, 40 years later to see it in the Olympics and on the international platform, is amazing," said Reyes, who is the current leader of the NYC Breakers, one of the original breaking groups in the world. The original members, Noel Manual, (Kid Nice) and Chino Lopez, (Action).

"We couldn't be prouder of this milestone for our art form. Breaking has come a long way, and it's truly an honor to see it recognized on such a prestigious platform. We want to express our deepest gratitude to the new generation of b-boys & b-girls who have elevated this dance and kept breaking alive. Your passion, dedication, and creativity are the driving forces behind this historic achievement."

The United States has four Breakers at the Olympics competing for the Gold Medal. They are:

- I- Victor Montavlo (B-Boy Victor) "His parents came from Mexico, and he is living the American dream. Now he is going to represent us in the Olympics and could bring home the gold," said Reyes.
- II- Sunny Choi (B-Girl Sunny). "She is a phenomenal dancer and a former gymnast. She is going to go out there and kill it," said Reyes.
- III- Jeff Lewis aka Bboy Jeffro. "He is another incredible dancer that's going out there and setting the world on fire," said Reyes.
- IV- Logan Edra (B-Girl Logistx) "She is young and fun and energetic—she is going to surprise a lot of people," said Reyes.

The breaking competition in Paris will be divided into two events — one for women and one for men, with the woman performing on Aug. 9 and the men on Aug. 10, at La Concorde Urban Park. 16 B-boys or 16 B-girls will "go face to face in spectacular solo battles."

Nine Judges will then vote, based on six categories: Creativity, personality, technique, variety, performativity and musicality—with creativity and performativity counting for 60 percent of the score. Three men and three women will be awarded medals.

Reyes explained that the judging, "will be a little subjective, it's not like basketball and who scores the most points."

Breaking coincided with Rap music as it broke on the New York City music and dance scene in the late 1970's and early 1980's. "In the early years, breakers would break at parties, in clubs and on the street, practicing at home and in the hallways of buildings or in community centers. By the early 1980's, breaking had begun to catch the attention of the mainstream media in the United States and the dance became increasingly popular, spreading out quickly across the United States and overseas. Breaking crews like the Rock Steady Crew, Dynamic Rockers, and New York City Breakers helped spearhead breaking initiatives and activations in the 80's mainstream media boom.

The 1983 hit movie Flashdance introduced breaking to the mainstream public, featuring some short breaking scenes. Two breaking featured movies, Breaking and Beat Street, followed. Beat Street featured one of the most famous breaking scenes ever shown on film, the battle between Rock Steady Crew and the New York City Breakers. It was filmed at the Roxy, which was a popular lower West Side nightclub in Manhattan and the stomping ground for the breaking scene, where crews from each of the New York area would come to break and battle one another.

"Keep in mind we were kids that were trying to find our way through the South Bronx during a time of violence and drugs. The path that we chose was to get away from that through breaking," said Reyes.

In 1983, the NYC Breakers performed at the Kennedy Center before President Ronald Reagan.

Today, he is training the next generation of Breaking Olympic hopefuls in Yonkers. Reyes has used the resurgence of Breaking to educate younger rappers and dancers to what is now an Olympic sport. He also wants to promote and highlight up and coming breakers, known as b-boys and b-girls, who are taking Breaking to new heights.

Last month, Reyes and the City and Yonkers Public Schools hosted a battle of the boroughs breaking event, and this month he held a webinar to educate teachers about Breaking.

Last week, Reyes partnered with YonkersArts to form a Breakdancing League, which focuses on the education, practice, and competitive sport of the art of 'Breaking', marking a significant milestone in the cultural and artistic landscape of Yonkers. The league will span four months of intensive instruction and exhilarating competition.

Reyes, who is co-founder of the AAA All Stars, a non-profit that helps young people focus on academics, athletics and the arts, is excited for the next chapter of breaking. "This is history, this is something special, and the NYC Breakers are happy to be a part of history."

