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Friday August 18, 2023

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

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



Hezi Aris

By Dan Murphy

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

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

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

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

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

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Debbie Kozak Seeks to Become First Republican on BOL-District 16 in More than 25 Years



Debbie Kozak

By Dan Murphy

As we were writing recently about the resignation of Christopher Johnson, the appointment of Symra Brandon, and the democratic primary victory of Councilwoman Shanae Williams in the election for County Legislator in the 16th District in Yonkers, we also thought about the other candidate in this race.

Her name is Debbie Kozak and she is running on the Republican and Conservative Party lines in November. We reached out to her to find out about her campaign.

"I was born in NYC and raised in the Bronx, I graduated from Pratt Institute with a BS in Construction Management, and two associate degrees from WCC in Civil Technologies & Accounting. I've been a work-from-home-from-everywhere-else Mom, and grassroots activist for the past 18+ years and most recently, a published author.

"The issues I'm running on are:
I-What do we call them: Illegal Aliens? Migrants? Or Asylum Seekers? Call them what you want; it makes no difference. NYC dumped these hapless individuals in Westchester County's District 16 and throughout the County. Clearly their needs will impact the residents of Yonkers and Westchester County, overstressing our already struggling community-based organizations with real, black-and-white longterm costs associated with housing, medical expenses, education, legal defense, safety, and other social services.

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Trevor Park Renovations Look Great!



Welcome to the new Trevor Park. Mayor Spano, the Yonkers City Council and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation and many others from the community helped and made major renovations to Trevor Park. The park now includes a new fitness area, new basketball courts new tennis courts, new benches, fencing, walkways and the replacement of the playground surfacing.

Trevor Park will continue with additional improvements in the next three years that include restrooms, dog area, a field and more. Trevor Park is located on Ravine Avenue, via Glenwood Avenue.

Yonkers resident Madeline Jimenez said, "Great job. I was just saying a lot of the parks have been designed to give our kids hope. Wilson Park . Trevor Park. There's a park up by Morningside. Kids appreciate it. I was sitting there and I could see how happy they were. They asked for a higher fence bc ball goes outside fence. Well I told them they needed to write mayor spano a letter. They said they would. Thank you so much Mayor Spano. I appreciate you too."

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Indian Heritage Festival at Kensico Dam Park



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



By Robert Kalfus

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

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

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



A protestor arrested outside of a White Plains clinic in 2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dominican Festival Comes to Yonkers August 26

#4

By Eric Wolf Schoen



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

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

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

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

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

Briefs:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Dominicans in Yonkers and Westchester Latinos Unidos joined Mayor Mike Spano and other elected officials to announce the upcoming Dominican Festival. This free event will have live music, giveaways, food vendors and activities for the whole family. In addition, the following individuals will be recognized at the festival for their many contributions to the Dominican community: community leader Maria Garcia and former Yonkers Public School Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada.

"We are so proud of this wonderful melting pot we have here in Yonkers. When we can celebrate different nationalities and cultures that call Yonkers home, we celebrate each other. It's about recognizing who we are and making sure we never forget our culture and our traditions. It's about our community and our love for each other. Today, we joined the Dominican community to announce a festival on Saturday, August 26 on Main Street from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. There will be live music, food, and family-friendly activities. See you there!" Visit <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550304443027>, for more info

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Editor's Note: Yonkers Rising and Yonkerstimes.com will be working with Con Ed to highlight their players of the week this fall. We will also be trying to find athletes in Yonkers who are worthy of this honor. Please contact us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com if you have suggestions or can help.

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



left: Jabree West
below: Eric Williams



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HAWAII MUST FIX ITS DISASTROUS DISASTER MANAGEMENT

OP-ED BY Raya Salter

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

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

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

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

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

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

Threats like a direct hit from a major hurricane, once considered a rare event, are now expected with more frequency with devastatingly increased flood risk. Yet, by the state's own calculations, within three days of a direct hit on Oahu from a major storm, medical supplies would run out and medical services would be depleted by 40 percent.

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

I am a former resident of Hawai'i and state employee. I am now based in New York where I sit on the state's Climate Action Council. As part of that body, I helped develop New York's roadmap for how we will reach our climate goals. That roadmap, among other studies, includes a hard look at resilience and the need to both mitigate emissions with a climate justice lens while becoming more resilient and adaptable to irreversible changes. New York,

continued on pg 6-

Yonkers Police Arrest Two Suspects in Homicide

The Yonkers Police Department has arrested two males who are responsible for a July 2023 shooting at 73-83 Highland Avenue that resulted in the death of a young man.

