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Friday August 18, 2023

Westchester Blogger Admits to Writing Lies About Yonkers Police in Defamation Settlement

Former Police Commissioner Charles Gardner Fed Blogger Hezi Aris Some of the Written "Fake News" About Fellow Cops



Hezi Aris

By Dan Murphy

Yonkers blogger Hezi Aris has settled a defamation lawsuit filed against him by three Yonkers Police officers by admitting that the many columns he penned about Yonkers PBA President Det. Keith Olson, former Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller and retired YPD Det. Sgt. Brian Moran were fabrication, lies and fake news.

The full retraction and personal apology from the self-proclaimed "acid-tongue blogger" Hezi Aris and his Yonkers Tribune website, (Yonkertribune.com), are another embarrassment for the blogger who used to keep Yonkers elected officials and city employees in fear through his posts, and the negative and blasphemous posts he allowed below his stories.

As a condition of the settlement, Mr. Aris has agreed to prominently publish his public retraction and apology on the front page of his Yonkers Tribune website for at least thirty days. As further conditions of the agreement, Aris must permanently purge all the defamatory articles from the website, delete all defamatory and inappropriate comments from the anonymous comments sections which followed the articles, and make a donation in an undisclosed amount to a Yonkers-based charity.

From 2013 to 2019, Hezi Aris published a series of articles ironically entitled "The Blue Truth." The articles focused almost entirely on false allegations of criminal and unethical acts allegedly committed by Olson, Moran and then-YPD Deputy Chief Mueller. In early 2019, the three plaintiffs filed a multi-count defamation lawsuit in New York State Supreme Court, seeking to hold Aris and the Yonkers Tribune accountable for the libelous publications. Almost immediately, attorneys for Mr. Aris, led by noted attorney Michael Sussman, filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, claiming among other things that it was a "SLAPP" lawsuit. That motion was swiftly denied.

In June of 2021, in another victory for the plaintiffs, Supreme Court Justice Joan Lefkowitz ruled that Hezi Aris was not a journalist entitled to the protection of the so-called journalist "shield law", and therefore was required to reveal the identities of his claimed "sources" for the Blue Truth articles. When forced to reveal his sources for these false and defamatory stories, Aris identified long-time source YPD Det. Raymond Montero, Yonkers Police Commissioner Charles Gardner and others. All sources named by Aris had a long and established history of personal and professional animosity toward plaintiffs.

continued on pg 7-

If Cape Cod & Massachusetts Can Do It- Why Can't We Save the Hudson? From Holtec



Save the Hudson from Holtec Rally in White Plains with elected officials and advocates

The news last month that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection had denied a permit for Holtec to dump one million gallons of nuclear waste into Cape Cod Bay is good news for the many in Westchester who are trying to get Governor Kathy Hochul to sign a bill passed in June, which also would deny Holtec the right to dump one million gallons of toxic waste into the Hudson River.

On July 24, Holtec was denied a Massachusetts permit to discharge 1.1 million gallons of irradiated industrial wastewater rather than store it on site or transport it to an off site storage facility. "Holtec owns plants around the country, so I think Massachusetts will lead the way for Holtec to take safer actions for decommissioning. It's excellent news not just for Massachusetts but for the entire country," said Massachusetts State Sen. Susan Moran.

The effort to get Hochul to sign the bill before Holtec begins their planned dumping in September or October continued this week, with a rally in White Plains. Westchester State Senators Shelley Mayer and Pete Harckham, Assembly members Dana Levenberg, MaryJane Shimsky, Chris Burdick, County Legislator Ben Boykin were in attendance.

After the event, Levenberg announced that a total of 29 members of the NYS Assembly have signed a letter urging Governor Kathy Hochul to sign Assembly Bill 7208/Senate Bill 6893: "I am so grateful to my colleagues for standing with our Hudson Valley communities and urging Governor Hochul to sign the 'Save the Hudson' bill. By standing up for the Hudson River, we are making it clear that we will insist on the highest possible safety standards for all of New York's waterways. We are demonstrating that private interests should think twice before assuming they can treat our rivers like dumping grounds." Assembly member Levenberg and Senator Harckham sponsored the legislation to Save the Hudson, which passed the Senate Unanimously and passed the Assembly by a 101-44 margin. The pressure on

continued on pg 2-

County Police Arrest Ghost Gun Maker in Cortlandt; Gives Insight Into How they are Made



above: Ghost Guns seized in Cortlandt Manor



left: 3D Printer used to help make Ghost Guns

Westchester County Police arrested a Cortlandt man today and charged him with manufacturing and possessing untraceable "ghost guns" in his home.

The arrest was the result of a multi-agency investigation that also involved the New York State Police, FBI Westchester Safe Streets Task Force, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the Putnam County Sheriff's Department.

Nicholas Zito, 22, of Langeloth Drive was taken into custody at his home shortly before 9 a.m. The items seized from his residence were:

- three loaded firearms lacking serial numbers;
- four unfinished/non-serialized frames for firearms;
- 23 high-capacity ammunition magazines and ammunition.

Zito was allegedly using a 3D printer to manufacture the ghost guns, which contain no serial numbers and are untraceable when recovered following the commission

continued on pg 7-

Congressman Lawler Ask Gov. Hochul What's the Plan on Hudson River Radioactive Dump?

On Aug. 11, Congressman Mike Lawler and Congressman Marc Molinaro released the following statement after sending a letter to Governor Hochul asking her for a detailed plan regarding the scheduled dumping of radioactive water from the decommissioned Indian Point Energy Center into the Hudson River.

"It is simply beyond comprehension that Governor Hochul would not have a concrete plan regarding the scheduled discharge and dumping of radioactive water from Indian Point into the Hudson River," said Congressman Lawler. "She should be exploring every option and it is simply unfathomable that her administration does not have a plan at this stage."

"Governor Hochul must provide answers regarding the status of S6893 - which passed through the State Legislature months ago, her plans to retain the critical union jobs that are hosted at the site of the plant, and any measures her team has put in place regarding the potential dumping of this radioactive water into the Hudson River," concluded Congressman Lawler. "My constituents in the 17th District and the residents of the Hudson Valley deserve nothing less."

"I've spent decades fighting to clean up the Hudson River. We cannot take a step backward. I urge Governor Hochul to sign legislation into law to prevent radioactive waste from being dumped into the Hudson River," said Congressman Molinaro. "This is a commonsense step to preserve this natural treasure."