Reyes, who hosted a TV show featuring Breakers, Rappers and celebrities in 2000-2001, youtu.be/4EhKOEw7n5s?si=NazO5pPub7SQuoLV

Is available to provide commentary on the first Olympic Breakers. He can be reached at BboylondonNYCB@gmail.com.

Editor's Note: We also learned from this interview that the term "Breakdancing" is not the preferred word to use. Reyes explained that Breakdancing was invented in the media in the 1980's as an easy way to categorize Breaking. Breaking is the proper term to use for what is now an Olympic sport.

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In case of rain, please call 914-375-3435 or check our website www.untermyerperformingarts.org after 3 pm the day of the performance.
Our rain site is Saunders High School, 183 Palmer Road, Yonkers.

Our events are admission free and open to the public.
Please bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets, as we do not provide seating.

This program is one in cooperation with Mayor Mike Spano, and the Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Funding for our programs and classes is received from Arts Westchester with support from Westchester County Government, the City of Yonkers, Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, patrons, Empire City Casino by MGM and our loyal arts patrons.

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Kennedy Launches His Vision to Heal America

Independent Presidential Candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. recently launched #AmericaStrong, his vision for how he will heal America.

America Strong is Kennedy's plan to heal our divisions, restore the prosperity of our people, and ensure the upcoming election does not end with half of our citizens feeling alienated by the very country they love. America Strong is his commitment to lead a unity government — four years of truly cross-partisan governance, representing all our people, not just the victors.

Kennedy's America Strong platform will: appoint a cabinet comprising members of the Democratic and Republican parties, as well as Libertarians and people from outside any party. convene a cross-partisan advisory committee to propose and select Supreme Court judges; carefully examine whether any prosecutions of public and private officials were politically motivated and I will pardon or commute the sentences of people who have been politically persecuted; consider pardoning any past president and members of their families if I find any charges still pending against them next year were politically motivated; forbid the weaponization of the Justice Department, the IRS, or any other government agency to surveil or undermine political opponents or their supporters; give American people a direct voice in guiding legislation and scrutinizing the budget, through direct democracy initiatives. Learn more at Kennedy24.com

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FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Westchester's First Woman Owned Cannabis Dispensary to Open in New Rochelle Aug 3

By Dan Murphy

Over the past few months, several licensed Cannabis dispensaries have opened in Westchester County. One county dispensary that is hoping to open its doors on Aug. 3 is High Life Health, LLC, owned by Jennifer Gierum.

High Life Health LLC will be one of the few female owned Cannabis dispensaries in New York State, and the only women owned in Westchester.

High Life Health will offer both medical and adult-use cannabis products to customers, including a wide array of whole flower products, vaporizers, concentrates, edibles, pre-rolled, beverages, topical, accessories and specialized items for pets.

Their location, at 19 Huguenot Street, New Rochelle, NY 10801, will include curbside services, enabling customers to have a more convenient experience.

"It is a privilege to establish Highlife Health LLC in my hometown and also setting a precedent for our community that women can thrive and carve their own path in any industry," said Jennifer Gierum, President/CEO of Highlife Health LLC. "Embracing this challenge entails more than just introducing safe products to the marketplace; it involves leading the charge in alternative medicine, catalyzing a transformative era of wellness and empowerment."

Gierum explained that the planned opening is for Aug 3. "However that depends on final licensure with the state. They have to inspect us first. We are awaiting our CO, so we can call the state in to inspect. Then they will issue our final certificate to operate. We hope to be one of the first 150 licensed dispensaries to open in the entire state"

The dispensary will include a number of sales terminals to ensure efficient service and minimal wait times for patients, and spacious parking.

Jennifer Gierum brings an interesting life story and professional background to her new role. She combines a diverse background in acting, modeling, and entrepreneurship with a keen sense of business acumen. While raising her two young sons, she managed employment/contracts with major corporations like PepsiCo, Ethan Allen, and News Corp in financial roles. After her children embarked to college, Jennifer returned to her acting roots, achieving success with appearances in numerous television and film productions.