At approximately 6:30 PM on July 28th, 2023, an unconscious male was discovered lying on the ground in the parking garage of 73-83 Highland Avenue in this City. As first responders assessed the situation, they discovered that this male had suffered a gunshot wound. Medical aid was rendered, and the male was transported to a local area hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad, Crime Scene Unit, and Digital Forensics Unit responded to investigate. The investigation yielded that the victim was involved in a physical altercation with two male suspects on the bottom floor of the parking garage at 73-83 Highland Avenue. This altercation escalated as one of the males fired gunshots at the victim, striking him once in the upper left area of his back, causing his death. The male victim was identified as Pharrell Aguasvivas, a 16-year-old Bronx resident.

Yonkers Police Detectives from the Major Case Squad and Field Investigations Division continued this in-depth investigation, resulting in the identification of the two male suspects involved in this incident. The males were subsequently located, placed under arrest, and charged in the Youth Part of Westchester County Court. These suspects are under the age of 18 and, therefore, will not be publicly identified due to current laws restricting the release of this information.

Suspect 1 is a 16-year-old Yonkers resident and was charged with 2 Counts of both Murder 2nd and Robbery 1st, along with 1 Count each of Robbery 2nd, Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd, Tampering with Physical Evidence, and Hindering Prosecution 1st. He was remanded without bail.

Suspect 2 is a 17-year-old Yonkers resident and was charged with 2 Counts of Robbery 1st along with 1 Count each of Murder 2nd, Robbery 2nd, Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd, Tampering with Physical Evidence, and Hindering Prosecution 1st. He was remanded without bail.

City of Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano stated, "I applaud the exemplary work and dedication of our Yonkers Police Department for their investigation on this case. I hope these arrests can be a deterrent and serve as a reminder to our young people to steer clear from the path of violence."

"The dedication of our Detectives in identifying, pursuing, and apprehending the perpetrators in this homicide demonstrate their exceptional skill and dedication to upholding the law and ensuring public safety," said Yonkers Police Department Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza. "Their tireless efforts and meticulous investigative work are a testament to their unwavering commitment to justice. We would be remiss in not pointing out that the victim and both suspects involved are all minors; three young lives are now ruined. As a community, we need to do a better job of guiding our youth to realize the lasting repercussions of their actions."

Kozak for BOL continued from pg 1-

Yonkers was given zero advance notice of NYC's intention to transport and house these individuals into our city. I'll be at the forefront and fight to have the information you/we deserve and need, to get our families through this crisis. My opponent was and still is silent on this issue. II- Help for our Forgotten Seniors: Among the most forgotten of our community are senior citizens. Former Westchester County Legislator Bernice Spreckman was a champion for seniors and put them first. She was admired for her tenacity and fight and her untimely death has left a void. In the spirit of Bernice, I will do my utmost to fill that void and promise to support all senior citizen programs. I will advocate for senior citizens as they face daily hardships. III- Eliminate or reduce unnecessary taxes, regulations, and fees wherever and whenever possible: We need value for the tax dollars that we are obligated to pay. I promise to vote against any County budget that raises our taxes without providing value for service. IV- Quality-of-Life Improvements: Supporting safe and clean year-round recreational facilities are a must. I commit to providing funding for on-going County Police to patrol the parks, maintenance & much needed upgrades for facilities and equipment, so that residents may enjoy an optimum quality of life. Example: I'll promote and support a variety of festivals and events in District 16's multi-cultural community so our residents can come together to learn about and to enjoy each other's company. It's the American way.

V- Commitment to Public Safety: Drug and alcohol addiction + gang violence is on the rise and many residents of Yonkers District 16 are afraid to leave their homes--even during the day I'll support the County and, in collaboration with YPD, assist with the promotion, funding, and provision of resources to Neighborhood Watch Groups and Block Watchers. People need to feel and be safe in their homes and their communities. Supporting law enforcement to combat crime is a top priority--and I've already taken the Heritage Action Police Pledge (Look it up!).

Additionally, I will support expanded funding for the homeless to provide them with housing and social services, thus enabling them to live with dignity...and I will add my support for expanded funding for ongoing addiction, correction, and prevention programs.

This November, Yonkers District 16 voters will get their first chance in 20 years to vote for the only WCL candidate who hasn't voted to raise property taxes on homeowners... who has a track record of serving the underserved... volunteering in and for the local community... and who has taken on state and local agencies and insurance companies, to fight for the services that were necessary for children...and I won! Yonkers District 16 residents will have no greater fighter for their interest than Debbie Kozak: A true advocate for the district and beyond

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YPIE Partners with Grad Bag to Provide Dorm Room Essentials to Yonkers College Students



Recent Yonkers high school graduates receive items they will need for their college dorm rooms with thanks to Grad Bag and YPIE

On July 27th, the YPIE College Zone was filled with comforters, sheets, mattress toppers, pillows, rugs, laundry hampers, lamps, shower caddies, and many other items that incoming college freshmen will need for their dorm rooms. Since 2017, Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) has partnered with Grad Bag to ensure college-bound Yonkers students have all they need as they embark on their college journeys.

