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“He Was A Good Kid, He Just Followed the Wrong Crowd” 14-Year Old Murdered in Mt Vernon; MVPD & FBI Quickly Arrest Suspect

By Dan Murphy

Westchester is mourning the loss of 14 year old Zyaire Fernandez, who was shot and killed on March 9, in Mt. Vernon. Fernandez was killed in the courtyard of the Levister Towers housing complex in Mt. Vernon in the early morning hours on a Thursday. His mother said, “he was good kid, he just followed the wrong crowd.”

Some on social media questioned why Zyaire was not in school that day, but most of us at one time or another “skipped school” when we were young.

Zyaire was a 9th grade student at Mount Vernon STEAM Academy. a GoFundMe page was set up to pay for funeral costs. “We are coming together to celebrate the life of our beloved Zyaire who was taken away from us at just the young tender age of 14 years young.



Zyaire Fernandes

“We are coming to our community to ask for your help in sending our boy off in the manner in which he deserves to be sent off. Like the hero he was. If you knew Zy you knew that infectious smile, the lovable laugh, and the loyalty he felt to his family and friends at all time. He was a good kid with a good heart that didn’t deserve this to happen to him and as community we need to come together to stop the violence . It starts with all of us. So in this time of mourning we ask for all yall prayers, love, and any contributions you can give to help with us sending our boy off right. Even if you have nothing to give, a kind word and share of this post. Thank you for taking time to read our post and we hope you all stay safe out here. God Bless,”

The GoFundMe link is https://www.gofundme.com/f/celebrating-the-life-of-zyaire-fernandez?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=p_cp%20share-sheet.

Five days after Fernandez was shot and killed, the Mt. Vernon Police & FBI made an arrest. From the MVPD, Mount Vernon Police Department Detectives have made an arrest in connection with the March 9, 2023, murder of 14 year old Zyaire Fernandez.

Shortly after 1:00 AM, on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, Mount Vernon Police Detectives and members of the FBI Westchester Safe Streets Task Force, located the suspect, 21-year-old, Tyrese L Coghiel, and took him into custody.

Zyaire Fernandez was shot shortly after 10:30 AM on Thursday, March 9, 2023, in the courtyard of the Levister Towers apartment buildings. He was transported to Montefiore Mount Vernon Hospital, where he succumbed to his wounds.

Coghiel, who has no criminal history, is being charged with Murder 2nd Degree, a class A Felony and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree, a class C Felony. Coghiel is being held in the Mount Vernon City Jail pending his arraignment, which is scheduled for March 14. The prosecution is being handled by the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office.

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Two Signature Bank Branches in Westchester Closed by FDIC: All Deposits Protected



Depositors at Signature Bank brach in New Rochelle were seeking answers

By Dan Murphy

The bank failure of Silicon Valley Bank, SVB, in California over the weekend, overshadowed another bank failure in New York, by Signature Bank, which has two branches in Westchester; one in New Rochelle and another in White Plains.

Governor Kathy Hochul explained that the State Department of Financial Services took over the operations of Signature Bank and then turned it over to the FDIC. “Throughout the weekend, DFS Superintendent Adrienne Harris and I have been working closely with Federal partners on ways to stabilize the banking sector and protect the hard-earned money of New Yorkers whose livelihoods depend on impacted companies.”

“I’m grateful that the Federal regulators have taken steps to do just that, and I hope that these actions will provide increased confidence in the stability of our banking system. Many depositors at these banks are small businesses, including those driving the innovation economy, and their success is key to New York’s robust economy.”

“So where do we stand? The New York State Department of Financial Services took possession of a New York Chartered bank known as Signature, and it’s immediately turned over to the FDIC, the department appointed the FDIC to run the day-to-day operations, and this all is in the aftermath of what happened.

“We saw on Friday this unfolding with Silicon Valley Bank out in California, and this had an effect on a bank here, in particular, Signature Bank So, what the Federal Reserve and the FDIC did this weekend was important. They invoke powers that were conferred to them to create a stop gap situation to give out the message to all depositors that their deposits, even above the \$250,000 limit, which is in the law with FDIC protections, that those above that would also be protected. And what this did sent a ripple across the states - and also the country - that deposits would be protected, and that was important for people to hear,” said Hochul.

President Joe Biden said on March 13 that the American banking system is

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Let’s Go Iona! Onto March Madness, in Pitino’s Last Year?



Iona
vs
UConn
March 17
Round One

Iona Coach Rick Pitino holding the MAAC Championship trophy

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to the Iona Gaels Mens Basketball team, who won the MAAC tournament with a dominant win over Marist in the finals, 76-55, on March 11. Iona, (27-7) has won 14 games in a row, the third longest current streak in the NCAA, and just in time for March Madness, the NCAA college basketball tournament about to begin.

Leading the Gaels was Junior Guard Daniss Jenkins with 27 points. Sophomore Walter Clayton Jr. had 17 points. 6’9” Nelly Joseph, from Nigeria, and 7 foot tall Osborn Shema, from Rwanda, give Iona a strong power forward-center combination inside. Add guard Berrick JeanLouis, and forward Michael Jefferson, and head coach Rick Pitino has a solid six player rotation to take on the Big names in college basketball.

Iona will know soon who their first opponent will be in March madness. Look for the Gaels to play their first game on St. Patty’s day, and Westchester now has a home team to root for.

But just as loud as Iona’s win and ticket into March Madness, were the rumors that head coach Rick Pitino might be leaving at the end of the season, to a larger program; St. John’s or Georgetown were the two Big East teams we heard about.

Pitino tried to downplay all of the rumors about his future after the win over Marist. “My interests lie with my team, and I’m very thankful to Iona University... If I ever move, I’d have to have firm belief that the job I take — wherever it may be — can win like Iona. And I’m not sure that there are very few of those

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Latimer on Hochul’s Housing Plan: “We Do Not Believe in Overriding Local Zoning”



“We do not believe in overriding local zoning. We do not believe in forcing a municipality to do something.

“We can get more done cooperatively than with mandates. I do not accept the premise that zoning is intrinsically racist and wrong.

“In wanting to solve the housing problem you will do more damage damage by overriding the decision of a community.”