Now, Jennifer is leveraging her passion for holistic living and alternative medicine to pioneer a new venture. She has secured a coveted adult-use cannabis license in the state of New York, aiming to introduce these healing alternatives to her community at large.

Recently the state task force closed down 6 illegal dispensaries in New Rochelle. "This opportunity is in uncharted territory and has come with a ton of struggles in order to get to this point," said Gierum.

What is the mission of High Life Health LLC?

"To start to normalize talking about the effects that cannabis can have on every individuals well being. To educate our customers as to the actual benefits of cannabinoids, and to direct them appropriately to products that will truly make a difference. I truly have a personal mission to let others know that when used appropriately, this can be safer alternative to medicating young adults with prescription medicine that they eventually stop taking because the side effects are too harsh, leaving them untreated, or allowing them continuous use of alcohol because you do not know what to do. I feel that this is my mission because if I was afforded this opportunity when my own children were in school, I would have not been able to own this type of business. The stigma attached in high school would have been too much for my own children to take. My own mother called me a "dope dealer", when I told her that I received a license. Now, she is starting to educate herself, and allowing conversation.

Why did you decide to get into the Cannabis business?

"My friend came to me for my opinion on the Social and Economic Equality Application. In reviewing the application, I realized that I could qualify as a SEE applicant, as a solely woman owned and financed entity. The opportunity was extremely enticing, because I had just started looking into and accepting cannabis as a holistic medicine in my own son's anxiety treatment. I was able to see with my own eyes what the proper uses of cannabis can aid. I am now passionate about educating others about this holistic approach to living."

What role can cannabis, THC, and CBD have on improving a customer's health?

"THC is primarily responsible for the psychoactive effects of cannabis, which can include relaxation, euphoria, and pain relief. It may also stimulate appetite and reduce nausea.

CBD is non-psychoactive and has been associated with various potential therapeutic effects. It may have anti-inflammatory properties, help alleviate pain, reduce anxiety and depression symptoms, and even have antipsychotic effects.

CBN (cannabinol) is often cited for its potential sedative effects. Some research suggests that CBN may have mild sedative properties and could potentially help in promoting sleep. It may be particularly effective when combined with other cannabinoids like THC or CBD.

What are the impacts of illegal cannabis stores?

Products sold in illegal cannabis stores are not subject to regulatory oversight or quality control measures enforced by legal frameworks. This lack of regulation can lead to products being contaminated with pesticides, molds, or other harmful substances. Ingesting such products can pose serious health risks to consumers. Illegal dispensaries may operate in ways that compromise public safety. This can include issues such as selling cannabis to minors, operating in unsafe locations, or attracting criminal activity due to cash transactions and the presence of valuable inventory. The presence of illegal cannabis stores can impact the character and safety of neighborhoods. Concerns may arise regarding increased traffic, loitering, and a perceived decrease in property values

Are you concerned about an overflow of legal Cannabis stores? Are you worried about competition?

I am not concerned that there will be an overflow of legal stores. The Office of Cannabis Management has clear outlines as to limits based on population data. I have to trust that they will continue to act in everyone's best interest and keep current proximity protections in place.

What makes your dispensary appealing to customers?

We are woman owned and family run. Our focus is on educating our customers about the products that will help them best and help them to navigate this ever changing field of alternative medicine. Our staff is knowledgeable and our space inviting.

What would you tell someone who has never tried, cannabis, THC, or CBD?

It is important for the first time cannabis user to take it slow. Many go overboard the first time, and never want to touch it again. It is important to communicate to your bud tender exactly the effect that you are looking for. This way they can select the appropriate product and instruct you as to the way to start off taking the product.

What products are among your most popular?

We are not open yet, however I have met with tons of cultivators and brand owners. They are seeing a rise in disposable vape cartridges, edibles. They attribute the rise in edibles due to a new "fast acting" component, and disposable cartridges for the convenience.

What is popular among older customers? Or Younger Customers?

From what I have heard everyone either wants energy or sleep. It doesn't matter the age. However, I intend to educate our customers as to what they really should be using to address their specific concern.

