

PRESORT-STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
White Plains, NY
Permit #7164

Westchester Rising

YonkersTimes.com

Friday May 10, 2024

“You Guys Have to Leave”

72 Arrested at SUNY Purchase Palestinian Protest

Faculty Questions Police Response



@purchasecollege
Someone has to answer for this

By Dan Murphy



left, police make arrest, above purchase students protest

Palestinian protests on college campuses across the country came to Westchester last week at SUNY Purchase, as about 200 protestors began their vocal opposition against the war by Israel in Gaza, as a result of the Oct. 7 terror attack by Hamas.

Purchase college issued the following statement about what happened on May 2. “Students were allowed to protest peacefully, which they did for several hours, as long as they followed SUNY’s rules for the maintenance of order and the student code of conduct. Outsiders/non-students were turned away from campus although it is believed that several snuck back on to join
continued on pg 10-

Bowman Fundraises with Muslim Leader who was “Happy” for Oct. 7 Hamas Attack on Israel



Rep. Jamaal Bowman



Nihad Awad

See story on pg 10

Dobbs Ferry Man Arrested for Guns Again; Man Arrested for Smuggling Migrants in Cortland



Westchester DA Candidate William Wagstaff Didn't Pay Taxes for Six Years



By Dan Murphy

Westchester Democrats “Extremely Concerned” and “Disappointed” Blindsided by News

“If he can’t manage his own finances, how can he run the office of District Attorney?”

-Westchester Democratic Committee vice-chair Ximena Francella

Westchester District Attorney candidate Williams Wagstaff did not pay his Federal Income Taxes over a six year period, totaling more than \$189,000. The story broke in the Journal News, by reporter David Mackay Wilson. www.lohud.com/story/news/politics/2024/05/01/westchester-ny-da-candidate-william-wagstaff-irs-tax-debt-paid-after-campaign-launch/73512765007/.

Wagstaff did not pay off his tax bill until the middle of his campaign for District Attorney. Wagstaff, Susan Cacace, and Adeel Mirza are running in an upcoming Democratic primary on June 25.

Wagstaff did not find his tax troubles worthy of mention to Westchester

continued on pg 15-

Bicycle Sundays Returns for 50th Year



Westchester Parks Foundation and Westchester County Parks joined together on the steps of the County Center to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Bicycle Sundays season. Since July 21, 1974, Westchester County residents have been enjoying the popular Bicycle Sundays program that opens a 6.5-mile stretch of the historic Bronx River Parkway to bicyclists, skaters, joggers, and walkers on a series of Sundays throughout the warmer weather months each year.

Bicycle Sundays annually attract 60,000 participants on weekend dates in May, June and September except Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. The event runs through six municipalities including: White Plains, Hartsdale/Green

continued on pg 14-

By Dan Murphy

US Attorney for the SDNY Damian Williams recently announced two different arrests in Westchester.

Dobbs Ferry resident James Neff was arrested by the FBI on May 2, and is charged with the possession of a firearm and ammunition after a felony conviction in connection with the discovery by law enforcement of the defendant’s trove of firearms, including multiple personally manufactured firearms, or “ghost guns,” and ammunition. In addition, members of law enforcement discovered, and continue to investigate, suspected explosives, paraphernalia related to improvised explosive devices, and suspected readily assembled explosive devices.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: “As alleged, James Neff, some 23 years after having been convicted on similar state charges for criminal possession of a weapon, has again illegally stockpiled numerous firearms, including what appear to be assault rifles and personally manufactured firearms, or ‘ghost guns,’ a significant amount of ammunition, and suspected materials

continued on pg 13-

Harckham and Slater Announce \$14.8 Million Route 22 Repaving Project



Assemblyman Matt Slater, Sen. Pete Harckham, and Southeast Supervisor Nick Durante at Route 22 resurfacing project

New York State Sen. Pete Harckham and Assemblymember Matt Slater announced today a new \$14.8 million state-funded project to resurface Route 22 in the towns of Southeast, Pawling and Patterson and the Village of Brewster has started. Joining the two legislators for the announcement was Southeast Town Supervisor Nick Durante.

“This is an important investment for Putnam County that I’m proud to support,” Slater said. “Hudson Valley taxpayers deserve safe roads, and I will continue to work with Senator Harckham and every partner in government to accomplish this objective.”

“The Route 22 project is an important step toward improving the roadways in our area, which has the most lane miles and number of bridges of any New York State Department of Transportation region,” Harckham said. “Better roads are essential for our safety and for our economy. I will continue to fight for sustained long-term investments in our infrastructure to make repairs and upgrades, as well as new designs that will help meet the increased use by residents and business owners.”

The new project is set to resurface approximately 12 miles of Route 22 from the Interstate 84/684 interchange to Route 55 in Dutchess and Putnam counties. The project is expected to be completed in August of this year. Route 22 carries approximately 20,000 drivers daily.

Route 22 is identified as a part of the New York State Freight Core Highway Network from Route 55 in Dutchess County to I-84 in Putnam County along the east side of the Hudson Valley Region. This corridor provides freight connection between the urban area of Poughkeepsie and Connecticut via I-84 Eastbound and Westchester County via I-684.

Trucks account for 8% of the average annual daily traffic within the corridor. The work will take place in the towns of Southeast, Pawling and Patterson and the Village of Brewster.

“The repaving of Route 22 is great news for the Town of Southeast. The road bisects our town and is used by thousands of drivers every day, whether they are residents of Southeast, commuters or tourists driving on their way. A newly paved road will protect people’s cars from the wear and tear of potholes. Thank you to Senator Harckham and Assemblymember Slater for securing the funding in the budget to make this much-needed improvement happen,” said Southeast Town Supervisor Nick Durante.

Last year, Harckham and Slater sent a joint letter to the New York State Department of Transportation voicing concern about area roadways, and both legislative offices have fielded an inordinate number of complaints regarding problems with road surfaces.

Twigs Thrift Shop Gives NWH More Than \$4 Million over 60 years



Twigs Thriftree thrift shop presents a check for \$142K to Northern Westchester Hospital’s executive director, Derek Anderson at a luncheon held on Monday, May 6th at Tesoro D’Italia restaurant in Pleasantville, NY. (Pictured L to R) Tracey Hynes, treasurer of Twigs; Derek Anderson, executive director at Northern Westchester Hospital and Deborah Coffino, president of Twigs. Photo courtesy Northwell Health.

Twigs Thriftree thrift shop, an iconic establishment in the community founded by the non-profit Twigs, reached a significant milestone in its six-decade history of charitable giving: with a recent donation of \$142,000 to Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH), the shop’s total contribution to the hospital surpassed an impressive \$4 million.

Over the decades, Twigs’ generosity profoundly impacted NWH, enhancing patient care and services across a variety of initiatives. From the establishment of the Twigs Healing Garden at the Cancer Health and Wellness Center and the Twigs Serenity Garden at the hospital’s emergency department to their continuing support of the Ken Hamilton Caregivers Center, Twigs’ contributions have played a pivotal role in delivering patient-centered, high-quality healthcare to the community.

“Twigs is an invaluable partner in our mission to provide exceptional medical and surgical health care to our community,” said Derek Anderson, executive director at Northern Westchester Hospital. “Formed from various communities in the region, and professional/personal backgrounds, the volunteer team of Twigs is the epitome of our mission. Where else can you find such a committed team of volunteers who are simultaneously serving the community, advancing the hospital’s sophisticated care, while impacting the environmental sustainability to our community?”

Twigs, which was founded in 1945, opened its thrift store in 1964, offering a variety of pre-owned clothing, jewelry, art, books, bric-a-brac, and small furniture. All profits from the thrift store benefit the vital healthcare services provided by Northern Westchester Hospital.

“Our enduring partnership with Northern Westchester Hospital gives all of us at Twigs such joy,” said Deb Coffino, outgoing Twigs President “This most recent donation solidifies our position as the hospital’s most steadfast benefactor. Our all-volunteer thrift store is grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the health and well-being of our community.”

The Twigs Thriftree Thrift store is located at 449 Lexington Avenue in Mount Kisco, New York. To learn more, visit their Facebook page.



**It’s not just a generator.
It’s a power move.**

Receive a free 5-year warranty with qualifying purchase* - valued at \$535.

Call 877-516-1160 to schedule your free quote!

*Terms and Conditions apply.

GENERAC

Buying Comics!

Looking for 1960’s-1990’s I PAY CASH!
Located in Yonkers Text or call Andrew at 914-646-1718.

BATH
REMODEL

SPECIAL OFFER

**Waiving All
Installation
Costs**

YOUR BATHROOM. YOUR WAY.
IN AS LITTLE AS

ONE DAY

CALL NOW
855.564.2680

Add'l terms apply. Offer subject to change and vary by dealer. Expires 6/30/2024.

In Home Personal Training

In-Home Personal Training Available. NASM, EMT and Special Needs Certified. Strength Training, Fat Loss, and Muscle Building
Virtual and online coaching available.
Text or call Andrew at 914-646-1718.

Assemblyman Gary Pretlow Talks Delays in Getting Casino Licenses for Downstate

MGM Yonkers in Westchester May Have to Wait until 2026

– New Yorkers could be gambling legally at downstate casinos by October of this year, but it is more likely that they will have to wait until 2026. The reason: Politics.

That is the reading from state Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow, head of the state's racing and gaming commission. He disclosed it to SportsBoom.com on Friday in an interview at his office.

"It depends on the mood of the political class," Pretlow said. "If they want to do it, it could be October of this year. If not, it'll be January of '26. Rumor has it that Governor (Kathy) Hochul wants to do it in her re-election year, which is 2026."

The delays in issuing three downstate casino licenses have been frustrating to executives at some of the biggest casino companies in the world. New York law calls for three licenses to be issued for the downstate region that includes Westchester and Rockland counties north of New York City, the five boroughs of New York City, and the counties of Nassau and Suffolk on Long Island.

A total of 17 entities have expressed interest in acquiring those licenses and have submitted a first round of questions to the state gaming board, which has answered those questions. A second round of questions also has been submitted, but those answers are on hold indefinitely, which has brought the process to a halt.

"I have a solution," Pretlow said, explaining that uncluttering the process and getting it back on the fast track would lead to \$1 billion in revenues annually for the state from licensing fees and taxes on casino winnings. "But if they (the governor and her cronies) don't want to do it, it won't happen, and I don't know why. I told her 'We could bring in \$1 billion right now,' and she said 'no.'"

Pretlow said the leading candidates for the three licenses are MGM Resorts, which owns the Empire City Casino at Yonkers Raceway, Malaysian-based Genting Inc., which owns Aqueduct Racetrack, and New York Mets owner Steve Cohen, who wants to build a casino complex on the footprint of the old Shea Stadium alongside City Field in Queens.

"The only ones I know are not dropping out are MGM, Genting and Cohen," Pretlow said.

Other proposals have come from some of the top companies in the business:

– Hard Rock has taken over the gambling component of a proposed Times Square casino from Caesars, but there is resistance from the Broadway Theater community.

– Las Vegas Sands wants to put a casino at Nassau Coliseum in Nassau County, but there is community opposition, and there is no way for buses to reach that facility because the bridges on Long Island parkways were purposely built low to prevent busloads of city dwellers from overrunning those communities when traveling to New York's beaches.

– Two groups are trying to put a casino at Coney Island in Brooklyn, where there also is community opposition.

– Wynn Gaming is trying to put a casino at the Hudson Yards complex on the West Side of Manhattan, but the proposal is still in its infancy and has not gotten past the drawing of architectural plans.

– A development south of the United Nations building would have a casino and parking complex underground but also is in its infancy, and a proposal to build a high-end casino on the top floors of Saks Fifth Avenue has gone dormant over the past couple of years.

– Bally's has taken over ownership of the former Trump Links golf course in the Bronx with an eye toward building a casino there near the Bronx entrance to the Whitestone Bridge, but Bally's has had more troubles with its online sportsbook rollout over the past two years than any of the nine companies that have been licensed to provide online sports gambling.

New Yorkers are used to having a dysfunctional state government, but the companies that are trying to do business in the Empire State are not used to dealing with such a high level of frustration. Complicating matters, there are lawsuits challenging a recent New York City law that states that any company winning a gambling license will be automatically zoned to operate a casino in the five boroughs.

Every company trying to build a casino also must complete environmental impact reviews, which are time-consuming and have been held up by the delays coming from the state capital in Albany.

Under state law, applications must be submitted within 30 days of the gaming commission responding to the second set of questions posed by the gaming companies. About 40 such questions have been submitted, and there is no timetable as to when a response will be forthcoming.

continued on pg 6-



Get your dream kitchen remodel today and take

\$2500 OFF.

855.281.6439

Up to 10-15% Off maintenance-free cabinet door collections. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Offer valid during initial consultation only. Does not apply to prior purchases. Homeowner must complete their free design consultation by 6/30/2024 to qualify for this promotion. NYLicense#Nassau:H1759490000 Suffolk:16183H NY/Rockland:5642.

It's Mothers Day, and I Miss My Mom!



By Eric Wolf Schoen

With so much going on in the world, make sure you celebrate your Mom on Mother's Day this Sunday. Make her a special meal. Remember how fortunate you are to be able to celebrate with her in your company. If she is no longer with us, remember all the good times you had. Take time out of your schedule to do something she liked to do with you or something good for someone else. She will be smiling in Heaven.

