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Westchester Rising

YonkersTimes.com

Friday March 22, 2024

Man with Loaded Gun Driving Around Westchester with Swastikas on Car, Indicted



A very dangerous incident, in which an Elmsford man was driving around Westchester with 10 swastikas painted on his car and a loaded gun inside, is being addressed by Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah's office with the recent announcement that Hani Saleh, 47, has been indicted for the illegal possession of semi-automatic weapons, ammunition and gun paraphernalia, which were found in his car and seized from his home in accordance with an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO).

DA Rocah said: "This is an example of how New York's strong gun safety laws can keep our communities safe by permitting law enforcement and prosecutors to take action when weapons are in the hands of individuals who should not have them. I commend our federal and local law enforcement partners for working swiftly to apprehend this defendant."

It is alleged that at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 25, 2023, the defendant, who had no permit to legally purchase or possess firearms in New York, was in possession of a semi-automatic firearm and a large capacity ammunition feeding device, also known as an extended magazine, containing 10 .40 caliber rounds of ammunition, which were found under the driver's seat of his vehicle.

White Plains police apprehended the defendant after he was observed around White Plains driving his car, which was covered in writing and images, including nearly a dozen swastikas, and allegedly had forged license plates.

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Shimsky-Abinanti Rematch for Assembly Mary Dolan to Challenge AOC; Carr Running for Congress in NY-17



Clockwise: Marty Dolan, MaryAnn Carr, Tom Abinanti, MaryJane Shimsky

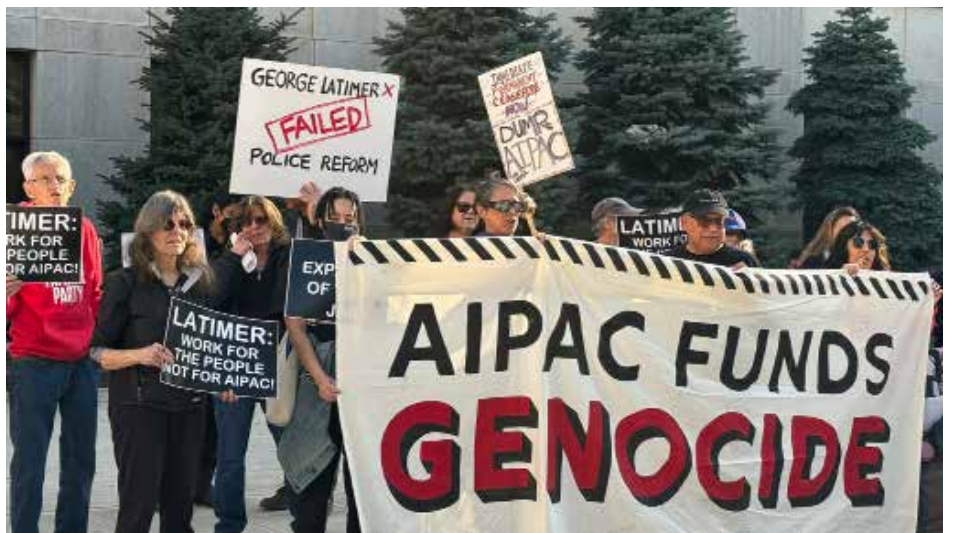


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Latimer Touts Achievements for All in State of the County Address, With Protests Against Congressional Run Outside



*above; County Executive George Latimer gives State of the County Address
Below: Protestors in White Plains*



See Story on Page 15-

Cigar-Candy Store in Yorktown Busted for Selling Marijuana, Cigarettes to Minors

Town Board Imposes Six Month Moratorium on New Tobacco Stores



Closed Y Town Convenience & Tobacco store on Commerce Street, Yorktown

By Dan Murphy

The Yorktown Town Board quickly passed a six-month moratorium on new stores selling tobacco after a Cigar-candy store was found to be selling marijuana and untaxed cigarettes.

Deputy To Deputy Town Supervisor Edward Lachterman explained, "This is precipitated by a smoke and candy shop that opened next to Starbucks. Our police, doing great police work, went in and did some undercover operations, only to find out that they were selling marijuana, and selling to underage patrons."

The store that was closed, which was not identified by the Town or the Yorktown Police Department, is Y Town Convenience & Tobacco, located at 1920-1926 Commerce Street. Outside of the store is an Unlawful to Occupy notice from the Town Building Inspector James Landi, based on the illegal sale of cannabis. The violation is dated January 25, 2024.

The Town of Yorktown has "opted-out" of the NYS law allowing marijuana dispensaries and cafes, so it was illegal for Y Town Convenience & Tobacco to be selling marijuana to anyone.

Lachterman said that the state's Office of Cannabis Management has only 16 investigators for the entire state of New York, and it is responsible for

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Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Senator Mayer & ArtsWestchester Host Women's Day Celebration

NYS Senate Majority Leader
Andrea Stewart-Cousins and
State Senator Shelley Mayer
present

A Celebration Of Women's Art and Cultural Expressions

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RSVP Requested: bit.ly/CelebrateWomensArt

For more information: 914-534-5250 or 914-423-4031, or email smayer@nystate.gov

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ARTSWESTCHESTER

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, State Senator Shelley B. Mayer, and ArtsWestchester will host a Celebration of Women's Art and Cultural Expressions on Saturday, March 23 from 3 - 4:30 p.m. at ArtsWestchester.

The celebration will include performances by four artists: Estelle Messina Bikibili, a Motown/Soul singer and pianist; Flor Bromley, a Latin singer/songwriter; Rachel M. Simon, a poet; and ShanelleTheArtist, a spoken word artist. The performances will be followed by a panel discussion on art, women's inspirations, and challenges.

The event is free and open to the public. RSVP is requested at <https://bit.ly/CelebrateWomensArt>. ArtsWestchester is located at 31 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY.

Westchester County Parks to Hold Seasonal Job Fairs

Westchester County Parks will hold two job fairs for those who want to learn more and apply to seasonal jobs at its parks, Saturday, April 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Westchester County Center and Saturday, April 13 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Muscote Farm in Katonah.

Attendees can apply on the spot to the numerous positions in the Westchester County Parks Department including Naturalists/Educators, Nature Camp Counselors, Lifeguards, and Recreation Attendants. Locations span the entire Westchester County Parks system at our 50+ facilities. Job descriptions are available here.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "The Westchester County Parks Department is busy year-round and needs to staff up in the summer as it is their busiest season. In addition to pools and beaches, nature centers and other facilities are hiring."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner, Kathy O'Connor said, "We have a variety of seasonal positions available where folks of all ages can work outdoors while learning more about our over 18,000-acre parks system."

The Westchester County Center is located at 198 Central Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606. Parking will be free for those attending the job fair. Muscote Farm is located at 51 Route 100 Katonah, New York 10536. Parking is free.

For questions, email: PRC-SeasonalJobs@westchestercountyny.gov.

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Mount Vernon Man Sentenced to 50 Years for Enticing a 14-Year Old



Leland Robinson

Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced on March 8 that LELAND ROBINSON was sentenced to 50 years in prison by U.S. District Judge Kenneth M. Karas for his enticement of a 14-year-old minor to engage in sexual activity. ROBINSON was convicted of enticement of a minor following a week-long jury trial in July 2023.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "Leland Robinson's crime is the nightmare of every parent of a child who uses a smartphone. Robinson met his victim on a social media application and then traveled to Connecticut, where he sexually assaulted the child outside the child's home. I encourage parents and caregivers to have conversations with their children about the dangers of communicating online with strangers. We will continue to use every tool available to law enforcement to prosecute and punish those who seek to exploit our children."

According to court documents and the evidence presented in the trial of ROBINSON:

In or about February 2019, ROBINSON, who was 31 years old but posing as a high school student, met a 14-year-old boy ("Victim-1") on a social media application. ROBINSON sent Victim-1 sexually explicit images and videos of himself and requested the same from Victim-1. In the fall of 2019, ROBINSON agreed to provide Victim-1 with a JUUL if Victim-1 would engage in sex with ROBINSON. On multiple occasions in September and October 2019, ROBINSON traveled to Victim-1's home in Connecticut. On October 24, 2019, ROBINSON returned to Victim-1's house and sexually assaulted him in the yard outside his house.

In imposing the sentence, Judge Karas said: "People should understand that when they prey on kids, they will pay the price."

In addition to the prison term, ROBINSON, 35, of Mount Vernon, New York, was sentenced to 15 years of supervised release.

Mr. Williams praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the New Canaan Police Department, and the Greensboro Police Department in Greensboro, North Carolina, in connection with this investigation.

Robinson was arrested in New Canaan Connecticut in 2020 and charged with sexual assault and enticing a minor by computer.

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Westchester Congressman Differ on TikTok Sale: Bowman Votes No, Lawler Votes Yes



On March 13, the House passed legislation that would force a sale of TikTok and potentially ban the application in the United States. Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D. voted against the legislation.

“The rush to ban TikTok sets a dangerous precedent for our country by undermining our freedom of speech, which is why I voted against H.R. 7521,” said Congressman Jamaal Bowman Ed.D. (NY-16).

“Legislation like this would not be effective in protecting Americans’ data and privacy. Every Big Tech company, both foreign and domestic, mines and sells our data for their own profits. We need to focus on cracking down on surveillance capitalism and predatory algorithms that harm our kids.

I, along with millions of others, especially young people, use TikTok as a place to interact with my community in a positive, uplifting way. We need to protect our young people’s right to free expression, and banning TikTok only silences their valuable voices.

This is not about defending TikTok as a company, and we need strong regulation that applies to every social media platform in order to protect our data and our children. Let’s use this moment to craft a comprehensive approach to safeguarding and democratizing the social media landscape,” said Bowman.

Congressman Mike Lawler voted yes on requiring the sale of TikTok. “We’ve been getting a lot of calls asking if we are banning TikTok. The answer is no.

“The protecting Americans from Foreign Adversaries Act, which passed the House 352-65, With 85% of those voting yes does not ban TikTok. Rather it requires the Chinese entity that owns Tik Tok, to sell it to a company whose interests are not adverse to the interests of the Unites States and its citizens.

“We’ve held countless hearings on this topic with past and present officials at Meta, Twitter and TikTok. While data privacy violations from Silicon Valley based companies are a concern, they pale in comparison to those of a company owned by a foreign adversary.