What are the financial challenges that come with opening a cannabis business in NY?

We have had so many challenges, however financially it has not been as bad as one would think. I was able to receive a reduced rate for all licensing fees due to the fact that I am a woman entity. The toughest challenge was having to lease a space prior to submitting the initial application. The state review process at the time was flawed, and horribly slow. I had to secure the space from October of 2023, when my application was submitted. If we pass our final inspection as planned, we will open in August. That means that I have had to pay a lease on our space for a total of 10 months, without being able to open. Some who aren't licensed yet are still paying their leases, however the state has proximity protected them. The build-out has been way more expensive than planned. I have had to invest a ton of money into high-tech security systems, and safety to assure that my family, employees and I are safe. We have also endured extensive costs associated with building our website, and online ordering features.

After their opening, High Life Health will be open Monday to Saturday from 10am – 9pm and Sunday 10:00 am—5:00pm. Phone: (914) 500 – 0010 For more information about High Life Health LLC visit <https://highlifehealth.cannalogic.co/>

Westchester Dems thank Biden, continued from pg 7-

you, also, for saving our democracy once before in the last presidential election," Jones said on X. "You deserve this much-needed rest, and know that your legacy is secure."

Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg said, "President Biden has done a tremendous job leading the United States out of the pandemic and into an economy that is the envy of the world. With the narrowest of margins in Congress – with Vice President Kamala Harris frequently casting the 51st vote in the Senate – he pushed for, and won, incredible legislation for our country. His accomplishments include the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, funds from which are supporting projects in my district right now, as well as the nation's most consequential environmental legislation to date. I am so tremendously grateful for his service to the country. I also share President Biden's belief that his governing partner is the best person to succeed him in this race. Kamala Harris is well-prepared, eminently qualified, and an inspiration to so many. And who better than a literal prosecutor to make the case against convicted felon Donald Trump? As Democrats, we have an incredible record of success to run on this year, while Republicans have nothing but Project 2025 to offer. The choice is clear; let's get to work."

Republican Congressman Mike Lawler stated, "Though President Biden and I have not seen eye to eye on a number of issues, I recognize his deep commitment to our country, and thank him for his years of service to our nation," Lawler said. "While I respect President Biden's decades of service to the country, and it's unfortunate to see it end this way for him, Americans saw what they saw in the Presidential debate just over three weeks ago. It was clear President Biden wasn't capable of running for re-election, let alone fulfilling another term. Democrat party elites tried to hide this from the American people for well over a year, but have spent weeks desperately working to depose President Biden, usurping the will of over 14.6 million Democratic Primary voters. They have succeeded. But the simple fact remains – no matter who replaces Joe Biden at the top of the ticket for the Democrats, they'll be leading a party whose elites are increasingly radical and out of touch with the majority of Americans and whose policies have given us a broken economy, a disaster at our Southern border, and left the world a tinderbox. This election will be a referendum on those failed policies."

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Governor Hochul Expands the Number of NY Family Court Judges; 1 More Westchester Judge



Sharon Matthie

Submitted by Delfim Heusler, Editor Yonkers Insider <https://yonkersinsider.blogspot.com/2024/07/yonkers-insider-report-2024-election.html>

In A Race for Westchester County Family Court Judge that had 3 Spots, that is now 4 Spots with the Addition of one Extra Family Court Judge in Westchester County, which will be added in this Election in 2024.

Westchester County Democratic Committee This Week Nominated Lawyer, Sharon Matthie for Westchester County Family Court Judge in this Election in 2024 as a Result of the Addition made by Governor Kathy Hochul.

Earlier in the Year: Democrats Nominated Allison Burke, Judge Maritza Fugaro Norton Raynette Brewster when there were originally 3 Slots. Republicans had originally Nominated Edward Mevec and Candidates Nominated Joseph Farca and Jean Marie Marquardt had Declined their Nominations for Westchester County Family Court Judge.

We will continue to cover this Westchester County Family Court Judge Race in November.