It's over 30 years since the passing of my mom, and I miss her everyday. I miss her but something happens everyday to remind me about her. I was thinking about those many things as I sat down to write this column. For some of you who knew my mom the events I hope will wax nostalgic. If you didn't, think about the special memories that come to mind about your mother.

Last Friday I had, for lack of a better word a podiatric episode. When you have two artificial knees you have to take these things seriously. I needed to see a podiatrist that day, called at least 10 in Yonkers off of the internet with no luck. It dawned on me that mom use to see a podiatrist on Valentine Lane. Could he still be in business after over 30 years? Yes he was, and his partner saw me within 20 minutes. Mom was looking out for me.

After Covid I rarely wear suits. I pulled one out of the closet at 5 p.m. for a 6 p.m. affair and the pants were severely wrinkled. Mom never ironed. She would pay someone to iron for her. She never showed me how to iron. I had an iron in one of my drawers, pulled it out, put it on the highest setting and voila, without burning myself or my pants I was able to get the wrinkles out of the pants. Mom gave me the inspiration to do it, and her and her best friend, Antoinette Costantini, a fine dress maker were smiling in heaven knowing I could figure out how to iron, something which for most of you is a periodic event.

When microwave ovens came out, I bought mom the biggest one that would fit in the space she had. It was big, and mom said she would never use it. It took her a while but eventually she used it several times a day. When I cook I use it several times a day. Most of my friends know that if I can 'nuke' it I can eat it. Every time I use the microwave with various built in ovens I think of mom.

I learned to shop from my mother, and how to find a bargain whether it was on the white, Square display tables people use to crowd around at Alexander's on Fordham Road in the Bronx and later in Yonkers, or in John Wanamaker's at Cross County Center. Mom was the queen of finding a bargain, a good habit that I have with prices as crazy as they are now.

If mom saw something she liked she would buy it in every color. I was shopping in Target not too long ago, and they had tee shirts on sale at a very good price. They fit well, and 5 colors later I went home with a bargain like mom would want me to.

Tuesday was Teacher Appreciation Day in the United States. Mom and Antoinette Costantini, her co-PTA President at School 13 in Yonkers always facilitated a luncheon for the teachers accompanied by a small gift of appreciation. I thought of mom when I posted a thank you on my Facebook to the many teachers I have had from Elementary School through Grad School and even when I went back to school midlife to obtain my Paralegal status.

continued on pg 6-

SAVE ON YOUR
Travel Plans!

Up to **75%**
more than **500 Airlines**
and **300,000 Hotels** across the world!

Let us do the research for you for free... we'll save you time and money



*Spend your travel dollars when you get there **not getting there!***

We're not allowed to publish fares online so call for the best rates now **877-988-7277**

Weekend Events at Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, MAY 11

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

Glacial Geology Hike, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Hike the Croton Point shore with the county naturalist to learn about the forces that created the Lower Hudson Valley landscape. Meet at Pavilion 1. Ages 6 and up, moderate difficulty, wear sturdy shoes.

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

Naturalist Hike, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Join Preserve staff for a 2-mile hike to see what's happening out on the trails! Hiking shoes are recommended.

Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale: (914) 946-8133

NAMIWalks Westchester, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Please join us in the largest community awareness event for mental health in the region for a Day of Hope. This special day supports mental health and physical health. Without one, one can't have the other. Register as a team captain, a team member or an individual, and/or make a donation or sponsor this fun event!

Get details and register at <https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1498>

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

Morning Bird Migrations, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Let's observe warblers and other feathered friends on the move northward. Please bring binoculars. Also: May 18.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Take Out the Trash!, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Keep our salt marsh beautiful by collecting trash left by the tides. It's a superb way to have fun, get some exercise and give back to the earth.

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

Lasdon Green Squad, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Every Saturday through November. Get details and register at <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/lasdon-green-squad/2024-05-11/>

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

Forest Storytime, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Enjoy some children's stories amongst the trees. The program will meet at the nature center, with a short walk to our reading spot.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Migratory Bird Watch, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. It's World Migratory Bird Day! Join us to learn about the wonders of migration, the birds who travel vast distances every year and the successes of the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act. We'll start inside and then take a short walk around the Preserve. For all ages.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Rockin' Reptiles!, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. In this live-animal program, see snakes, turtles, lizards and more up close! Watch them move, feel their texture and learn all about their scales!

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

Flowers and Foliage Arts & Crafts, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Learn about the Reservation's many flowers through creative crafts at Trailside.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050

Plant ID Class: Woodland Wildflower Walk, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Our native plant curator guides a walk through our property. Get details at <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event-calendar.html/event/2024/05/11/plant-id-class-woodland-wildflower-walk/472722>

SUNDAY, MAY 12

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

Mother's Day Tour, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Join one of our gardeners for a stroll to admire our flowering plants. Rain or shine. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/mothers-day-tour/>

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

Gardening Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Get details and register at <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays/2024-05-12/>

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

Mother Nature Hike, 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. Let's hike around the lake to admire Mother Nature in all of her splendor. Hiking shoes are recommended.

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

County Executive Latimer Signs Legislation to Enhance Senior Property Tax Exemptions



County Executive Latimer signs Senior Property Tax Exemption into law, with County Legislators looking on

Westchester County Executive George Latimer signed into law legislation aimed at bolstering Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemptions. This move expands eligibility criteria by excluding social security income from the adjusted gross income calculation for benefits.

Latimer said: "This legislation marks a step towards ensuring our senior citizens receive the support they deserve. By excluding social security income from the calculation, we are providing substantial relief to seniors on fixed incomes, enabling them to better manage their expenses and maintain their homes. It's crucial that we prioritize the well-being of our elderly residents, and this adjustment reflects our commitment to their financial security and comfort."

The legislation, which was recently passed unanimously by the County Board of Legislators, aims to alleviate financial strain among senior citizens, empowering them to age in place with dignity and ease.

Department of Senior Programs and Services Commissioner Mae Carpenter said: "Enhancing senior citizen property tax exemptions is a vital aspect of supporting our aging population. This adjustment not only provides much-needed financial relief but also reinforces our dedication to fostering an inclusive and supportive community for all residents."

Veolia Sponsors STEM Alliance's STEM-tastic Festival for the Second Year in a Row

The STEM Alliance is thrilled to announce the return of their highly anticipated STEM-tastic event – a free, annual festival for over 1,000 people which brings STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering & Math – to life with dozens of hands-on activities. This festival will be held on May 10, 2024, 6:00pm - 9:00pm at Hommocks Middle School in Larchmont, NY. For the second year in a row, Veolia is a STEM-tastic Platinum Sponsor.

Marking its 8th year, STEM-tastic delivers enjoyment and learning for all ages, empowering children and families to explore STEM disciplines through diverse challenges. Attendees will partake in over 40 expert-led experiences like coding robots with MakeInspires, pilot lessons with Drone Cadets, exploring the microworld on the Biobus and stitching with Sew Fun 4 Kids. This evening festival redefines STEM learning, inspiring kids to explore, create and innovate.

Veolia is not only sponsoring the event, but also leading one of the STEM learning activities: Creative Chromatography. Students will explore the color spectrum using water and markers. "The earlier we can engage students and spark their interests in STEM, the better," said Chris Graziano, Vice President and General Manager of Veolia Operations in New York. "That's why Veolia appreciates, and is proud to support, events like STEM-tastic."

With employees worldwide, Veolia designs and provides game-changing solutions that are both useful and practical. As one of Westchester's premium water providers, Veolia is committed to helping their customers conserve water at schools, municipal buildings, offices, and more. These efforts push them toward their goal to be a benchmark company for ecological transformation. Veolia has also made a substantial commitment to philanthropic causes in the county, including their sponsorship of The STEM Alliance's festival.

Expressing gratitude for Veolia's generous support, STEM Alliance President Margaret Käufer remarks, "Veolia truly understands the importance of inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders. Science festivals play a pivotal role in our mission to bring equal access to STEM enrichment opportunities for all. Their sponsorship and support of STEM-tastic is critical to our shared goals."

To learn more or volunteer at this event, please visit www.thestemalliance.org/stem-tastic.



LeafFilter
GUTTER PROTECTION

CALL TODAY FOR A
FREE INSPECTION!
1-855-478-9473

20% OFF + **10% OFF**

Your Entire Purchase* Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!

* See Representative for full warranty details. *One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. 1 Subject to credit approval. Call for details: AR #0366920922, CA #1035795, CT #HIC.0649905, FL #CBC056678, IA #C127230, ID #RCF-51604, LA #559544, MA #176447, MD #MHIC148329, MI # 2102212986, #262000022, #262000403, #2106212946, MN #IR731804, MT #226192, ND 47304, NE #50145-22, NJ #13VH09953900, NM #408693, NV #86990, NY #H-19114, H-52229, OR #218294, PA #PA069383, RI #GC-41354, TN #7656, UT #10783658-5501, VA #2705169445, WA #LEAFFNW822JZ, WV #WV056912

Peekskill Cab Driver Gets 16 Years for Engaging in Sexual Contact with a Child

Jury convicted defendant for repeated sexual abuse of a child that started when the victim was 10 years old

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced today that a Peekskill man was sentenced to 16 years in state prison for engaging in sexual conduct with a child for nearly a year.

DA Rocah said: "The survivor in this case, just a young child, demonstrated remarkable resilience and courage in coming forward. Sexual abusers often prey upon their victims by exploiting their role as a person in a position of trust. As we commemorate Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month during April, I remind Westchester residents that my Office is fully committed to bringing sexual predators to justice, as we have done today, and ask everyone to speak up and report any suspected abuse."

After a three-week trial, a jury on March 19 found the defendant, Luis Urgiles, 46, guilty of Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the First Degree, a felony, and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a misdemeanor. The defendant, who has a prior felony conviction, was also sentenced to 20 years of post-release supervision and is required to register as a sex offender.

As detailed during the trial, the defendant, a cab driver in Peekskill, met the victim's family while they were passengers in his cab. The defendant befriended the family and began grooming the then 10-year-old victim in order to sexually abuse and assault her.

The defendant repeatedly subjected the victim to multiple sexual acts between October 2021 and July 2022.

The Peekskill Police Department arrested the defendant on Oct. 30, 2022, following a police investigation that ensued when the child reported the abuse.

The District Attorney thanked the Westchester Institute for Human Development's Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), and members of the DA's Office Special Prosecutions Division, including translator Martha Arango, Senior Domestic Violence Aide Christine Aquino, and Domestic Violence Aides Christina Viera and Sherly Vera.

Anyone who may have been victimized or may have information about other possible victims of the defendant can contact the DA's Office Special Prosecutions Division directly at (914) 995-3000. Language assistance is available.

The case was before Judge Robert Prisco in Westchester County Court and prosecuted by Child Abuse Bureau Chief Christine Hatfield and Senior Assistant District Attorney Mollie O'Rourke, both of the Special Prosecutions Division.

To the Editor:

Every five years the Environmental Protection Agency reviews the ongoing PCB cleanup of the

Hudson River. PCB contamination has turned the Hudson into one of the country's largest Superfund sites, making it unsafe to consume its fish, shutting down its fishing industry and compromising its ecological health.

This is not just an up-river problem. Downriver communities like Hastings have some of the

worst concentrations of PCBs recorded. It is imperative that the EPA issue a clear schedule and

commitment to order a formal Remedial and Investigation and Feasibility Study for the Lower

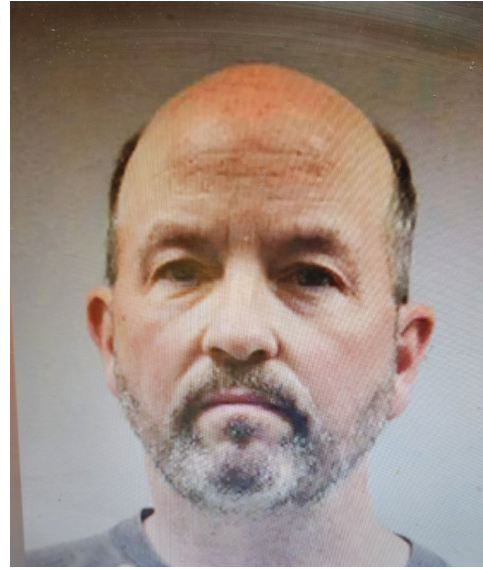
Hudson and design an effective cleanup remedy for the Upper Hudson River floodplains.

The League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns urges you to write to the EPA Region 2 Administrator (garcia.lisa@epa.gov) to hold General Electric accountable for its part, to acknowledge

that the remedy set forth is "not protective of human health and the environment" and to not dismiss the importance of achieving target PCB concentrations.

Susan Maggiotto, President
League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns
lwv-rivertowns.org

Mug Shot of Putnam Parks Perv Released; Parents Still Want to Know-Which Park?



FBI photo of John Towers

The FBI recently released a photo of John Towers, who was recently arrested by both the Putnam County Sheriff and the FBI for sexual exploitation of a minor and possession of child pornography.

Towers, 54, and a resident of Mahopac is free on a \$200,000 bond.