"As a first-time college student, I had no idea what I would need for college," said Hector, incoming college student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). "For me to come to YPIE and have everything laid out for me, it's really helpful. It means everything to me."

Grad Bag, an organization that collects and refreshes dorm room essentials, provided items for more than 100 YPIE students. These items are donated by graduating students from six area colleges and recycled by volunteers and student interns, providing a sustainable approach to equipping students with much-needed dorm room supplies.

"The success of Grad Bag relies on students giving back to students," stated Liz Gruber, Co-Founder, Grad Bag, Inc. "We have students who have received items through Grad Bag who are now coming back to donate items for incoming college students as well as many who work for Grad Bag over the summer."

YPIE partners with students to ensure they are prepared for college success. Thanks to Grad Bag, these incoming college students, many the first in their families to attend college, feel even more excited and confident as they start their college experience.

"As a first-gen student, moving away from home for college can definitely be a bit overwhelming at times, especially when it comes to buying all the things that I need for my dorm," shared Naomi, incoming college student at the University of Virginia. "Being able to come into YPIE and having a wide selection of necessities that I could choose from was definitely relieving. I'm thankful to YPIE and Grad Bag for giving me this opportunity and allowing me to have an easier transition into college."

To learn more and get involved, [visit gradbag.org](http://visit.gradbag.org) and ypie.org.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



A leader in the women's suffrage movement
Henrietta Livermore, from Yonkers

By Mary Hoar, City of Yonkers Historian, President Emerita Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History, Member of the Yonkers Landmarks Preservation Board, and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, August 21st

August 21, 1919: The latest American submarine, the USS R-2, visited Yonkers as part of a recruitment drive! Built by the Electric Boat Company of Massachusetts, it was the only type of vessel able to approach an enemy submarine on the surface undetected in clear weather.

August 21, 1920: George Buck, the Actuary hired by Mayor Wallin to study the Yonkers Police and Firemen's Pension Funds, found they were unsound. He reported they could not be continued for long with Yonkers contributing at the level as it was. He recommended the city appropriate \$800,000 over several years to meet future liabilities.

Tuesday, August 22nd

August 22, 1952: Consolidated Edison Company took possession of the sixty-five-foot tug "Alice Murray" and paid to have it raised from 20 feet of water off the Glenwood generating station. A victim of Hudson River ice floes, the Murray's hull split in half near the Habirshaw Dock; it managed to get to the Glenwood dock, only to sink an hour later. It lay in the Hudson for several months, only showing its mast above water. Owned by the Neptune Line, the company had salvage specialists examine it; the experts declared the tug machinery was too damaged, and it was a loss. Neptune abandoned it, putting it in the hands of the Army Corps of Engineers. After a few months, the Army Corps decreed it could be claimed by anyone who wanted to pay to raise it. Con Ed's engineers believed it was a hazard, potentially blocking the power plant's intake; they raised the tug and put it on the plant's south dock for repairs.

Wednesday, August 23rd

August 23, 1911: Steamboats in the Hudson and Yonkers factories stopped operation to welcome daring aviator and cross-country pilot Harry Atwood, flying over Yonkers at an altitude of 500 feet. Atwood, on the last lap of his flight from St. Louis to New York City, was welcomed to Yonkers air space by both factories and steamboats blowing their whistles.

August 23, 1958: Yonkers learned YPD was still investigating the unsolved murder of labor leader John Acropolis six years earlier. Police disclosed the murder weapon was a revolver stolen from the US Navy in New Jersey a few days before the murder. The gun was found long after the crime; the killer had tossed it into a 10-foot hedge on the property. A few years later, the building super tore down the hedge and burned its thick branches in a bonfire; the gun was found in the ashes.

Although faced with "flimsy clues and faded data," the Acropolis' killing remained in the "Active File;" Yonkers Police were not willing to admit it would become one of Yonkers few unsolved murders.

Thursday, August 24th

August 24, 1925: Park Avenue's Henrietta Livermore was Guest of Honor at a NYC luncheon celebrating the fifth anniversary of the women's suffrage amendment.

August 24, 1933: Thomas Beer released his new collection of short stories called, "Mrs. Egg and Other Barbarians," published by Alfred Knopf of New York. Six of these stories, called by Beer "frivolous tales," previously appeared in The Saturday Evening Post between 1922 and 1930. Best known for his biographies of Stephen Crane and Mark Hanna, he also published three novels and was considered Yonkers leading author. Beer, who grew up in Yonkers at 227 Palisade Avenue, "wintered" in Yonkers and spent summers on Nantucket as an adult.