“Data collected by Chinese owned companies like TikTok becomes the property of the Chinese Community Party. Imagine the sovereignty breaches of a thousand Chinese spy balloons held in the palm of your hand every time you log into TikTok.

“That’s exactly what is happening, and it is exactly why TikTok must be divested from its foreign company, which is beholden to the CCP.

“Doing so will enable you to continue to enjoy TikTok’s content while protecting you from the CCP, that has nefarious designs for you, our country and our way of life,” said Lawler in a Facebook post.

The bill still has to be passed in the U.S. Senate, and then signed by President Biden before it can become law.

Yonkers Is NOT The 10th Dirtiest City in America



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Your one handed columnist reporting for duty. I underwent shoulder surgery last week under the good hands of Drs. David and Daniel Shein at the state of the art Hudson Regional Hospital in Secaucus, New Jersey. All went well and the only annoying thing is the sling on my shoulder. The hospital uses state of the art robotics, but you are asleep during the procedure so I didn’t see the robots at work.

One thing you are grateful for when you wake up from having your shoulder repaired and see the bill is health insurance. Without it these procedures you go through can be very expensive. God forbid you lose your job and your health insurance, make sure you get Cobra insurance which serves as a bridge for you until your next job.

Yonkers the 10th Dirtiest City in America?

Every year the folks at LawnStarter undertake the task of trying to sift through the garbage, evaluate area pollution and living conditions to try and locate some of America’s dirtiest cities. Why a company would want to criticize cities where people use their services I don’t know. Unless maybe people are not using their services in the various cities they criticize. According to the company, Yonkers is the 10th dirtiest city in America.

LawnStarter is a marketplace for outdoor home services. Their basic business is keeping your lawn in good shape.

To try and determine which of the 200+ cities across the nation are the dirtiest LawnStarter looks at various key factors to come up with its yearly rankings. Air quality, the number of landfills and junkyards, overcrowding, homes with mold, mice or rats, homes that have signs of cockroaches, and many other factors to come up with four categories, pollution, living conditions, infrastructure, and consumer satisfaction. They gave a numbered score for each city in each category and then averaged the scores for each city across all categories to reveal the 152 dirtiest cities in America.

Living conditions and consumer satisfaction were the leading factors in Yonkers nearing the top of this year’s list. Yes, a lot of Yonkers housing stock is old. Old housing stock comes with mold. A lot of building is taking place in Yonkers, particularly on the Waterfront. Digging soil can bring up rats and mice. But look at the finished product. Isn’t it better than the vacant land that was there before.

Do they take into account the major strides Yonkers has made in cleaning up its municipal housing, in many cases knocking down the old and building new? And the development taking place in various areas of the city where nothing existed before! Areas in the planning stages for years. Empty bank turned into Chick-fil-a? Ridge Hill?

People like Yonkers because of its proximity to New York City, the magnificent city that exists within a 30 minute car ride. The diverse restaurants you will find on South Broadway and various ethnic stores you find along many streets in Yonkers are well known in the region.

I never hear people say they hate living in Yonkers because if they don’t like the city there are many places they can go. Rents were low in Yonkers and Housing prices were lower than in many communities years ago, but that is not the case anymore.

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Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins & Senator Mayer Provide Update on State Education Funding for Westchester Schools

In response to Governor Kathy Hochul’s proposed budget for New York State that cuts education funding for most Westchester school districts, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Senator Shelley Mayer provided an update.

“Each year, the State Senate and the Assembly introduce and pass their own legislative responses to the Governor’s proposed budget. This week, I led the State Senate in passing our One-House budget resolution, an important step towards achieving a final budget that will make New York more affordable for hardworking families and individuals,” said Stewart-Cousins.

“This budget resolution addresses important issues, including restoring critical funding to public education, working toward our climate goals, making housing more affordable and accessible, providing tax relief to those who need it most, and enhancing vital services. Together, we are moving New York forward, and with the Governor and our partners in the Assembly, we will come together to deliver a final budget which serves New Yorkers.

I’d like to review some highlights of the One-House resolution which are particularly important to us in Westchester County.

SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS

Our One-House resolution rejects the Governor’s proposal which would slash funding to 337 school districts across the state, including 23 right here in Westchester County. Our resolution would continue to fully fund Foundation Aid, something we finally accomplished for the first time last year, under my leadership.

The resolution also provides a three percent increase in school aid, \$150 million for Universal Pre-K, and \$5 million to combat anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Asian hate,” said Stewart-Cousins

State Senator Shelley Mayer, the Chair of the Education Committee, said

“The New York State Senate’s One House budget proposal, reflects our conference’s strong commitment to public education – fully restoring Foundation Aid and providing a minimum 3% increase to every district, investing in community schools and universal school meals, expanding and improving pre-K, expanding support for afterschool and supporting schools that serve our most vulnerable children. By fully funding the Foundation Aid Formula, our budget proposal advances the goal of equity across all our schools – rural, suburban, and urban communities and New York’s cities of all sizes. The Senate’s One House budget also includes funding for a study on the Foundation Aid Formula. It is essential that we update the formula to more accurately reflect the current needs of our students and the costs our school districts incur to address those needs.

“As chair of the Senate Education Committee, I have traveled across the state and had the opportunity to see the tremendous work school districts are doing to support students and their communities, despite the enormous challenges they face. I am proud that the Senate Democratic Conference put forward a budget proposal that allows our schools to meet the complex needs of their students and communities. The One House also makes critical investments to keep students safe, by doubling security funds for non-public schools to offset the additional security costs incurred during this tumultuous time.

“As negotiations begin, I will continue to advocate for additional support for schools facing a fiscal cliff as their federal COVID relief funds expire. Districts around the state used these funds to hire social workers and school psychologists, provide additional academic support to their students, and fund other necessary programs for their communities that will be at risk without additional state support.

“I am proud to be part of a Senate majority that prioritizes our children and understands the foundational role our public schools play in our communities. As our One House budget resolution demonstrates, for the future of our state, we must put our schools and students first. I thank my colleagues and Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins for their shared commitment to our schools and students and I look forward to pressing for a final budget that supports our children, our schools, and all our communities.”

Budget negotiations will now begin between Governor Hochul, the Senate and Assembly. Usually those negotiations end up being resolved by “three people in a room,” which replaced the old mantra “three men in a room.”

The three people are Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie.

Education advocates in Westchester are fortunate to have one of the three most powerful electeds advocating for their needs.

White Plains Man Charged Following Ghost Gun Investigation



Ghost gun kits are still available online, to make the above rifle

A White Plains man was arrested on multiple felony charges on March 15 and several “ghost guns” were seized following an investigation by Westchester County Police with assistance from multiple law enforcement partners.

On March 15, following an investigation led by the Westchester County Police Narcotics Unit, a search warrant was executed in White Plains by Narcotics Unit detectives with assistance from the New York State Police Special Investigations Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation Westchester Safe Streets Task Force, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Westchester County Police Forensic Investigations Unit and Westchester County District Attorney’s Office.

Recovered from the search warrant were four completed ghost guns with magazines, one loaded North American Arms Companion revolver, four non-serialized/unfinished frames, and a 3D printer being used to manufacture ghost gun frames.

Robert T. Hennes III, 38, of Martine Avenue, White Plains, was booked at County Police headquarters in Hawthorne on two counts of Criminal Possession of Weapon 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree.

He was arraigned in White Plains City Court and remanded to the Westchester County Jail in lieu of bail. The case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office.

Public Safety Commissioner Terrance Raynor thanked the participating agencies and noted that additional support was provided by the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York and the Queens District Attorney’s Office Crime Strategies & Intelligence Bureau.

Westchester Rising

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Engineer Creates First LEED Platinum “Passive House” in Westchester



Daniel Colombini, a Principal at Goldman Copeland, the New York City-based consulting engineering firm, has created the first LEED Platinum “Passive House” in Westchester County, which abuts New York City on the north. The single-family three-bedroom house with an attached garage and about 3,500 square feet of living space is located in Ossining, NY. It offers a new model for sustainable, energy-efficient, and cost-effective residences.

A “Passive House” is a high-performance building standard developed by the Passive House Institute and is the only internationally recognized, performance-based energy standard in construction. LEED is the world's most widely used green building rating system, and LEED Platinum is its highest certification. The combination of LEED Platinum and “Passive House” certifications shows that the house meets the highest levels of energy-efficient and green design. The house is also “Zero Energy”—as certified by the US Department of Energy—and is both net zero and carbon neutral, including the home’s energy consumption and electric vehicle charging.

Dan Colombini, the engineer-homeowner, set out to create a new standard of suburban housing. The home is a partial tear-down and retrofit, meaning that the house that he originally purchased was torn down except for the foundation, which was retained, and 75% of the materials in the old house were reused and thereby diverted from landfill. The new house incorporates passive house principles including a high-performance thermal enclosure, airtightness and heat recovery, continuous balanced ventilation, high-performance glazing of windows and doors, shading and daylighting, and moisture control. The overall design provides an air quality that it is so high that Dan’s allergy-induced asthma disappeared.

The cost of construction was 8% higher than a traditional house. That additional cost will be paid off by energy savings within 10-15 years – with energy savings continuing to accrue thereafter.

The architect for the project is Christina Griffin of CGA Studio in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. The contractor is Ed Nugent of Fort Montgomery, NY. The certification consultant is Integral Building + Design in New Paltz, NY. The landscape designer is Barbara Restaino of Restaino Design in Grahamsville, NY.

The house is located adjacent to the Teatown nature preserve, and all new planting and landscaping consists of native species, designed to improve storm water management and mitigate invasive species. The landscape designer was selected in part because she also works with Teatown, ensuring sensitivity in design to the landscape of the nature preserve.

“The Colombini house is a landmark project in Westchester,” said architect Christina Griffin. “Not only does it reach the highest standards of energy efficiency and sustainability, but it demonstrates that they can be attained at an additional cost that can be recouped through energy savings in about a decade – far less than the period of a typical home mortgage.”

“Energy-efficient and green design is vital, given the challenges of climate change,” said Dan Colombini. “This house provides the home that my family wanted, while demonstrating that the highest standards can be attained cost-effectively. I hope that it provides an example that can benefit Westchester, New York, and the nation.” Visit <https://www.goldmancopeland.com/>

Former Little League Coach Sentenced to a Decade in Prison for Sex Acts with a Minor



Robert Pope

Robert Pope was sentenced to a decade in federal prison today in federal court in White Plains for enticing a 16-year-old to engage in sexual activity, according to the United States District Attorney’s office.