The federal indictment accuses Towers of placing hidden cameras in a bathroom in a privately owned, public park in Putnam County, New York, to surreptitiously record prepubescent minors in order to capture sexually explicit images of the minors. TOWERS then transferred the recordings to a hard drive.

Following the execution of a search warrant at TOWERS's residence, law enforcement recovered a hard drive that was found to contain over 800 videos of females, including prepubescent females, using a bathroom. Approximately 78 of the videos had file names that included the term "yung."

For several weeks, parents of young children in Northern Westchester and Putnam that used the county parks were asking, (some demanding) to know which park is referenced in the indictment?

While there has been no response from law enforcement, some good journalistic work found out. Thanks to the Highlands Current, and reporter Chip Rowe, for determining that Towers worked at Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring. (<https://highlandscurrent.org/2024/05/03/ex-stonecrop-employee-accused-of-filming-girls/>).

According to the story, Towers has been terminated by Stonecrop Gardens, who is cooperating with the investigation.

Anyone who may have relevant information regarding JOHN TOWERS is asked to contact the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324).



TRUGREEN
Live life outside.®

Save now with
50% OFF*
Your First Application

Get the most out of your lawn this spring.

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY! 1-877-482-8771

*Special price is for first Lawn service only. Requires purchase of annual plan, for new residential EasyPay, MonthlyPay, or PrePay customers only. Valid at participating TruGreen locations. Availability of services and/or products may vary by geography. Not to be combined with or used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Additional restrictions may apply. Consumer responsible for all sales tax. *Guarantee applies to annual plan customers only. BBB accredited since 07/01/2012. ©2024 TruGreen Limited Partnership. All rights reserved. In Connecticut, B-0153, B-1380, B-0127, B-0200, B-0151.



Call today and receive a
FREE SHOWER PACKAGE
PLUS \$1600 OFF

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB
1-855-916-5473

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

EASE OF USE CERTIFIED MADE IN TENNESSEE BBB ACCREDITED LIFETIME LIMITED WARRANTY

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES

I'm never alone

Life Alert® is always here for me.

One touch of a button sends help fast, 24/7.

Help at Home Help On-the-Go

Life Alert® Batteries Never Need Charging.

For a FREE brochure call:
1-800-404-9776

Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

LWV Candidates Forum for School and Library Boards Set for Monday, May 13 at 6 p.m. at City Hall

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle will hold its annual Candidates Forum for the Board of Education and the Library Board of Trustees on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 6 pm at New Rochelle City Hall, 515 North Ave. (parking in rear of building). The election will be on Tuesday, May 21; polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in local schools. Further information will be mailed to residents of the district.

There are seven candidates for four vacancies on the nine-member Board of Education. The candidates are, in alphabetical order, Gwen Clayton-Fernandes, Myriam Decime, William Ianuzzi (incumbent), Vincent Malfetano, Philip Sidoti, Sam Singal, and Valarie D. Williams (incumbent). Terms are for five years. The two candidates with the most votes will serve five year terms; the candidate receiving the third highest vote will fill the three remaining years of David Peters' term, and the next highest will finish the two remaining years of Margaret Bavosa's term.

Two candidates are running for the two vacancies on the seven-member Library Board of Trustees: Vera Salter and Nancy Weinberger. Terms are for five years.

The moderator will be a trained League of Women Voters member who is not a New Rochelle resident.

Questions from the audience are welcome and can be emailed ahead to lwnnewrochelle@gmail.com.

Live streaming will be provided by City Hall and recorded for later viewing up to election day. Further information will be mailed to residents by the school district and library shortly.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

It might be something little, but mom always believed in giving a token of her appreciation to the nurse in the doctors office or the school nurse who would take care of me when I was sick. Following in mom's footsteps, whether it be to my doctors nurse, the lady at 7-11 who serves me everyday making sure my items are the freshest and best tasting to the USPS and UPS carriers delivering to my apartment, I always find something to grace them with!

Mom loved reading newspapers. The New York Times, the Daily News, the Post and the local paper, The Herald Statesman (aka Journal News) were delivered to the apartment. When mom got the Herald when paperboys delivered it after school, the first question my sister and I would ask her was, 'Who died.' With the exception of the Daily News I get the papers delivered to my iPad daily, and looking to see who died is usually the first thing done by my sister and yours truly. Even though we are Jewish, mom had a box full of different sizes of Mass Cards we would send or deliver in person. I still have them!

Greeting cards for Birthdays, Anniversaries and other special occasions would be sent out like clockwork by mom to family and friends. If someone didn't get a card on time they would check to make sure mom was ok. My sister sends out occasion cards to family and friends names which are listed in a book she refers to. I also have a large number of cards I send out, in keeping with my mother's tradition.

Mom use to love trying new products at the grocery store. Particularly when they were purchased with a cents off coupon. I was at Stop and Shop earlier this week, and they had a clearance sale on watermelon yogurt. I love watermelon and I love yogurt, bought several of them and will give you a review in the future.

Dad had high blood pressure. Mom would cook everything adding no salt to it. Dad's spice was pepper. Mom never put a salt shaker on the table. The other day I was looking for a bit of salt to add to something I was eating, and could not find the salt shaker in my apartment. A good habit mom taught her children.

Mom and dad and I went to Atlantic City in 1978, the first year casino gambling was legal. Whether it was the slot machines of Atlantic City or the card games, nickel and dime my parents loved to play with friends, they loved gambling, always within their means. Mom liked the lottery. My sister plays various games daily, and Monday through Sunday I play the lottery big games, Powerball, Cash for Life and Mega Millions allowing me to become a millionaire 7 days a week. I always think of mom when I play the lottery. One day I will become the big winner!

Mom was a strong believer in Unicef collecting the Trick or Treat money on Halloween. She felt bad for the starving children in the world, and wanted to see all students contribute to the cause. She was the School 13 Unicef Chairwoman. There was some controversy about Unicef and they would not let her collect the trick or treat boxes inside School 13. On a cold October day, mom sat outside the school and collected the orange coin boxes for UNICEF. I always try to send them a check with the hopes that they are still feeding hungry children around the world.

My mom had matching pocketbooks and shoes for every outfit she wore. Though I am colorblind, before I dress I make sure everything matches out of respect to mom. If she saw someone like one of her doctors wearing a tie she did not like or did not match what he was wearing, the next visit she would gift the doctor with a matching tie.

Mom hated the color brown, and would never let my me wear it. Anything I bought that was brown I had to return. To this day even if the price is right brown is not in my wardrobe.

People, yes over 30 years later will come up to me and ask how is your mom. Others will come up to me and tell me wonderful stories of their experiences with mom. People mean well, though well meaning will bring a tear to my eyes.

If your mother is still with you treat her special on Mother's Day this Sunday. If she is an angel in heaven, think about the wonderful times you had together and how you like me do so many things that she did. I miss my mom everyday. Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers out there!

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

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

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

Notice is hereby given that a license, number Pending for beer, wine and cider has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine and cider at retail in a Summer Tavern under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 8000 Mall Walk, K035, Yonkers, NY 10704, Westchester County for on-premises consumption.

Notice of Formation of EM SLEEP CONSULTING LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/08/2024. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 53 Windsor Place, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Bosco Home Improvements LLC , . Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/15/2024. 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 716 Loomis Ave Peekskill, NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of Formation of Northern Lights Massage Therapy PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 8/21/23. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 409 North Broadway Apt 38 Yonkers NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Studio Elise LLC filed with the SSNY on 04/05/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whole processes against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of processes to the LLC, 3 Ward Street, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING PART IV: BUSINESS REGULATIONS, LICENSING AND CONSUMER PROTECTION OF THE CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 40 TO THE CODE, ENTITLED "REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPEDITORS"

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Yonkers has adopted the abovementioned legislation that amends the City Code to create a registration requirement for persons who act as expeditors in various City departments. A registration requirement for expeditors will allow for greater transparency and efficiency throughout the permitting process in various City departments. Furthermore, this registration requirement will also allow the City of Yonkers to hold expeditors accountable and suspend or revoke the registration of expeditors where there is a finding of misconduct as defined in the legislation.

The penalties for violation of this ordinance are as follows:

A violation of any provision of this chapter shall constitute a Class II offense. Any person who provides expediting services without first obtaining a registration certificate from the City of Yonkers or who shall continue to provide expediting services after having had his/her registration suspended or revoked shall be deemed to have violated the provisions of this chapter. Each expediting service performed by a person without a valid registration certificate shall be deemed a separate 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: May 3, 2024 Vincent Spano

City Clerk



Let your loved ones care for you - and get paid!

Funded by Medicaid, choose FAMILY or FRIENDS as your paid caregiver. Your caregiver gets paid same day!

★★★★★
OVER 5,000 5-STAR REVIEWS!

FreedomCare
COMPASSION • INDEPENDENCE • CHOICE

Find out if you are eligible today.
CALL 888.597.5895

Letters to the Editor:

Letters to the Editor:

Jamaal Bowman: A Congressman of Vision and Transformative Change

Nearly 4 years ago, as a Democratic Party district leader in the village of Bronxville, I wrote an editorial supporting the candidacy of Jamaal Bowman for Congress. Then a little known principal of a middle school in the Bronx, Bowman stepped forward to run against Eliot Engel, a Democrat who had served in Congress for over 30 years. In my piece, I wrote that the time was ripe for transformative change in our district. We were struggling through a global pandemic, amidst a summer of turmoil marked by nationwide protests against police brutality in the wake of the killing of George Floyd.

Congressman Engel had grown increasingly remote and disconnected from his constituents, particularly those in underserved neighborhoods in the Bronx and Westchester. Worse yet, his foreign policy views as chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, had grown more and more hawkish and more out of touch with the views of Democratic primary voters (albeit very much aligned with well-heeled defense contractors!)

I described Mr. Bowman as a leader with energy, vision and progressive purpose, and I feel the same way today. As a savvy community activist who had forged ties with grass roots networks and multi-racial social justice coalitions, Jamaal struck me as the right candidate to take on the longtime incumbent Engel. A candidate unafraid to speak out forcefully on the evils of militarism and systemic racism. And a candidate who could win! In a David-beats-Goliath moment, despite being outspent 2 to 1 in the primary, Jamaal Bowman defeated Congressman Engel, carrying all major demographic groups across the district. He went on to win handily in the general election. In 2022, Congressman Bowman triumphed again in a contested primary before winning re-election by a large margin.

As Jamaal faces yet another stiff primary challenge on June 25, this time from an opponent bankrolled by Republican megadonors and millions in AIPAC dollars, I believe that Congressman Bowman more than ever deserves our support. He remains the candidate of progressive change. While, as the Daily News, the Intercept, and other publications have reported, his primary opponent wines and dines with donors who support Donald Trump and who finance election-denying GOP Congressmen, Jamaal continues to deliver on-the-ground results for his constituents, securing more than \$1 billion in funding for his district. Unlike his opponent, a career politician who prides himself on cutting back room deals, Congressman Bowman is that rarest of politicians: not only a man of conviction and courage, but one who brings home the bacon.

Jamaal's opponent consistently accuses Congressman Bowman of trafficking in "divisive" rhetoric. Never mind that he himself traffics in baseless and slanderous accusations, such as his statement that Jamaal accepts " Hamas money". He claims that Congressman Bowman has failed to work across the aisle. If elected, this opponent promises that he --as a freshman Congressman! -- would be better positioned to deliver results than Jamaal.

How? By "working with Republicans."

And, pray tell, who would he be working with? Marjorie Taylor Greene? Mike Lawler? House Majority Leader "MAGA Mike" Johnson? Bowman's opponent would have you believe he would "stand up to MAGA Republicans," never mentioning that his campaign is bankrolled by MAGA donors busy electing MAGA Republicans across the country. In short, Jamaal's opponent has no rationale for his campaign, except to drive a wedge through the Democratic Party and to enable the worst instincts of his reactionary backers.

The stakes of this upcoming primary election could not be more significant. Democracy (small "d") is on the line. 4 years after Congressman Bowman's historic win in 2020, primary voters are faced with a clear choice: a play-it-safe establishment MAGA-funded "Democrat" or a proven leader of transformative and generational change who has delivered for his district. Let us not go back to the days of play-it-safe Democrats. I urge you to vote for Congressman Bowman on June 25th.

Bill Gaston, Bronxville

Mr. Gaston is a Democratic Party District Leader in the Village of Bronxville. The views expressed in this article are his own, and do not represent the views of the Bronxville Democratic Committee, which has not endorsed any candidate in the race.

NOTES FROM THE WORKING CLASS: The Third Candle

By Patricia Vaccarino

Katherine Sheedy attended noon mass every day at St. Mary's Church in Yonkers. Going to church was more than a religious rite. It was how she expressed herself—Irish Catholic, good natured and kind, except when she was vexed by something she did not understand. And she did not understand me, her rebellious granddaughter, the third in line.

Among her ten grandchildren, I was the troublemaker, the one who questioned everything, especially the holiest tenets of the Roman Catholic Church. Hellbent on fixing injustice in the world, I didn't like hypocrisy, dishonesty and unfairness back then, and I still don't like those things now. My grandmother told me she prayed for me, a notion I found strange, because I thought I didn't need anyone's prayers, not even my own.

