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Friday January 7, 2022

Tasha Diaz Named City Council Majority Leader at Wild Reorganization Meeting



Yonkers City Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz



City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy takes oath from City Clerk Vincent Spano with her son Justin holding Bible photo by Donna Davis

By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers City Council held their re-organization meeting on Jan. 3, 2022, and elected Councilmember Tasha Diaz to be the next Majority Leader. Diaz, replaced Councilmember Corazon Pineda-Isaac as the next Majority Leader for the five council democrats for the next two years. The Council also elected Councilmember Mike Breen to serve as Minority Leader.

This was also the first meeting for City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy.

But the vote, and debate, to select Diaz as Majority Leader was filled with “dirty laundry” as Councilman John Rubbo called it, with two council democrats, Corazon Pineda-Isaac and Shanae Williams, calling out Diaz as unqualified and unable to serve as majority leader. “It’s a new day on the Yonkers City Council. Two years ago, I was voted in as majority leader and was grateful to serve,” said Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac. I am excited to have four women of color

story continued on pg 7-more photos on pg 8-

Thanks to the City Council for naming Yonkers Rising Your Official Weekly Newspaper Again!

Congratulations PJ Foley, Winner of 2021 Yonkers Holiday Lights Contest



Congratulations to PJ Foley, the winner of the 2021 Yonkers Holiday Lights contest. Foley is pictured above in front of his house on Linwick Place in Southeast Yonkers that has over 30,000 lights, along with a dancing Santa synced with a radio station!

Foley was one of four finalists who were nominated by their neighbors. This was the first year of the Yonkers Holiday Lights contest, and it was a great way for the people of Yonkers, and beyond, to find out where to take a drive one night with their family and check out the light shows.

And Foley’s house was a great first winner of the contest. Hurry up and check it out before the lights come down until next year.

YPS Schools Close for First Week of 22’: Staff, Students Need to Test Before Jan 10 Return



COVID-19 HOME TESTING KIT FOR STUDENTS

CareStart™ – COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test

ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS
Return to School Safely In-Person
Monday, January 10, 2022

The home COVID-19 rapid test is our first step for everyone to return to school for in-person instruction. Each box has 2 test kits that parents/guardians must use to test their child on Sunday, January 9 and Monday, January 17, 2022.



Each child attending school will receive a test kit with 2 tests.
If your child’s test result is positive, take a picture of the results and email it to your child’s school nurse and principal, and notify the teacher. The child cannot attend school and **MUST isolate for 10 days.**
Your child does not need a test if they had a positive COVID-19 test result within the last 90 days.
If you have any questions call your child’s school nurse or principal.
Videos to administer the CareStart™ – COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test. <https://bit.ly/care-start-kit>

By Dan Murphy

Students in the Yonkers Public Schools spent the first week of 2022 learning remotely based on a decision by Superintendent Dr. Edwin M. Quezada regarding COVID testing and students and staff that may have tested positive.

“The past week, there has been a significant increase in positive COVID-19 cases in our community and in our schools. More people are required to quarantine due to illness or exposure to COVID. Because of these circumstances, our schools will be full Remote Learning next week, January 3rd through the 7th. This decision was made because we will never compromise the health and well-being of our students and staff under any circumstances,” said Dr. Quezada.

“We are confident in our current Remote Learning process that has been working well over the past three months for the classes that have been quarantined. Please remember we are returning from a long recess, and it may take a day or more to put everything in place. Be patient and respectful as our school administrators and teachers prepare for your child’s instruction.

“Information about Online Remote Learning is available on the District and school websites. To ensure your family is prepared for Remote Learning, every child must have use of an electronic device, such as a computer, laptop or tablet, with Internet access. If you do not have a device or Internet access, please contact your child’s principal on Monday, January 3rd. Our administrators, teachers and support staff will all be working from their respective schools to provide remote instruction and can be available via email.

“Your child’s teacher or principal will reach out to students in grades 1 through 12 using Teams, and grades prekindergarten and kindergarten using Seesaw. On a different note, please understand that you will receive information about the distribution of free COVID-19 Home Test provided by the Governor. Every student in the district will be able to pick up a home test at their respective school. Every student in the district will be able to pick up a home test at their respective school.

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Dr. Eric Small, Mount Sinai Doctors, Discusses Winter Sports Injuries, Detection & Prevention



By Dan Murphy

With many of our readers, and their children, returning to outdoor winter sports like ice skating, skiing, and snowboarding, we spoke to Dr. Eric Small, from Mount Sinai Doctors, Westchester, to discuss common winter sports injuries, and ways for parents to detect when they happen, and how they can be avoided.