Yonkers Insider Publisher Delfim Heusler

Press Release from Governor Hochul on the Additional Judges in the Press Release Below.

Legislation S.9839/A.10540 Expands the Number of Family and Civil Court Judges.

Governor Kathy Hochul today signed legislation to reduce case backlog in family and civil courts by expanding the number of judges appointed and elected statewide.

“Civil and family courts adjudicate some of the most sensitive issues New Yorkers face, and for too long, backlogs and delays have inhibited their ability to function effectively,” Governor Hochul said. “This legislation gives our courts the tools to tackle the case backlog and carry out the fair and efficient justice system New Yorkers deserve.”

Legislation S.9839/A.10540 increases the number of family and civil court judges throughout New York State by 28. Two will be assigned to Nassau County, two will be assigned to Suffolk County, and one additional judge will be assigned in each of the following counties: Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Erie, Jefferson, Rensselaer, Rockland and Westchester counties. The legislation will also add 16 judges for New York City, including citywide positions that will be distributed across the five boroughs at the discretion of the Mayor of the City of New York. These reforms will help address well-documented backlogs and delays throughout the family court process and expedite proceedings. OCA is constantly monitoring where judges are needed throughout the state and will address individual communities’ needs to ensure a balanced and efficient distribution of judicial resources.

New York State Court of Appeals Chief Judge Rowan Wilson said, “Addressing the needs of families in distress is one of the highest priorities of the New York State Unified Court System, and we applaud Governor Hochul and the Legislature for their leadership on this issue. Creating these new judgeships across the State, together with the augmentation of resources required to serve our families, will greatly enhance our ongoing efforts to improve the lives of children and families and to ensure that individuals appearing in Family Court receive the fair, thoughtful and expeditious delivery of justice that they deserve.”

Pelham Swimmer Kate Douglass Goes for the Gold at Paris Olympics

By Dan Murphy

Westchester Olympic watchers can include Pelham super swimmer Kate Douglass as someone to root for as she embarks on her quest for gold in Paris.

At the age of 15, Kate qualified for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in the 50 free, 100 and 200 breast, and 200 IM.

In 2020, Kate competed in the Olympic Games in Tokyo, winning the bronze medal in the 200m Individual Medley – Women.

Now Douglass is ready to swim for the Gold.

Katherine Cadwallader Douglass (born November 17, 2001) is an American competitive swimmer. A versatile swimmer who competes in many events, Douglass won her first major international medal at the 2020 Olympic Games with a bronze in the 200 m individual medley. She won three medals at the 2022 World Championships. Douglass then won six medals, including two golds, at the 2023 World Championships. At the 2024 World Championships, she won five medals, including two golds.

Douglass was born on November 17, 2001, in Pelham, New York, as the daughter of Allison and William Douglass. She has a younger sister, Abby, and a younger brother, Will. She attended Pelham Memorial High School and graduated in 2019. Douglass first swam for the Westchester Aquatic Club in New York, before moving to the Chelsea Piers Aquatic Club in Connecticut in 2017.

Douglass competed for the University of Virginia during her NCAA career, which lasted from 2019 to 2023. She is considered one of the greatest swimmers in NCAA history. In her three NCAA Division I Championship meets in 2021, 2022, and 2023, she helped Virginia win the team competition. At the 2021 NCAA Championships, she won one gold medal and six silver medals. At the 2022 NCAA Championships, she won seven gold medals. At the 2023 NCAA Championships, she won seven gold medals. Douglass won the Honda Sports Award as the best college female swimmer in 2022 and 2023.