She dressed up to go to church and wore a small hat and gloves, even in warm weather. Fastidious with her appearance, vain and shallow, she wore perfectly applied pink lipstick and frequently powdered her nose. Her pink lips were enhanced by her silver pageboy bob and intense blue eyes. Looking well put together made people think everything was okay, even when it wasn't.

As a toddler, she lost two sisters to the Great Influenza. Her husband and daughter were both afflicted with schizophrenia. Later, she lost her son. She lost others, too, but she never lost her heart. Laughter concealed her sadness, or maybe she smiled through her tears. I don't know what she really thought about. She talked about things and people, not issues and ideas.

Not dumb but she was definitely unschooled in the ways of how the real world functioned outside of the narrow ken between her tenement in South Yonkers and St. Mary's Church. She once told me she voted for President John F. Kennedy because he was Irish Catholic. She was uneducated and deeply religious. I was embarrassed of her and kept my distance.

After mass she went to St. Joseph's Nursing Home to listen to the old timers, the sick and the shut ins. She used to tell me the Irish had compassion, that they cared about other people, even people they didn't know because everyone had it hard, and no one gets out of this world alive.

The last time I saw her was at St. Joseph's Nursing Home, in the very place where she had volunteered for thirty years. Now I was listening to her the way she used to listen to the sick and shut ins. She wore pink sweatpants and a matching sweatshirt. Her tiny feet were ensconced in pristine pink and white athletic shoes. She told me she had just come in from jogging and pointed outside her window below to a circular track.

She could be very funny and I knew she played pranks on people, but I had no reason not to believe her. She panted a bit and looked flushed. A nurse shook her head and told me otherwise. My grandmother had not left the nursing home that day or any other day within the past few weeks. I don't think she was lying to me. I believe, in her mind, she had jogged the entire course.

I was three thousand miles away when she died. I saw her face as surely as I can see it now, bathed in red light from rows of red glass votive candles at St. Mary's Church. Every day she symbolically lit a candle for each of her grandchildren and said a prayer. Some need more prayers than others, she had told me with a wink and a grin. I was her third candle.

I guess I believed her story about the candles because through the years, I found myself caring about what happens to other people, even if they are far off in the distance, and not at all connected to my immediate world. I'll also confess to being somewhat fastidious with my appearance, even at the risk of appearing vain and shallow. Looking well put together does make people think everything is okay, even when it's not.

Every so often she shows up in my dreams, usually early in the morning when my bedroom is filled with blue light—the time before the sun comes up and there are no shadows. When I fully wake, the sunburn on my heart is chafed from losing her again. But I've become too much of a believer to think she has been stopped by death.

This story appeared online at <https://www.prforpeople.com/life-style/spirituality/notes-working-class-third-candle>. It was reprinted with the permission of Patricia Vaccarino, a Yonkers native who wrote The Yonkers Trilogy, historical fiction, which takes place in Yonkers from 1969-73.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS:

Do you need a **Roof, Windows, Siding** and **Help** paying for it?

Any leaking, visible damage, or age, may **qualify* you!

Do you need **Energy Efficient Windows & Help** paying for it?

Drafty windows, energy cost too high, you may **qualify*!

HELP IS AVAILABLE EVEN IF YOU COULD PAY CASH



YOU MAY **QUALIFY* THROUGH
NEW 2024 RELIEF PROGRAMS

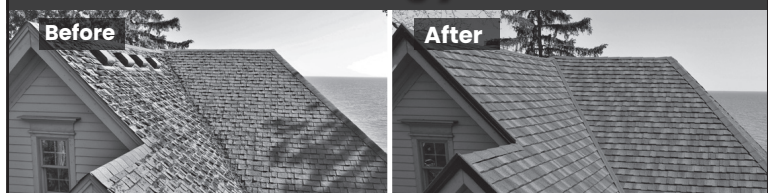
Qualify Today: **(800) 736-9629**

or visit **NYImprovementFund.com** to see if you **qualify*

*Enrollment is only open during a limited time. Programs, appointments, and installations are on a first come, first serve basis in your area.

Approved applications will have the work completed by a quality repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING. Not affiliated with State or Gov Programs. Contractor License: NY: #2719-h14

Make the smart and **ONLY CHOICE** when tackling your roof!



LIMITED
TIME
OFFER!
SAVE!

UP TO
50% OFF + **10% OFF**
AN ADDITIONAL
INSTALLATION for military, health workers
and first responders



FREE ESTIMATE
1.855.492.6084
Expires 4/30/2024



MADE IN THE U.S.A.

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeservicescompliance.com. All rights reserved. License numbers available at eriehome.com/erie-licenses/

Muscot Farm’s Sheep Shearing Festival May 12; Farmer’s Market Every Sunday Through Nov.



Celebrate Mother’s Day with a trip to Muscot Farm to shop the Farmers Market and experience the farm’s sheep shearing yearly tradition, Sunday, May 12.

The Farmers Market will run every Sunday, through Nov. 17, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The weekly farmers market supports farmers and sustainable efforts in our area, featuring over 20 local vendors each week.

Each year on Mother’s Day, Muscot Farm hosts its Sheep Shearing Festival in which its sheep receive their annual haircut to prepare for the warm months. This year the program will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include hayrides, which begin at 11:30 a.m. and are \$5 per person – cash, credit card and Venmo are accepted – there will be spinning demonstrations throughout the day and an educational work shop at 2 p.m. New this year is a special Sheep Meet and Greet event at 10 a.m. where visitors will have the chance to enter the enclosure for an up close and personal experience with the sheep. Registration is required; for those ages six and older; \$10 per person. Only those who have registered can enter the farm at 9 a.m.

County Executive George Latimer said: “The Mother’s Day activities at Muscot Farm signify the beginning of spring in Westchester County and are a great way for families to be together and celebrate mom with a stroll through the farmers market then participating in the day’s various activities.”

Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O’Connor said: “Muscot Farm runs several annual events and the Farmers Market and Sheep Shearing Festival are not to be missed! I’m excited the staff added more activities this year for everyone to enjoy.”

Admission is free. For more details, call Muscot Farm at (914) 864-7282 or visit <https://www.muscotfarm.org/>.

Winners of Yorktown Arbor Day Poster Contest



The winning entries by Silveira on the left and Ingram on the right. Photo courtesy of the Town of Yorktown.

Fifth grader Mackenzie Ingram and fourth grader Marco Silveira are the first-place winners of Yorktown’s Arbor Day poster contest.

Officials announced the winners at Yorktown’s April 26 Arbor Day ceremony, where Girl Scout Troop 2398 led the pledge and read the Four Corners poem while adding soil from the four corners of Yorktown to the tree that was planted in front of Town Hall.

The annual contest’s theme was Fruits & Nuts, which elicited 19 submissions from the Crompond Elementary School, Benjamin Franklin Elementary School and St. Patrick’s School. The students’ works are currently on display in the Town Board Room through May, then the six finalists will be on display at the Town Court lobby for the month of June.

Ingram is a student at the Crompond school and Silveira attends the Benjamin Franklin school. The contest awarded first, second and third place awards to students in the Town’s fourth and fifth grades.

The second-place winners are Maeve Schaefer and Elizabeth Gentilucci, fourth grade, St. Patrick’s; and Laura Walls, fifth grade, St. Patrick’s. Third-place winners are Sofia Oppedisano, fifth grade, Crompond and Eloise Shriftman, fourth grade, Crompond.

LISTENING. CARING.

THE WAY MEDICINE WAS MEANT TO BE

Ana Androne, MD
Internal Medicine

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS | CLOSE-TO-HOME | BI-LINGUAL
AMPLE FREE PARKING | EXTENDED HOURS | EFFICIENT, FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

DOBBS FERRY | YONKERS | HARTSDALE

914.207.0004

stjohnsmedgroup.com

© 2024 St. John's Riverside Hospital | All Rights Reserved

Westchester Land Trust Protects 40 Acres in Cortlandt, Next to Existing Preserve, Support from The Nature Conservancy



Westchester Land Trust Protects 40 Acres in Cortlandt Next to Existing Preserve with Support from The Nature Conservancy

Bedford Hills, NY—Westchester Land Trust (WLT), a nationally accredited land conservation nonprofit headquartered in Bedford Hills, NY permanently protected 40 acres of land in Cortlandt through a donation from the landowner with support from The Nature Conservancy. The property is adjacent to WLT’s McGregor Pond Preserve and increases the size of the preserve to nearly 112 acres.

The newly preserved land is entirely State-protected wetlands and will not have public access. There are two streams on the property that are tributaries to the Peekskill Hollow Brook, which provides drinking water to the City of Peekskill.

“Permanently protecting this land is a significant conservation accomplishment for our community and ensures this critically important habitat will be there to sustain people and wildlife for generations to come,” said Kara Whelan, president of Westchester Land Trust. “We’re grateful to the previous landowner for his vision for the land and to The Nature Conservancy for their financial support getting this deal done.”

According to the DEC’s Hudson River Estuary Program, the enlarged McGregor Pond Preserve is in the top 1% for wetlands protected and top 5% for riparian habitat protected in the estuary. It is also part of a core forest, providing high quality habitat and significant biodiversity of plants and wildlife. More than 50 species of birds are believed to use the property, including the American woodcock and the wood duck. This new acquisition was also listed

continued on pg 14-

SPCA Westchester’s First Mobile Adoption Unit Ready to Launch



SPCA Westchester is proud to announce that its Mobile Adoption Unit, the first of its kind in Westchester County, is ready to hit the road. The 26-foot state-of-the-art vehicle will be visiting and hosting events throughout Westchester and Fairfield counties in an effort to increase animal adoptions and educate the public on the importance of rescue.

“SPCA Westchester and shelters nationwide find ourselves in crisis post pandemic with adoption rates steadily decreasing,” says Shannon Laukhuf, SPCA Westchester’s CEO. Evolving the adoption process in a more efficient and accessible way is the crucial next step in our mission to help more animals in need.” The unit features 20 spacious cages and is equipped with roll up viewing windows and a booth for matchmaking discussions between staff and potential adopters making offsite adoptions a convenient one-stop shop!

While SPCA Westchester has been established in the community since 1883 as the first brick and mortar animal shelter in the region, the reality is that the implementation of mobile adoptions creates opportunities for more homeless dogs and cats to find their forever families.

The Chappaqua Farmer’s Market, located at the train station, has generously allocated space for the SPCA’s mobile unit on their opening day of May 11 for a ceremonial ribbon cutting and adoption event. “We hope supporters from Chappaqua and throughout the county will join us starting at 9am as we celebrate this new and exciting era for SPCA Westchester and come to meet the many adorable dogs and puppies who will be available for adoption that day,” says Shannon Laukhuf.

The SPCA encourages local businesses and corporations to reach out to schedule an adoption day or to discuss other potential collaborations with their new mobile unit. Email Kara@spcawestchester.org to learn more.

*SPCA Westchester is a No-Kill Animal Rescue Center located in Briarcliff Manor and is not affiliated with any national animal welfare organizations. Learn more at spcawestchester.org.

FORD MUSTANG DRAWING

Win a Ford Mustang GT Premium Fastback!

Earn Entries All Month Long!
Saturday, May 25 • 10pm

*Actual model and color may vary.

Resorts World Hudson Valley
Newburgh, NY
RWHudsonValleyNY.com
I-84 | Exit 36B I-87 | Exit 17

MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO PLAY THE NEW YORK LOTTERY GAMES. PLEASE PLAY RESPONSIBLY. 24-HOUR PROBLEM GAMING HOTLINE: 1-877-8-HOPENY (846-7369)

Have Computer Problems?

Get **\$20 OFF** Any Service

Use Coupon Code **42513**

- ✓ 24/7 Emergency Service
- ✓ Data Recovery
- ✓ Virus Removal
- ✓ Regular Maintenance

Call Now Get a Free Diagnosis
866-848-0045

Friendly Certified Computer Repair Experts

Geeks OnSite

the hudson berkshire EXPERIENCE

Annual **WINE & CRAFT FESTIVAL**

Featuring Wineries, Distilleries & Cideries from New York & Massachusetts

MAY 25 & 26, 2024
Saturday 11am-6pm • Sunday / Military Day 11am-5pm
Columbia Co. Fairgrounds • Chatham, NY

4 J's Petting Zoo

Award Winning Wines • Artisanal Spirits • Gourmet Foods • Local Artisans • Crafts-Specialties

Event Sponsored By

Hill City Ice Queens Disney sing-along

SUNDAY Noon-3:30

www.hbwinefest.com • info@hbwinefest.com

Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

Protest at Purchase, continued from pg 1-

the protest. At 10 p.m., once campus quiet hours started, protestors were given multiple opportunities to disperse peacefully as ordered more than 10 times by the campus police and other local police forces who were on the scene to assist. Those who didn't disperse after multiple warnings of consequences, were arrested for trespass violations, most without incident. Protestors were brought to local precincts for processing as the University Police Department couldn't hold that many individuals. Students will also be going through the student code of conduct process. As the investigation continues, a few individuals may face additional charges. There were approximately 70 individuals arrested including students and faculty members."

Several videos have emerged of the police clearing the protestors out. In one video, police officers are lined up, explaining to the protestors that they have to leave. Another video has police taking down one protestor.