Pope, 32, of Mount Vernon, between at least on or about September 1, 2020, up to and including at least on or about April 11, 2021, POPE communicated with a 16-year-old minor (“Victim-1”) by cellphone and persuaded Victim-1 to meet POPE in person in Westchester County, New York on more than one occasion to engage in sexual activities with POPE.

On or about June 15, 2021, ROBERT POPE was charged in Westchester County, New York, with three counts of Criminal Sexual Act, including one count of coercion and enticement, which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The statutory maximum sentence is prescribed by Congress and is provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendant will be determined by the judge.

Pope was also sentenced to four years in prison for state and county criminal charges.

The victims mother found graphic photos and texts and photos on her son’s phone. Pope was well known in Mount Vernon. He owned the Mount Vernon Baseball League and volunteered as a coach for Mt. Vernon High School, and was a democratic district leader.

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VEE'S CONSULTING LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 05/29/2023. Office: WESTCHESTER COUNTY. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for process and shall mail process to R/A: US CORP AGENTS, INC., 7014 13TH AVE, #202, BKLYN, NY, 11228. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

EATZTOUR LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 05/23/2023. Office: WESTCHESTER COUNTY. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for process and shall mail copy to R/A: US CORP AGENTS, INC., 7014 13TH AVE, #202, BKLYN, NY, 11228. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of THE NAVIE THERAPY GROUP L.L.C., LLC filed with SSNY on 08/29/23. Office: WESTCHESTER County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to LLC: 200 Bloomingdale Road, Suite 1A, White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of MYLILWRKSHOP.COM, LLC. Arts. of Org. Filed with NY Secy. Of State on 3/6/2024. Office located in Yonkers, NY. Hector Jimenez has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The LLC, 237 Roberts avenue, Yonkers NY 10703, principal business location of the LLC, purpose: any lawful business activity.

Notice of formation of Mixed by Maya, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/12/2024. 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, 45 Inverness Rd New Rochelle, NY 10804. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Ashlee B. Media, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/6/2023. 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, 520 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Formation of TARRYTOWN 44 LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/17/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Benjamin Sinanaj, 4 Farm Way Dr., Ardsley, NY 10502. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Palisades Property Management LLC filed with the SSNY on 1/18/2024. 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 Mulford Corporation, 1511 Central Park Ave, Yonkers NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Calimero II, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/4/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Marie H. Durif-O'Dowd, 1632 First Avenue, Apartment 326, New York, NY 10028. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Ana Lucia Nail Lounge LLC, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/8/24.. Office: New York 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, 115 Chelsea Street Hawthorne, NY 10532. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Formation of TRUIH LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/15/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Lawrence Rebbecchi, 550 Green Dolphin Dr., Placida, FL 33946. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Washy LLC. filed with the SSNY on 12/24/2024. 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, 224 Hawthorne Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Yugen Creationz LLC. Arts. Of. Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/28/024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 10 Commerce Dr, 102. New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Formation of 25 COUNTY ROUTE 62 LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/6/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The principal business loc. and address SSNY shall mail process to is Floann and Raymond Landeck, 79 Pembroke Dr., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of SurgeExpand, LLC. filed with the SSNY on 10/16/2023. 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, 324 Palisade Ave -1F, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of A Soft Delicate Flower LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/3/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1840 Crompond Road Peekskill NY 10566. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of formation of D & E Guest Reality Management, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/15/2023. 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, D & E Guest Reality Management LLC, 79-81 Main Street, P.O. Box 1100, Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Pachamama Vibes, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/20/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc. 7014 13th Ave., Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal business address: 762 Hoover Avenue, Peekskill NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

Notice of Formation of Safety First Shooting LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 2/13/2024. 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, 465 Tuckahoe Road suite #1168 Yonkers NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Buffsicle, LLC. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 12/15/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 41 Old Post Road, Rye, NY, 10580. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

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News in Yonkers and around Westchester

Spring Programs at Philipse Manor Hall

Swastikas and Loaded Gun continued from pg 1-

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site and the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall are pleased to offer a series of family activities to coincide with local schools' spring break on Wednesday, March 27, Thursday, March 28, and Friday, March 29, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. each day at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site (29 Warburton Ave. Yonkers, NY).

On Wednesday, March 27, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., join us for an afternoon movie with "Felicity: An American Girl Adventure" – a story about a horse-loving girl who experiences the start of the American Revolution. While you watch, try making your own paper doll. Afterwards, complete our special Felicity activity booklet, including an American Revolution-themed scavenger hunt of the museum! Take your paper doll on the activity adventure or bring your own doll from home.

On Thursday, March 28, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., join us for "Historical Games: Shut the Box." Learn about the history of Shut the Box – a game that dates back to Medieval France – and then learn how to play! You can also learn how to play a simple version at home in our take-home activity booklet.

On Friday, March 29, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., join us for "Historical Games & Scavenger Hunt Bingo." Learn the history behind how kids and adults played in the past, and then learn how to play Quoit, Nine Men's Morris, Skittles, Shut the Box, Cribbage, Mancala, and more! Afterwards, try a special scavenger hunt of the museum, including a bingo version.

Each program is free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is recommended, but not required. Register at <https://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events/>

Learn more at www.friendsofphilipsemanorhall.org.

Following the defendant's arrest, law enforcement secured an ERPO—a court order that temporarily removes firearms from any individual who poses a risk of harming themselves or others—and seized from his residence in Elmsford an additional rifle, three semi-automatic pistols, six extended magazines (five of which were loaded), and a silencer.

In addition to the loaded semi-automatic weapon found in defendant's car, red flag laws allowed police to seize additional firearms from defendant's home

Saleh was arraigned on Mar. 8 before Judge Larry Schwartz in Westchester County Court on an indictment by a Westchester County Grand Jury for Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, eight counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree, five counts of Criminal Possession of a Firearm, and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, all felonies, and two vehicle and traffic violations. The defendant's next court date is April 10.

Saleh has been free on bail after being remanded to the Westchester County jail upon his October arrest. The defendant made a bail application and posted \$50,000 cash bail. On March 8, prosecutors requested remand or increased bail at \$150,000 cash. Citing the defendant's willful and persistent failure to appear in court leading up to his arraignment and posing a significant flight risk, the Court set bail at \$100,000 cash, \$500,000 bond or \$750,000 partially secured bond at 10%.

White Plains Public Safety, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), the FBI's Westchester Safe Streets Task Force, and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office conducted the investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Brianna Ciuffi of the Trials and Investigations Division.

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

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

INDEX NO. 64370/2023
SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS
Mortgaged Premises:
330 CLAREMONT AVENUE, MOUNT VERNON, NY 10552
Section: 165.32, Block: 2050, Lot: 2

MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC

Plaintiff,
vs.

PAULINE SMART, if living, and if she/he 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 the following designation, namely: the 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; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS LLC; PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

"JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint,
Defendants.

Plaintiff designates WESTCHESTER as the place of trial situs of the real property

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of \$682,500.00 and interest, recorded on November 05, 2010, in Control Number 502993237, of the Public Records of WESTCHESTER County, New York., covering premises known as 330 CLAREMONT AVENUE, MOUNT VERNON, NY 10552.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

WESTCHESTER County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in said county.

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 the mortgage company will not stop the 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: March 1st, 2024

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
Matthew Rothstein, Esq.
900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310
Westbury, NY 11590
516-280-7675

**The Harrison Players Community Theatre
Group Present "Hair: The Musical" April 12-14**



STARRING: Michael Bouteneff, Robin Campbell, Toni Campbell, Kris Gaffney, Bill Halliburton, Tony Hamilton, Josh Judin, Richie Lauria, Taylor Quinn, Jacob Ruiz, Jasmin Salas, Mia Sasson, Judy Savino, Alison Segal, Carlie Zucker

Directed by Anthony J. Valbiro
Musical Direction by Chloe Bodt

Dates/Times: Friday, April 12th and Saturday, April 13th, 2024 at 8:00 PM
Saturday, April 13th and Sunday, April 14th, 2024 at 2:00 PM

Price: Admission \$30 per person

Place: The Veterans' Memorial Building

Address: 210 Halstead Avenue, Harrison, New York 10528

E-mail/Questions: harrisonplayers@yahoo.com

Website/Information and TICKETS: <http://www.harrisonplayers.org>

Other: Facebook-The Harrison Players, Inc.

The Harrison Players...Providing quality, affordable entertainment since 1963!

E-mail us at: harrisonplayers@yahoo.com

Visit us on the web at: <http://www.harrisonplayers.org>

**FL!P Circus Returns to Cross County for
Extended Visit Through April 2**



Electrifying performance straight from India with acrobat Hasan Ansari

By Dan Murphy

The multi-talented performers of Bingo Troupe all hail from Ukraine

FL!P Circus (www.FlipCircus.com), has been winning over audiences since debuting in 2022. The intimate big top experience, created by the Vazquez family, is hitting the road again with its brand-new Tour '24 production. Hailed as one of America's best new family entertainment events, this new show was specially curated to showcase an incredible and eclectic mix of international human performers. The new production brings its national tour to the Cross Country Center in Yonkers, NY (March 8 – April 2). Tickets are on sale now.

The art form of circus has been part of America's entertainment landscape for over 200 years. Evoking this great American tradition, FL!p Circus combines the classic and the contemporary to bring families and friends together for a memorable experience. There's something for everyone in this circus adventure that takes place under a distinctive red and white striped, 800-seat, climate-controlled big top tent. For those who like to be close to the action, no seat at FL!p Circus is more than 50 feet from the ring. You might even find yourself being brought into the fun. And of course there's a generous concession stand featuring an assortment of delicious treats. At FL!p Circus, leave your cares at the door and enter a world where the laughs are plentiful and the wows only stop when the show ends.

The international flair of the show is led by Brazil's favorite clown, Gleyston "Bubi" Guiner bringing his classic comedic routines and side-splitting antics to America for the first time. If you like daring acrobatic feats, FL!p Circus is the place to be! From India, Hasan Ansari thrills audiences on the rarely seen Pole Mallakhamb performing body-bending maneuvers on a wooden pole leaving you wondering how a human body can do that. Anastasia & Misha, from Ukraine, present a stunningly synchronized and poetic presentation of dance and acrobatics.