-County Executive
-George Latimer

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, pictured above and joined by Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, gave his weekly briefing on March 13 and commented on Governor Hochul’s plan to build 800,000 units of housing across the state by mandating that local communities with a Metro-North station to increase their housing around their train stations by 3%.

Hochul’s New York Housing Compact has been met with opposition from almost every elected official but has been supported by local housing and non-profits.

“We in Westchester County recognized that we have a need for more housing, and specifically more affordable housing. But we also believe that the way to accomplish this is to work cooperatively with local communities.

“We do not believe in overriding local zoning. We do not believe in forcing a municipality to do something. We can get more done cooperatively than we can with mandates.

“We just proved that during the COVID crisis when we had a minimum of mandates in Westchester County. We think that local communities can work cooperatively to reach that goal. Setting that goal is fine, it’s an aspirational goal. The best way is to have the local governments come up with the plans to do it.

“Westchester County grew 6% from 2010-2020. More people are moving into Westchester. We have to have housing that the nurse can afford, for seniors and for young people living at home.

“As suburban decision makers, every community has the right to decide how their community will go, based on the people they elect and their zoning.

“I do not accept the premise that zoning is intrinsically racist and wrong. We have an open diverse society in Westchester. The problem is, in trying to solve the housing problem you will do more damage in that local community.”

Many local governments in Westchester have come out against Hochul’s housing plan. The Town of Yorktown, and its five republican members unanimously passed a resolution opposing the NY Housing Compact. “All of Yorktown’s services, including police, volunteer emergency services, water, sewer and our school districts would be adversely affected by the governor’s proposal,” said Supervisor

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DiNapoli: Federal Data Shows New York's Losses in 4th Grade Math & Reading Scores Are Double the National Average

New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli today released a review of recent federal data about how the pandemic negatively affected student performance in New York. In response, he urged New York school districts to assess their plans for spending federal pandemic funds and to target funds towards children most in need.

New York was allocated over \$15 billion in emergency education aid during the pandemic from the federal government, with \$14 billion from three rounds of the Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund (ESSER) assistance. This aid was aimed at elementary and secondary schools and must be obligated by September 2024. Based on data from DiNapoli's COVID-19 Relief Program Tracker, through Jan. 31 New York's school districts have spent roughly 40% of ESSER funds.

"The classroom disruptions caused by the pandemic have hurt New York's students. Academic losses were greater for younger students, with fourth grade scores dropping more than the national average," DiNapoli said. "School districts must act quickly to take full advantage of available resources to help students that are most in need get caught up, before time runs out."

Recent data from The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) shows student performance dropped significantly in 2022 from 2019. New York's average score remained steady for eighth grade reading but declined in eighth grade math (down 6 points). Over this time, New York's losses in fourth grade math and reading scores were double the national average and exceeded 45 other states in math and 38 other states in reading. The average drop for fourth grade math scores (10 points) was so severe that McKinsey & Company estimated this learning loss to be the equivalent of nearly an entire school year.

Over the same time frame, fourth grade math proficiency rates declined across all gender, racial and ethnic groups, and the decline was steepest for Asian and Pacific Islander students, at 14 percentage points. Students from low-income households also experienced steep declines in fourth grade math proficiency rates from 24% to 18%.

The Executive Budget proposes \$42.1 billion in combined state and federal education aid for the upcoming state fiscal year (SFY) 2023-24; however, that total is projected to decline, as the balance of federal pandemic relief funds must be obligated by September 2024. This could be problematic if a significant portion of the relief funds is left unspent or is dedicated to programs with recurring expenses or if significant progress in academic recovery has not occurred.

DiNapoli urged the State Education Department to provide school districts with guidance on best practices for spending of funds and encouraged school districts to ensure funds are being used for evidence-based practices for students most in need.

United for the Troops Prepares 30,000th Care Package for Military Service Members Overseas



A Yorktown charity recently prepared its 30,000th care package for military service members. United for the Troops, a Shrub Oak-based charity that collects food, toiletries, and goods for service members, prepared its 30,000th care package on March 5. Yorktown Supervisor Tom Diana attended the packing session to celebrate the milestone for the group, which was founded in 2008.

"These care packages are tokens of the public's sincere appreciation for the sacrifices our enlisted members are making to protect our freedom. It was an absolute pleasure to help box and ship these packages to our troops," said Supervisor Tom Diana, who participated in the packing sessions.

The Town of Yorktown hosts a collection bin for United for the Troops at Town Hall's lobby. A list of appropriate items that can be donated is posted on the Town's website.

To learn more, volunteer or make a donation, visit unitedforthetroops.org/

Latimer and Legislators buy Westchesterites Flatware Sets

By Eric Wolf Schoen



In my next life I'm going to come back as WESTCHESTER County Executive or a County Legislator. Before Covid no one knew what the County did other than have swimming pools and a place on your tax bills. As a Yonkers City Councilman turned Legislator once told me, the job of a Councilperson is by far more difficult than Legislator because the public knows their Councilperson and what he/she does vs. a County Legislator who most people haven't a clue what they do.

But sometimes our County Legislators, publicity hungry like most politicians will vote for something they have little jurisdiction over. Banks are closing, we are providing monies rightly so for the Ukrainians in their war with Russia, Covid still puts the shivers in many people but what do our friends from the County Office do? Put a restriction on giving out plastic single use utensils and condiment packages. Just what taxpayers are worried about.

The new law states that no food service establishment shall give out single-use utensils or condiment packets to any customer unless they specifically request them. Single-use plastic beverage stirrers or "splash sticks" are no longer permitted. Single use food-ware items or condiment packets must be provided individually and not in a package containing multiple items. A major crisis for everyone.

Now if the County was really concerned about this topic, why didn't they consider the use of sporks. A spork is a combined fork and spoon. But wait a minute what do you use for a knife? The top part of the spork could be fashioned to used as a knife. Most foods that you are using plastic silverware are soft in nature, so between all sides of the device I am sure an astute eater could figure out a way to cut their foods.