The SUNY Purchase police, State Police and the Westchester County police were among the departments responding.

"Students were allowed to protest peacefully, which they did for several hours, as long as they followed SUNY's rules for the maintenance of order and the student code of conduct." Betsy Aldredge, assistant director of public relations for the college said.

"Those who didn't disperse after multiple warnings of consequences, were arrested for trespass violations, most without incident," Aldredge said.

"Protestors were brought to local precincts for processing as the University Police Department couldn't hold that many individuals. Students will also be going through the student code of conduct process. As the investigation continues, a few individuals may face additional charges."

WESPAC, (Westchester People's Action Coalition) issued the following release. "At 5 pm on Thursday, May 2nd dozens of students gathered in the Purchase 'quad' and, with the support of some Faculty and local Westchester community members, created a camp which they labeled the "The Purchase Gaza Solidarity Encampment". It is the first such encampment in Westchester county, and is part of a growing student anti-war movement which has seen similar peaceful protest actions at over 100 universities across the United State in the past weeks, many of which have faced brutal police violence.

The Purchase Gaza Solidarity Encampment was organized by student groups Purchase Jews for Palestine and Raise the Consciousness, as well as dozens of individual Purchase students activists as an escalation in response to the college administration's refusal to listen to students' concerns about the state school's financial ties to and complicity in the Israeli occupation, apartheid and genocide via their President, Milagros Pena's public political support for Israel and complete silence faculty and staff pension investments as well as financial contracts with companies profiting off of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Students, after waiting months for their President and administration to acknowledge their demands amidst the increasingly hostile environment for pro-palestinian students on campus.

Protesters are demanding that the Purchase administration call for an immediate and permanent humanitarian ceasefire, as well as implement a strategy for the the college's complete financial disclosure of their investments and financial partnerships, and divestment from all companies, organizations, and entities that support or profit off of the Israeli occupation, and have vowed to continue the protest until those demands are met. "Throughout the academic year, there have been dozens of protests, peaceful actions, and attempts at communicating with the administration in the hopes that they would acknowledge our community's overwhelming support to end our college's complicity in genocide.

The student protesters were joined by local community members who came out to show solidarity with the students and support for their demands. "We know the media may spin us as outsiders or agitators, but we came out today because as Westchester county residents, and New York State taxpayers, we want to uplift these students' voices as they call on SUNY Purchase to divest from a war machine that has killed over 14,000 children in the last seven months alone," said Jessie Dean, a Purchase alumnus and member of Jewish Voice for Peace's local Westchester chapter. Faculty members, who also took part in the protest, said they were proud of their students for standing strong in their moral convictions, despite an increasing culture of repression and censorship at Purchase and in the country at large," end of WESPAC release.

After the arrests, the Purchase Faculty wrote a letter to SUNY Purchase President Milagros Pena. "We the faculty at Purchase College, are outraged and condemn the violent and disproportionate actions taken by campus authorities against our students and faculty. Our students were participating in a peaceful protest, an act protected by their constitutional rights to free speech and assembly. This represents a catastrophic failure by the administration."

This week, Purchase students were celebrating what they called "a victory" claiming that the college has agreed to many of their demands, including disinvestment in Israel.

Editor's Note: There has been no public release of information on those arrested, and what they are charged with and whether they are students, teachers, or outsiders. Based on the video's available to view online, while police had to use force to remove a few of the protestors, there appears to be no unlawful arrests made by police. As one of our friends in law enforcement told us, "These things never look good. But after being told by the College that they had to leave, and then by police several times that they have to leave, the police have to do their job and remove the students." Once the Purchase administration asked for the police to remove the protestors, the police did so.

Westchester Rising

PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-815-1388. Proudly serving the the people of Westchester with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association. Legal notice inquiries to: risinglegalnotice@gmail.com. Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief, dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com. Bayan Baker, Assistant to the Editor in Chief risingmediagroup@gmail.com.

Bowman Fundraises with Muslim Leader who was "Happy" for Oct. 7 Hamas Attack on Israel

Westchester congressman Jamaal Bowman held a fund raiser in Virginia last week with an American-Muslim leader who has criticized by President Joe Biden for comments made after the October 7 attacks on Israel by Hamas. Nihad Awad, co-founder of CAIR, the Council on American Islamic relations, said after October 7, "the people of Gaza only decided to break the siege, the walls on the concentration camp, on October 7, and yes, I was happy to see people break the siege and yes the people of Gaza have the right to self-defense and yes Israel, an occupying power, does not have that right to self-defense," said Awad, at the Annual Convention for Palestine on Nov. 24, 2023."

After the comments, The White House cancelled its collaboration with CAIR. "We condemn these shocking, antisemitic statements in the strongest terms. The horrific, brutal, terrorist attacks committed by Hamas on October 7 were as president Biden said abhorrent and represented unadulterated evil the atrocities of that day shock the conscience, which is why we can never forget the pain that Hamas has caused for so many innocent people," said Deputy White House Press Secretary Andrew Bates, last December.

Five months after these comments were made by Awad, Bowman decided to attend a fund raiser co-hosted by Awad.

A few months ago, Bowman's opponent, County Executive George Latimer, criticized Bowman for taking money from Hamas supporters. Latimer was criticized for the comments then and has been criticized by the Bowman campaign for taking campaign contributions from republicans.

"For Bowman to criticize Latimer for taking contributions from Westchester residents, while he goes to a fund-raiser co-hosted by someone who was happy about October 7 is shocking. And Bowman is getting 90% of his contributions from outside the district," said a Sound View democrat.

Another Westchester democrat opined that if Bowman can beat Latimer in the democratic primary on June 25, "it will send a chilling message about where the democratic party is headed, and will result in the far left, Working Families, Justice Dems, WESPAC, will plan on primarying every mainstream democrat for state legislator, seeking to force the party to embrace "transformational left-wing change."

"Latimer has been progressive and effective, but moderate and inclusive in tone. If that is not enough for democratic primary voters, Jamaal's radicalism will become the new democratic standard."

Bowman also criticized the NYPD for arresting and breaking up a Palestinian protest at Columbia University, after the college president requested it.

"I am outraged by the level of police presence called upon nonviolent student protestors on Columbia and CCNY's campuses. As an educator who has firsthand experience with the over-policing of our schools, this is personal to me. We must stand with our students to demand liberation for Palestinians and everyone in this world.

"The militarization of college campuses, extensive police presence, and arrest of hundreds of students are in direct opposition to the role of education as a cornerstone of our democracy," said Rep. Bowman.

Bowman also attended another fundraising event drawing interest. Co-hosted by Columbia Law School professor Katherine Franke, the event last week at a Manhattan home

Franke has made comments criticizing Israeli students attending Columbia. The New York Times reported that Franke said that Israeli students at Columbia who were former members of the Israeli Defense Force, IDF, were "harassing" Palestinian protestors, and that Columbia University was "waging war on dissent."

"First Congressman Jamaal Bowman denied the sexual violence against Israelis on October 7th. Now, he's raising money at an event hosted by a Columbia professor who justified that terrorism against Israeli civilians.

It's not surprising that Bowman would rely on her for help, but it is disgusting. Actions like this are an important reason Bowman is running behind his opponent, DMFI PAC endorsee and Westchester County Executive George Latimer," said DMFI PAC Chairman Mark Mellman.

A Help Button Should Go Where You Go!

HELLO, THIS IS MobileHelp. How may I assist you?

GET OUR SPECIAL OFFER NOW:

- FREE EXPEDITED SHIPPING*
- 50% OFF AUTO FALL DETECT*
- FREE ONE MONTH SERVICE*
- plus FREE EQUIPMENT TO USE!

MobileHelp Features:

- Simple one-button operation
- Affordable service
- Amplified 2-way voice communication
- 24/7 access to U.S. based emergency operators
- GPS location detection
- Available Nationwide

OUR BEST OFFER EVER!

From **\$19.95*** /month

MobileHelp

1-888-457-6973

*For a limited time - promotions available for select systems and subscription plans, please call for specific details. Offers are valid for new customers and for the first year of service and cannot be combined with any other offers. \$19.95 is the monthly subscription price for a MobileHelp Classic (at home only) system. There is a one-time \$49.95 processing fee to subscribe to this plan. Equipment shown is the MobileHelp DUO (at home and on the go) system available at a higher monthly cost. Most equipment is included at no cost while actively subscribing and must be returned upon cancellation. Free one month of service offer valid with purchase of Annual plan and includes month 13 at no additional charge. Refer to terms and conditions for specific details. Depending on the promotion chosen, you may receive an additional savings of \$5.00 off the \$11 retail price of Fall Detection service. After first year, Fall Detect pricing reverts to discounted price of \$8.25/month when combined with MobileHelp Connect Premium. Fall Detection does not detect 100% of falls. If able, users should push their help button when they need assistance. Fall detection is not intended to replace a caregiver. MobileHelp is a registered trademark, patented technology. Current GPS location may not always be available in every situation on the cellular network at all times. Expedited shipping offer is for Annual plans made prior to 3 PM EST Mon-Fri. Expedited shipping to standard 2-day - no deliveries on Saturdays/Sundays or to Hawaii or Alaska. Shipping delays may occur due to situations beyond our control.

PF-SPAD0505111658 NRPV-01049 Rev. 1

Investment Opportunity

126 N. 3rd Street, Douglas, Wyoming

Sale info: 800-536-1401

TURN-KEY OPERATION

10,900 SF Retail Bar & Grill with Brewery Equip.

ONLINE AUCTION Use promo code WESTBID24

5/1-5/31 AuctionsInternational.com

*Interested in becoming a sales rep? 800-536-1401 x 401

Attorney General James Sues Anti-Abortion Group and 11 New York Crisis Pregnancy Centers for Promoting Unproven Abortion Reversal Treatment Heartbeat International, Crisis Pregnancy Centers Used False and Misleading Claims to Convince Pregnant People to Receive Potentially Unsafe "Abortion Pill Reversal" Treatment

New York Attorney General Letitia James today sued anti-abortion group Heartbeat International, Inc. (Heartbeat) and 11 self-professed "pro-life pregnancy organizations"—more commonly known as "crisis pregnancy centers"—throughout New York for using false and misleading statements to advertise an unproven treatment they call "Abortion Pill Reversal." Heartbeat and the crisis pregnancy centers—whose mission is to prevent people from obtaining abortions—advertise "Abortion Pill Reversal" (APR) as a safe and effective treatment that they claim can "reverse" medication abortions. In reality, abortion cannot be "reversed," and there is a glaring lack of scientific evidence to support APR's safety and effectiveness. The only clinical trial conducted to evaluate APR had to be halted due to concerns about patient safety. Major medical associations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) have cautioned that APR is not backed by science and does not meet clinical standards.

Despite the dangers, crisis pregnancy centers throughout New York advertise APR on their websites and social media, claiming the treatment will reverse the effects of taking "the abortion pill." According to their websites, some of these crisis pregnancy centers appear to offer or facilitate APR treatment on-site at their offices, while others direct people to obtain APR treatment through Heartbeat's Abortion Pill Rescue Network. Attorney General James alleges that making false and misleading claims about APR to convince pregnant people to get the treatment constitutes fraud, deceptive business practices, and false advertising under New York law.

Attorney General James seeks to stop Heartbeat and the crisis pregnancy centers from misleading consumers about the safety and effectiveness of APR by holding them to the same standard as any other entity advertising health care services directly to consumers in the state. Attorney General James is also seeking the payment of civil penalties for violations of the law.

"Abortion cannot be reversed. Any treatments that claim to do so are made without scientific evidence and could be unsafe," said Attorney General James. "Heartbeat International and the other crisis pregnancy center defendants are spreading dangerous misinformation by advertising 'abortion reversals' without any medical and scientific proof. Amid the increase in attacks on reproductive health care nationwide, we must protect pregnant people's right to make safe, well-informed decisions about their health. Your reproductive health care decisions are yours and yours alone, and my office will always protect New Yorkers from those who push a scientifically unproven and potentially life-threatening intervention."

Medication abortion involves taking two oral medications—first, mifepristone followed by misoprostol 24-48 hours later. Medical experts, including ACOG, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institute of Health agree that medication abortion is safe and effective. Medication abortion has grown in popularity as anti-abortion extremists continue to ramp up efforts to block access to abortion care in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*. According to the Guttmacher Institute, medication abortion accounted for 63 percent of all U.S. abortions in 2023, an increase from just 53 percent in 2020.

The APR treatment involves administering repeated doses of progesterone, a hormone bodies naturally produce during pregnancy, to a pregnant person who has taken mifepristone but has not yet taken misoprostol. The APR is not an accepted mainstream medical practice, and there is no credible scientific evidence proving that the treatment is safe or effective. Still, Heartbeat and crisis pregnancy centers advertise the treatment as if it is a clinically proven and safe way to reverse an abortion.

Heartbeat and the 11 crisis pregnancy centers named in Attorney General James' lawsuit aggressively advertise APR on their websites, social media, and other promotional materials using false and misleading claims that lead patients to think that APR is a proven and safe treatment with minimal risks, despite the lack of reliable scientific evidence, for example:

"Can the abortion pill be reversed? The simple answer is yes! If done in time." "There is an effective process called abortion pill reversal* that can reverse the effects of the abortion pill and allow you to continue your pregnancy, but time is of the essence."