Pavel Valla Bertini, a fifth-generation performer from the Czech Republic, keeps audiences on the edge of their seats with his unparalleled one, three and even fifteen-wheeled unicycle skills! The award-winning Bingo Troupe, direct from Ukraine, showcases their signature electrifying mix of dance and acrobatics. No circus would be complete without juggling, and FL!p Circus features one of the very best acts of its kind From Chile, the Reyes Brothers, demonstrate the incredible, fast paced juggling skills with which they have amazed audiences all over the world. The live FL!p Circus Band provides the versatile soundtrack to all the action. If you're looking for high-energy fun that the entire family can enjoy, grab your tickets to FL!p Circus. Don't miss this exciting big top experience.

Show times are 7:30pm on weekdays and 1:00pm, 4:00pm and 7:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays. For tickets and additional information, please visit www.FlipCircus.com. Tickets start at \$30.00 (children) and \$50.00 (adults) with senior/military/handicap discounts available. A special family four pack discount is available online. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the box office during each engagement.

Note: There are no animal performances in FL!P Circus.

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Hubert Parry (1902)
Gerald Finzi (1946)
S. Kvoschchinsky (2005)

March 23 and 24 at 3 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church
8 Sunnyside Avenue
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TICKETS 

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<https://HUDSONCHORALE.org>

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WMCHHealth's Girls Night Out Honors Heart Disease Survivors and Raises Awareness about Women's Heart Health



Girls Night Out Emcee WCBS-TV Anchor Mary Calvi and Honoree Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson with patients and healthcare providers

Girls' Night Out, a heartwarming evening featuring tributes to heart disease survivors and their caregivers, was held Feb. 15 at The Sleepy Hollow Hotel in Tarrytown. WCBS-TV news anchor Mary Calvi emceed the event with proceeds benefiting the Westchester Medical Center Health Network's (WMCHHealth) Heart & Vascular Institute, which offers comprehensive cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery and vascular surgery services, as well as WMCHHealth's new five-story Critical Care Tower now under construction. A sellout crowd of over 400 attended.

Foundation Board member Elizabeth Bracken Thompson received the WMCHHealth Foundation's 1st Community Champion Award. Bracken-Thompson is a partner with the award-winning public relations firm of Thompson & Bender in Briarcliff Manor and a long time WMCHHealth supporter. The evening also included dining, dancing and a videotaped fashion show featuring healthcare providers and patients modeling fashions from fashion designer Beverley Olivacce, the event's exclusive fashion partner. Other sponsors included Macy's; Cross County Shopping Center and M&T Bank.

Heart disease is still the number one killer of women in the United States, causing 1 in 3 deaths or approximately one every minute.

Gabbie Fried, RN, Vice President of Cardiovascular Services with WMCHHealth's Heart & Vascular Institute said that 80 percent of heart diseases and strokes are preventable.

"Through education and screening and by developing a personalized plan to reduce risk factors and encourage exercise and healthy eating, our Cardiovascular Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Program works to head off potential heart problems. The program has seen successful results, and we are seeing more patients than last year," she said.

This year's fashion show featured patients that included Jake Amoroso, a New York Police Department officer, whose successful surgery allowed him to become a member of the force, 15-year-old Mia Santana who came here from the Dominican Republic with her mother to undergo lifechanging heart repair, and young siblings Gabriel (8) and Rei (4), who received treatment for congenital heart issues.

Horace Greeley HS Senior Niko Wright Named A Con Edison Scholar Athlete of the Week



Nicholas "Niko" Wright

Congratulations to Nicholas "Niko" Wright, a senior at Horace Greeley High School, for being named a Con Edison Scholar-Athlete of the week.

Niko is a star on the Greeley indoor track team, and he recently won the NYS & Federation 55M Dash and was a member of the winning team in the NYS Federation 4 x 200 relay.

For the past two years in Section One, Niko has been undefeated in the 55m Dash.

Niko also won two Gold Medals in the Westchester County Championships and was a catalyst in the team winning a third county title.

Niko is a two-year Captain of the track program (indoor and outdoor) at Horace Greeley.

"Niko fills the role of being another coach to his teammates. He teaches, demonstrates drills, techniques, and reviews race strategies to the underclassmen. He is always the last guy at the track," said Rebecca Mullen, Counselor HGHS.

Niko has a 3.6 GPA and has committed to run for the Bearcats of Binghamton University in the fall. He is known around Greeley as "The Flash."

"Niko is motivated, easy going, thoughtful and kind. He is well respected by his teammates and coaches. He is dedicated to his craft. Not only does he want to be the fastest on the track, but he is a wonderful ambassador for the Greeley track and field program," said Mullen.

DOUBLE YOUR LUCK CHEVY COLORADO DRAWING

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

Sports Card & Memorabilia Show at Westchester County Center March 22,23,24

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720

Early Bird Migrants, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

We will seek out some of the earlier warbler migrants, as well as stay in tune with the backyard and aquatic birds. Please bring binoculars.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Signs of Spring Walk, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

It's officially springtime! Join us on a stroll through the beautiful Preserve to discover and appreciate the first signs of the changing season. For all ages.

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322

Celebration of the Seasons, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Let's celebrate the change of the seasons together! We can learn about the first signs of spring, and search for signs of change in the ecosystems around us.

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005

Early Spring Ponding, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

What's a vernal pool and who lives there? Join us to go toes-deep into our pools and ponds to discover the wonderful lifecycle of amphibians!

Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290

Spring Fish on the Hudson: Rock & Roe!, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Hudson Riverman and educator Chris Letts will enlighten everyone about the huge historic fisheries of the Hudson River estuary: what was then and what is now. They're important tales for the young and old. Meet at the nature center.

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

Pat's Chats: Thunder from the Mountains: Nuclear Missiles in New York State, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Join us for this multi-media presentation led by historian, author and retired US Army officer Patrick J. Chaisson, this discussion will focus on the history of the Cold War as it affected residents of New York.

Get details at <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/pats-chats-thunder-from-the-mountains-nuclear-missiles-in-new-york-state/>

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005

Waterfowl Watch, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Let's explore the waterfowl species that are returning north to the Preserve. Hiking shoes are recommended.



Westchester County Center, White Plains: (914) 995-4050

400 TABLES!- Sports Card and Memorabilia Show

Authentication Companies appearing this weekend: JSA,

Grading Services: Companies appearing this weekend: BGS(Submissions Only), SGC(Submissions Only)

Auction Houses appearing this weekend: Pristine Auction, Heritage Auctions, Clean Sweep, Memory Lane, Collectibles Auction House, Robert Edwards Auction, Huggins & Scott Auction.

HOURS:

Friday 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Admission (Cash Only): Adult \$15.00 per day; Kids under 12 are free and must be accompanied by parent

THE CITY OF YONKERS/YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BUREAU OF PURCHASING, One Larkin Center, 3RD Floor, Yonkers, New York 10701 (Located in the Yonkers Riverfront Library Building across from the Metro-North train station) will receive sealed Bids for the following projects until 2:00 PM, on the dates below.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read at the address above in the 3rd Floor Finance Conference Room.

The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will contact Purchasing to meet the individual at the 3rd floor elevator.

Those interested in listening to the bid opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

Solicitation documents are available for downloading from the Empire State Purchasing Group website at <http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com/>. The City welcomes and encourages participation by local and minority and women owned business enterprises.

1. Bid IFB-7109 - Opening date: 4/26/2024: Fire Station 11 (433 Bronxville Road) rehabilitation project (FB).
2. Bid IFB-7110 - Opening date: 4/26/2024: Fire Station 14 (2187 Central Park Avenue) rehabilitation project (FB).
3. Bid RFB-7134 - Opening date: 4/12/2024: One-time purchase of various Cisco, or Yonkers approved equal, hardware and software components - 18 items (MM).
4. Bid RFB-7135 - Opening date: 4/12/2024: Twelve-month contract to purchase up to 50 Motorola Vigilant, or Yonkers approved equal, license plate reading cameras and accessories-the initial purchase will be for 13 sets (VB).
5. Bid RFB-7136 - Opening date: 4/12/2024: One-time purchase of twelve Fortigate 61F, or Yonkers approved equal, firewall hardware with 5-year premium and unified threat protection plans (KAS).
6. Bid RFB-7137 - Opening date: 4/12/2024: One-time purchase of 72 sets of Alphatec, or Yonkers approved equal, hazmat decontamination suits for the Emergency Services Unit (VB).
7. Bid RFB-7138 - Opening date: 4/12/2024: Twelve-month contract to purchase as needed up to seventy-five TB1-20 street light transformer bases with hardware-the initial purchase will be for 30 units (VB).
8. Bid RFB-7139 - Opening date: 4/12/2024: Purchase of 239 cartons of Shaw's style Purview 20, 5036V, color-cast core, or Yonkers approved equal, and 15 - 4-gallon drums of Shaw's Resilient 2200 adhesive, or Yonkers approved equal (AC).
9. Bid RFB-7114A - Opening date: 4/12/2024: One time purchase of French Fitness, or Yonkers approved equal, gym equipment for the 3rd Police Precinct (26 items) (VB).

TAX NOTICE
TOWN OF EASTCHESTER
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I HAVE THIS DAY
RECEIVED THE WARRANT TO COLLECT THE

2024
TOWN OF EASTCHESTER
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER
EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT
TAXES

EASTCHESTER TOWN HALL-40 MILL ROAD, Eastchester
OFFICE HOURS 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M -MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

TAXES DUE
APRIL 1, 2024
Payable by April 30th without penalty

DEADLINES MATTER--TO AVOID PENALTY: tax payment must be received by April 30, 2024.