No coffee stirrer or 'splash stick.' How am I going to mix in my sweet and low into my Panera coffee? The Board left out the plastic device used for filling the little whole in my coffee cup to keep it hot or for traveling. They can require the 'stopper' be long enough to stir my beverage. That will eliminate one item from the garbage. But until we get sugar and other powder or crystal sweeteners to absorb into the coffee, how can we eliminate something to stir it with as well as keep it hot or from spilling in the car.

If I ordered a steak to go from the diner, I doubt the worker is going to put a mustard packet with my order. I didn't learn until later in life that people put ketchup on frankfurters. So every time I order frankfurters from the diner or any other food that requires condiments I have to be quizzed by the order taker as to what condiments I want? Takes way too long. Many people like myself put the unused condiment packages in the refrigerator for use at a later time particularly if it is something rarely used. Hey, it's better than the people who steal sweet and low and Equal from the diner, restaurant or coffee shop.

My father may he rest in peace hated having his food served on paper or disposable dishes and plastic silverware. He would go into the kitchen at my aunts house to get a real plate and a real fork at a barbecue. There are others like him. That's why I say WESTCHESTER County, if you are gonna pass frivolous legislation make sure it's right. I wonder what the penalties are for giving a packet of red crushed pepper with a pizza from a pizzeria if it's not asked for.

So to solve this perplexing problem, I guess the best thing is for our County officials to give us a flatware set. This way we can carry utensils where ever we are consuming food or beverage and bring them home to be washed or put in the dishwasher. By the way, to save water make sure you have a full dishwasher!

Stopping Theft from Stores

Theft from our stores whether they be bodegas or Bloomingdale's is a major problem not only in Yonkers but throughout WESTCHESTER. I have seen a rack of clothing stolen from the TJ Maxx simply wheeled out of the store. All the electronic theft prevention devices can be removed with a heavy magnet. Many people learn this when the cashier by mistake leaves the theft device on their item, they call the store they purchased it from and in order to avoid a trip back to the store the phone operator tells them use a heavy magnet to remove the security tag. This is no secret.

The increase in thefts started with the 'bring your own bag, we don't give out bags' laws. It use to be that bags were collected at the door, numbered and given back to the customer upon his or her exit. This was done at fancy stores as well as the dollar stores in Getty Square. Add a man sitting on top of a ladder at the dollar store exit and I don't think many things were stolen.

Now people bring bags with them into the store and simply put the merchandise in the bag. Store personnel are told not to confront customers even if they know there are unpaid items in the bag. So this is a problem that has to be solved using old fashion techniques.

Collect and number bags shoppers bring in. Give them a cart for the treasures they are going to buy. Pay for the item, get your numbered bag from the person holding it, leave the store, that's it. When you have people running around a store with empty bags you have a perfect environment for theft!

This won't stop racks of clothes being take from TJMAXX but the potential thief knows someone is watching them!

Briefs:

Stores are now featuring a free 5 pound box of matzah with a minimum purchase in the \$25 to \$50 range. You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy matzah. The stores are screwing us price wise for everything. Here's your chance to get something for free.

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“I Forgot I Had a Loaded Gun With Me”



TSA OFFICERS PREVENT MAN FROM BRINGING A GUN ONTO FLIGHT AT WESTCHESTER AIRPORT

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers at Westchester County Airport prevented a Florida man from bringing his loaded handgun onto his flight on Monday, March 6. The man’s 9mm handgun was loaded with seven bullets including one in the chamber.

The gun was caught as the man entered the security checkpoint. The X-ray unit alerted on the carry-on bag, which required a closer inspection. The firearm was removed by the local police.

The man told officials that he forgot that he had his loaded gun with him. He now faces a stiff financial civil penalty for bringing a gun to a TSA security checkpoint. The penalty for carrying weapons recently increased to a maximum of \$15,000.

“Guns are not permitted through any airport security checkpoint,” said Robert Duffy, TSA’s Federal Security Director for the airport. “Already this is the second handgun that our officers have prevented from getting onto a flight here at Westchester so far this year. Hopefully this will be a strong reminder to others not to bring their guns to our checkpoints. This individual now faces a stiff Federal financial penalty that could cost him thousands of dollars. Additionally, it is important to remember that a concealed carry permit or enrollment in the TSA PreCheck® program are not exemptions from this policy.”

Passengers are only permitted to travel with firearms in checked baggage. Firearms must be unloaded then packed in a hard-sided locked case. The locked case must be taken to the airline check-in counter to be declared. TSA has details on how to properly travel with a firearm posted on its website.

Firearm possession laws vary by state and locality and gun owners have a duty to ensure they are not violating any local firearm laws. Additionally, contacting the respective airline could reveal any additional requirements for traveling with firearms and ammunition.

Bringing a gun to an airport checkpoint carries a federal civil penalty because TSA reserves the right to issue a civil penalty to travelers who have guns and gun parts with them at a checkpoint. Civil penalties for bringing a gun into a checkpoint can stretch into thousands of dollars, depending on mitigating circumstances. This applies to travelers with or without concealed gun carry permits because a concealed carry permit does not allow a firearm to be carried onto an airplane. The complete list of civil penalties is posted online. Additionally, if a traveler with a gun is a member of TSA PreCheck®, that individual will lose their TSA PreCheck privileges.

Last year, 6,542 firearms were caught at 262 out of 430 airport security checkpoints nationwide. Eighty-eight percent of those guns were loaded.

Unsure if an item should be packed in a carry-on bag, checked bag, either or neither? Download the free myTSA app, which has a handy “What can I bring?” feature that allows you to type in the item to find out if it can fly. Or ask on Twitter or Facebook Messenger at @AskTSA. Travelers may send a question by texting “Travel” to AskTSA (275-872).

NYAG James, County Exec. Latimer, Mayor Spano Offer Tax Tips

New York Attorney General Letitia James, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, and Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today continued their efforts to protect and inform New Yorkers by offering tips and information on various resources available this tax season. With this year’s Tax Day only a month away, the officials are raising awareness about tax credits that may be at New Yorkers’ disposal, to ensure taxpayers receive the benefits they have earned. Additionally, Attorney General James urged New Yorkers to stay vigilant and report any suspected tax scams to her office.