"Using the natural hormone progesterone, medical professionals have been able to save 64-68% of pregnancies through abortion pill reversal."

These false and misleading statements constitute persistent fraud and illegality under Executive Law 63(12) and deceptive business and false advertising practices in violation of sections 349 and 350 of the General Business Law.

With this lawsuit, Attorney General James seeks to stop Heartbeat and the 11 New York crisis pregnancy centers from continuing to promote this unproven treatment in ways that are misleading about its experimental nature and potential risks. Specifically, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) seeks an order requiring the removal of all false and misleading claims in marketing materials and prohibiting further violations. Attorney General James is also seeking the payment of civil penalties for violations of the law.

In addition to Heartbeat, the 11 crisis pregnancy centers named in the lawsuit are: Adirondack Pregnancy Center, Inc. d/b/a AscentCare in Saranac Lake, Franklin County; Crisis Pregnancy Services, Inc. d/b/a CompassCare in Rochester, Monroe County; Buffalo, Erie County; Latham, Albany County; and Brooklyn Heights, Kings County; The Care Center d/b/a Soundview Pregnancy Services in East Meadow, Nassau County; and Centereach and Riverhead, Suffolk County; New Hope Family Services, Inc. in Syracuse, Onondaga County; Pregnancy Center of Penn Yan d/b/a Care Net Penn Yan in Penn Yan, Yates County; Study the Options Please, Inc. d/b/a Care Net of Wayne County in Newark, Wayne County; Pregnancy Center of Central New York d/b/a Willow Network in Boonville, Camden, Rome, and Utica, Oneida County; Ilion, Herkimer County; Liverpool, Onondaga County; and Morrisville and Oneida, Madison County; Crisis Pregnancy Center, Inc. d/b/a Care Net Pregnancy Center of the Hudson Valley in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County; 1st Way Life Center, Inc. in Monticello, Sullivan County; Caring Choices Pregnancy Help Center, Inc. in Rochester and Webster, Monroe County; and Bridge Women's Support Center in College Point, Queens County.

Classifieds

Attorney

DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable. Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. 518-274-0380

Attorney

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to major cash settlements. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-888-454-4717. Be ready with your zip code to connect with the closest provider

Auctions

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY ONLINE AUCTION: 5/1-5/31 Bar & Grill with Brewery Equipment. 126 N. 3rd Street, Douglas, Wyoming. 10,900 SF Retail, TURN-KEY OPERATION! Sale Info: 800-536-1401, x.401 AuctionsInternational.com Promo code: WESTBID24

Events

ANTIQUÉ LOVERS TAKE NOTE! BRIMFIELD IS HERE – ALL SHOWS! May 14-19. New shows open daily! www.brimfieldantiqueweek.com. 2024 dates: May 14-19, July 9-14, September 3-8

Health

FreedomCare. Let your loved ones care for you and get paid! Paid by Medicaid. Choose family or friends as your paid caregiver. Check your eligibility today! Call FreedomCare now! 1-855-385-7556

Health

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-855-3

Health

Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-855-399-2582

Health

WE HAVE THE HELP YOU NEED!!! HHA's, LPN's, Nurse's Aides, Childcare, Housekeeping, Day Workers. No Fee To Employers. Serving The Community Over 20Yrs. Evon's Svces: 516-505-5510

Health

HEARING AIDS!! High-quality rechargeable, powerful Audien hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Tiny and NEARLY INVISIBLE! 45-day money back guarantee! 855-819-7060

Home Improvement

BEAUTIFUL BATH UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Superior quality bath and shower systems at AFFORDABLE PRICES! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Call Now! 1-855-399-2076

Home Improvement

Do you need a Roof or Energy Efficient Windows & Help paying for it? YOU MAY QUALIFY THROUGH NEW RELIEF PROGRAMS (800) 944-9393 or visit NYProgramFunding.org to qualify. Approved applications will have the work completed by a repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING. Not affiliated with State or Gov Programs.

Miscellaneous

Get Boost Infinite! Unlimited Talk, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 844-329-9391

Services

PEST CONTROL: PROTECT YOUR HOME from pests safely and affordably. Roaches, Bed Bugs, Rodent, Termite, Spiders and other pests. Locally owned and affordable. Call for service or an inspection today! 1-866-448-8311 Have zip code of property ready when calling!

Travel Services

SAVE ON YOUR TRAVEL PLANS! Up to 75% More than 500 AIRLINES and 300,000 HOTELS across the world. Let us do the research for you for FREE! Call: 877 988 7277

TV Internet Phone

DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Direct and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-534-6918

TV Internet Phone

AFFORDABLE TV & INTERNET. If you are overpaying for your service, call now for a free quote and see how much you can save! 1-855-399-2803

John D. Rockefeller Jr. Park Preservation to Honor Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins

Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve will honor New York State Senate President Pro Tem & Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins at their 2024 Gala on Saturday, June 29, 2024, at the Rockefeller Estate in Pocantico Hills. She will receive the prestigious John D. Rockefeller Jr. Park Preservation Award for her unwavering support of New York State Parks and commitment to environmental stewardship.

"Andrea Stewart-Cousins has championed not only the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, but all parks in New York State since she was elected to the New York State Senate in 2007," said George Gumina, Founder and President of the Friends, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and maintaining the Preserve's land and historical features. "Her tenure as the longest serving Democratic Majority Leader in New York State Senate history, and the first woman and African American woman in this role, make her an unstoppable force committed to addressing the needs of all New Yorkers."

Resources raised by the gala will continue the next steps of a major project at the Preserve's Rockwood Hall section. This unique 88-acre section of the park directly overlooking the Hudson River has become increasingly popular with visitors. The improvement project will provide a formal entrance with a courtyard, an informational kiosk, restroom facilities and much needed improved and expanded parking.

The event will be held in the majestic Playhouse, the two-story, Tudor-style mansion that John D. Rockefeller Jr. built in 1927 as a place for his family to gather, host events and enjoy.

"I am deeply honored to receive this recognition from the Friends of the Rockefeller State Preserve for our collective efforts in environmental stewardship and unwavering support of New York's cherished parks," said Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins. "As we celebrate the centennial of the New York State Parks system, it is a poignant reminder of the legacy we are entrusted to uphold and the future we must safeguard. As Senate Majority I have championed critical legislation, enhancing transparency in parkland use and introducing innovative programs like the state parks passport and resident curator programs. These initiatives aim to enrich our connection to nature and deepen our commitment to education and inclusivity. Furthermore, we have enacted historic legislation, including the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, and made significant investments to combat climate change, ensuring countless more generations of New Yorkers can enjoy places like the Rockefeller Preserve. This accolade belongs to all New Yorkers who value our natural heritage and strive for a greener, more sustainable future. Together, we continue to fortify our dedication to preserving our state's natural beauty and environmental integrity."

Under the leadership and guidance of Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, in the last year alone the Senate passed specific parks-related bills, including:

\$1 billion for the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation -- included \$300 million in Capital for enhancing and improving parks statewide.

An investment of \$400 million to support climate priorities across New York State

Ensuring transparency in the use of parkland by requiring reports on any changes or "alienations" of municipal parklands are made public.

Establishing the State Parks Passport program to encourage residents and visitors to explore the wonders of the state parks.

Creating the resident curator program to promotes the restoration and preservation of state park buildings.

Creating a task force focused on outdoor environmental education and recreation, which is a step towards enhancing educational programs within our state parks.

Offering free access to state parks for members or citizens of state or federally recognized Native American nations, acknowledging and honoring the cultural and historical significance of these lands.

As Majority Leader, Senator Stewart-Cousins has played a critical role in the state's Climate Change plan by establishing The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. In line with her commitment to and legislation on Environmental Justice, the CLCPA ensures that disadvantaged communities receive at least 35% of all benefits. With her strong support, the Environmental Protection Fund has provided over \$10 million for Environmental justice projects.

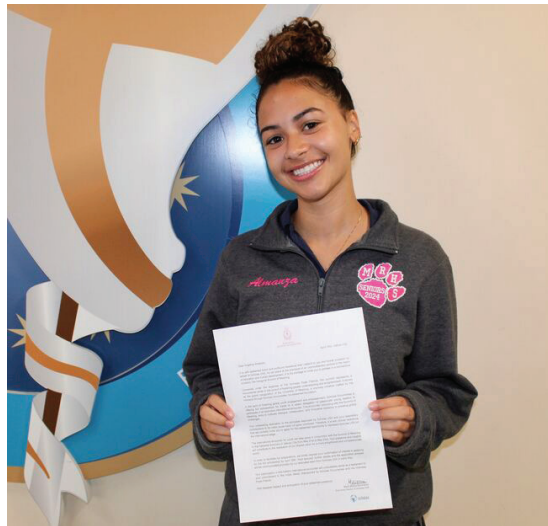
The Friends award reflects the extraordinary contributions that John D. Rockefeller Jr. made in the form of financing, maintaining, and protecting the land that now comprises the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, a national treasure enjoyed by more than 400,000 visitors each year. With his father, John D. Rockefeller, Sr., John D. Jr. designed the Preserve's unique 65-mile network of carriage roads. These 16-foot-wide crushed stone pathways give the Preserve its elegant look and overall appeal. The well-engineered loops traverse open fields, dense forests, and wetlands, offering stunning vistas of the Hudson River and surrounding landscape. Through the Friends tireless efforts, the New York State Historic Review voted unanimously to include the Preserve and its carriage road system in the State Register of Historic Places in 2018.

Since 1983, more than 1,700 acres have been deeded over to New York State as gifts from the Rockefeller family. The Preserve is open year-round for strolling, hiking, jogging, horseback-riding, fishing (in season) and wildlife-watching and photography.

To purchase tickets, tables and sponsorship packages for the Friends 2024 Gala, please visit www.friendsrock.org or call Jessika Creedon at 914-762-0209.

Maria Regina HS Student Angelica Almanza Invited to Vatican to Meet Pope Francis

at Inaugural Scholars Summit of Meaning



Angelica Almanza

Nearly a year ago, Angelica Almanza, a senior at Maria Regina High School, had what she described as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to meet Pope Francis virtually when she participated in His Holiness' Scholas Occurrentes Global Conference, in Miami.

As a devoted Catholic who has always "admired the Pope's humility, compassion, and dedication to social justice," it was unimaginable that the experience of encountering Pope Francis could be topped. But in just a few short weeks, it will be - Angelica will be among a select group of students from around the world— and one of only TWO students from the Archdiocese of New York — who will get the chance to meet Pope Francis in person when she partakes in the Inaugural Scholas Summit of Meaning to be held at the Vatican, May 21-23.

Angelica was invited to the summit in a letter she received recently from Maria Martha Barreneche, Executive Director of Scholas US. Barreneche wrote Angelica that the "summit represents a monumental stride in the pursuit of fostering greater understanding and enlightenment. It serves as the grand inauguration of the University of Meaning, a visionary initiative crafted by His Holiness through Scholas Occurrentes, his esteemed foundation."

Barreneche added: "Your unwavering dedication to the principles espoused by Scholas USA and your exemplary contributions to its noble cause have not gone unnoticed. Therefore, it is with utmost reverence that we cordially invite you to apply for this esteemed opportunity to represent Scholas USA on the international stage."

Since her junior year, Angelica has been actively involved with Scholas, an organization founded by Pope Francis that encourages students from all backgrounds to come together and discuss meaningful topics and service projects. In addition, the renowned all-girls Catholic Maria Regina has been one of Scholas's New York pilot schools.

The experience has made a profound impact on Angelica. She noted: "Scholas not only taught me about changing the world, but they also empowered me to become an agent of change. Their commitment to education, empathy, and action inspires me today. I am grateful for the invaluable lessons and opportunities they provided, and I am determined to use my knowledge and skills to contribute to a better, more compassionate world."

Recently, Angelica had the honor of serving as a "Words of Gratitude" speaker at the Archdiocese of New York's Class of 2024 Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral which highlighted the importance of Catholic education. She addressed an audience of over one thousand of her peers who will be graduating this spring from Archdiocese of New York high schools. The mass was celebrated by Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York.

Maria Carozza-McCaffrey (Class of '99), Principal, affirmed: "It is an immense honor for Angelica to represent Maria Regina and we are unbelievably proud of all her amazing accomplishments in the areas of academics, service, and leadership. You continue to make us proud!"

When Angelica returns from the historic Scholas session, she will graduate with honors on May 31 during Maria Regina's annual Commencement exercises. She will continue her education at University of Connecticut studying Animal Science on a Pre-Veterinary Track.

To learn more about Maria Regina High School, visit www.Stepinac.org.

Save on Windows and Doors!

Buy One, Get One **40% OFF** ALL WINDOWS AND DOORS* AND Take an Extra **\$100 OFF** YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE* AND Affordable Financing! **NO Money Down, NO Monthly Payments, NO Interest for 12 months!**

Minimum purchase of 4 - Interest accrues from the date of purchase but is waived if paid in full within 12 months.



RENEWAL by ANDERSEN
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

Call by August 31
to schedule your **FREE** consultation.