The best place to watch and root for Douglass is at The Pelham Picture House, who will host special viewing parties for Pelham swimming sensation Kate Douglass who will compete for Team USA in Paris in Olympics 2024. Douglass will compete in multiple events and viewing parties will take place in the Main Hall in Pelham for the finals of:

Saturday, July 27 2:30pm: Women's 4x100 Freestyle Relay, Race: 3:34pm

Thursday, August 1 2:30pm: Women's 200M Breaststroke, Race: 3:04pm

Saturday, August 3 2:30pm: Women's 200 IM Final, Mixed Medley Race, 3:01pm

Sunday, August 4 1:00pm: Women's 4x100 Medley Relay Race, 1:26pm

*All times are Eastern Standard Time

“We are thrilled to host viewing parties at our Pelham theater for our hometown hero, Kate Douglass, whose incredible swimming performances have brought immense pride to our town,” said Clayton Bushong, Executive Director, The Picture Houser Regional Film Center. “At The Picture House, our mission is to unite our community through shared experiences, and there is no better way to do this than by cheering on Kate Douglass in her Olympic 2024 campaign!”

Douglass joins Mt. Vernon native Rai Benjamin as Westchester hopefuls in Paris. We reprint our story about Rai on page 16.

Adoption: Everything You Need to Know DOMESTIC AGENCY ADOPTION FREE Information Session WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024 FREE ZOOM EVENT



Forever Families Through Adoption, Inc.
FFTA (914) 939-1180

This free event is open to a small number of pre-registered guests interested in the DOMESTIC adoption process. [Se Habla Español](#)

Learn about the domestic adoption process and meet some of the staff of Forever Families Through Adoption. FFTA is authorized in NY and CT.

Date: WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. FREE

Location: ZOOM conference meeting

Contact FFTA by calling or emailing for more details

Email: adopt@ForeverFamiliesThroughAdoption.org

CALL (914) 939-1180

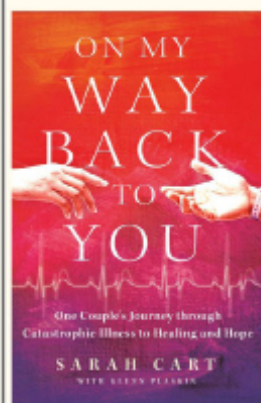
Web: www.foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org

Pre-registration is required to receive sign in codes.

Forever Families Through Adoption welcomes all families regardless of race, religion, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, nationality or disability.

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Q&A and Book Signing will follow the discussion

Registration is recommended.

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Armonk Man Indicted for Attempted Murder of North Castle Police Sergeant



Joseph Spennato

Defendant allegedly attempted to stab the sergeant multiple times as police were taking him into custody; Second officer fired duty pistol twice to stop defendant

On July 16, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced today that an Armonk man was indicted for the attempted murder of a North Castle police sergeant in May.

DA Rocah said: “We are seeking to hold this defendant accountable for his alleged attempt to kill a police sergeant who was simply trying to do his job. We are grateful that the officer was not seriously injured or killed during this unprovoked attack.”

The defendant, Joseph Spennato, 38, was arraigned today before New York State Supreme Court Justice Anne E. Minihan in Westchester County Court on an indictment by a Westchester County Grand Jury for Attempted Aggravated Murder and Attempted Aggravated Assault Upon a Police Officer, both felonies, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree, a misdemeanor.

The defendant remains remanded to Westchester County Jail. His next court date is Aug. 6

At approximately 12:26 p.m. on May 20, two North Castle police officers responded to a 911 emergency call on Hallock Place in Armonk to assist a 78-year-old woman who needed medical care. At the scene, officers became aware that the defendant, who had two outstanding bench warrants in North Castle Town Court, was also in the home. When officers attempted to arrest the defendant, he allegedly used a knife attempting to stab Sgt. William McClure multiple times in the back, striking the sergeant’s ballistic vest, before Police Officer Chris Costa used his duty pistol to fire two shots, striking the defendant twice. The incident was captured on police-worn body cameras.

The defendant and both officers were transported to local hospitals for treatment and evaluation; the officers were uninjured.

The defendant was arrested in the hospital on May 28 following an investigation conducted by the Westchester County Department of Public Safety and the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Bureau Chief Jonathan Strongin and Assistant District Attorney Alexander B. Shapiro, both of the Trials & Investigations Division, with assistance from the Rye Bureau.

The charges against the defendant are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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“Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”

-Thomas Jefferson

Westchester Rising

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County Executive George Latimer is quoted, “I expect him to be the Democratic nominee for county executive...I don’t know that I’ve heard anybody thinking of challenging him within the party.”