IMPORTANT: Official U.S. Postal Service postmarks are accepted to secure a penalty-free payment if postmarked on or before the due date. FedEx, UPS, and DHL mailed to 40 Mill Road, Eastchester can also be accepted as timely if showing a mailing on or before the due date. However, metered mail postmarks (such as Pitney-Bowes or Quadiant/Neopost, for example) are NOT acceptable for this purpose under the NYS Real Property Tax Law (RPTL), and neither are foreign postmarks. An envelope without any postmark-- or an illegible postmark-- is deemed under the law to have been made on the date of delivery to the collecting officer. *If the due date is not met, the following Penalties prescribed by tax law for deferred payment apply:*

RATES OF PENALTIES:	
Month	Penalty
May 2024	2%
June - July 2024	5%
August-September 2024	7%
October-December 2024	10%
January-April 2025	12%
May 2025	13%
June 2025	14%

On July 1, 2025-any unpaid 2024 taxes becomes a Lien: additional 1% per month thereafter.

List of delinquent taxes will be filed with the Westchester County
Clerk's Office on July 1st

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March 22, 2024

Read it all Online at
Yonkerstimes.com

DiNapoli: 2023 Wall Street \$23 Billion Bonus Pool Flat Over 2022

Average Bonus for Employees in NYC's Securities Industry was \$176,500

The average annual Wall Street bonus dipped to \$176,500 last year, a 2% decline from the previous year's average of \$180,000, according to New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli's annual estimate. Wall Street's profits were up 1.8% in 2023, but firms have taken a more cautious approach to compensation and more employees have joined the securities industry, which accounts for the slight decline in the average bonus.

"Wall Street's average cash bonuses dipped slightly from last year, with continued market volatility and more people joining the securities workforce," DiNapoli said. "While these bonuses affect income tax revenues for the state and city, both budgeted for larger declines so the impact on projected revenues should be limited. The securities industry's continued strength should not overshadow the broader economic picture in New York, where we need all sectors to enjoy full recovery from the pandemic."

The \$33.8 billion bonus pool for 2023, which closely matched the 2022 pool, was well below the 25% growth seen in 2020 (\$37.1 billion) and the 15% jump seen in 2021 (\$42.7 billion), but slightly over the pre-pandemic high of \$32.1 billion.

Wall Street bonuses have a significant impact on tax revenue in the state and city budgets. DiNapoli estimates that the securities industry accounted for approximately \$28.8 billion in state tax revenue, or 27.4% of the state's tax collections, for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022-23, and \$5.4 billion in city tax revenue, 7% of total tax collections for City Fiscal Year (CFY) 2023.

In 2022, bonuses generated \$447 million less in state income tax revenue and \$204 million less for the city compared to the prior year. DiNapoli projects the 2023 bonuses in New York City's securities industry will generate \$4 million less in state income tax revenue and \$2 million less for the city when compared to the previous year. The Governor's proposed budget assumed bonuses in the broader finance and insurance sector would decrease by 2.7% in SFY 2023-24, while the city's CFY 2024 financial plan assumed a decrease of 7.8% in securities industry bonuses. These anticipated declines should minimize any significant impacts to their budgets in the short-term.

The securities industry also has a significant impact on the city's employment and overall economy. In 2023, the sector employed about 198,500 people, up from 191,600 the prior year. DiNapoli estimates that 1 in 11 jobs in the city is either directly or indirectly associated with the securities industry. While the city remains the capital of the U.S. securities industry, its share of the sector's jobs has been declining over time. Sector employment in 2023 was 1.3% lower than in 2000, which represented the peak for securities industry employment in the city.

As more securities employees are back in the office, there is increased spending in the city. Financial services firms reported 65% of employees were in the office on any given day in September 2023 (post-Labor Day), compared to 58% for all firms in the city, according to the Partnership for New York City's survey.

Additionally, 42% of securities industry employees ride the subway, a higher rate than the citywide average for workers. DiNapoli estimates Wall Street was responsible for 14% of all economic activity in the city in 2022, and thus the financial sector's ability to generate revenue and turn profit is critically important to New York.

Job + Resource Fair

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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!

Shimsky-Abinanti Rematch for Assembly Mary Dolan to Challenge AOC; Carr Running for Congress in NY-17

By Dan Murphy

Political news in Westchester includes announcements by three Westchester democrats who are running for Congress and Assembly.

Former Assemblyman Tom Abinanti is collecting signatures to challenge Assemblywoman MaryJane Shimsky in a democratic primary in June. Abinanti, who served for 12 years in the Assembly, lost his seat to Shimsky in 2022.

Abinanti said that he has "been asked by community leaders to run again," and "They feel that my successor has not been a strong enough advocate for the community."

One of the major reasons for Abinanti's decision is the passage of recent state legislation which would make it easier for the community of Edgemont, in the Town of Greenburgh, to incorporate as a Village.

This law has caused a split in the Greenburgh community, with those opposed and in favor. Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner is collecting signatures for Abinanti and has been vocal in his belief that the removal of Edgemont would create a budget funding gap in the Town of Greenburgh budget.

"This Assembly race, this is really a one-issue campaign in my opinion," Feiner said. "Do we have a representative in Albany that's going to fight to keep the town whole or is somebody going to stab the town in the back? I'm very disappointed with the (state) legislation."

"Community leaders in Greenburgh are very angry that instead of continuing the efforts that I was making to protect Greenburgh from the disastrous impacts of Edgemont separating itself (from the town) and forming a village, Assemblywoman Shimsky sponsored legislation which makes it easier for Edgemont to leave," said Abinanti who lost in 2022 by 900 votes.

Assemblywoman Shimsky issued a statement which read, "It's been my honor and privilege to serve the people of the 92nd Assembly District. I look forward to continuing to work on their behalf with my colleagues in the New York State Assembly, and to providing the best possible services and quality of life."

Supporters of Shimsky claim that she never supported the legislation, only the right for the people of Edgemont to determine their own future.

Abinanti hopes to make a formal announcement at the end of March, after his supporters obtain enough signatures to get on the ballot for the democratic primary.

Both Abinanti and Feiner have said that the loss of Edgemont, and its wealthy tax base, would require tax increases and layoffs for the remainder of town. If elected, Abinanti would also continue his advocacy for state funding for people with disabilities.

The 92nd Assembly district includes –Greenburgh, a small part of Yonkers and the Town of Mount Pleasant.

Another Westchester democrat, Irvington financial advisor Marty Dolan announced that he was no longer running for Congress in NY-16, but instead will challenge Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, (AOC) in a democratic primary in New York City.

Dolan, an experienced strategist and investor, has, over the past 40 years, helped solve complex problems internationally in the UK. "I am excited to formally announce my candidacy for the Democratic nomination for New York's 14th Congressional District.

"The June 25th, 2024 primary will be a referendum: are we better or worse off from following Radical policies? We are all for the "progress" implied by the word Progressive. However, within the Progressive movement, there are Radicals whose influence on the Democratic Party is overweight.

"The impact in NYC is obvious: bail reform a disaster, the National Guard in the subway, toothpaste locked up in drugstores but criminals running free, scarce resources directed to (non-sanctuary) immigrants coming from all over the world.

"These difficulties must be addressed in the context of a runaway \$34 trillion federal debt and NYC's 14% marginal tax rate. Regional tax inequality is far more exaggerated in the USA than in any other country. Losing 500,000 taxpayers is unsustainable: fixing this must be our overwhelming priority. Enough is enough," said Dolan, whose campaign is currently out collecting signatures in the 14th District, which includes parts of Queens and the Bronx.

In Westchester's other Congressional race, NY-17, there is a third candidate in the race between Congressman Mike Lawler and former Congressman Mondaire Jones. Democrat MaryAnn Carr is out collecting signatures and recently called for a cease fire in Gaza.

"The current situation in the Middle East is untenable and has resulted in immense suffering for innocent civilians," said Carr. "It is imperative that we put an end to the violence and work towards a sustainable peace that respects the rights and dignity of all individuals," said Carr, who if she can submit the 1300 valid signatures required, will face off in a Democratic Primary against Jones in June.

Carr served as the Supervisor of the Town of Bedford, the former Chair of the Bedford Democratic Committee and First Vice-chair of Westchester County Democratic Committee. She has also built a diverse career as an independent businesswoman at multinational businesses as an Information Technology professional.

"If you believe that every single voice deserves to be heard. If you have ever been told to sit down, surrender, remain quiet, join me in building a future where the promise of America is real for every one of us," said Carr.

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Illegal Marijuana Sales, continued from pg 1-

enforcing the law that legalized recreational marijuana sales. However, the smoke shop in question was found to have been breaking the terms of the special use permit that had been issued by Yorktown and as a result the town was able to pull that permit to operate in the town.

"Our police did have to wait for the state taxation people to come in only to find out they were selling cigarettes and other items that were not properly purchased and taxed through the New York state system. They did not have New York state tax stamps on them. I think it's a shame that we weren't able to do it (close the store) based on that they were selling drugs to our children," said Lachterman.

The six-month moratorium affects new shops opening that sell tobacco or vaping products. The moratorium gives officials time to decide whether and how to prevent the clustering of smoke shops in certain areas. It also is intended to provide time for them to decide what if any steps may be needed to make sure that smoking and vaping products are not being illegally sold to minors and that shops are not selling cannabis products without a state license and in violation of Yorktown's decision not to allow such sales.

"The New York State Office of Cannabis Management is woefully understaffed, making regulation of these stores very difficult," said Yorktown Police Chief Robert Noble. "During my law enforcement career in the Town of Yorktown, each 'smoke shop' has proven to be problematic, in that they tend to market and sell their products to minors. I am hoping that this moratorium is the precursor to meaningful local legislation, and I am proud of the work that my YPD (Yorktown Police Department) team continues to do every day."

Directly across the street from Starbucks and the now closed Y Town Convenience and Tobacco is Cigar Works, which sells vape products and pipes and bong.

Sources at the NYS Office of Cannabis Management confirmed that they are understaffed, and that it is within the legal purview of the Yorktown Police to enforce the law regarding illegal tobacco and marijuana sales. Illegal tobacco sales are not governed by the NYS OCM.

The store's location, next to a Starbuck's, where many young adults get their drinks in town, and closure were welcome news to patrons we spoke to.

"To be selling marijuana, but also cigarettes to underage kids is wrong," said one Starbucks customer. "And they also weren't selling cigarettes that are properly taxed in New York makes it worse."

CAREERS Support Solutions Comedy Show

Friday, April 12, 2024 from 6:30-10:00pm
CAREERS Support Solutions Comedy Show

Join CAREERS Support Solutions for a comedy show fundraiser to benefit its programs and services, which helps hundreds of individuals with disabilities throughout Westchester, Putnam and lower Dutchess Counties obtain jobs they can succeed in.