“Tax season may feel overwhelming to many New Yorkers, but thankfully there are resources available to lighten the load,” said Attorney General James. “I encourage all New Yorkers to take advantage of the organizations dedicated to helping out during the tax preparation process, and to utilize all of the tax breaks for which you qualify. Additionally, please stay vigilant against bad actors trying to take advantage, and you can always report concerns and complaints to my office. I am proud to partner with County Executive Latimer and Mayor Spano to help raise awareness and ensure New Yorkers have all the information they need for a less stressful tax season.”

“I urge all New Yorkers to stay vigilant against tax scams and to report any suspected fraudulent activity to the Attorney General’s office,” said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. “I thank Attorney General Letitia James for her unwavering dedication to the well-being of our communities. By offering valuable tips and information on tax resources and credits we are working to ensure all taxpayers receive the benefits they are entitled to.”

“From assisting our seniors with tax preparation to offering mobile tax offices, the city of Yonkers is committed to aiding our residents this and every tax season,” said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. “We are proud to partner with Attorney General James and Westchester County Executive Latimer to better prepare and educate taxpayers with useful resources and tips.”

As part of their ongoing efforts to help New Yorkers file their taxes safely and help reduce the stress the tax filing process can cause, Attorney General James, County Executive Latimer, and Mayor Spano want to ensure New Yorkers are aware of the Internal Revenue Service’s (IRS) Free Filing program. Additionally, New York state has the Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP) under which eligible New Yorkers can receive free virtual tax assistance from the state’s Department of Taxation and Finance. New Yorkers should know that there are Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites where they can get their tax returns prepared free of charge. Locally, multiple partners, including the Westchester County government, work together to offer free tax preparation for eligible residents. Anyone using a tax preparer is encouraged to check their qualifications and history through the Better Business Bureau and consult New York’s Consumer Bill of Rights Regarding Tax Preparers.

Attorney General James, County Executive Latimer, and Mayor Spano also remind New Yorkers filing their taxes to apply for tax credits, which can reduce the amount of income tax you owe. Major programs available for eligible New Yorkers include the Empire State child credit, the property tax relief credit, the earned income credit, the solar energy system equipment credit, and many more. For more information about available tax credits, please visit New York state’s Department of Taxation and Finance income tax credit page.

Additionally, Attorney General James, County Executive Latimer, and Mayor Spano urge New Yorkers to remain vigilant against deceptive tax preparer schemes. One scheme to be aware of is tax preparers who deceptively claim to get your tax refund quicker, but will charge high interest rates and fees in the form of Tax Refund Advance Loans. Additional schemes include tax preparers who manipulate your financials to illegally inflate your tax return, and fraudsters who make false promises of free tax preparation services, only to deceive people into paying for those services.

Any New Yorker who suspects that they are a victim of a scam are encouraged to report it to the Office of the Attorney General by submitting a complaint online or calling 800-771-7755. Tax scams should also be reported to the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 800-366-4484.

Hochul Housing continued from pg 1-

Tom Diana, who on Tuesday met with local officials to discuss their opposition to the governor’s proposal. “The governor’s housing quotas would negatively transform our community.”

According to a resolution adopted by the Town Board on February 28, the governor’s proposal would require extreme and substantial amendments to the Town’s local zoning. The changes would affect restrictions on minimum lot sizes, height limits, setbacks, parking, environmental reviews, planning board reviews and aesthetic reviews.

“The Town of Yorktown adamantly opposes the governor’s Housing Compact and urges the State Legislature to preserve and protect Municipal Home Rule and Local Zoning Powers by removing the Housing Compact proposal from the FY 2024 Budget,” stated the Town Board’s resolution.

Signature Bank, continued from pg 1

safe and secure and that all deposits will be protected and refunded to account holders, even if that amount exceeds the \$250,000 limit protected by the FDIC.

SVB had many depositors who had accounts exceeding \$250,000, including many California tech companies, like Roku, who had \$500 Million in their account.

Letter to the Editor: Affordable Housing

I have been reading with interest all of the opposition to Governor Hochul’s plan to build much needed affordable housing all over New York State, including here in Westchester.

To all of those opposed, I have not heard of your alternative plan. We are in desperate need of affordable housing. I applaud the Governor for trying to highlight it and force the hand of some of the wealthier Westchester communities to take action.

Phylis Lipsy, Ossining

Immediate Opening Fallsburg Central School
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 The Fallsburg CSD is looking for a Director of Student Equity to be responsible for the ongoing internal commitment to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for students. The partially grant-funded director of student equity (DSE) will lead and support the district in fostering an inclusive community and eliminating school-related causes of disparities in student outcomes.

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Police Chase Man After Gas Station Robberies in Putnam and Westchester

Putnam County Sheriff Kevin J. McConville reports the arrest of a Brentwood, NY, man after a robbery at a Southeast business.

On March 1, 2023, at approximately 5:15 am, Deputies were dispatched to the Gulf gas station at 1565 Route 22 for a robbery that had just occurred. Upon arrival, Deputies learned that the suspect had fled the scene, and they began an investigation along with members of the Sheriff's BCI Division. It was determined that the suspect entered the store and pointed what was believed to be a firearm at the clerk's head, and demanded money from the register.

The suspect then fled the store with over \$6,000 in cash and approximately \$350 worth of cigarette cartons. Based on information from the store clerk and a very observant customer, who provided photos of the suspect vehicle, an alert was put out to area police agencies.

At approximately 6:10 am, a Westchester County Police Officer observed the suspect vehicle on I287 near I684 in Harrison and began a pursuit. At that time, the car drove the wrong way on Westchester Avenue, eventually crashing near the Hutchinson River Parkway entrance. At that time, the suspect fought with Westchester Officers before being taken into custody.

The suspect, Jose Nieves, 28 years old, was then turned over to Putnam County Sheriff's Deputies, where he was subsequently charged with the following felonies: one count of Robbery in the 2nd Degree, one count of Grand Larceny 3rd Degree, and one count of Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, as it was learned that the vehicle that the suspect was operating was stolen from New York City.