Congressman Lawler has previously criticized Holtec International for the lack of transparency in its decommissioning of Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan and had urged them to evaluate all possible options for the safe removal of radioactive wastewater.

"It is imperative that Holtec operate with transparency and that the decommissioning of Indian Point is done in an environmentally responsible way that does not disrupt our Hudson Valley communities or soil our beautiful Hudson River," Representative Lawler said earlier this year.

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PXG Announces \$1M Donation to Help Maui Disaster Relief Efforts

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Provides Support for Veteran-led Disaster Relief Organization Team Rubicon

PXG, a company dedicated to developing the world's finest golf equipment and apparel, today announced a one-million-dollar donation to Team Rubicon, a veteran-led disaster relief organization. The funds will support Team Rubicon's ability to provide immediate support in Maui, Hawaii.

By pairing the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders, medical professionals, and technology solutions, the organization mobilizes highly trained teams to provide the greatest impact possible.

"Team Rubicon quickly coordinates and deploys trained military veterans, first responders, and civilians as volunteers for disaster relief efforts," PXG Founder and CEO Bob Parsons stated. "We have witnessed the dedicated volunteers who make up its ranks fall in to embrace and empower devastated communities. Today, we look to bolster their efforts in Maui and help their boots on the ground to do what they do best."

"In the past ten years, Team Rubicon has built a dedicated team of over 1,000 Greyshirt volunteer leaders in Hawaii. Currently, we have boots on the ground and are in close communication with local authorities and emergency managers to offer our immediate help in shelter set ups, food distribution, donation management and distribution, and staff for the local Emergency Operation Center," said Art delaCruz, Team Rubicon CEO. "We are extremely grateful to our partners at PXG for their unwavering commitment to supporting those in need."

To learn more about Team Rubicon and find out how you can help visit, www.TeamRubiconUSA.org.

Founded by entrepreneur and self-proclaimed golf nut Bob Parsons, PXG embodies his belief that every new product – from golf clubs to sport fashion apparel – should be markedly better. Every innovation should noticeably improve your performance. And every moment of impact should elevate your enjoyment.

Today, PXG offers a complete lineup of right- and left-handed golf clubs, as well as high-performance, sport fashion apparel, and accessories. The Westchester PXG store is located in New Rochelle at 100 Nardozzi Pl. For more information about PXG visit, www.PXG.com.

Save the Hudson, continued from pg 1-

Governor Hochul now includes a larger coalition of elected officials. State Senator Shelley Mayer who also attended the rally said, "Terrific crowd gathered at Westchester County Center to urge Governor Hochul to sign the Save the Hudson bill, which passed both the Senate and Assembly and which will prevent nuclear power company Holtec International from releasing radioactive waste into the Hudson River. I thank my colleagues Senator Pete Harekham and Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg for sponsoring this important bill, as well as the activists of the Stop Holtec Coalition for fighting for our river and our communities."

More than 400,000 New Yorkers have signed a petition urging Hochul to sign the Save Our Hudson Bill.

Now that Massachusetts Governor Maura Healy's administration has denied Holtec's permit, many in Westchester, and almost every elected democrat in Westchester, is watching with interest what Hochul will do? Or they are asking what is Hochul waiting for?

In June, members of the Carpenters Union, apparently at the urging of Holtec, came out against the Save our Hudson bill, claiming that the halt on toxic discharge into the Hudson will cost their members construction jobs at the Indian Point facility in Buchanan.

Levenberg and others have challenged that assumption, and point to the many other unions who support her and Harekham's legislation. "I heard repeatedly that there is plenty of work to be done at various points during the decommissioning process. If this is the case, why are workers being told that their jobs are at stake? This appears to be an attempt to enlist labor in an effort to stifle public discussion of our options."

Others have pointed out that if Holtec decides to store the waste on site in Buchanan for 12 years, which will cut its toxicity by 50%, more construction jobs will be created to build the storage required.

"Public perception of a polluted, hazardous river will undermine our local economy in various ways, harming property values, business interests, and much more. More than 30 municipalities and thousands of my constituents have reached out to my office to oppose the plan to discharge nuclear waste into the Hudson."

If Hochul signs the bill, it is likely that Holtec will file a lawsuit against it. Levenberg said "we believe that a state has the right to restrict or permit discharge that impacts the local economy. We believe we have a leg to stand on with our legislation, and that the state is not preempted from taking this action."

Hochul has until the end of the year to "call up" a bill for her to either sign or veto.

Westchester BOL Bursts 8-Foot Personal Bubble Zone Outside Abortion Facilities



A protestor arrested outside of a White Plains clinic in 2021

On Aug. 7, by a 13-3 vote, the Westchester County Board of Legislators repealed a portion of the Reproductive Health Care Facilities Act, passed by the BOL in 2022, and signed into law by County Executive George Latimer, after the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade. Legislators removed requiring pro-life advocates to stay 8 feet away persons entering and leaving health care facilities in Westchester that offer abortion services.

Westchester resident Debra Vitagliano has sued Westchester County over the bubble zone, and her case in proceeding through the Federal Courts, possibly landing in the US Supreme court this fall. <https://yonkerstimes.com/bol-considers-amending-reproductive-facilities-access-act-as-vitagliano-v-westchestercounty-heads-toward-us-supreme-court/>

There was very little debate in the BOL chamber before the vote. County Legislator James Nolan asked for the vote to be tabled because he feared that it would add to the possibility of Westchester county getting sued over the law and the bubble zone provision. Nolan, and legislators Margaret Cunzio and Catherine Borgia voted no. Legislator Colin Smith said that the changes to the law were being made because of concerns about how the 8 foot zone would be enforced. Smith added that no enforcement efforts have been made to date.

Abortion rights group Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic told News 12, "The bubble zone provision of the legislation was unenforceable, and therefore disrupts the integrity of the legislation's overall ability to achieve its goal of protecting patients of reproductive health care facilities. Repealing the bubble zone provision will, in fact, strengthen the Reproductive Health Care Facilities Act by making the protections of the law more concrete and clearer for all people to understand."

Pro-life advocates declared victory after the vote and claimed that the change to the bubble zone provision will not stop the case from proceeding, or protect the county from liability. The intent of the bubble zone provision was to protect women entering or leaving from pro-life counselors who wanted to discuss other alternatives.