Tickets are \$75 and include an amazing lineup of nine comedians, appetizers, a buffet dinner, dessert and an open wine/beer bar.

The event, held at Travelers Rest (25 Rte. 100, Ossining, NY 10562), features comedians Dimitri Giatrakis, Vicki Sanches, Dr. Blain Langberg, Anthony Sanches, Susan Schatzie, Matt Orefice, Lou Ann Daprato, Bill Greene and Barbara Miller.

Sponsorships are available. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.tinyurl.com/CAREERSComedyShow.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

The article ends with the statement, 'Clean cities tend to have lots of tidy, healthy, green lawns. If you need help getting and keeping your yard looking picture-perfect and pest-free, LawnStarter's pros can help.' Guess they are trying to sell their services. Do you think Yonkers residents after having their city criticized are really going to use LawnStarter? It's up to you!

By the way the survey refers to Yonkers as a New York city about a one-hour drive from the Hudson Valley. I thought Yonkers was in the Hudson Valley! Maybe those that prepared the article need to do a little more homework!

Yonkers has a character, a flavor that is hard to describe. I never hear people say Yonkers is a dirty city. Go back to the drawing board LawnStarter!

Do Away With Self Checkout Lanes?

I like the convenience of a self checkout lane. I can make sure the price is right, make sure all my coupons and discounts come off and pack my bags the way I like them packed. I know there is a lot of theft going on in stores from Target to the Dollar Tree, but I don't think the elimination of theft will occur if you close down or limit the items purchased at the self checkout line.

At Target for example, many of their self checkout lines are monitored by cameras. Now if an employee sees something not being scanned and does nothing about it, that's a store issue. If an employee sees something on the bottom of the shopping cart not scanned and no one does anything about it that's a store issue. The security guards at Target (we call them Officer Target) have to get off their cell phones, stop looking at the pretty girls and watch what's going on in front of them. They are there to stop theft.

Having so many items locked up can turn into a real pain in the ass. The other day the Yonkers Target had a woman taking product out that is locked up who did not speak English. Does that make sense? Other times I have seen people looking for the store employee with the key to unlock the cabinet for 10 minutes. Stores have to have employees close by to fetch up locked items.

And is giving the customer the locked item as they continue doing their shopping going to stop theft. The only way to stop theft is if the employee goes to the cashier with the item and customer to pay.

I was at Dollar Tree on McLean Avenue the other day. Dollar Tree does not have self scan aisles. An employee caught a man and a woman stealing, and they got into a verbal exchange. The kind petite employee was not going to risk her safety in stopping the couple from taking the things out of the store they did not pay for. So off they went.

There has got to be a better way of stopping theft than closing or limiting the number of items you ring up at the self checkout line!

Is Sustainable Westchester for Real?

I have been using energy efficient light bulbs in all the fixtures in my apartment since before my mother died in 1993. They have kept my utility bill low usually in the \$50-\$60 range. There have been boiler issues in the complex I live in thus causing me to frequently use an electric heater in my apartment this winter. My neighbors have been forced to use electric heaters. I don't like to use them as they can be dangerous. They usually increase your electric bill.

I got my bill last week and it is more than double what I usually pay. I chalked it up to the portable heater. Then I read David McKay Wilson's story in the Journal News right before press time. Electric customers of Sustainable Westchester pay \$48M more with 2-year renewables pact.' Is that part of why my electric bill went up?

If you remember, Yonkers residents had to opt out not in. According to Wilson's article, the head of Sustainable WESTCHESTER said opt in models do not provide them with sufficient electric usage to make the program feasible. Issue #1. The requirement that you opt out, not in. Issue #2. Sustainable WESTCHESTER is being by run by several former elected officials, not by individuals trained and educated to manage these operations. The politicization of these programs always puts up my tentacles. Yonkers is represented on their Board of Directors by Jason Baker, Deputy Commissioner and former campaign coordinator for Mayor Spano. I do not believe he receives compensation as a Director.

So stay tuned. Somehow reliance on Russia has something to do with with electricity rates going up and this whole program. That, Issue #3 has me more worried than anything else!

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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GENERAC

“A Passion According to Matthew”

March 28, Asbury Crestwood United Methodist Church

To be presented by Dzieci Theatre Company



Asbury Crestwood United Methodist Church will be hosting a very special event on Holy Thursday, March 28 at 7 pm. Dzieci Theatre Company of Manhattan will be presenting “A Passion According to Matthew: A Dramatic Choral Liturgy Unbound.” This event will take place in the church’s main sanctuary at 167 Scarsdale Road in Tuckahoe. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted, with all donations going directly to Dzieci Theater. Doors open 15 minutes prior to presentation.

Dzieci is an experimental theatre ensemble dedicated to a search for the “sacred” through the medium of theatre. Integrating theatrical techniques, ritual forms derived from Native American and Eastern spiritual disciplines, and an ethic based securely in Humanistic Psychology, Dzieci aims to create a theatre that is as equally engaged with personal transformation as it is with public presentation.

For Easter, 2012, Dzieci Theatre was invited to work with a small group of nuns at The Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, CT to create a Passion for their Holy Week. The experience was life-changing for all involved, and inspired Dzieci to seek the essence of this sacred ritual. In dramatizing the Holy Week portion of the Gospel of Matthew, Dzieci Theatre has refined the liturgy from the earliest existing translations, relying heavily on the Aramaic Pashita, incorporating Hebraic song and chant, and ritual elements of Judaism, and set their revision in the shadow of the Warsaw Ghetto. The group has since revisited, refined, and presented A Passion each Holy Week since 2012. The performance at Asbury will be Dzieci’s first appearance in Westchester County.

Whether Christian or Jew or Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, or Zen, A Passion appeals to the human spirit in everyone and our essential desire for communion.

"Any corps of actors that can cause a hush to fall upon its audience, such that the angel of silence is not just flying by but is still hovering, must, as they say, be doing something right."

~ John Osburn, TheatreScene ~

Letter: The NYC St. Patrick’s Day Parade -Erin Go Bragh!

The St. Patrick’s Day parade is the oldest and largest parade in the world. The first one was held on March 17th, 1762, fourteen years before the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence.

This first parade was comprised of homesick Irish ex—patriots and Irish military members serving with the British army stationed in the colonies of New York (at this time the wearing of the green was a sign of Irish pride and was banned in Ireland because the British, who occupied Ireland, forbid it.)

The marchers step off promptly at 9 A.M. at 5th Avenue and 44th Street, ending at 59th street (6 hours later.)

Approximately 150,000 marchers take part, and usually draws 2 million spectators.

From very early days up until the present, the parade has been organized and run by volunteers, many of whom come from generations of families dedicated to the organization of the parade.

When March 17th falls on a Sunday, the parade is held on March 16th, because of religious observances.

ERIN GO BRAGH!!

Joe Pettit, Yorktown

38 Pounds of Meth and Cocaine Recovered in Hell’s Kitchen Luxury Building



suitcase filled with Methamphetamine

DEA agents and NYPD officers found suitcases filled with Methamphetamine, above

An investigation into methamphetamine and cocaine trafficking in New York City resulted in the seizure of approximately 30 pounds of methamphetamine, plus four kilograms (over eight pounds) of cocaine from an apartment at 550 West 54th Street, a luxury residential building in Hell’s Kitchen. Two men face charges of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First, Second and Third Degrees. The estimated street value of the drugs seized is over \$1.1 million.

Bridget G. Brennan, New York City’s Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Frank A. Tarentino III, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) New York Division (NY), New York City Police Commissioner Edward A. Caban and New York State Police Acting Superintendent Steven G. James announced the arrests following arraignments in Manhattan Criminal Court.

Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget Brennan said, “Like deadly fentanyl, methamphetamine is a highly addictive synthetic drug damaging lives in our city and across the country. Cocaine seizures in our city are also surging. I thank our law enforcement partners in the DEA, NYPD and New York State Police for their collaboration and commitment to reining in the supply of deadly drugs.”

DEA Special Agent in Charge Frank Tarentino said, “Our investigations take us all over New York City and the world, but this investigation led us to a million-dollar cocaine seizure in Hell’s Kitchen. DEA and our law enforcement partners are steadfast in bringing to justice those responsible for pushing illegal drugs onto our streets. I commend the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force and the New York City Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for their hard work on this investigation.”

On March 12, 2024, members of the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), Group T-43, were conducting surveillance at 550 West 54th Street in preparation for a court-authorized search of Apartment 27F, when they observed Jovanny SALAS allegedly leave the apartment at approximately 5:47 p.m. SALAS entered an elevator on the 27th floor and arrived in the building’s lobby moments later. Agents and officers apprehended SALAS in the lobby and recovered a wallet bearing identifications belonging to Sergio BETANCOURT PERALTA. The wallet had a key attached to it, which allegedly opened the door to Apartment 27F.

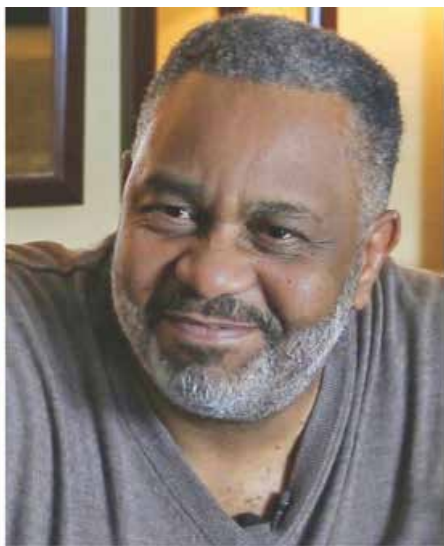
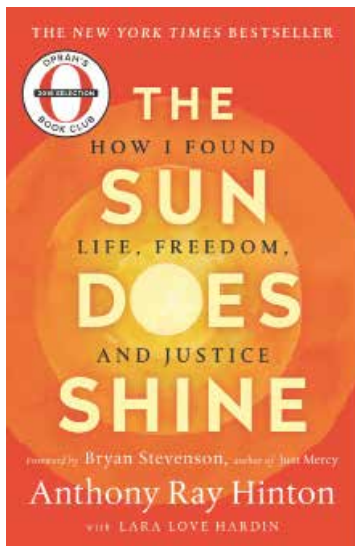
At approximately 5:55 p.m. that evening, members of NYDETF Group T-43 entered Apartment 27F to conduct a court-authorized search and encountered BETANCOURT PERALTA inside the apartment. Agents and officers took him into custody.