“Nobody has called me up and said ‘I’m definitely in’” said Westchester County Democratic Committee Chair Suzanne Berger. Many Westchester Democrats have questioned both the timing of the story, and the need to anoint Jenkins the democratic nominee, in the middle of July.

The political calendar to see who will replace Latimer has moved up after Latimer’s win in the democratic primary for congress against Rep. Jamaal Bowman. But Latimer still has to win the general election in November. His term as county executive ends at the end of next year, 2025.

But, if he beats the republican candidate for congress, Dr. Miriam Levitt Flisser, he will be sworn in as a member of the House in January. At that point Latimer will have to vacate the office of County Executive, or he could do that earlier to prepare for his new job in DC.

In the spring of 2025, there will have to be a special election for County Executive. That will include both the democrat and republican nominees. The winner of the special election will serve until November of 2025, when another county executive election will take place for a full, four-year term.

At this point, Ken Jenkins is the front runner to be the next Westchester County Executive. He has served as Latimer’s deputy for 7 years. He also served as the Vice-Chair of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission.

But when Westchester democrats read the story, several that we spoke to wondered, why now and what is the rush? The story ran on July 1, in the middle of the summer, when most are away or aren’t paying attention to local politics. And Westchester democrats just got through a draining Latimer-Bowman democratic primary.

Specifically, Westchester democrats that we spoke to see the City & State story as a slight to the Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. Mike Spano was the first Democrat to hold the Mayor’s office in Yonkers in 16 years when he was elected in 2011. When he first took office as Yonkers Mayor, the Yonkers City Council had a Republican majority, a Republican County Executive, and a Republican majority on the County Board of Legislators. The leadership of Mike Spano as the face of the Democratic Party has powered the victories that led to those legislative bodies and positions becoming Democratically controlled.

Mike Spano has a track record as mayor of delivering balanced budgets, smart development, and a booming workforce in Yonkers. Mike Spano also has an incredible track record of electability. In a special election potentially in the month of March, Westchester County Democrats need a candidate with universal appeal like Mike Spano.

So, based on this record, should Mayor Spano be given a chance to think it over, and determine if he wants to run for County Executive? And we hear that there are other elected Westchester democrats interested in at least testing the waters for a County Executive run.

“I like Ken, but to crown him as the next County Executive is premature,” said Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier. “I think the mayor of the third largest City in New York, who is popular with all groups, should be allowed to consider a run. We don’t know what his next political move is.”

“There are democrats out there who have political ambition equal to Ken and have political dreams of their own. There might be some other Mayors who are interested. It might be someone we don’t even know.

“It’s extremely early. A lot of people need to consider it and talk to their supporters and their family,” said Meier.

Harrison democrat Mark Jaffe, who ran for Harrison Supervisor last year said, “Anybody can run in a primary, and I don’t know if Mayor Spano wants to run. But he would make a fine candidate for County Executive, no doubt. He is doing a great job running the city and is immensely popular. I think Ken is happy with the story, but it guarantees nothing. And I do think that someone will challenge him if its Mike or someone else.”

A Yorktown democrat said, “This special election for County Executive is a very important for the future of our county. We need a candidate that people from every corner of the county can support- that person could very well be Mike Spano. We must have an open process in electing our next County Executive. I truly hope that Mike Spano considers a run for County Executive. His position as moderate Democrat is something that voters are embracing more than ever.”

A Hastings-on-Hudson democrat said, “Mike Spano has transformed Yonkers and brought the best out of the city. He can do the same thing for our county. As a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, I have seen Mayor Spano unite communities and make inclusion the hallmark of his time thus far as Mayor. Mayor Mike Spano should be an option for County Executive or even higher office considering the way he transformed Yonkers.”

Other Yonkers democrats see a “growing discontent” between Yonkers democrats and the county democrats. “We get no credit for all the wins we have had here in Yonkers. Whether it’s getting out the vote, organizing volunteers or raising money, that’s not coming from the county democrats,” said one Yonkers Democrat. “There is a growing number of people who think that Mayor Spano should consider running for County Executive.”