The vote by the BOL follows a lawsuit by Thomas More Society on behalf of the national organization 40 Days for Life, a local vigil group, White Plains 40 Days for Life, and two individual pro-life sidewalk counselors.

"The bubble zone was unconstitutional the moment the board passed it," said Christopher Ferrara, Thomas More Society Senior Counsel. "This is indeed a victory for free speech, and for pro-life advocacy. Those who seek to defend the right to life are constitutionally guaranteed the freedom to speak their mind, and shame on any governmental unit that attempts to curtail that freedom."

He noted that the Dobbs decision, reversing Roe v. Wade last year, expressly criticized Hill v. Colorado—a prior United States Supreme Court decision that upheld a similar bubble zone. Since Hill was decided in 2000, the United States Supreme Court has implicitly recognized that "bubble zones" around abortion facilities are unconstitutional and casted doubt on the precedent set in Hill—even before the 2022 Dobbs called it a "distortion" of First Amendment law.

Also interesting was Legislator Catherine Borgia's no vote, joining the Republican Nolan and Conservative Cunzio in voting no. Borgia authored the Reproductive Health Care Facilities Act.

The changes to the law will not impact the case making its way to the US Supreme Court. Joe Davis, from Becket, the law firm representing Vitagliano, said "We are happy to see an unjust law repealed, but it's too late for having to answer for breaking the law."

Other discussions about the Bill include whether or not legislators were advised by counsel about the legal issues with the Reproductive Health Care Facilities Act, and the bubble zone, and what if any impact that will have on future litigation.

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DA Rocah Charges Two Men with Sex Assaults Against Teens in Rye, North White Plains



Richard Olmino

Two men charged with sexually assaulting teens in three separate June incidents in Rye, North White Plains

On Aug. 14, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced the arraignments of two men charged on indictments with sexually assaulting teenagers in three separate incidents during June in Rye and North White Plains.

DA Rocah said: "We are committed to supporting and assisting these young victims of sexual violence and seeking full accountability of the defendants. Meanwhile the vigilant work of our local police and the DA's Office investigators continue to keep Westchester safe."

People v. Richard Olmino

Richard Olmino, 21 of Port Chester, was charged in an 18-count indictment returned by a Westchester County Grand Jury, with sexually assaulting two teenagers during two separate June attacks in Rye. The defendant was arraigned on Aug. 8 before Westchester County Court Judge George E. Fufidio on the following charges:

- Attempted Rape in the First Degree
- Attempted Criminal Sexual Act in the First Degree
- Two counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the First Degree
- Four counts of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree
- Endangering the Welfare of a Child
- Four counts of Robbery in the Third Degree, a sexually motivated felony
- Two counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree
- Three counts of Unlawful Imprisonment in the Second Degree

According to the indictment, on June 23 at approximately 12 a.m., the defendant allegedly threatened a 16-year-old jogger in Rye Town Park saying he had a knife before tackling her to the ground, exposing himself and sexually assaulting her. A security guard in the area interrupted the attack and the defendant allegedly fled the scene leaving behind his phone.

City of Rye police, assisted by county police and federal agents, utilized the defendant's phone to identify and locate him leading to his arrest on June 24. At a June 25 arraignment in Rye City Court, Judge Valerie A. Livingston remanded the defendant to Westchester County Jail as he had two open warrants in Connecticut for public lewd acts and a pending criminal case in Suffolk County.

DNA evidence from the June 23 incident linked the defendant to a June 3 incident where, at approximately 1:36 a.m., the defendant allegedly sexually assaulted an 18-year-old who was walking home from an after-prom party in the vicinity of Rye High School.

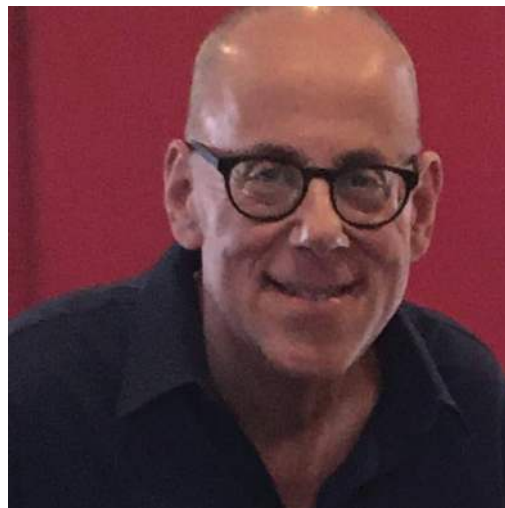
Prosecutors charged the defendant, who remains in custody, for both June incidents in the Aug. 8 indictment in Westchester County Court. His next court date is Aug. 22.

The case is being prosecuted by the Special Prosecutions Division Sex Crimes Bureau Assistant District Attorney Mollie O'Rourke and Special Prosecutions Deputy Division Chief Michelle Lopez.

People v. Jose Mejia Lopez

In an indictment returned by a Westchester County Grand Jury, Jose Mejia Lopez, 32, was charged for attacking a teenager at knifepoint in North White Plains and forcibly kissing the victim before fleeing and resisting arrest. He was arraigned Aug.14 before Westchester County Court Judge Susan Cacace on the following

continued on pg 2-



By Eric Wolf Schoen

What do the #4 and Lou Gehrig and Donald Trump have in common? Gehrig's #4 on his uniform was retired, and Trump has 4 indictments against him. Gehrig's #4 was the first number to be taken out of service, and if the 4 indictments against Trump hold up, he will be the first President to be convicted out of office.

Here we go again folks it's indictment time. This time it's Trump, Giuliani and 18 other defendants. 18 is Chai in Hebrew the word for life. Multiples of this number are considered good luck and are often used in gift giving. Could the 18 in this situation mean good luck? Could the 18x2= 36 be considered good luck especially when it come to gift giving. Oh wait, wrong family. That's the Biden family with millions of dollars in gifts.

Where is this all going. Hunter Biden, Joe Biden, Donald Trump, Rudy for both families the madness is on a daily basis. Laptops, schmaptops everybody has something to see except the American people who will be paying the legal bills. Everybody has something they have 'discovered' but we see nothing. It's all simply a case of 'show me the money!' But nobody shows us anything. But before you see the money the deals are made.

Who do you think is paying for the housing for the asylum seekers. Their 3 square meals a day. Transportation, clothing you name it our New York City fathers are paying for it all. The folks from Venezuela are getting homemade Venezuelan meals while the folks in homeless shelters get nothing of the such.