During the search, agents and officers recovered approximately 30 pounds of methamphetamine and over eight pounds of cocaine packed in a suitcase inside a bedroom closet. Approximately \$27,880 cash was found in a backpack in the closet. Also seized were BETANCOURT PERALTA’s Mexican passport and expired U.S. visa/border-crossing card, and SALAS’ Mexican voter registration, Colorado driver’s license and U.S. passport.

SALAS and BETANCOURT PERALTA were arraigned in Manhattan Criminal Court the night of Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

Stepinac Students Hear from Best Selling Activist/Author Anthony Ray Hinton

Wrongly Convicted of Two Murders, Served 28 Years on Death Row



Stepinac High School’s Student Body and Members of the Administration, Faculty and Staff Moved By Activist/Author Anthony Ray Hinton’s Harrowing Account of Being Wrongly Convicted of Two Murders and Spending 28 Years on Death Row

In a special event that powerfully underscored the Lenten theme of suffering, death and resurrection, Stepinac High School recently hosted activist/author Anthony Ray Hinton, who spoke about his memoir, “The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row,” before the entire student body and members of the administration, faculty and staff.

Hinton’s appearance at the Major Bowes Auditorium followed the school-wide assignment of reading Hinton’s harrowing account of how he was wrongly accused, then convicted and sentenced to death by an all-white jury of two murders and was held on death row for 28 years. He described how he was a victim of racism who had been “born poor and black” in Alabama.

In spite of his long incarceration and setbacks in proving his innocence, he remained unflinchingly steadfast to his credo: “Always stand up to what you believe in.” A rapt audience heard how he remained positive on death row and movingly related how he channeled his devotion to God to help his fellow inmates including a member of the KKK who had brutally murdered and lynched a black teenage boy. That inmate had been raised to hate all his life but had come to realize how wrong racism was and had found love, thanks to Hinton’s intercession.

In 2014 the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously overturned Hinton’s conviction. He was released from prison in April 2015 following a new trial when his conviction was also overturned by a local judge as the state was unable to affirm the forensic evidence which was the only evidence in the first trial. Hinton was the 152nd person since 1973-- and the sixth in Alabama-- to be exonerated from death row in the U.S.

As part of his concluding message, Hinton challenged Stepinac’s students to help seek justice.

Hochuls Calls for Review of NYS Office of Cannabis Management

Taps OGS Commissioner Jeannette Moy to Lead Effort

Governor’s Plan Will Assess the Office of Cannabis Management’s Organization, Identify Opportunities for Improvement, and Begin the Implementation of a Long-Term Strategic Plan

Commissioner Moy and a Team of State Government Leaders Will Embed in OCM for a Minimum 30-Day Period

Commissioner Moy Will Have Access to Resources from OGS and Other State Agencies

Governor Kathy Hochul has initiated an assessment of the Office of Cannabis Management to identify opportunities for improvement and begin implementation of a strategic plan for the long-term success of the legal cannabis rollout. Commissioner for the Office of General Services Jeanette Moy will serve as lead and executive sponsor of the effort, supported by experienced State government leaders.

“Today, we take the first step in revamping New York’s legal cannabis industry to ensure its long-term success,” Governor Hochul said. “I have full confidence in Commissioner Moy’s ability to identify areas that need improvement, establish standards and processes across agencies, and jumpstart the next phase of New York’s legal cannabis market.”

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner Jeanette Moy said, “Governor Hochul has prioritized a State government that is transparent, more efficient and responsive for all New Yorkers. I look forward to working with OCM’s leadership to help get this agency’s work on track and find ways to streamline the application process and get businesses open.”

New York State Office of Cannabis Management Executive Director Chris Alexander said, “We have built a cannabis market based on equity, and there is a lot to be proud of. At the same time, there is more we can do to improve OCM’s operations and we know Commissioner Moy, a proven leader in government, will help us get where we need to be. We owe it to operators across the supply chain and consumers alike, who are looking for more access and opportunity in our budding, regulated market. At the end of the day, it’s all about doing what’s right for New Yorkers.”

Commissioner Moy will embed in OCM for a minimum 30-day sprint to assess the agency’s organization. As part of the plan, several goals have been identified, including:

Top-down review of organizational structure, processes, and systems with a focus on improving OCM license processing times and application-to-opening timeframes for new cannabis retailers and businesses.

Develop key performance metrics and an executive-level licensing dashboard to provide the Executive Chamber with a timely, accurate, and comprehensive picture of licensing activity for legal retailers.

Identify and implement changes to policy, procedure, and regulation (within the bounds of the MRTA) to streamline the licensing process and simplify application and review for prospective licensees.

Develop three-month and six-month action plans with organizational change initiatives, milestones, and actions to continue improving agency functions while developing a world-class licensing and regulatory agency for New York States’ cannabis industry.

Commissioner Moy will have access to resources from OGS, the Office of Information Technology Services, and other State agencies to support the development of systems and dashboards. Additionally, OCM leadership and staff will work in partnership with Commissioner Moy and her team to help streamline the assessment process.

Following the initial 30-day period, the potential for external consulting may be considered to support a second, longer-duration phase of the effort.

General information:

- This is a competition for Yonkers Residents Only - PROOF OF AGE AND ADDRESS REQUIRED.
- Winner is awarded the title for a year and participation in a variety of city-wide events and programs.
- Audition Date: April 6, 2024 at 9am @ Roosevelt High School.**
- Final Showcase:
- JUNIOR IDOL contestants must be at least 10 years of age & not have reached their 15th birthday by 1/1/24
- IDOL contestants must be at least 15 years of age & not having reached their 20th birthday by 1/1/24.

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Mercy University & Medical Sales College Forge Partnership Launch Medical Device Sales Program

This program, the first of its kind in the Tri-State area, provides students with the training and certifications necessary to enter and succeed in the competitive medical device industry.

Today, Mercy University and Medical Sales College (MSC) announced a pioneering partnership designed to prepare students for success in the medical device industry. Launching in May of 2024, Mercy University will offer an innovative medical device sales program, a first of its kind in the Tri-state area, providing students with the training and certifications necessary to enter and succeed in the competitive medical device industry.

This strategic partnership adds yet another valuable course to CERTIFI by Mercy University, which provides career-focused credentials vital to today's workforce. The program will be hosted at Mercy University's Westchester Campus in Dobbs Ferry, leveraging its state-of-the-art facilities in the backyard of a thriving medical device market.

"We are thrilled to partner with Medical Sales College to introduce this groundbreaking program to our students," said Brian Amkraut, vice president of Workforce Credentialing and Community Impact at Mercy University. "As the healthcare landscape continues to evolve, there is a growing demand for skilled professionals in medical device sales. By bringing a proven model of medical device training to Mercy, we can rapidly equip students with the knowledge and practical skills needed to succeed in well-paying jobs in this increasingly important field in the healthcare sector."

"We are excited to bring this industry-leading curriculum to Mercy University and nurture the next generation of medical sales professionals," said Travis Allen, Chief Executive Officer of Medical Sales College. "This program is designed to bridge the gap between education and industry, providing students with a direct pathway to rewarding careers in medical device sales. A partnership with Mercy University also means empowering Hispanic and other minority students so that we can create medical device leaders of the future who better reflect the patients and healthcare workers they serve. Together with Mercy University, we are committed to delivering a world-class educational experience that prepares students for success in this dynamic field."

Students in the program will have access to a comprehensive training program designed to provide a strong foundation in anatomy, physiology, surgical procedures, healthcare buying procedures and device sales techniques, as well as individualized support in securing employment. Through a blend of classroom instruction, hands-on training, and real-world simulations, students will gain valuable insights into the complexities of medical sales while developing the confidence and expertise to thrive in competitive markets.

This partnership provides students access to a program that has helped over 4,000 graduates create meaningful careers in the device industry, with a job placement rate of 84 percent in roles that average an annual compensation of over \$90,000 within 2 years of employment.

The medical device sales program at Mercy University is scheduled to start in May of 2024, with enrollment now open to prospective students. For more information about the program and how to enroll, visit <https://medsales.certifi.mercy.edu> or contact certifi@mercy.edu.

Latimer Touts Achievements for All Families in State of the County Address; Protests Against Congressional Run

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Executive George Latimer delivered his 7th annual State of the County address on March 14, in which he outlined the county initiatives and programs under his leadership "for all families."

Latimer touted the creation of 6,000 new units of affordable housing, the expansion of the Child Care Scholarship, \$20M for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, \$1M for the Black Maternal Child Health Initiative, \$1.5M for tobacco prevention and cessation program, and the seasonal suspension of the Bee-Line Bus fares.

Latimer said: "The State of our County is firmly rooted in strength while growing and changing for the better."

"Let us see the value in electing leaders who have no scandals, no hate, no conspiracy theories, leaders who aren't breaking campaign pledges or becoming a national punchline. Together, we can build on the foundation laid by those who have dedicated their lives to Westchester."

Latimer highlighted the passage of the 2024 Westchester County Budget, which maintains the same County property tax levy as 2023, marking the fifth consecutive year without a levy increase.

He also emphasized the County's prestigious "AAA" credit rating from Fitch Ratings, as well as its improved credit ratings from S&P Global Ratings and Moody's Investors Service. Additionally, he highlighted the New York State Comptroller lowering the fiscal stress score for the County to zero, indicating outstanding financial stability.

On the environment, Latimer applauded the Board of Legislators for passing the single use food ware law as well as the Lead Free Parks Act, the Addressing Asthma in Communities of Color Amendment, the Renewable Energy Database Act and the Equity in Environmental Legislation Act.

Latimer pointed out that the County has made a substantial investment of \$20 million to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure at County parking facilities, adding that "These efforts underscore our commitment to sustainability and community well-being."

Latimer said: "Since our administration first took office in 2018, affordable housing – and the availability of affordable housing throughout the County – has remained a top priority."

Since 2018, nearly six thousand units of affordable housing have been built, gone under construction, or are in the pipeline for the future. Additionally, Latimer highlighted the Affordable Housing Investment Flex Fund, a new, affordable housing production tool which was created to help increase the number of units across Westchester.