888-448-0421

Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

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

Yonkers First Legal Marijuana Dispensary Opened May 9



By Dan Murphy

Westchester County is home to more than 1,000,000 residents, yet its adult population still has very limited access to tested cannabis products from licensed stores. That will soon change when The Plant officially opens in Yonkers on May 9, and become Yonkers first legal marijuana dispensary.

The locally owned and operated premium cannabis dispensary will provide Yonkers and Westchester residents with access to the highest quality cannabis brands and products New York has to offer in a comfortable environment designed for people to quickly pick up favorites or take the time to explore something new. Photos of The Plant can be found [here](#).

Located at 2595 Central Park Avenue, The Plant has crafted a shopping experience for cannabis experts, curious newcomers and everyone in between. Its knowledgeable staff is available to direct the canna-curious to specific products tailored to their needs and desired effects, while also making the shopping or pickup experience seamless for customers who already know what they'd like to purchase.

"Opening The Plant is the culmination of a lifetime dream. The Plant is more than just a retail location, but a way to use cannabis to bring together people, culture, and community," said Anthony Bannister, CEO and co-owner of The Plant. "Our neighbors can look to The Plant not just for high-quality, tested cannabis products, but for a forum to learn more about cannabis and explore the multitude of benefits it can have on individuals and society."

The Plant will celebrate its official opening with a ribbon cutting at 3:30pm on May 9. It will include remarks from Yonker's Mayor Mike Spano.

The Plant is an independently owned premium cannabis dispensary in Yonkers, New York. With local ownership and an emphasis on serving the surrounding community, The Plant's role in the community goes far beyond selling the widest variety of high quality, New York-grown cannabis products. The Plant's highly trained staff is committed to making the cannabis shopping experience as convenient and comfortable as possible. To learn more visit: <https://fanoftheplant.com/>

The location on Central Park Avenue is across the street from Barnes & Noble, and next to Pizza Beat Restaurant, near the Scarsdale border.

Con Ed Scholar Athlete, continued from pg 16-

Since 2012, Claire has been a Caregiver & Aide for her 27-year-old brother who has cerebral palsy and is 100% dependent on others. I Assist him with eating, seizure management, and all his daily living skills. Help him get ready for the day at 6am and then in the evening with his nighttime routine.

During COVID, Claire stepped up for her community. She founded a charity - Pretty Skin Against Covid-19, to thank nurses for all their hard work during the pandemic. This charity continues today and has distributed over 51,000 pcs of skincare products to both nurses & caregivers at group homes throughout the tristate area. In 2024, she transitioned the project post-covid to 'Nurses are SuperHeroes' and has donated 10,000 items this year to both nurses & caregivers at group homes for special needs adults.

Also, during COVID, Tierney created Claire's Backyard Clinic, where she trained K-8th grade students in basketball/lacrosse. "I love working with kids and enjoy making the sport that I love fun for them, hoping that they will share my same passion."

As an Altar Server at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Ardsley, Claire would livestream daily Mass during quarantine for the parishioners to watch during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Academically, Claire has a 3.8 GPA, and is a member of the National Honors Society. She made the High Honor Roll in all four years of high school.

"It's not often that we have the opportunity to enjoy student-athletes such as Claire who is not only your best athlete, but also your best leader and teammate on and off the field. When talking to coaches about Claire, it is almost always the same reaction our department respects and loves her," said Coach Scott Miele.

"Coach Resavey, head Basketball coach, describes Claire as; "the hardest working and most reliable player he has had in the basketball program hands down". Claire is also well respected by teachers and the school administration. Claire has been a leader of both the varsity basketball program and varsity lacrosse programs for the past 3 years. Both teams were young and struggling until Claire came into the picture.

"Claire demonstrated the unique ability to perform at a high level and live up to the expectations of a captain and leader. Most importantly, Claire has left the Ardsley community a better place than she found it! "

FBI makes Arrests in Dobbs Ferry, Cortlandt, continued from pg 1-

and paraphernalia consistent with suspected homemade and improvised explosive devices. Our investigation remains ongoing, and I thank the dedication and expertise of our law enforcement partners and the career prosecutors of this Office who are diligently investigating this case and working tirelessly to keep 'ghost guns' and homemade explosives out of our communities."

FBI Assistant Director in Charge James Smith said: "James Neff allegedly amassed and stored an alarming collection of suspected explosives, materials for improvised explosive devices, and more than 30 firearms – some of which were assault rifles and unregistered 'ghost guns.' There is no reasonable explanation to justify the arsenal law enforcement discovered, and convicted felons with access to such armaments pose an incredible threat to public safety. The FBI will continue to confiscate weapons from criminals and ensure these devices are not used to inflict harm against our citizens."

As alleged in the Complaint filed today in White Plains federal court and statements made in court proceedings:[1]

On May 1, 2024, following an investigation, members of law enforcement executed search warrants on the residence of JAMES NEFF and two storage units known to be possessed and rented by him. After executing these searches, members of law enforcement discovered over 30 firearms, including firearms that appear to be personally manufactured and assault rifle-style firearms; a significant amount of ammunition; and suspected explosives-related materials, including multiple books on how to make homemade or improvised explosives, such as "The Anarchist Arsenal, Improvised Incendiary and Explosives Techniques," "How to Bury Your Goods," and multiple volumes of the "Improvised Munitions Black Book." In addition, members of law enforcement also found suspected precursors to explosives, suspected low explosives or smokeless powders, and other items consistent with the preparation of homemade explosive devices, including what appears to be fuse that can be used to initiate a low explosive, cardboard containers with endcaps, a pipe with two endcaps, and grenade bodies, items which could be used to create readily assembled explosive devices. Photographs taken from the storage unit containing these items are below:

NEFF, 61, of Dobbs Ferry, New York, is charged with one count of possession of a firearm and ammunition after a felony conviction, having previously been convicted on New York state charges of a crime punishable for a term longer than one year, which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

Mr. Williams praised the outstanding work of the FBI's Westchester County Safe Streets Task Force and the Westchester County Police Department. Mr. Williams also thanked the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; the Greenburgh Drug and Alcohol Task Force; the Dobbs Ferry Police Department; the FBI's Philadelphia Division; the New York State Police; and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

Neff was previously arrested in 2000 on criminal possession of a dangerous weapon when Dobbs Ferry police found 150 weapons in his home. He received a 5-year prison term and was released in 2004 after serving two years.

In another unusual case for Westchester, US Attorney Williams announced the arrest of

he guilty plea of MARIO ELPIDIO CHAVEZ MILLAN, a human trafficker working with Mexican "coyotes," for conspiring to transport illegal aliens throughout the United States. As part of his plea, CHAVEZ also admitted to his participation in a kidnapping conspiracy. CHAVEZ pled guilty before U.S. District Judge Vincent L. Briccetti and is scheduled to be sentenced on August 7, 2024.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "Mario Elpidio Chavez Millan and others like him are an integral cog in the human trafficking machine that preys on people who attempt to enter the United States through its southern border each year. The services that Chavez offers are what make it possible for coyotes, the cartels, and others to smuggle people throughout the country, often times for large fees. And in this case — as in many cases involving human traffickers — Chavez and those working with him sought to extort their victims for even more money. This Office will use every tool available to law enforcement to investigate and prosecute those involved in human trafficking."

According to the Complaint previously filed against CHAVEZ, the Indictment, and other filings: "On about July 10, 2023, the New York State Police in the Town of Cortlandt, New York, received a report from an individual ("Individual-1") that Individual-1's relative ("Victim-1") had entered the country illegally with the assistance of "coyotes" and was being transported by a man in the United States working with the coyotes, who was later identified as CHAVEZ. Individual-1 further informed the State Police that CHAVEZ had told Victim-1 that he was not going to release Victim-1 unless Victim-1 or his/her family paid \$1,000 in addition to the money that Victim-1 had already paid to the coyotes.

"That evening, State Police executed a traffic stop of CHAVEZ's vehicle in the Town of Cortlandt. At that time, there were approximately five people in the vehicle in addition to CHAVEZ. After those passengers and Victim-1 were brought to the State Police barracks, each reported that they had illegally entered the United States and that they were being driven by CHAVEZ from in or about New Mexico to other states throughout the country. Several of CHAVEZ's passengers stated that CHAVEZ threatened them during the drive, telling them that they could not leave without paying him an additional \$1,000 and that CHAVEZ told them he had previously killed someone for running away without paying.

CHAVEZ, 19, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, pled guilty to one count of conspiring to transport aliens throughout the United States, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Mr. Williams praised the outstanding investigative work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Hudson Valley Resident Agency and Safe Streets Task Force and the New York State Police.

Yonkers Native, Army Veteran, Named 2024 Valedictorian at Manhattan College



James Washington

James Washington, a May 2024 graduate of Manhattan College majoring in Exercise Science and a U.S. Army veteran, has been selected as the undergraduate valedictorian for the class of 2024. He will be the student speaker at the May 18 Undergraduate Commencement to be held on the College campus.

Washington, a Yonkers, NY native, attended two years at Lincoln High School before he and his family moved to South Carolina where he completed his high school education at Lancaster High School. After working for one year, he joined the U.S. Army in 2012 where he honorably served until 2020. Washington's first assignment was at Fort Carson, CO through 2018. While there, he had two overseas rotations, first in Kuwait (2013-2014) followed by Kosovo (2016). This was followed by a tour in Vilseck, Germany and the completion of his Army career in Oklahoma in 2020.

With a strong interest in exercise science, he returned to the New York area and sought council from the Bronx Veterans' Administration about schools catering to his interest. This led him to Manhattan College where he started in January 2021. Never having been on the campus itself prior to his acceptance, Washington was unsure what to expect. "As an Army veteran, an older student, and a member of the LGBT community, I certainly had some apprehensions," he said. "However, I was welcomed immediately and have felt comfortable at Manhattan College throughout my time here. Being a Military Friendly School and having a Veteran Success Center dedicated to veterans like myself where we congregate, share experiences, and motivate each other was essential to whatever success I have thus far achieved."

Going forward, Washington is deciding upon which school he will attend for his ABSN – an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing which is a degree specifically for those who already have earned a bachelor degree. His interest in nursing likely will keep this extraordinary person in the New York area for a bit longer, but the beauty of Colorado may also be beckoning.

Milo Rivero, Ph. D., President of Manhattan College said, "Having a student such as James highlights the diversity and true spirit of community that is so integral to Manhattan College. His life experiences thus far have been extraordinary, and we all know that he will continue along a path of helping others succeed as he has."

40 Acres Preserved, continued from pg 8-

as one of the highest priority parcels for conservation in the most recent Cortlandt Open Space Plan.

"Knowing that this special piece of land will remain undeveloped as beautiful forest and wetlands forever is a great feeling," said Steve Warren, president of Albert D. Phelps, Inc. and Yorkcon Properties, Inc., which donated the property to WLT. "We can all make a difference to protect the nature around us and we are pleased to know it will be in good hands with Westchester Land Trust."

Warren first connected with WLT to discuss conserving the land after being referred to the organization by a local developer. His company owns the Kohl's shopping center immediately to the north and has held this interior land for decades since its development of what is now the Cortlandt Town Center. During its earlier history, the land was owned by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

Protecting wetlands from development provides important ecosystem services, like flood mitigation. To support the acquisition, the Nature Conservancy awarded Westchester Land Trust a Climate Resilience Grant, which supports partners working towards a future where people and nature can thrive.

"This property is incredibly valuable for both wildlife and human needs in the face of a changing climate," said Stevie Adams, Senior Climate Adaptation Specialist at The Nature Conservancy in New York. "The Nature Conservancy is pleased to support this project so that these lands can continue to store flood waters, remove pollutants from drinking water, and provide a diversity of habitat types for a wide range of plants and animals."

The Nature Conservancy provided partial financial support for the transaction costs associated with the land donation, as well as the stewardship endowment that will fund WLT's management efforts at the preserve.

We acknowledge that our region is within the traditional territories of the Lenape people and that their culture and traditions live on today. We strive to incorporate the priorities from Indigenous Peoples and underserved community members into our land conservation practice.

Learn more at www.westchesterlandtrust.org.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHARES SUMMER CAMP TIPS

As families look forward to the start of the summer season, the Westchester County Health Department is sharing tips to help parents plan a safe camp experience for their children.

Westchester County Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Health Chris Ericson said: "When choosing a day camp, Westchester families have so many options. It's a good idea to ask whether the camp has a valid permit from the Health Department, because we inspect the 235 camps we regulate before and during the season. This sets the camps up for success, and helps to reinforce the rules in place to keep children safe."

Ericson said parents should provide their child's camp with accurate emergency contact numbers, their child's medical history including immunization records, and any special dietary, behavioral or health concerns. Once camp begins, parents should apply sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or more to their child daily, send sunscreen with them to reapply throughout the day, and perform a tick check once their child returns home at the end of the day.

Ericson said: "Check your child's clothing for ticks. Have them shower soon after they come home. That's a great time for a tick check and it may help wash off any unattached ticks. Pay close attention to the scalp, ears, under arms, back of the knees, belly button, waist and between the legs. In most cases, a tick must be attached for 36 to 48 hours or more before the Lyme disease bacterium can be transmitted, so daily tick checks and showers can greatly minimize the risks."