Recent victories by Yonkers democrats include City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy’s win over then Council President Mike Khader, and Mayor Spano’s recent reelection primary victory over councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac, are two examples used by Westchester Democrats we spoke to.

The caveat to all of this is that Spano has not made up his mind and loves his job as Yonkers Mayor. But his supporters and those around him have tossed out the possibility.

“When we want to be organized, we can do it. This is nothing against Ken Jenkins, but more to the county organization. Sometimes, the county has no respect for the Yonkers democrats and as a result, we are uneasy, so we asked the mayor to consider it.

Mayor Spano’s brother, Nick Spano, recently held a fund raiser for Governor Kathy Hochul at his Yonkers home, raising six figures. “There’s a lot of Spano democrats in Yonkers, and we have been winning a lot of elections, even outside of Yonkers,” said one Eastchester democrat.

One Yonkers democrat who likes both Jenkins and Spano, did say, “George still has to win in November. Why not wait until then? It’s way too early to do anything, or make any democrat commit. But I also know that Mayor Spano loves being mayor and it would take a lot to pry him out.”

Yonkers power in the Westchester democratic committee has declined over the past 20 years, from holding 25% of the county committee weighted voters to now around 18%. Some of the smaller democratic committees in northern Westchester have come together and formed an alliance, combining their share of the weighted vote.

“Sometimes, it’s a misunderstanding of cities. Yonkers has a lot of great democratic candidates, starting with Mayor Spano and Ken Jenkins. We helped elect Susan Cacace, who comes from Yonkers. And Yonkers democrats have helped their candidates. You can’t ask for our help without respecting our achievements and importance. Four Yonkers democrats are thinking about running for County Clerk. When you have qualified candidates who can win countywide, location shouldn’t matter,” said another Yonkers democrat.

Meier added, “Ken and I are good friends and the mayor, and I are good friends—but we could have a big showdown next year.”

Go for the Gold Rai Benjamin!

Glen Island Sand Competition Returns, Aug. 3



Mount Vernon native Rai Benjamin, a 2015 Mount Vernon High School graduate, is returning to the Olympics this summer in Paris. In the 2020 Olympics, Benjamin, above, won the silver medal, losing the Gold to Norway's Karsten Warholm in the 400 Meter Hurdles. Benjamin has waited and trained for three years to get back to the Olympics. He recently won the US Olympic trials in the 400 with a US record best 46.16 seconds. After punching his ticket to Paris, Benjamin gave his record time a "C-plus" and will look to improve on his time on the big stage in Paris. The Olympics begin on July 26. Benjamin was a three-time New York State Public High School Athletic Association champion at MVHS. The Mount Vernon native also ran track and field at the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles.

The son of Winston Benjamin and Jeanette Mason, Rai has overcome injuries since the last Olympics but says that he is now in top health. All of Westchester, and America will be watching and rooting for you.

Get your thinking caps on, assemble your team, and dust off your pails and shovels and register for the Glen Island Sand Art Competition, which takes place, Saturday, Aug. 3 at 11 a.m.! Teams should be comprised of at least two participants, with a maximum of 10. Each team will be provided with three, five gallon buckets, a spray bottle and access to water. Additional tools can be brought from home. Building begins at 11 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m., judging begins at 3:30 p.m. and winners will be announced at 4 p.m. Trophies and additional prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place winning teams. Registration required.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Glen Island Beach is a true gem of Westchester County and the annual, beloved tradition of its Sand Art Competition showcases the enormous talent of residents of all ages. The Parks staff do an incredible job of organizing this fun event."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Kathy O'Connor said, "Year-after-year, the Sand Art Competition participants impress me with their creativity. I'm looking forward to this year's creations!" Participation in the Sand Art Competition is free; parking and admission fees apply. Westchester County residence is required to enter Glen Island. Rain date is Sunday, Aug. 4.

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