Mr. Nieves is held in the Putnam County Correctional Facility on \$50,000 cash bail or \$100,000 bond. He is also being investigated as a suspect in numerous other armed robberies in New York City, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties, and municipalities in Westchester County, including the Town of North Castle."

The North Castle gas station robbery occurred at Sunoco, 360 Main Street, Armonk.

Iona Pitino , continued from pg 1-

(sic) out there... I got the best players in the world. If somebody can match this culture, I want to see it, 'cause we've built a culture."

To those not familiar with Coach Pitino, he is one of the legendary college basketball coaches in NCAA history. He is the only coach to lead three different schools (Providence, Kentucky, and Louisville) to a Final Four.

While coaching Louisville in 2017, Pitino and the basketball program were involved in a scandal over improper perks to recruits, and allegations of bribing recruits, which led to Pitino getting fired. He was coaching in Europe when Iona called in 2020.

In 2021, Pitino and Iona gained entry to March Madness and played a great game in their loss to Alabama. Iona under Pitino has not yet won a game in the tournament.

Pitino has a home in Mamaroneck and is a member of Winged Foot Golf Club. He seems happy in his position at Iona, but at 70 years old, his chance for one more run at the big time is now. And the double edge sword of if Iona wins a game or two in the tournament, it would vault Pitino to another job.

Senior Guard Berrick JeanLouis spoke about Pitino's legend. "I was ready to commit to another school and then Rick Pitino called me and I was like oh shoot!" said Berrick, Iona's senior guard. "I told my gym coach Rick Pitino is calling me and he was like, 'You have to go there. No questions asked.' And I was like, 'Yeah, definitely.'"

Two other stories on the team. One is 7 foot center Osborn Shema. "One of the players I'm most proud of is Osborn Shema from Iona. Been through a LOT!!! Had some really bad people in his life when he was brought over to the US. Found a home in JUCO where learned a lot. Fought through injuries early at Iona. Now not just surviving, but THRIVING," writes Ionagaels.com.

And a local Iona Gael hoopster to be proud of is Senior Guard James Carey, from Pelham. Carey is a walk on, no scholarship-think the movie Rudy. He doesn't play a lot but got on the court in a recent game against Sienna. This story from Ionagaels.com, Brian Beyrer, "Intrigue in the frame was sparked in the final 90 seconds as senior walk-on James Carey electrified the capacity crowd with a seven-point outburst in a minute span. He sank all four free throw attempts and drained a long three-pointer from the left wing to record his first points of the season. Carey was subbed for in the final 30 seconds of the game to a standing ovation," and a hug from Pitino on the way out.

"We will be prepared, whoever we play. We wanted to get a really good seed...I'll leave that in the hands of the committee, but these guys are up for the test," said Pitino.

Iona will play UCONN on March 17.

Playland Job Fair March 25

At the Cambria Hotel in White Plains for nearly 700 seasonal job openings.

Playland will host a job fair at the Cambria Hotel in Downtown White Plains, located at 250 Main Street, on Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for their upcoming summer season. Open May 20 to September 10, 2023, the iconic amusement park is the largest summer youth employer in Westchester County with nearly 700 seasonal job openings, ranging from ride operators, lifeguards, beach and pool hosts, admission hosts, retail managers, guest services, IT Support, Group Sales assistants, and much more. All applicants must be at least 16 years old to apply. Visit playland.com/employment for more to apply in advance.

"At Playland, we are dedicated to providing memorable experiences for all our guests, so that begins with our local team members," said Jeffrey Davis, General Manager of Playland. "We are proud to be Westchester County's largest summer youth employer and look forward to bringing back the best talent for the season. Our goal is to be the County's number one choice for summer youth."

"One of the Business Council's top priorities this year is helping our employers find the talent they need to grow their businesses and nonprofits. Playland has always been a great seasonal economic driver in the county and now with Standard Amusements as the new management company we expect Playland's value to Westchester to grow to a new level," said Marsha Gordon, CEO & President of the Business Council of Westchester.

Job benefits include competitive wages; unlimited play at Playland with a FREE season pass and FREE admission for friends and family; ability to earn rewards through the Reward & Recognition Programs; FREE roundtrip bus transportation available throughout Westchester County for team members; the ability to work flexible schedules including day, nights, weekends and holidays; employee discounts in park and with other businesses; and more.

Applicants are encouraged to complete a form in advance of the job fair, which can be found online, and be prepared to be interviewed onsite.

In addition, Playland will provide lifeguard training and FREE certification for qualified swimmers who apply to Playland beach & pool as a lifeguard. Lifeguard rate begins at \$18 per hour.

For more information, visit playland.com.

Latimer Announces Spring Service Changes for Bee-Line Buses

Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced that service changes will take effect on the Bee-Line system on March 20, 2022. Several enhancements and adjustments will be made to improve weekday and Sunday service for Bee-Line customers.

Riders should consult timetables for specific details about each route.

Routes:

1, 2, 6, 14, 20, 21, 25, 45, 60, 61, 62

For a full list of all the spring service changes and new bus schedules, visit www.westchestergov.com/beelinebus or call the Bee-Line customer service center at (914)-813-7777, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., and on weekends from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Automated information is available 24 hours a day.

14-Year old Shot Killed, continued from pg 1-

Mount Vernon Police ask that anyone with information regarding this incident contact the MVPD Detective Division at 914-665-2510. All calls will be kept confidential. You can also submit an anonymous tip via our "Text-A-Tip" by texting "MVPD" and your tip to 847411.

The following statement is on behalf of Tara Williams, mother of slain 14-year-old Zyaire Fernandez. "Thank you to the FBI Safe Streets Task Force for working with Mt. Vernon Police to get justice for my son Zyaire," said Tara Williams through spokesperson Richard Thomas.

"While my family and I are somewhat relieved at the news of an arrest, it does not bring Zyaire back. My son is the third teenager to have died in Mt. Vernon over the past several months. The danger for our kids is unacceptable! City hall must wake up and take safety seriously! My son... my baby... was too young and did not deserve to die!"

"I am outraged and want action to bring peace to the streets so no other mother, father, sister, brother, or person has to experience the pain and sorrow we are feeling today."