If you do find a tick on your child, don't panic. Use tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible, but do not squeeze the body of the tick. Pull the tick gently upward. Wash the area with a disinfectant. If the tick's mouthparts break off, don't worry. They cannot transmit Lyme disease, because the infected body is no longer attached. They will fall out by themselves, or can be removed like a splinter. Although not routinely recommended, taking antibiotics within three days after a tick bite maybe beneficial for some, so consult your child's healthcare provider.

Watch the site of a bite for the appearance of a rash three to 30 days after the bite. The rash will usually be at least two inches in diameter initially and will gradually expand. If your child develops this kind of rash or flu-like symptoms, contact your child's physician immediately. For more information, go to www.westchestergov.com/health.

Bicycle Sundays, continued from pg 1-

burgh, Scarsdale, Eastchester, Tuckahoe, and Yonkers. Starting May 5, residents and visitors can enjoy the iconic event on the following dates between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.:

May- 5, 12, 19

June- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

July - 7, 14, 21, 28 (*Note earlier time 8am-12pm)

September- 8, 15, 22, 29

October- 6

Since 2012, Westchester Parks Foundation has raised funds from private sources to sponsor the closures. Generous donations from long standing co-presenting sponsors Con Edison and NewYork-Presbyterian Westchester make the event possible this year, along with Jen's Cycles in Yonkers, the official Bicycle Sponsor.

To mark the occasion, six hand cycles will be available to those who need extra assistance, thanks to a grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation to expand the WPF Trails Without Limits. Westchester Parks Foundation and the Westchester County Parks Department are also encouraging residents to share their memories by posting old photos and tagging both organizations on social media and using the #BicycleSundaysTurns50

Each year, thousands of cyclists, joggers, and others come out to enjoy the curves and wooded scenery that make the nation's first parkway a national historic landmark. The path winds alongside the wooded Bronx River Reservation. For more information visit: <https://www.thewpf.org/bicycle-sundays>

yonkerstimes.com

FINALLY
The only place to read
news that matters to
your community
ONLINE

YONKERS TIMES
News in Yonkers and around Westchester

Wagstaff taxes, continued from pg 1-

democratic leaders we spoke to, who were concerned and disappointment and had no knowledge of this before the story broke.

Mackay Wilson's story includes one year, in 2020, where Wagstaff didn't pay \$112,712. The tax liens filed against Wagstaff by the IRS is public record in the County Clerk's office.

Wagstaff's staff tried to explain the unpaid taxes in the story by claiming that Wagstaff was waiting for settlements, from civil rights cases that Wagstaff represented, to come in.

Westchester democrats we spoke to had two concerns: One, that Wagstaff's explanation doesn't make sense, and that members of the Westchester Democratic Committee should have been informed of this matter while they were interviewing Wagstaff for their nomination.

I: Tax and Income Questions Remain: Wagstaff earned a nice salary during the years when he did not pay his taxes. How do we know about his income? Because he filed a 2020 return in which he estimated that he owed the IRS \$112,712. If Wagstaff owed \$112k in taxes, his income was 3-4 times that, estimated around \$350,000. That type of income would raise the question, if you made that much money, why couldn't you pay your taxes?

"When I read the article, I was extremely concerned," said Westchester Democratic Committee vice-chair Ximena Francella. "The position of District Attorney is someone who enforces the law, and the fact that he didn't pay his taxes for six years says that he has difficulty managing his own finances. If he can't manage his own finances, how can he run the office of District Attorney?"

"If he wasn't running for office, was he going to pay his taxes? None of us are happy paying our taxes but it's the responsible thing to do. He was not being responsible."

II-Wagstaff has also been earning a salary from the City of Mount Vernon as a special prosecutor concerning disciplinary proceeding for Mt. Vernon police officers. That salary has not been released or disclosed.

III-Wagstaff loaned his campaign more than \$50,000 before he paid his tax bill.

"I'm extremely disappointed that the candidate didn't see fit to bring this up much earlier in the campaign," said Eastchester Democratic Chair John Filiberti. "This is the kind of information that democrats who participated in the convention should have been made aware of. And if he had an explanation, then he should have shared it with all of us who were there."

"The explanation in the LOHUD article that highlighted the six years' worth of tax liabilities, also doesn't make sense. If you haven't received payment for settlements to be made later, you don't incur a tax liability until you receive the funds.

"How can you make the argument that you weren't making enough money to pay your taxes, when you apparently had income of over \$300,000?" "If the people of Westchester want to vote for somebody with this type of tax delinquent history, they can, but they should know all the facts before they vote."

Yonkers Democratic Party Chair Tom Meier said that Wagstaff has touted in his campaign how he can manage a business better than his opponents. "What business owes the IRS that much money and can't pay their taxes?"

"He should have shared this with us. He made money from the City of Mount Vernon in addition to his law firm, but he chose to do something else with the money. Instead, he should have settled his debt with America."

Wagstaff has received a number of endorsements from several Westchester democrats, including State Senator Jamaal Bailey, Assemblymember Dana Levenberg, Assemblymember Chris Burdick, Peekskill Mayor Vivian McKenzie, Westchester County Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, and Mount Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard.

"I think all of the democrats who endorsed him need to take a second look at who they endorsed and figure out if this is the person you want to be District Attorney of Westchester," said Meier.

The LoHud story states that testimony from a recent election law court case where Wagstaff was allowed to remain on the ballot included information about his tax troubles.

Social Security Faces Serious Financial Shortfalls; Takeaways from Trustees Report

from The Peterson Foundation, www.pgpf.org

The Social Security Trustees released their annual report on the program's trust funds, showing that the largest component of the federal budget is on an unsustainable path. Without reform, the Social Security Trust Funds will soon be depleted and unable to pay full benefits.

Below are the key takeaways from today's report:

Social Security's Old-Age & Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund would be depleted by 2033, at which point benefits would be reduced by 21 percent. The program's Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Fund would not be depleted over the 75-year projection period. If the two trust funds were hypothetically combined, they would be exhausted by 2035 and lead to a 17 percent reduction in benefits at that point.

Social Security faces large and rising imbalances. Relative to the size of the economy, the combined annual cash shortfall for Social Security will climb from 0.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2024 to 1.0 percent in 2035. Social Security faces a 75-year actuarial imbalance of 3.5 percent of taxable payroll, down from 3.6 percent as reported in last year's report.

The program's financial shortfall is caused largely by an aging population. As a result of the nation's changing demographics, the number of workers contributing to the program is growing more slowly than the number of beneficiaries receiving monthly payments. In 1964, there were 4.0 workers per beneficiary; that ratio has dropped to 2.7 today and will continue to fall in the future.

Delaying reform to Social Security is costly. If lawmakers act soon to address the trust fund shortfalls, they will be able to phase in changes gradually and responsibly in a way that does not harm vulnerable populations. However, delaying reform would require larger changes to the program. If action is not taken until 2035, the tax increases or benefit reductions required to stabilize the program's financing would be nearly 20 percent larger than if action were taken today.

Social Security is the largest single line item in the budget and a key driver of the national debt; it is also an essential component of our economy and society. If reforms are not enacted soon, recipients could see a large decrease in their benefits. Americans are united in their desire to avoid those automatic cuts, with 95 percent of voters believing it is important to elect lawmakers who are committed to strengthening Social Security. The leaders that voters elect this fall will face critical decisions in coming years about the future of Social Security, and the good news is that there are many available options to strengthen and secure the program.

Pretlow, Casino Licenses, continued from pg 3-

"The gaming commission does not want to answer those questions because they so not want the clock to start," Pretlow said. "It has been eight months and they are prepared to wait another year.

"So what I am trying to do to speed up the process is to get legislation written by June 6 to get responses to those questions out so that everyone can get their applications in, and the bidding starts from there," Pretlow said, adding that Genting has already made it known that they are willing to pay \$1 billion rather than the mandated \$500 million in order to secure one of the three licenses.

"Even if they don't issue the actual licenses, we will know who is in the game," Pretlow said. "The legislation will force the gaming commission to answer the companies' questions."

Pretlow laughed when asked to set an over/under date on the issuance of those licenses. A pragmatist who has been working out of the state capital for several decades, he is trying to fix a problem that may not be fixable in the short term but eventually will lead to New Yorkers being able to gamble on casino games. With the amount of money and institutional wealth concentrated around New York City, the best bet is that the casino companies will be routing for him to succeed sooner rather than later.

"Genting is ready to be up and running. They say it will take up to six months; I believe it'll take them about six days. They built that casino at Aqueduct practically overnight working double shifts, and I imagine they will just bring in experienced dealers and be in business quickly. The floor plan for converting to a casino is already laid out," Pretlow said, adding that MGM has similar floor plans for Empire City Casino on hold.

Celebrate
PINKSTER
at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site!
Saturday,
May 11, 2024
11:00 AM-5:00 PM
philipsemanorhall.com

inogen
PORTABLE OXYGEN
FOR YOUR ON-THE-GO
LIFESTYLE
CLAIM YOUR
14-DAY
RISK-FREE
TRIAL!
Call us toll-free at
1-888-617-1224

*14-day risk-free trial- Return within 30 days of purchase for a full refund of purchase price.
PM230469 EN, EX, USA | Rx Only | © 2023 Inogen, Inc.
301 Coronar Drive, Coleta, CA 93117
Inogen® is a trademark of Inogen, Inc. The usage of any Inogen, Inc. trademark is strictly forbidden without the prior consent of Inogen, Inc. All other trademarks are trademarks of their respective owners or holders.

Hillside Food Outreach Raises \$30k



Westchester nonprofit Hillside Food Outreach recently hosted its 15th annual “Dancing with Our Stars” competition at The Summit in Danbury, attracting more than 100 supporters to the ballroom and raising \$30,000 to combat food insecurity in the community. All proceeds from the benefit support the nonprofit’s mission to provide high-quality, nutritious food to thousands of low-income families, seniors, and the chronically ill each month. Four champions showcasing the most dazzling dance moves were crowned by a panel of judges. Billy Clifford and Arthur Murray dance pro Dolly Zuzuski, pictured above, wowed the judges with their Country Medley dance to Luke Bryan’s “Country Girl (Shake it for me),” while Shelly Hardie and Arthur Murray Danbury owner Andy Cabel scored high with their Swing performance to Glen Frey’s “The Heat is on.” All of the participants partook in weekly dance lessons for three months at Arthur Murray dance studios, and were partnered with their instructor for the competition.

Kathy Purdy, CEO and Founder of Hillside Food Outreach, expressed immense gratitude to all who supported the 15th Annual Dancing with Our Stars competition. “Dancing for a great cause is about as good as it gets, and this annual event directly helps change lives and offer hope to so many neighbors in need. Access to nutritious food is a right that everyone deserves, but unfortunately food insecurity is at a decades-long high, and too many vulnerable members of our communities are forced to choose between eating healthy or paying for basic necessities.”

Claire Tierney, Ardsley High School, Named a Con Edison Scholar-Athlete of the Week



By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to Claire Tierney, left, a senior at Ardsley High School, for being named a recent Con Edison scholar athlete of the week. Claire is an All-League standout on both the Ardsley Girls Lacrosse Team and Basketball team.

She has been Captain of the Ardsley Girls Lacrosse team for both her junior and senior years, and the Captain of the Basketball team in her senior year.

Claire Tierney hit the 100 goals milestone in the Ardsley Girls Varsity Lacrosse game on Friday, April 26, against Valhalla High School. She also reached the 1,000 milestone this year in basketball on December 13, 2023.

She was pulled up to Varsity basketball in 8th grade and has been a starter all 5 years. In her junior year of basketball, Claire Tierney was an All-State, All-Section, All-League, and All-Tournament player.

In her Junior Year of lacrosse, Claire Tierney was an All-League Player and received MVP honors, despite suffering a season-ending injury in the middle of the season - she scored 41 goals in less than 10 games, before being sidelined after breaking her right hand in two places after going for a ground ball.

Claire has been an advocate for those that do not have a voice. “My brother is non-verbal and at a young age I saw how many medical professionals did not acknowledge him at appointments. I was the little girl who made them stop and say Hi and to give Kevin that 5 seconds he needed to get out an “O” sound to say Hi. My goal when I become a nurse is to acknowledge ‘everyone’ in the room, we all belong and deserve respect and compassion.

continued on pg 13-

NOW OPEN in YONKERS.

ORANGE
Bank & Trust
COMPANY 
Guiding Your Business. Growing Your Wealth.

Since 1892, Orange Bank & Trust Company has been a steady economic engine throughout the mid and lower Hudson Valley of New York and the borough of the Bronx. Now, we’re at your service in Yonkers.

With a healthy dose of old-fashioned, around-the-clock service and cutting-edge technology, we’ll help guide your businesses and grow your wealth through:

- **Commercial loans** and lines of credit with fast, local decisions
- **Cash Management** for increased efficiency
- **Specialized products and services** for Non Profits, Municipal, Medical, and Esquire banking

Best of all, you get direct mobile phone contact with our relationship manager, Moira Kiernan, and access to the Bank’s Senior Management team.

Moira Kiernan
VP/Relationship Manager
914-512-4997
mkiernan@orangebanktrust.com
orangebanktrust.com