Dr. Small has over 20 years of experience practicing sports medicine exclusively and is the only board certified Pediatric Sports Medicine Physician in Westchester County. He also serves as team physician for local high school and colleges and sets policy regarding sports injury management and return to play protocols.

“Kids don’t participate in winter sports year-round, and as a result, we see acute injuries from falls, like fractures, dislocations and concussions. The most common injury from a fall is a fracture, but adults and children can experience different types of fractures.”

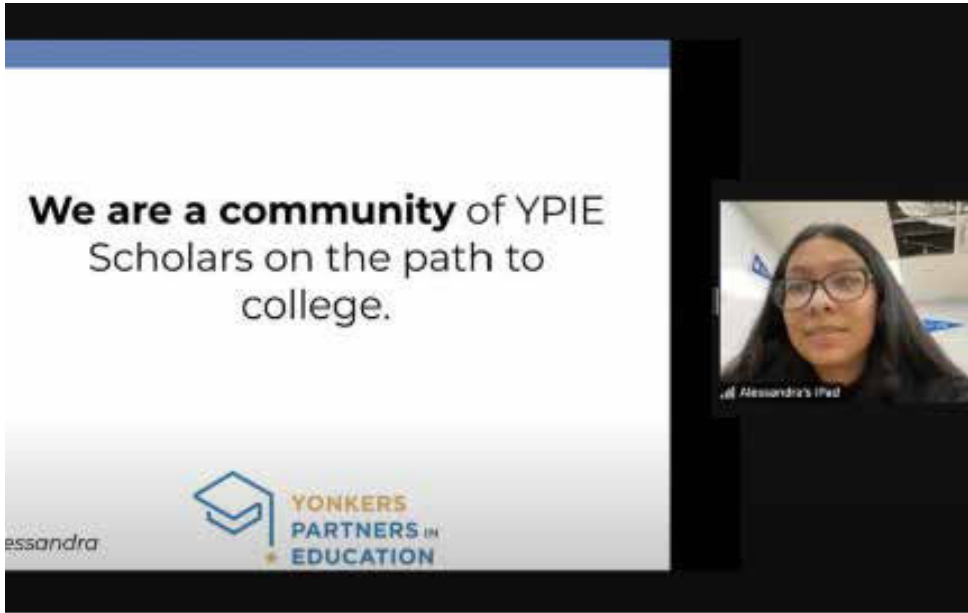
“A typical fracture for an 8 to 12-year-old is called a growth plate fracture. This type of fracture occurs when they fall on their wrists. Sometimes, this type of fracture is hard to diagnose, and parents think that because the wrist isn’t swollen there isn’t a fracture. But often, these types of growth plate fractures get missed, so it’s important to come in for an X-Ray to make sure,” said Dr. Small.

“There is a unique bone in the wrist called the Scaphoid bone, that can get fractured and doesn’t get diagnosed. Sometimes this results in the base of the thumb not healing properly and could result in having to wear a cast for 6 to 8 weeks. And if it isn’t diagnosed at all it could become a dead bone and surgery will be required, and they may never recover full strength and function.”

“It’s important not to miss this type of fracture, so if your kids are out skiing or snowboarding or ice skating, and they fall and feel some pain, an x-ray or other type of imaging is recommended,” said Dr. Small.

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YPIE Welcomes Newest Class of Scholars on the Path to College



Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) welcomed more than 200 ninth and tenth graders as incoming YPIE Scholars, the newest members of the YPIE community on the path to college success. YPIE partners with students to ensure they are ready for, enroll in, and complete college.

In the second virtual YPIE Scholar Induction Ceremony, incoming Scholars joined with their families to hear experiences and insights from current YPIE Scholars from across the Yonkers high schools.

“Since I was in ninth grade, YPIE really gave me endless opportunities to help spark my curiosity, not limiting me to anything,” said Alessandra. “That allowed me to grow as a whole individual and discover what my passion is, teaching me that it could be anything and everything I want it to be.”

“When I joined YPIE, I was surrounded by people who cared about the same interests and had the same goals as me,” added Nicolas. “YPIE really helped me become more social and confident, and I’m proud of the person that I’m today because of it.”

“One way that YPIE helped me grow was the emphasis on college. I didn’t really have an interest in going to college until I joined this program,” said Gian.

YPIE welcomed Scholars from all eight Yonkers high schools. The incoming Class of YPIE Scholars was selected because of their drive, commitment, and focus on their future.