We have to step up to the plate and put pressure on our legislators to stop this craziness. They are spending billions of dollars that they should be spending on us on our visitors from abroad.

Briefs:

With 2 weeks left in the swim season, the Board of Health is requiring 14 year olds and younger to have a parent with them when they want to swim in County pools as of August 16. I have no problem with the concept. However, People have pool parties planned. Why did they not do this at the beginning of the swim season? They announced it on July 17 for August 16 start. Could they be doing this because of a shortage of lifeguards at the end of the season?

Florida Governor and Presidential Candidate Ron DeSantis has put his name on campaign t-shirts on the front with 'He Wants to Get Things Done' on the back. The front letters are so big people wonder if he knows his name!

A study shows that 52% of Americans are drinking alcohol, an amount up from previous years.

The Mets spent so much money on the team for the the 2023 season and look where it got them!

Between Beyoncé , Taylor Swift and Barbie on stage and screen, some in the entertainment industry are proclaiming 2023 as the Year of the Women!

There is this crazy idea out there that Inhaling marijuana smoke is less dangerous than inhaling cigarette smoke. The studies on marijuana are not as extensive as cigarettes, but with all the states making marijuana legal count on pressure from the public to find the answer to this question.

BONUS: After our story about Target at Cross County Center and its' lack of opening after close to 2 years of construction, as we go to press the big red circles are being painted on the facade of the store and it looks like Yonkers will have a Target in the not too distant future.

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

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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 Rebbecca, 550 Green Dolphin Dr., Placida, FL 33946. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Man Sentenced to 25 Years-Life for Execution Style Murder in Yonkers



left: Jabree West
below: Eric Williams



On Aug. 14m Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that a New Castle, Delaware man was sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison for the 2021 murder of 22-year-old Jabree West, of Wilmington, Delaware.

DA Rocah said: "Due to the tireless efforts of our prosecutors and law enforcement partners, justice has been served for this ruthless and cold-blooded murder."

After a four-week trial in June, a jury found Eric Williams, 24, guilty of Murder in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, both felonies.

On June 20, 2021, at approximately 4:30 a.m., the defendant, who had a personal conflict with the victim, used a 9mm semi-automatic pistol to shoot the victim once in the back of the head while he was sleeping on the stoop of a residential building on Bronx River Road in Yonkers. The victim was taken to New York-Presbyterian Westchester hospital in Bronxville where he died.

During the investigation, the Yonkers Police Department recovered surveillance video of the defendant walking back and forth in front of the building next to where the victim was sleeping, appearing to rack the slide of his gun. The defendant then walked off camera and a gunshot was heard approximately one minute later. The defendant was observed quickly walking away from the crime scene. Additional surveillance footage captured the defendant walking around Yonkers for hours before getting picked up and driven back to Delaware.

Police also recovered the victim's cell phone, which contained multiple videos and photographs of the defendant and victim together during their trip to New York from Delaware.

Utilizing digital forensics, police located and arrested the defendant as he was leaving his father's home in Staten Island on Dec. 19, 2021. At the time of his arrest, the defendant made numerous admissions. The murder weapon was never recovered.

The District Attorney thanked the Yonkers Police Department, the FBI's Westchester Safe Streets Task Force, the New York City Police Department, the DA's Office High Technology Crimes Unit and the New Castle County Police Department in Delaware for their assistance with the investigation.

The case was before Judge Robert Neary in Westchester County Court, and prosecuted by Major Case Bureau Chief Nadine Nagler and Senior Assistant District Attorney Adrian Murphy, both of the Trials and Investigations Division.

HAWAII MUST FIX ITS DISASTROUS DISASTER MANAGEMENT

OP-ED BY Raya Salter

We are all attempting to grapple with the horrifying losses caused by the fires on Maui. Now is a time of rescue and grief, as over 100 people are dead with those numbers expected to rise.

Yet, while we await the results of official investigations, we must acknowledge that this tragedy was not only foreseeable - it is part of a broader pattern of disastrous disaster management and planning in a region that is incredibly vulnerable to the climate crisis.

Local officials in Hawaii concede that they were made aware in advance by the National Weather Service that they were in a "red flag situation" due to dry conditions. In fact, Maui has been battling wildfires due to dryness for years. Yet, none of Maui's 80 sirens went off to warn residents of the fire because nobody attempted to activate them.

Reports say that officials were woefully unprepared, and greatly underestimated the threat of wildfires. Lawsuits are alleging that the island's utility is negligent for failing to address power lines that may have ignited the blaze. In the wake of the disaster, phone, internet and power is out on many parts of the island and fuel and clean water are in short supply. The state and federal response is inadequate and desperate residents are asking why.

The truth is that Hawaii state officials have been ignoring serious lapses in emergency and disaster preparedness for many years. From the "fake missile alert" in 2018 sending residents into a panic to the sweltering classrooms impacting the state's school children, the state has failed to appropriately respond to the reality of its vulnerability.

In 2018, I wrote about how the state's floundering response to hurricane Lane exposed the shocking truth of the state's inaction in the face of widespread disaster. The climate crisis has turned much of Hawaii's lush landscape into a tinderbox. In addition, Hawaii's entire food supply must be replaced every five to eight days, as it shipped in from thousands of miles away, with no significant strategic reserve in place.

Threats like a direct hit from a major hurricane, once considered a rare event, are now expected with more frequency with devastatingly increased flood risk. Yet, by the state's own calculations, within three days of a direct hit on Oahu

continued on pg 6-

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Get In On the Action at the Civil War Soldier Experience at Lasdon Park



Children ages 7 through 12 can witness living history and have fun while learning about the lives of Civil War soldiers and their families at the Civil War Soldier Experience. The four sessions will take place on Saturday and Sunday, August 26 and 27, at Lasdon Park and Arboretum in Katonah. This outdoor event will again be organized and run by Battery "B" First Rhode Island Light Artillery Regiment, an artillery battery that served in the Union Army.

Each two-hour session will consist of educational, fun-filled activities and demonstrations, and end with the firing of an authentic Civil War cannon.

Each participant will create and take home his or her own thaumatrope, an optical illusion toy that was popular in the 19th century, as well as a personalized certificate and an official Lasdon embroidered patch.

Two sessions are offered on both days: 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, August 26 and 27.