"Get justice for Zyaire! Get Police Resource Officers back in the schools! Give our kids positive things to do and GET THESE DAMN GUNS OFF THE STREETS!" said Tara Williams, through family spokesperson, former Mayor Richard Thomas.

Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah's charged Coghuel with Murder in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, both felonies.

Mt. Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard said, "I commend the concerted and conscientious performance of the Mount Vernon Police Department that led to the arrest of 21-year-old Tyrese Coghuel of Mount Vernon for the shooting death of 14-year-old Zyaire Fernandez on March 9th at Levister Towers.

"While the the MVPD's joint efforts with the FBI Westchester Safe Streets Task Force won't bring Zyaire back, their round-the-clock investigation and subsequent arrest is the first step in the pursuit of justice and healing for the victim's family.

"I like the rest of the city am aggrieved by this senseless murder of a 14-year old high school freshmen, which has shocked our city and brought tremendous trauma and pain to our community."

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Classifieds

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Eric Schoen, continued from pg 1-

If your side mirrors don't fold automatically when the car is turned off, fold the mirrors in yourself. This is a signal to criminals that you are concerned about security and they may pass your car and not break in.

This change of time every year causes more problems than it's worth. Congressman Bowman, sponsor legislation to do away with this menace. Your constituents will be grateful!

The Air Train project from New York City to LaGuardia Airport is needed and should not be abandoned. In New York we tend to do things half ass backwards. LaGuardia is developing into a 1st. Class Airport. There needs to be a rail hookup just like Kennedy Airport to make the trip more convenient and comfortable for people flying and working at the airport.

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

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

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

Notice of Formation of AADNYS TECHNOLOGIES LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/30/2023. 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, 6 Lewiston Ct, Briarcliff Manor NY, 10510. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of PRESS START! Mobile Gaming LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/03/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC, 455 Tarrytown Rd Suite# 1521 White Plains NY, 10607. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of CR8TIONZ, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 2/21/23. Office location: Westchester County. REPUBLIC REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES INC. designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1434 Western Ave, Suite 1 #7811 Albany, NY 12203. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Cake Bar By Charlene, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/08/2023. 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, 1 Glenwood avenue, 18E, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Supplemental Summons and Notice of Object of Action Supreme Court Of The State Of New York County Of Westchester Action to Foreclose a Mortgage

Index #: 68953/2019

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, As Owner Trustee On Behalf Of CSMC 2018-RPL1 Trust Plaintiff, vs People Of The State Of New York, United States Of America Acting Through The IRS, Arthur Kindle, Jr. As Heir To The Estate Of Arthur R Kindle Sr, April Kindle-Pautsch As Heir To The Estate Of Arthur R Kindle Sr, Shirley Kindle-Sheppard Aka Jennifer Kindle-Sheppard As Heir To The Estate Of Arthur R Kindle Sr, Mark A Kindle As Heir To The Estate Of Arthur R Kindle Sr, Unknown Heirs Of Arthur Kindle If Living, And If He/She Be Dead, Any And All Persons Unknown To Plaintiff, Claiming, Or Who May Claim To Have An Interest In, Or General Or Specific Lien Upon The Real Property Described In This Action; Such Unknown Persons Being Herein Generally Described And Intended To Be Included In Wife, Widow, Husband, Widower, Heirs At Law, Next Of Kin, Descendants, Executors, Administrators, Devisees, Legatees, Creditors, Trustees, Committees, Lienors, And Assignees Of Such Deceased, Any And All Persons Deriving Interest In Or Lien Upon, Or Title To Said Real Property By, Through Or Under Them, Or Either Of Them, And Their Respective Wives, Widows, Husbands, Widowers, Heirs At Law, Next Of Kin, Descendants, Executors, Administrators, Devisees, Legatees, Creditors, Trustees, Committees, Lienors, And Assigns, All Of Whom And Whose Names, Except As Stated, Are Unknown To Plaintiff, John Doe (Those unknown tenants, occupants, persons or corporations or their heirs, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, assignees, creditors or successors claiming an interest in the mortgaged premises.) Defendant(s). Mortgaged Premises: 445 Franklin Avenue Mount Vernon, NY 10553 To the Above named Defendant: You are hereby summoned to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Supplemental Summons, to serve a notice of appearance, or the Plaintiff(s) attorney(s) within twenty days after the service of this Supplemental Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this Supplemental Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. The Attorney for Plaintiff has an office for business in the County of Erie. Trial to be held in the County of Westchester. The basis of the venue designated above is the location of the Mortgaged Premises. TO Unknown Heirs of Arthur Kindle, Defendants In this Action. The foregoing Supplemental Summons is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an order of HON. David F. Everett of the Supreme Court Of The State Of New York, dated the Twenty-Second day of February, 2023 and filed with the Complaint in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester, in the City of White Plains. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, dated July 1, 2008, executed by Arthur Kindle (who died on October 6, 2021, a resident of the county of Lake, State of Illinois) and Shirley Kindle AKA Shirley A. Kindle (who died on September 7, 2017, a resident of the county of Westchester, State of New York) to secure the sum of \$356,000.00. The Mortgage was recorded at Instrument Number 482420347 in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk on September 9, 2008. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed October 6, 2010 and recorded on October 28, 2010, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 502983160. The mortgage was subsequently modified on December 30, 2011. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed February 27, 2014 and recorded on March 6, 2014, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 540593075. The mortgage was subsequently modified on February 16, 2016. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed April 20, 2018 and recorded on April 23, 2018, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 581133048. The property in question is described as follows: 445 FRANKLIN AVENUE, MOUNT VERNON, NY 10553 HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE NEW YORK STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT WE SEND YOU THIS NOTICE ABOUT THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY. SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. IF YOU FAIL TO RESPOND TO THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HOME. PLEASE READ THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT CAREFULLY. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT AN ATTORNEY OR YOUR LOCAL LEGAL AID OFFICE TO OBTAIN ADVICE ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE The state encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid office, there are government agencies and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Department of Financial Services at 1-800-342-3736 or the Foreclosure Relief Hotline 1-800-269-0990 or visit the department's website at WWW.DFS.NY.GOV. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME AT THIS TIME. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO STAY IN YOUR HOME DURING THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME UNLESS AND UNTIL YOUR PROPERTY IS SOLD AT AUCTION PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN YOUR HOME, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR PROPERTY AND PAY PROPERTY TAXES IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW. FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services. § 1303 NOTICE NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. DATED: February 27, 2023 Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney(s) For Plaintiff(s) 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 The law firm of Gross Polowy, LLC and the attorneys whom it employs are debt collectors who are attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained by them will be used for that purpose. 75442.