“Each of you went through a challenging application process and were ultimately selected for a reason,” said Sam Wallis, YPIE Executive Director. “With all that is going on right now, there’s a lot of uncertainty and the future might look challenging. But, we can assure you that by becoming a YPIE Scholar, we are going to figure this all out together.”

Many existing YPIE students shared words of advice with the incoming Scholars: “One piece of advice as a first-gen student for ninth-grade scholars is to take advantage of every opportunity that is presented to you,” said Alessandra.

Joshua added “Always choose to do what you do instead of doing something that feels forced. Trust me these next four years. If you do something that you want to do passionately, you are most likely to be successful.”

“One piece of advice for the new Scholars is that success is not final and failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts,” said Nicolas. “And, remember the biggest mistake you ever make is to be too afraid to make one. Don’t be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and experience things. It can really change your life.”

The YPIE Scholars Induction Ceremony concluded with new Scholars reciting the YPIE Commitment to Excellence and enthusiastic applause as their names were presented on the screen. “We are a community of Scholars on the path to college,” said Alessandra as she read one of the tenets of the YPIE Commitment to Excellence.

YPIE Scholars receive rigorous academic tutoring, an introduction to career pathways, assistance throughout the college process, and ongoing support from YPIE staff and volunteer mentors from our community. Learn more at ypie.org.

YPS Remote learning continued from pg 1-

Thank you for your continued support as we work through the impact and disruptions of COVID-19. Stay well. I look forward to seeing our students back in school on Monday, January 10, 2022.” wrote Quezada to all YPS families.

On Jan. 5, YPS posted the following:
Return to School Safely In-Person Monday, January 10, 2022
COVID-19 Home Test Pick-up

- Schools notify parents about pickup & procedures
- Each child attending school will receive a kit with 2 tests
- Parents must test their child Sun 1/9 & Mon 1/17 then report results to their school
- Questions? Contact your child’s school nurse or principal.

Also during remote learning, YPS continues to offer its grab and go breakfast and lunch meals for students.

Visit the YPS website or Facebook page to find the school closest to your student-child under the age of 18.

Gov. Hochul Gets 5 Million COVID Tests Out New Test Sites in Mt. Vernon & SUNY Purchase



“People are testing positive at a higher rate, but the severity of this variant is much less. I am grateful that a month later, we can say with certainty, that the cases are presenting themselves to not be that severe as far as health goes.”

-Governor Kathy Hochul

By Dan Murphy

On January 1, 2022, NY Governor Kathy Hochul laid out her plan to get New Yorkers through the next phase of the COVID pandemic. Calling it her Winter Surge Plan, 2.0, Hochul announced that the state had secured 5.56 million test kits, which have already been sent to schools across the state.

Another several million test kits will be ready for distribution this week, and are set to be distributed to local emergency management offices and then distributed to families. With another 31.5 million test kits ordered and on the way, the Governor is being applauded for making sure New York State is ready for that first critical step in the new year: making sure that test kits are available to those who think they might be COVID positive and to make sure that students, teachers, staff and first responders are tested and healthy.

“As we head into the holiday weekend, New York State is mobilizing every resource at our disposal to fight the winter surge and keep New Yorkers safe,” Governor Hochul said. “We can get through this surge through targeted actions, partnerships with local leaders, and by taking common sense steps to keep us all safe: get vaccinated, get boosted, and wear a mask indoors.”

The Winter Surge Plan 2.0 focuses on five core areas: keeping students in school, doubling down on masks and testing, preventing severe illness and death, increasing access to vaccines and boosters, and working together with local leaders.

Keep Schools Open: After two years of remote learning and school closures, Governor Hochul is focused on keeping students in school in the upcoming year. The first plank of Governor Hochul’s 5-part plan includes:

Providing tests to students and school districts: 5.56 million tests arrived for schools this week and between six and seven million more are expected to arrive in the coming days. New York has mobilized 40 trucks and 86 state personnel to distribute tests. Overall, New York State has secured 37 million tests for distribution.

Keeping college students and faculty safe: SUNY and CUNY will be introducing a new requirement for all students to get boosters, campuses will require mandatory mask wearing in public indoor spaces, and will require all faculty to be vaccinated. Students will also be required to submit negative tests upon returning to campus. spread of the virus, New Yorkers must continue wearing masks and getting tested. for COVID. Governor Hochul will:

Extend the mask-or-vax requirement: the Department of Health will extend the mask-or-vaccine requirement for an additional two weeks, protecting workers and allowing businesses to remain open.