For the first time in Latimer's tenure, he used the State of the County Address to sign the \$52.8-million-dollar Glen Island Bridge construction Bond Act. The Act is among the most significant construction projects in Westchester County in the past decade.

Latimer affirmed his commitment to support the uninsured and underinsured residents of Westchester, bolstering our Federally Qualified Health Centers with \$3 million in funding while also setting aside more than \$1 million for the County's Black Maternal Child Health Initiative, and \$1.5-million-dollars to promote tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

During the speech, Latimer singled out Veteran Joseph Frank, a Port Chester native and a distinguished combat Army Infantryman who served his nation overseas during World War II. Frank is Westchester County's oldest living veteran – at the age of 106.

Latimer said: "We express our gratitude to Mr. Frank for his selfless service and to all our Westchester County veterans."

Outside the county office building, a group of about 50 protestors, held signs and spoke out in support of "Palestinians uprooted by Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza," and also against Latimer's run for Congress and support for Israel.

Called, "The People's state of the county, protestors held signs criticizing Latimer not for his role as County Executive, but in his role as Congressional candidate; Latimer is challenging fellow democrat Jamaal Bowman in the 16th district-NY.

Protestors held placards against Latimer's connection to AIPAC, the pro-Israel Political Action Committee that is helping their supporters to donate to the Latimer campaign.

Other objections to Latimer's record came from Police Reform groups, who said not enough has been done, and from affordable housing advocates, and the need for "deeply affordable housing," as Juanita Lewis, executive director of Community Voices Heard, said.

The coalition of Westchester's progressive and social justice organizations included Black Westchester, Westchester County Black Political Conference, Anti Racist Alliance, Jews For Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ), Alternatives to Incarceration, Jewish Voice for Peace Westchester, Concerned Families of Westchester, Lower Hudson Valley Democratic Socialists of America, Westchester Coalition for Police Reform, Blacks in Law Enforcement of America, and We, United.

Westpac.org, the larger group that helped organize this event, stated "A broad coalition of Westchester's progressive and social justice organizations will counter County Executive George Latimer's final State of the County address. Our rally will emphasize Latimer's failed policies as County Executive. George Latimer has not fulfilled his promises to the people in critical areas including Affordable Housing, Police Accountability, and Racial Justice.

"The State of the County address comes at a critical juncture: Latimer, a Democrat, is completing his tenure as County Executive while he mounts a campaign to unseat fellow Democrat, Congressman Jamaal Bowman. Rep. Bowman is the first Black congressional representative of our diverse district, and has been championing issues close to the heart of local working families throughout his term. Latimer's failures as County Executive on issues that impact poor and working class communities disqualifies him as a candidate for Congress.

"Not only does Latimer's campaign for Congress serve to divide Democrats, but it is largely initiated and funded by AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee). Westchester County does not need a Congressman that is beholden to special interests rather than to district residents.

"This coalition implores George Latimer to end his corrupt campaign for Congress. Do not make your political legacy be about challenging a beloved congressional representative, at the behest of AIPAC, an organization bankrolled by Republicans. Do not throw your weight behind Israel's genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people in Gaza, at the cost of over 30,000 innocent lives and unspeakable trauma to over 2.2 million people. End your campaign and join our Congressman in calling for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

"This action reflects the growing sentiment that George Latimer is unfit to serve as a United States Representative!

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Yorktown Republican Chairman Kevin Byrnes and Yorktown Democratic Co-Chairs Mark Lieberman and Marni Rabin-Marron cordially invite you to join us as we co-sponsor the

YORKTOWN TOWN SUPERVISOR CANDIDATE DEBATE
 Thursday March 28, 2024 7:00 P.M.
 Yorktown Stage, 1974 Commerce St., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Ed Lachterman
Jann Merchandani

Candidates will take questions from the audience.

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR:
 Early voting April 6-14: Jefferson Village Annex, 3500 Hill Boulevard or Yorktown Cultural Center, 1974 Commerce Street
 Election Day April 16, 6:00 am-9:00 pm

Stop The Madness In Our Country

More than 100,000 of our fellow Americans die every year from Fentanyl overdoses. Where is the outcry from the media?

I was ill in my Fentanyl Phase and readers bring me back to WEST 37 and see the madness in our country, that is the true face of Fentanyl across our border. My wife and I lost our 10th child, 100 years ago to an overdose, and nothing has changed.

That was 100 years ago, for several years, I was in and out of rehabilitation centers and see working in construction. He had three children, and he did not want to die when he took a pill. He had thought something else, it was Fentanyl and it killed him.

More than 100,000 of our fellow Americans die every year from Fentanyl overdoses. Where is the outcry from the media? Where is the outcry from our elected officials? Why is the border still open to anyone and everything?

In New York City one person is dying every 30 minutes from Fentanyl. The Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Jason Graham said "Fentanyl is probably the 50th most potent of the overdose drugs that we see." Because COVID, Dr. Graham said that "the fentanyl crisis would represent what I believe to be the biggest public health emergency of our times. It's an incredibly potent drug. It's 50 times more potent than heroin."

It is staggering that our law enforcers or politicians is accusing the storm and making Americans aware of these statistics on our local and state level other than President Trump. Why is that? Is the border for our former President more important than my son's life? Or the next person who dies from Fentanyl?

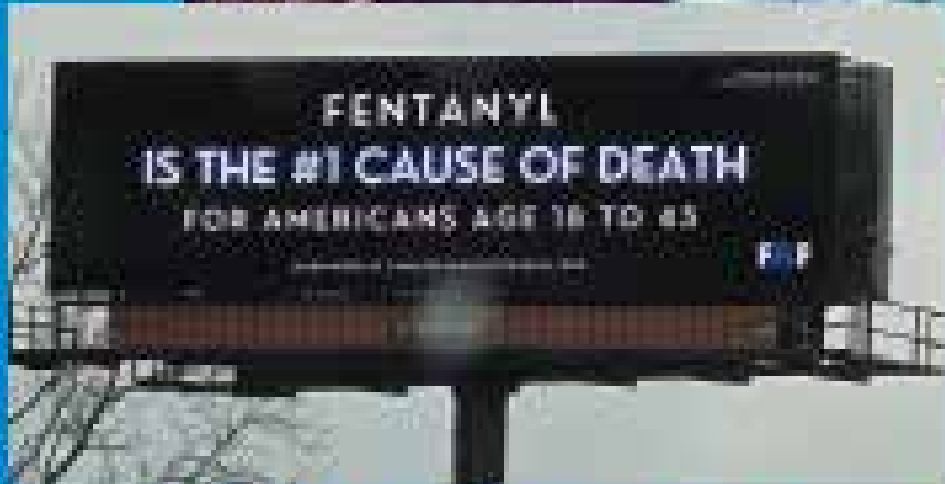
This is a Women our best writing men and women of our country. They joined a group called Families Against Fentanyl and is calling for Fentanyl to be classified as a Weapon of Mass Destruction. WMD. This classification would allow our US Government to release a whole-of-government response to this national threat, allowing new resources and measures to help tackle the drug.

Who is profiting from this war against our young men and women? China and the Mexican Drug Cartels. Fentanyl/overdose has become the leading cause of death for young Americans since 2021. US authorities say that China remains the primary source of the precursor chemicals, which are then processed and manufactured into synthetic opioids by Mexican drug cartels crossing into the United States.

It's now estimated 90 percent of the fentanyl trafficking is coming from precursor drug from China. And then it's manufactured by two cartels, the Jalisco and Sinaloa cartels. Using mail, human traffickers, vehicles, trucks, shipping containers, planes, tunnel routes, international mail and other methods. It's essential to authorities bringing it across the border into our politicians on the federal level to curb this crisis. The Chinese city of Wuhan is known as the highest capital of the world.

Fentanyl has remained the leading cause of death for Americans aged between 18 and 44 since 2021, surpassing suicide, an epidemic COVID-19, and cancer, according to CDC data reported by the US advocacy group Families Against Fentanyl in a December 2023 report.

The pills are manufactured made to look like Xanax, Adderall, or hydrocodone. So when my son and 100,000 other Americans die every year from Fentanyl, it is by consuming the real.



the drug hauls from the DEA and ATF. And they are doing good work, they are trying to prevent another overdose, and I thank God for their service. I lost about 50 pounds, 50 pounds, 100 pounds, 150 pounds, 200 pounds. And I wonder, how many pounds is making it out of this stress.

The biggest difference between Fentanyl and Heroin is that for many of those who have died, they did not know what drug they were using. It is God's will, some pills are another person. They are passing out children, grandchildren, brother and sisters.

Enough is enough. I want justice for my son. Am Justice for my wife and I want our President, as our NY US Senator Schumer and Gillibrand to make every effort to close our border and stop the flow of Fentanyl is that too much to ask?

I don't want my law officers going to the floor in Chicago and we have made every effort to control the border from the illegal flow of drugs.

My Congressman is Ernest Scott. He is being managed by Corey Klutznick. George Klutznick, NY Gov. has spoken out, at least, acknowledge the Fentanyl crisis in our country, and in their Congressional District, which includes parts of the Bronx.

For decades, I have been speaking out about the flow of our manufacturing jobs overseas, in China. Now we need to focus on our young Americans dying every day from the poison that is Fentanyl.

Help me to raise the funds to put my rights before they inform the public.

Thank you God Bless
— Ernest Scott

In 2023, the Synthetic Trafficking and Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act, aimed at curbing the flow of opioids sent through the mail system, by increasing the coordination between the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. But to reach U.S. regulators, thirteen fentanyl producers shifted their primary market to Mexico.

Are we better off than the previous administration? All I know is that I lost my son, and my son due to the illegal trafficking of Fentanyl under the Biden administration. Nobody has ever explained why we have allowed 8 million migrants to come into our country, and how many of those young children who crossed our border disappeared or are victims of the sex (slur) trade. And how many are trafficking Fentanyl?

There have been half a million OOD Americans over the past five years from Fentanyl. Does it really matter what their political party was? Or if they voted for Trump or Biden? My wife and I am two of the millions of families members affected by the Fentanyl crisis.

Where is the justice for all of us? Or at least the willingness to acknowledge the problem and put our government and its citizens to work to try and stop it.

As a co-owner of a construction company, I got hit hard. Dan Murphy is posing the entire stock.