Registration is required for participation. Learn more and at the Friends of Lasdon Park and Arboretum website. Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial is a Westchester County Park on Route 35 in Somers. The GPS address is 2610 Amawalk Road, Katonah, NY 10536.

Another Scary Reminder of the Superbug Crisis

By Dr. Rachael Lee

More than 80 Americans across 18 states have been struck with a serious bacterial infection thanks to contaminated eye drops. Several have suffered permanent vision loss. Four have died.

The contaminated drops housed a strain of the bacterium *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, which, due to a rare gene, is immune to almost all antibiotics.

Though the drops are now off the shelves, the larger crisis of drug resistance is far from over. Antibacterial-resistant pathogens claimed more than 1.2 million lives in 2019. That number will continue to increase if we don't act now.

Antimicrobials are a miraculous tool in the fight against infections. Human life expectancy increased by eight years between 1944 and 1972, largely attributable to the development of antibiotics. Even so, bacterial infections are still the second-leading cause of death worldwide, responsible for one in eight deaths.

Antimicrobial resistance, or AMR, occurs when pathogens -- like fungi or bacteria -- become immune to our existing medicines. We've been using antimicrobials to fight infections since 1937. After nearly 90 years under antimicrobial attack, it's no surprise that pathogens have developed the ability to defeat the drugs designed to kill them.

By 2050, it's estimated that AMR will cause 10 million deaths per year. It's more important now than ever to course-correct. Antimicrobial stewardship, or improving how antimicrobials are prescribed, is a key part of the solution. When antimicrobials are prescribed only when needed and for the shortest durations possible, it ensures patients receive the best treatment and also slows a pathogen's ability to develop resistance. But stewardship alone won't solve the problem when infections are becoming increasingly difficult, and sometimes impossible, to treat.

New antimicrobials are another piece of the solution. The next generation of antimicrobials needs to attack and kill germs better, and in new ways, than current ones.

Unfortunately, the current drug business model does not work for antimicrobials due to the unique way they are used. Prescribing antimicrobials only when appropriate is critical for public health because it slows resistance, but it also keeps sales volume low. Investing in drug research and development is a significant risk as few products receive FDA approval, so the potential financial outlook needs to be stable enough to attract investors. Antimicrobials aren't a lucrative enough proposition to pique such investor interest.

Legislation under consideration in Congress could revitalize antimicrobial innovation, giving us a major leg up in the fight against AMR. The PASTEUR Act would establish a system in which the government enters into contracts with antimicrobial developers via a subscription model rather than paying by unit sales. This would help guarantee companies some stability for their investment in new treatments, even if the sales volume is low.

Infectious disease specialists like me see the devastation of antimicrobial resistance too often. In the race against superbugs, our innovation is up against their evolution. We must regain the lead.

Rachael Lee, MD, is an associate professor and the chief healthcare epidemiologist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. This piece originally ran in the Houston Chronicle.

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Metallica Scholars Initiative Returns to SUNY Westchester Community College

\$10,000 award will support students looking to develop skills for careers in advanced manufacturing.



Metallica

SUNY Westchester Community College has been invited to return for the fourth year in a row of Metallica's foundation, All Within My Hands, multimillion-dollar investment in critical workforce programs at community colleges nationwide. SUNY WCC will use the Metallica Scholars \$10,000 funding to support students looking to enter or further their careers in Advanced Manufacturing.

SUNY WCC will focus its efforts on programs that provide students with the opportunity to develop the skills increasingly needed in the regional job market. Students will take coursework in machine learning, CNC, and other National Institute of Metallurgy (NIMS) certified competencies that lead to high-skill, high-wage career pathways in advanced manufacturing. No prior knowledge of manufacturing is necessary.

"The Metallica Scholarship has changed my life," said Stacy Yonnone, Metallica Scholar. "Being a Metallica Scholar at SUNY WCC means more than what the average person thinks. The scholarship makes it more affordable for the everyday working person. It has opened up lots of opportunities, not just in my company. I have tremendously gone up in rank."

"SUNY WCC is honored to be selected by Metallica's All Within My Hands for another year of supporting our students as they prepare for the in-demand careers that are critical for the growth of our regional economy," said Dr. Belinda Miles, President at SUNY Westchester Community College. "Our students are appreciative not just of the financial support this scholarship provides, but the recognition of the value their work brings to their community. This program provides an opportunity that makes a real difference in the lives of our scholars and their families."

The Metallica Scholars Initiative (MSI) was launched in 2019 by Metallica's foundation, All Within My Hands (AWMH), in partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC). The workforce initiative marks its fifth year with an ambitious expansion into new curricula. MSI now directly supports 42 community colleges across 33 states, and by the end of this year, it will have helped over 6,000 students pursuing careers in the trades. To date, Metallica and AWMH have invested over \$6MM in the American workforce.

"The Metallica Scholars Initiative is so important to us because we are seeing results," said Lars Ulrich, co-founder and drummer of Metallica. "Five years in, with the help of community colleges across the country, we are helping people fill these essential jobs which require skills and training. We are so proud and grateful that we can facilitate this program."

To learn more about the Metallica Scholars Initiative at SUNY Westchester Community College, please visit www.sunywcc.edu/metallica

47TH ANNUAL WESTCHESTER JEWISH MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL RETURNS TO KENSICO

Celebrate the rich legacy and history of Judaism at the 47th Annual Westchester Jewish Music & Arts Festival on Sunday, Aug. 20, from noon to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

County Executive George Latimer said, "Our cultural festivals help to enlighten County residents of the wide variety of traditions and customs that make Westchester County a wonderful place to live and visit. The local populations are exceedingly open to sharing their traditions with everyone in the County and beyond."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor said, "It's easy to see why these celebrations are among our most popular summer events. Families and friends will have a chance to soak up some culture through music, dance, and food as we enjoy the lazy days of summer."

Seating will be informal. Bring blankets or folding chairs for seating on the lawn. No coolers will be allowed. Admission and parking are free. Pre-registration is requested.

The Jewish Music & Arts Festival takes place from Noon until 6 p.m. Entertainment will feature Neshama Carlebach, special guests The Liz Queler Band and Urban Garage, plus The Levins, and Israeli Dancing with Leng. Festivities will include free face painting, Juggler Ned Gelfars, Kosher food vendors, arts & crafts and more.

The festival will be held rain or shine. Seating is informal; bring blankets or folding chairs for seating on the lawn. No coolers will be allowed. Admission and parking are free. Carpooling or taking mass transit is encouraged.