On Jan. 3, Governor Hochul announced a partnership with SUNY and Syracuse University in which 10 new testing sites will be opening on State University of New York campuses across the state and at Syracuse University the week of Jan. 3. More campus sites will open in the coming weeks as the project expands.

“We are getting creative in our approach to make testing easier for New Yorkers,” Governor Hochul said. “With testing now available at SUNY campuses and Syracuse University, we are expanding access across the state to make sure that we limit the spread of COVID-19. Get tested, wear a mask, and get your vaccine, second dose, and booster to keep yourself and your community safe as we get through this winter surge.”

SUNY testing sites to open later this week include: Binghamton University, SUNY Plattsburgh, SUNY Cortland, University at Buffalo, Buffalo State, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Albany, SUNY Stony Brook, SUNY Purchase.

On Jan. 2, NY Governor Hochul announced 6 new State testing sites including Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon. “We want to start the New Year strong and use every tool at our disposal,” Governor Hochul said. “By mobilizing testing sites throughout the state, we will make sure testing is more accessible and convenient for New Yorkers. We will continue to expand testing availability to every corner of the state, evaluating where more capacity and additional sites are needed soon. I encourage every New Yorker to take advantage of a site near them.”

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, “I want to thank the Governor for her commitment to expand COVID testing sites including the one at Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon. Adding additional sites here in Westchester and throughout New York is a top priority for the Senate. I know the last few weeks have felt like a step back on all of the progress we have made. But this is not a repeat of March 2020. We now have a strong arsenal of tools to fight this virus and We need everyone to get vaccinated, get boosted, wear masks and get tested.”

The following information was provided by the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services. Last week, through Jan. 1, 5,282,626 rapid tests were distributed to school districts and BOCES throughout the state. Of that figure: 2,147,040 tests delivered to NYC for NYC schools, 3,135,586 for schools outside of NYC Regional numbers: Hudson Valley: 655,112, Long Island: 854,374. Dozens of State employees worked over the New Year weekend to deliver test kits from their location in Guilderland, NY. The test kits were transported by truck to either local school districts, or regional BOCES, where they were picked up by smaller districts.

BUYING OLD COMICS!

Looking for 1960s-1990s. I PAY CASH!

Please call 914-646-1718. Located in Yonkers

Notice of formation of Aiyana’s Creations LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY, 11228 designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. US Corporation Agents Inc shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 127 Ramsey Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

City of Yonkers Announces 100% Renewable Energy Supply Program for Residents

Yonkers Becomes Largest City in NY to Launch a Community Choice Aggregation Program that Secures a Fixed-Rate Clean Energy Supply



On Jan. 5, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced the launch of the Westchester Power Community Choice Aggregation program in Yonkers, known as Westchester Power, which will provide 50,000 Yonkers households with locally sourced 100% renewable energy using hydropower beginning March 1, 2022. Starting the second week in January, eligible Yonkers residents will receive notification letters from the program administrator, Sustainable Westchester, with details of the program, energy rates and steps on how to take action on enrollment.

“Sustainability long has been one of the pillars of my Administration,” said Mayor Spano. “The launch of the Westchester Power program in Yonkers provides residents with the power to choose a clean, renewable energy supply while protecting residents from unexpected utility rate hikes and ensuring the best clean energy rates possible. With our enrollment, Yonkers now becomes the largest city in New York State to participate in a Community Choice Aggregation program and the largest municipal member of Westchester Power. I encourage our residents to learn more about this innovative and smart program that will provide for a healthier, greener Yonkers.”

Through the Westchester Power program, Yonkers will offset an estimated 100,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide – equivalent to 16,000 cars taken off the road for one year. After conducting educational outreach and approval by New York State’s Department of Public Service in the last year, Sustainable Westchester and Yonkers have secured a competitive fixed rate to provide Yonkers residents with 100% New York State renewable energy. The program applies only to those who receive their energy supply from Con Edison and will not apply to those already enrolled in an energy program with an Energy Service Company (ESCO). Delivery of energy, billing and support will continue to be provided by Con Edison. Yonkers residents and businesses can OPT OUT of the program at any time.

Westchester Power currently serves 115,000 residents in 28 Westchester municipalities who have come together to address climate change through their electricity choice. Sustainable Westchester is a nonprofit, consortium of Westchester County local governments that facilitates effective collaboration on sustainability initiatives.

Eligible Yonkers residents can opt out of the program at AT ANY TIME without any penalty. Visit www.sustainablewestchester.org/wp to access the online portal or call 914-242-4725 for assistance. Sustainable Westchester will hold a series of information sessions and be on hand to answer questions during “select” hours on Zoom as well. Information on this can be found at www.sustainablewestchester.org/wp/yonkers.