Friday, August 25th

August 25, 1923: Henrietta Livermore of Park Avenue, Deputy Commissioner General to the Brazilian Centennial Exposition, presented a paper on "Outstanding Problems of the American Continent" at the Institute of Politics at Williamstown Massachusetts.

August 25, 1948: Former Army nurse Angela Flanagan of 100 North Broadway answered the call of the Yonkers Red Cross to minister in polio-stricken areas. She flew to North Carolina to care for polio patients in the town of Gastonia, an area suffering from a bad polio epidemic.

continued on pg 6-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Formation of LIMESMASHER LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/2/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Michael Lime-killer, 938 Saw Mill River Rd., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

Formation of OFF THE MILL LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/29/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Desmond Clarke, 1271 Saw Mill River Rd., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) # 2023 – 02

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wilson Kimball, President & CEO Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers

1511 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10710-

Project No. 2023-

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Saturday, August 26th

August 26, 1933: Chairman of the National Lawn Tennis Umpire’s Association Ben Dwight, a former Yonkers Recreation Commissioner, officiated at what arguably is the most controversial game in Women’s Tennis history. Queen of American Tennis and 1924 double Olympic Gold Medal winner Helen Wills Moody, who had lost only one tennis game in eight years, walked off the court when it became evident Helen Jacobs was going to win. Moody claimed her leg was bothering her, so Jacobs won by default. Later that day, Moody wanted to play in the doubles finals but was talked out of it.

Sunday, August 27th

August 27, 1948: Yonkers officially welcomed gold medalists Steve Macknowski and Steve Lysak home and celebrated the first American team to win an Olympic canoe race! The “Welcome Home” parade featured the handmade canoe the two built to win the Olympic championship. As the two Steves, dressed in official US Olympic uniforms, went up a South Broadway lined with thousands of cheering people, a large spotlight shone from the Proctor Building, highlighting the partners. Some former Yonkers Olympians—Harry Babcock, Alan Helfrich, Thomas Morrissey, Jim O’Rourke, Michael Spring, and Al Tripoli-- served as honor guard to the medal winners. Lysak thanked the crowd, saying, “. . . no one could ask for more than the way we’ve been welcomed!” Mayor Frank welcomed the pair home and presented scrolls at the Larkin Plaza ceremonies. The mayor told the two men Yonkers was proud of them, and told the thousands gathered “Membership on the Olympic team means the Steves are the best in the United States and the best in the world!”

Questions or comments? Email YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com. For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, visit www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org

Notice is Hereby Given that a license, Number pending, for Beer, Cider and Wine, has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Cider and Wine at a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 2620 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers NY 10710, Westchester County, for on-premises consumption. Ozerovskys Family enterprise Inc. Db a lhop.

OPED Maui-con’t from pg 4-

however, as evidenced by 2021’s devastating hurricane Ida, also must do better. At the Council, I pushed for stronger measures, particularly for frontline communities. After the tragedy in Lahaina, I feel it is necessary to do so again.

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

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

Hezi Lies, continued from pg 1-

All sources named by Aris had a long and established history of personal and professional animosity toward plaintiffs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And congratulations to Olson, Mueller and Moran for standing up for truth and for setting the record straight. The plaintiffs would like to publicly thank their attorneys, Andrew Quinn and Marykate Acquisto of the Quinn Law Firm and Lisa Fantino, Esq. of Harrison, on their brilliant work in achieving this important victory. Hezi was represented by Michael Sussman.

Untermeyer Performing Arts Council, Mayor Mike Spano, and Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation

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

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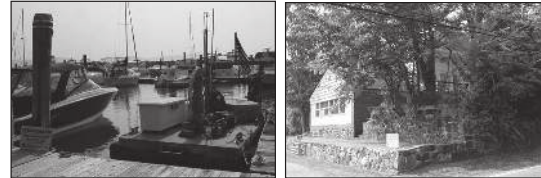
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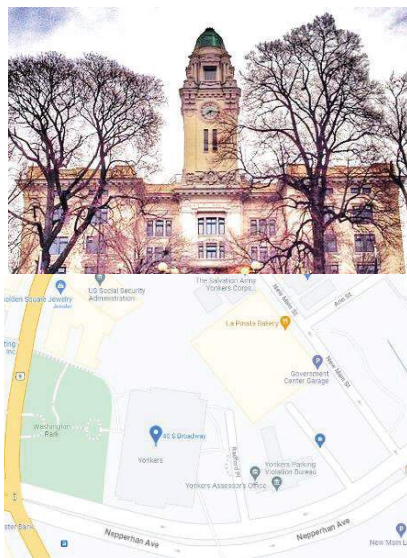
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Yonkers City Clerk



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