The final festival in the series is the Muslim Heritage Festival, which will be held on Sunday, Aug. 27, from noon to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

The Jewish Music & Arts Festival is co-sponsored by Westchester County Parks and The Westchester Jewish Council. Kensico Dam Plaza is located at 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla.

Mount Pleasant Medal of Honor Committee to Hold Free Concert on September 23



Louis Vanaria

The Town of Mount Pleasant and the Mount Pleasant Medal of Honor Committee will honor mothers and families that made the ultimate sacrifice with a free concert on September 23.

The concert falls on the weekend of Gold Star Mother's and Family Day, a national observance recognizing and honoring those mothers who have lost a son or daughter in the service of the U.S. Armed Forces.

"We want the Gold Star Mothers to know that we are grateful to them, and we want to remind them that our community will not forget their sacrifices," said Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi.

The 2 p.m. concert will be held at the Mount Pleasant Community Center, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. The Bel-Aires will perform music from the 50s to the 70s, with additional performances of classic songs by the actors/singers Louis Vanaria and Joann Robertozzi.

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NYS Dept. of Labor to Recover \$20 Million in Wages for Exploited Workers in 2023

The New York State Department of Labor today announced that its Division of Worker Protection investigators have recovered and returned over \$11.7 million in stolen wages to 12,000 affected workers since January 1, putting the Department on track to recover \$20 million in stolen wages this year. Over \$200,000 in recovered funds span six larger cases in which the Division of Labor Standards was able to investigate and reach settlements. These cases are just a few of the many cases Worker Protection's Division of Labor Standards has resolved over the last year.

"Wage theft undermines the dignity and rights of hardworking New Yorkers," said New York State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon. "The Division of Labor Standards' investigators work with law enforcement partners to ensure that no employer is above the law, and that all workers' rights are protected. If any New Yorker believes they are a victim of wage theft, contact the Department immediately."

One of the cases in Westchester involved an installer working for a restoration company in Yonkers who received \$11,400. As part of NYS DOL's Worker Protection Division, Field District Offices routinely conduct on-site investigations to review records, interview witnesses, verify compliance, and expand investigations beyond the original complaint if necessary. They work closely with employers to ensure compliance and collect restitution for workers. The Mediation Unit provides opportunities for employees and employers to reach fair and speedy resolution to conflicts regarding allegations of labor rights violations. Mediation takes place before or during an investigation and before formal notices are issued. The Central Investigations Unit investigates basic wage or wage supplement claims received using an expedited approach. A demand letter is sent to employers within 48 hours of case creation.

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Classifieds

Notice of formation of My Mind Is Magic, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 3/14/2023. 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, 20 South Broadway Suite 420, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of LIVE LONG LIVE STRONG FITNESS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/07/22. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 33 Sherwood Ave, apt. 3w, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Formation of LIMESMASHER LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/2/2023. 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 Michael Lime-killer, 938 Saw Mill River Rd., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of True to Life Counseling Psychotherapy Services, LCSW PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/26/2023 Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC at 50 Riverdale Avenue Suite 15J, Yonkers, Ny 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of 54 TOWER PLACE LLC of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/10/2023. Office: Westchester County. RAED M ALAMMARI designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of the process to the LLC, 54 TOWER PLACE YONKERS, NY 10703 Purpose: Real Estate.

Formation of OFF THE MILL LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/29/2023. 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 Desmond Clarke, 1271 Saw Mill River Rd., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, Plaintiff AGAINST MAXINE LANSKY-TEJADA, ALEJANDRO TEJADA, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered June 16, 2023, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Lobby of Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, NY on September 11, 2023 at 10:30AM, premises known as 94 Jervis Road, Yonkers, NY 10705. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, in the County of Westchester, State of New York, Section 1, Block 73, Lot 30. Approximate amount of judgment \$234,256.25 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #59161/2021. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the WESTCHESTER County COVID-19 mitigation protocols and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Syma Funt, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive Williamsville, NY 14221 20-001206 77099

Notice of formation of JJMB PROPERTIES LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Sec of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/27/2023. Office location, County of Westchester. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to:, c/o Incomp Services, Inc - 99 Washington Ave., Suite 805-A, Albany, NY 12210. Purpose: any lawful act.

PUBLIC NOTICE

A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING PART VII OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED NUISANCES, PUBLIC WELFARE AND CRIMINAL TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 88 TO BE ENTITLED “CATALYTIC CONVERTERS: RECORD KEEPING FOR PURCHASE, SALE, AND INSTALLATION; INDIVIDUALS IN POSSESSION”

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Yonkers has adopted the abovementioned legislation that amends Part VII of the Code of the City of Yonkers entitled “Nuisances, Public Welfare and Criminal” in part by adding a new Chapter 88, “Catalytic converters: recordkeeping for purchase, sale and installation” to combat the rampant and skyrocketing wave of catalytic converter thefts that is costing the residents of the City of Yonkers thousands of dollars on a regular basis.

The penalties for offenses pursuant to this ordinance are as follows:

The violation of any provision of this chapter shall be a Class III offense except for any Business found guilty of more than one (1) violation of this chapter within any twelve (12) month period the subsequent violations shall be a Class I offense.

The complete text of the ordinance is on file and may be examined at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 40 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701.

Dated: August 14, 2023, Vincent Spano, City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

A GENERAL ORDINANCE IN RELATION TO ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF LICENSES FOR BUSINESSES SELLING TOBACCO AND RELATED PRODUCTS IN THE CITY OF YONKERS PENDING APPROPRIATE REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Yonkers has adopted the abovementioned legislation that, in part, enacts a temporary limited moratorium on the issuance of “Cigarette Dealer Licenses” pursuant to section 31-153 of the Code. Notwithstanding any other ordinance, law, or resolution, no person shall be issued a new license under section 31-153. This moratorium shall not impact current license holders. This ordinance is effective immediately and shall expire and have no further force or effect on or after November 1, 2023.

The penalties for offenses pursuant to this ordinance are as follows:

A violation of this article shall constitute a Class II offense.

The complete text of the ordinance is on file and may be examined at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 40 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701.

Dated: August 14, 2023, Vincent Spano, City Clerk

OP-ED, MAUI, Con’t from pg 4-

from a major storm, medical supplies would run out and medical services would be depleted by 40 percent.