Notice of Formation of BERNACCHIA TUTORING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/13/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Jessica Bernacchia, 7 Floral Lane, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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Friends of Philipse Manor Hall to Host Old New Year's Eve Event



The Friends of Philipse Manor Hall are pleased to host an Old New Year's Eve Celebration on Friday, March 24, 2023, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, 29 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, NY.

What, you may be wondering, is Old New Year's Eve? Today, New Year's Day is January 1, but it wasn't always! From the 16th century to the 18th century, European nations were transitioning from the old Julian calendar to the new Gregorian calendar. Although the Dutch and most other European nations had adopted the new calendar in 1582, the English held onto the old ways much longer. They continued to celebrate Annunciation Day, or Lady Day, March 25 as the New Year until 1752. In the colony of New Netherland, founded in the 1620s, the New Year was January 1. But when the British took over in 1664, it changed to March 25!

Join us for an evening celebration featuring a short historical overview of the calendar history and traditions by Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site Manager Michael Lord, followed by live music by Carla and Keyes, dancing, and a faux New Year's Eve countdown. Featuring hors d'oeuvres and 18th century-inspired punch.

Hosted by the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, tickets for this event are \$25 for Friends members, \$35 for the general public. Tickets include refreshments. All proceeds benefit Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site educational programs. For tickets, visit www.friendsofphilipsemanorhall.org/events/old-new-years-eve-celebration.

Missing From Westchester

Anyone who may have information on either Dafne or Hope can call 911, or the Peekskill or New Rochelle Police Department. Or they can call the NCMEC Hotline at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).

Additional information about Dafne-She was last seen wearing a white and pink checkered jacket, purple leggings and glasses. Dafne may have travelled to Las Vegas, Nevada and may be with a male companion.

missingkids.org

Dafne Fernanda



Missing Since: Nov 27, 2022
 Missing From: Peekskill, NY
 DOB: Jan 6, 2008
 Age Now: 15
 Sex: Female
 Race: White/hisp
 Hair Color: Brown
 Eye Color: Brown
 Height: 5'0"
 Weight: 190 lbs

Dafne is a missing child. She was last seen wearing a white and pink checkered jacket, purple leggings and glasses.

missingkids.org

Hope Eley



Missing Since: Dec 12, 2022
 Missing From: New Rochelle, NY
 DOB: Oct 20, 2007
 Age Now: 15
 Sex: Female
 Race: Black
 Hair Color: Brown
 Eye Color: Brown
 Height: 5'4"
 Weight: 130 lbs

Hope may travel to Hempstead, New York.

Yonkers Own Amara Valerio Wins Golden Ticket to Hollywood on American Idol



Amara Valerio

By Dan Murphy

Amara Valerio has been singing for most of her life, and she has lived most of her life in Yonkers. Amara was the Yonkers Junior Idol in 2014, and in 2019 she was asked to sing the National Anthem at the Yonkers Montessori Academy school.

What happened to Amara during that graduation has now been viewed by 11 Million people, and after American Idol on March 12, a total of 20 million people have viewed this unfortunate incident, in which Valerio turned a negative into a positive trip to Hollywood.

As Amara was singing the National Anthem, a YMA graduate walked over took the mike from her and said, "this is my senior graduation class and I would like to sing the National Anthem."

A shocked Amara didn't escalate the confrontation with this person, who should be ashamed of herself for what she did, and is now infamous, not only in Yonkers but across the country for her act of bullying, or what she called on Idol getting "Kanye'd" a reference to when Kanye West took the mike from Taylor Swift at the video music awards in 2009. "And the next year started COVID, so I never got to sing at my high school graduation," explained Amara to the judges.

Amara also showed what a class act she was by withholding the video from the public for 3 years, until last summer when she decided to post it on Tik Tok. Her explanation for posting it was "I just want to reiterate that I posted this cuz it's something crazy that happened to me and now I can look back at it as something funny."

In addition to the 11 Million views the video received on Tik Tok, a judge from American Idol saw it, and became interested with Amara's story. That judge watched some of her other Tik Tok videos and saw that she was a talented singer.

Valerio was invited to audition privately with the non-celebrity judges, who invited her to try out for American Idol. Amara's audition was televised on March 12, and after singing "Bust Your Windows" by Jazmine Sullivan, she was given a golden American Idol ticket to advance to the next round in Hollywood.

The three American Idol celebrity judges, Katy Perry, Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan, loved Amara's voice and her story, and were more than happy to give her some justice, for doing the right thing back in 2019 and today

"I hit the jackpot! I got the golden ticket and I'm heading to Hollywood! Thanks so much @KatyPerry, @LukeBryan and @LionelRichie! #AmericanIdol #AmaraOnIdol #GoldenTicket #Hollywood," posted Amara after her win.

Amazingly, the 2019 video never made it to the Yonkers public, nor did any story about what happened to Amara. Luke Bryan wanted to know the name of the person who Kanye'd Amara.

Amara is attending Cornell University, where she watched her performance, (taped earlier) with her friends while her family watched at home in Yonkers. "It was amazing to see my audition for the first time. It was one of the happiest moments of my life and something I always wanted to do."

We find Amara's journey to American Idol inspirational, and an example of how someone had a moment taken away from them and never complained. But in the end it all worked out for her.

For her audition song, Amara sang Bust Your Windows by Jazmine Sullivan. "I chose it because its a song about confidence, and I wanted to song it with the confidence that I still had, even after what happened in high school, I over came it."

After watching the video from high school on American Idol, Katy Perry said to Amara, "I want to feel that anger," when singing Bust Your Windows.