Within five days, food and water would be at critical levels, followed by fuel. More than 380,400 people - 35 percent of the island’s population - would seek shelter. Shelters, however, would fail, because few are built to withstand a hurricane. The power would be expected to fail immediately with restoration impossible for many months. With the onset of the climate crisis, Hawai’i is one major storm away from complete disaster and displacement, impacting the poorest residents the hardest. This is not acceptable.

I am a former resident of Hawai’i and state employee. I am now based in New York where I sit on the state’s Climate Action Council. As part of that body, I helped develop New York’s roadmap for how we will reach our climate goals. That roadmap, among other studies, includes a hard look at resilience and the need to both mitigate emissions with a climate justice lens while becoming more resilient and adaptable to irreversible changes. New York, however, as evidenced by 2021’s devastating hurricane Ida, also must do better. At the Council, I pushed for stronger measures, particularly for frontline communities. After the tragedy in Lahaina, I feel it is necessary to do so again.

Governor Green, the time is now for you to turn the corner on the unconscionable lack of disaster and climate preparedness in Hawai’i. To begin, you must acknowledge the problem, create immediate accountability and take urgent action on resilience with a climate justice lens. New York’s Governor Hochul, please build on the progress the New York has made and do the same.

Raya Salter is an energy justice attorney, former Hawaii resident and State Employee, a Member of the New York State Climate Action Council and Executive Director of the Energy Justice Law & Policy Center.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) # 2023 – 02

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PRINTER SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE AT VARIOUS PROPERTIES OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (“MHACY”) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms for Printer Services and Maintenance for MHACY at various sites as specified in this Request for Proposals (“RFP”).

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter “Responders” or “Respondents”) and is available online starting August 29, 2023, at www.mhacy.org.

The RFP questions deadline is September 12, 2023, at 3:00PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to Procurement at procurement@mhacy.org by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on September 21, 2023. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B.

Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY.

MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in MHACY’s best interest to do so. MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement.

Contact, related to this procurement, with members of MHACY’s Board of Commissioners, or MHACY’s officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.

Wilson Kimball, President & CEO

Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers

1511 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10710

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Sex Assaults, continued from pg 1-

charges:

- Sexual Abuse in the First Degree
- Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree
- Unlawful Imprisonment in the Second Degree
- Menacing in the Second Degree
- Assault in the Second Degree
- Resisting Arrest
- Escape in the Third Degree

According to the indictment, the defendant grabbed an 18-year-old who was walking with two friends to the North White Plains MetroNorth station on June 22 at approximately 4p.m. and forcibly kissed her while pinning the victim against a wall by her neck and holding a knife to her throat. The attack was captured on surveillance video.

Upon obtaining information that the defendant may have fled the scene on a Westchester County Beeline No. 6 Route bus, White Plains police stopped the bus headed to Yonkers on North Broadway and removed the defendant. After his arrest, the defendant escaped from police custody. Following a short foot pursuit, during which a police officer was injured, the defendant was apprehended.

Police recovered a pocket knife from underneath a seat in the bus near where the defendant had allegedly been seated.

Bail was set at \$50,000 cash/\$100,000 bond/\$500,000 partially-secured bond. The defendant remains in custody at the Westchester County Jail. His next court date is Aug. 29.

The case is being prosecuted by Sex Crimes Bureau Chief Wendy Parra and Assistant District Attorney Jessica Taylor, both of the Special Prosecutions Division. The District Attorney thanked the City of Rye Police Department, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the FBI's Westchester Safe Streets Task Force, Criminal Investigators in the Special Prosecutions Unit of the Westchester County District Attorney's Office and the White Plains Department of Public Safety for their work in both investigations.

Ghost Guns, continued from pg 1-

of a crime.

Zito was charged with one count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree (loaded firearm) and multiple counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree (for possessing three or more firearms and the 23 ammo clips). Those charges are felonies. He was also charged with four counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 4th Degree (for the unfinished firearms). That charge is a misdemeanor.

Zito was arraigned in a neighboring court and was remanded to the Westchester County Jail in lieu of \$15,000 cash bail or a \$50,000 bond. The case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

Public Safety Commissioner Terrance Raynor said, "I commend our Conditions Unit, the Real Time Crime Center, and our partners in this investigation. We are all committed to keeping illegal firearms of all kinds, including ghost guns, off the streets of our communities."

Raynor noted that the Westchester County Police, in partnership with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, have seized hundreds of ghost guns through investigations conducted in the last few years.

Anyone with information regarding the manufacture, possession or sale of ghost guns is asked to contact the Westchester County Police. The Department maintains telephone and electronic tips lines so the public can provide information on this and other criminal activity.

Calls, e-mails and text messages to these tips lines are confidential. Tipsters can remain anonymous if they chose.

- Voice Tip Line: (800)898-TIPS (8477).
- Electronic Tips: Send email, text messages and small video clips to tips@wccops.com.

Annual Kiwanis Club of Hartsdale Carnival

Thursday, August 31, 2023 – Monday, Labor Day, Sept. 4, 2023

The Kiwanis Club of Hartsdale will hold its Annual Carnival Fundraiser at Richard Presser Park/Webb Field, Central Avenue, Hartsdale, NY during Labor Day weekend –Thursday, Aug. 31 through Monday, Sept. 4. The Carnival will feature a variety of rides, food, and arcade games. It has always provided family fun during the holiday weekend. The hours of operation are: Thursday and Friday from 5 pm until closing each night; and Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 2 pm – until closing each night.

Money raised at the Carnival helps The Kiwanis Club of Hartsdale sponsor a number of community projects including donating backpacks filled with school supplies to elementary school children, Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts to local families, donations to local food bank and charitable community organizations, scholarships awarded to Woodlands high school students, as well as luncheons for senior citizens.

Kiwanis Club of Hartsdale celebrates its 67th year serving our community. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Carnival.

Hezi Lies, continued from pg 1-

This week, one week before a scheduled August 16 trial date, Aris agreed to the plaintiffs' settlement demands, which require a wholesale retraction of every false allegation published by Aris, as well as an apology to the family and friends of the three plaintiffs for the pain caused by the reckless publication of these untrue criminal allegations.