Amara's journey to Hollywood began in Yonkers."Yonkers is my home. I started singing n Yonkers in front of large crowds, and at St. Barnabus Church. All of the my singing, and all of my support, comes from Yonkers. Shout out to all of the people who believed in me, my music teachers, choir members, they kept telling me this was going to happen. I have lot of love to Yonkers for sure."

Mark Twain said "you're never wrong for doing the right thing." And Twain also knew that a good story will always find its way out into the public. Look for Amara's next performance in two weeks.

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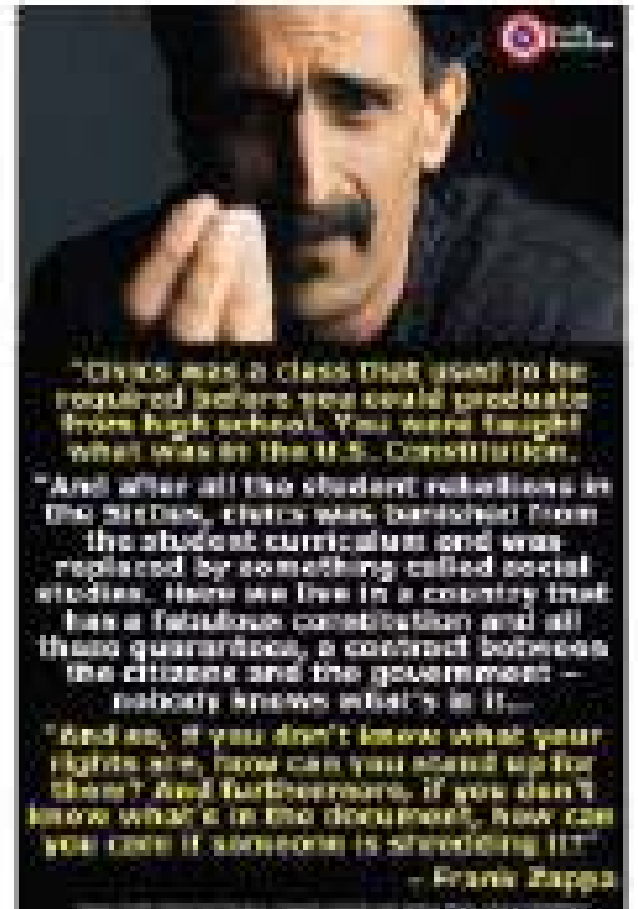
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Section 801.2 of state law that has been on the books since 1947, a law that is deliberately not being enforced by state education, committee chairwoman Senator Shelly Mayer, the Board of Regents, the Board of Education and the New York State court system, depriving New York State students a proper civic education for 76 years.



SECTION 801

Instruction in civility, citizenship and character education Education (EDN) CHAPTER 16, TITLE 1, ARTICLE 17

§ 801.1 Courses of instruction in patriotism and citizenship and certain historic documents. 1. In order to promote a spirit of patriotic and civic service and obligation and to foster in the children of the state moral and intellectual qualities which are essential in preparing to meet the obligations of citizenship in peace or in war, the regents of The University of the State of New York shall prescribe courses of instruction in patriotism, citizenship, civic education and values, our shared history of diversity, the role of religious tolerance in this country, and human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery (including the freedom trail and underground railroad), the Holocaust, and the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850, to be maintained and followed in all the schools of the state. The boards of education and trustees of the several cities and school districts of the state shall require instruction to be given in such courses, by the teachers employed in the schools therein. All pupils attending such schools, over the age of eight years, shall attend upon such instruction.

Similar courses of instruction shall be prescribed and maintained in private schools in the state, and all pupils in such schools over eight years of age shall attend upon such courses. If such courses are not so established and maintained in a private school, attendance upon instruction in such school shall not be deemed substantially equivalent to instruction given to pupils of like age in the public schools of the city or district in which such pupils reside.

§ 801.2 The regents shall prescribe courses of instruction in the history, meaning, significance and effect of the provisions of the constitution of the United States, the amendments thereto, the declaration of independence, the constitution of the state of New York and the amendments thereto, to be maintained and followed in all of the schools of the state. The boards of education and trustees of the several cities and school districts of the state shall require instruction to be given in such courses, by the teachers employed in the schools therein. All pupils attending such schools, in the eighth and higher grades, shall attend upon such instruction.

Similar courses of instruction shall be prescribed and maintained in private schools in the state, and all pupils in such schools in grades or classes corresponding to the instruction in the eighth and higher grades of the public schools shall attend upon such courses. If such courses are not so established and maintained in a private school, attendance upon instruction in such school shall not be deemed substantially equivalent to instruction given to pupils in the public schools of the city or district in which such pupils reside.

3. The regents shall determine the subjects to be included in such courses of instruction in patriotism, citizenship, civic education and values, our shared history of diversity, the role of history of diversity, the role of religious tolerance in this country, and human rights issues, with particular attention to the study of the inhumanity of genocide, slavery (including the freedom trail and underground railroad), the Holocaust, and the mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850, and in the history, meaning, significance and effect of the provisions of the constitution of the United States, the amendments thereto, the declaration of independence, the constitution of the state of New York and the amendments thereto, and the period of instruction in each of the grades in such subjects. They shall adopt rules providing for attendance upon such instruction and for such other matters as are required for carrying into effect the objects and purposes of this section. The commissioner shall be responsible for the enforcement of such section and shall cause to be inspected and supervise the instruction to be given in such subjects. The commissioner may, in his discretion, cause all or a portion of the public school money to be apportioned to a district or city to be withheld for failure of the school authorities of such district or city to provide instruction in such courses and to compel attendance upon such instruction, as herein prescribed, and for a non-compliance with the rules of the regents adopted as herein provided.

4. The regents shall designate a week during each year and prescribe a uniform course of exercises in the public schools of the state suitable for pupils of various ages to instill into the minds of such pupils the purpose, meaning and importance of the bill of rights articles in the federal and state constitutions. Such exercises shall be in addition to any prescribed courses of study in the schools.

5. The regents shall make available to all elementary schools in the state suitable curriculum materials to aid in the instruction of pupils in grades kindergarten through six in the understanding and acceptance of children with disabilities as defined in section forty-four hundred one of this chapter.