"This is an important and groundbreaking victory, not only for John Mueller, Brian Moran and I, but for anyone else who's fallen victim to unscrupulous and irresponsible bloggers disguised as journalists. Far too many of these internet bullies feel it is safe to make false, baseless, defamatory claims against people without fear of repercussions. This victory shows that the truth matters and that lies have consequences. This is also a signal to the cowards with personal vendettas who feel safe feeding false accusations to these bloggers thinking they are shielded by anonymity. You are not. The truth always prevails."- Det. Keith Olson.

The retraction by Hezi reads, "I personally and publicly apologize to Mr. Olson, Mr. Mueller, and Mr. Moran and especially to their family and friends for the pain and humiliation they may have endured from these wrongful accusations. I regret that their reputations may have suffered because of the cited statements.

"I have come to learn that much of the content in these Blue Truth articles was false, inaccurate, misleading, and defamatory

"I now also recognize that I improperly managed the section of my website which allowed readers to anonymously post comments. At times, the comment sections of the Blue Truth articles devolved into a haven for vile, racist, and homophobic comments. Writers directed some of these comments at Olson, Mueller, Moran and their friends and family. I never intended the comment section to be used for such a purpose and should have intervened to disallow this from happening. I regret not doing so, "writes Hezi.

We do not agree with the part of Hezi's admission which reads "I never intended the comment section to be used for vile comments." In our view, that is exactly what Hezi intended to do; inflict fear, intimidation and pain on his adversaries.

This reporter also fell victim to Hezi's trash pseudo-journalism. While he was the Editor of the now defunct Westchester Guardian, Hezi posted the headline, Dan Murphy is a Journalistic Fraud, on the front page. Many other individuals in Yonkers and Westchester county had their professional and personal lives ruined by Hezi Aris.

So while I am grateful that Olson, Mueller and Moran stood up and took Hezi to court, I would ask on those whose lives were forever wounded, How do they get their reputations back?

I would also add that the second most shocking part of this lawsuit is how former Police Commissioner Charles Gardner fed Hezi some of the lies that he printed against Olson, Mueller and Moran. For the top law enforcement officer of the third largest city in New York State to be handing a blogger lies about his fellow officers, is just as bad, or worse, than the publication of these same lies.

How Gardner can look all of his fellow Yonkers Police officers in the eye is beyond comprehension. Shame on you Commissioner Gardner and shame on Hezi, for putting Yonkers through this difficult period of social media negativity.

Hezi no longer holds the sway and power that he once had in Yonkers, in part because of this lawsuit but also because most of his former readers grew tired of the negativity and nonsense. We do concur with Olson in that we hope that this is a warning to the Yonkers bloggers who have now replaced Hezi is the negative world of shock fake news that they can be next to get sued, humiliated and embarrassed.

And congratulations to Olson, Mueller and Moran for standing up for truth and for setting the record straight.

The plaintiffs would like to publicly thank their attorneys, Andrew Quinn and Marykate Acquisto of the Quinn Law Firm and Lisa Fantino, Esq. of Harrison, on their brilliant work in achieving this important victory.

Hezi was represented by attorney Michael Sussman.

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

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Indigo Girls to Perform Benefit Concert for Pace Women's Justice Center



Concert takes place November 3rd at The Capitol Theatre, Port Chester

Each year, the Pace Women's Justice Center (PWJC) commemorates Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October with the culmination of its Raising the Bar Benefit Concert. This year's concert will take place at the Capitol Theatre on Thursday, November 3rd, at 8:00 PM. The full-length concert will be exclusively performed by the Grammy-winning duo, Indigo Girls. The singer-songwriter twosome of Emily Saliers and Amy Ray is considered one of the most successful folk duos in history, with 16 recorded studio albums and over 15 million records sold. Popular for their crowd singalong 1990's chart hits "Galileo," "Shame on You," and "Closer to Fine," which was recently featured in the box office summer hit movie Barbie. Together, these two women are known for their activism and championing of causes.

"We are thrilled and honored to have the Indigo Girls perform for our benefit concert to raise awareness about domestic violence," states Cindy Kanusher, Executive Director for PWJC. "As activists with a longstanding commitment to women's health and human rights, and our common mission to amplify the voices of women and survivors of abuse, we are eager for this opportunity to show solidarity and support for PWJC's work to end abuse."

Each October, the nonprofit honors an individual who has dedicated themselves to supporting the PWJC mission and its clients with the Making a Difference Award. This year, Daniel Seymour, President of Cannae Advisors LLC, has been selected as PWJC's honoree and will be given a special recognition at the benefit concert. Dan has been a devoted advocate as an Advisory Board member for over four years. His generous professional insight, and dedication to supporting the organization's legal services has helped further the mission to combat the social justice challenges clients face. "I am in awe of the dedication and commitment to the victims of abuse that the Pace Women's Justice Center serves," said Seymour. "Cindy Kanusher and the team at PWJC work to increase access to legal services for victims of abuse, which fulfills a critical need in our community. I am humbled to be recognized by PWJC and honored to support this important organization."

The fundraising event's title, Raising the Bar Benefit Concert, is a nod to PWJC's commitment to increasing access to justice and providing FREE critical legal services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The funds raised will allow PWJC to continue helping their clients on their journeys toward empowerment and healing. For information on individual tickets and sponsorships, visit www.PWJCRaisingTheBar.com

Indian Heritage Festival at Kensico Dam Park



above: Karthigayan Gopala Krishnan, holding award, with staff
below: Traditional Indian Dance performances. Photos by Robert Kalfus



By Robert Kalfus

The 23rd Annual Heritage of India Festival this past Sunday at Kensico Dam Plaza's featured an Indian Bazaar, Mehendi (Henna) Art, Indian Cuisine, live Indian Cultural performances, colorful Indian clothing, and children's arts and crafts. A dozen sponsors from various health care organizations, pharmacies, a funeral home, St. John's Riverside Hospital, and TherapyCare Physical Therapy displayed their wares. Karthigayan Gopala Krishnan, the President and founder of TherapyCares Physical Therapy, started his TherapyCares on Yonkers Avenue ten years ago in Yonkers, offering a variety of excellent physical therapies. President Krishnan steadily build his business and expanded, now offering excellent Physical Therapy at six centers, with two in Westchester, three in The Bronx, and one in Manhattan.

President Krishnan along with his staff was honored, receiving an award at the 23rd Annual Heritage of India at the Kensico Dam Plaza, along with (left to right) Geetha Geddy Sama, Nidhi Shah, Ishani Shah, and Supriya Spepherd, some of the therapists working at his now six TherapyCare centers.



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