Happy New Year! Now Back to Work!



By Eric W. Schoen

I hope your Christmas and Chanukah were as wonderful as my holidays were this year. Chanukah featured the dedication of the magnificent new sanctuary at Scarsdale Synagogue Temples Tremont and Emanu-El. Kudos to everyone from those who were responsible for raising the funds to those who designed and built the facility during not such normal times for a job well done.

Christmas followed an over 50 year tradition. Christmas Eve Day with our dear friends the Costantini family. Patriarch Adelmo ‘Chubby’ Costantini presided over the festivities, god bless him at 94 years old. Not everyone was able attend but those who did enjoyed a traditional Italian fish dinner and they are still eating the desserts. We even had two reindeer in our midst! Chubby’s granddaughter Erica and her husband Keith donned reindeer antlers and we played Christmas Reindeer games! You throw 2 red and 2 green round rings onto the large Reindeer Antlers on your friend’s head! Oh what fun!

Late Christmas Eve afternoon brought the call every family wants. A new beautiful baby girl was born to one of Chubby’s granddaughters. It capped a wonderful holiday! The gorgeous couple didn’t announce the sex of the baby in advance, so about 5:00 p.m. give or take a few minutes I got busy on my iPhone to see what stores would still be open Christmas Eve to buy clothes for the baby girl. One store closed in 40 minutes, the other in an hour and 40 minutes. All agreed to wait until the stores were open Sunday to lavish the baby in beautiful new clothes!

Mazel Tov to Chubby, the charming, loving, talented grandparents and the proud mother and father of the precious baby girl on this blessing!

So now back to work. A lot has occurred in the two weeks since we last met. I hope you and your family had as wonderful a holiday as my sister and I and the Costantini clan did. Yes, Covid is in the the air and many have taken ill. For the fully vaccinated (2 shots and a booster for Pfizer and Moderna, 2 shots for J & J) chances are the breakthrough infections may have no symptoms and many may not even be aware they have the virus. For those who do feel sick, the symptoms are usually mild and last a few days to one or two weeks. These symptoms typically include headache, cough, fever, and fatigue. Serious symptoms are unusual.

Figures are all over the place but 80% of those being hospitalized are unvaccinated. It’s your body. But stay away from me and my loved ones if you are unvaccinated. The Fox News and other conservative media who opine on vaccine mandates, Dr. Fauci, and all topics Covid? You bet your ass they are fully vaccinated. Most of their media companies won’t let them in the door unless they are fully vaccinated!

Some pointers on what you should be aware of out in the real world:

If you are going to a restaurant or even for a cup of coffee at Panera or Starbucks, call to make sure the location you are going to is open, what hours and if the seating area is open.

Going shopping at the Supermarket or Department Store? Call before you go to make sure the store is open and what the specific hours they are open which might deviate from posted or online hours. Covid has hit the retail world hard, and many stores have cut back hours due to lack of personnel.

New York requires masks in places of business unless you have a medical condition or are consuming food. Don’t give the poor \$15 an hour clerk (happy the minimum wage has gone up, but stores are still having a hard time getting workers) a hard time. They nor their managers make the laws. They try to enforce them, but there is always the idiot looking for a fight. If you don’t want to wear a mask, have things delivered or use outside pickup services most stores have.

I’m no doctor. Check with yours for medical advice. But nervous people are crowding emergency rooms making it difficult for those who truly need true emergency services from being treated. And with a lot of health insurance plans, if you use an Emergency Room and don’t get admitted to the hospital you will be stuck with a big bill.

A good rule of thumb: The most basic guidelines for what makes a situation emergent is if your life, limb or vision is at stake. If any of these things are in danger, its an emergency. Other conditions outside of life, limb, or vision also warrant immediate intervention because of the likelihood of the condition getting worse and possible organ failure. There are patient populations that are at higher risk of death — this includes children under 2 years of age, geriatric patients, and those with weakened immune response.

I don’t want to hear of a hospital that does not allow a 97 year old patient coming in for a new pacemaker to have a visitor as I heard this week. If this should happen to you ask to see the hospital administrator in charge. Every hospital has one. Familiarize yourself with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) if you

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Yonkers City Clerk’s Office is Open by Appointment Only

Notice: Yonkers, NY – January 6, 2022 – Keeping in line with New York State Executive Order 11.1, beginning Tuesday, January 6, 2022, the Yonkers City Clerk’s Office will require everyone to make an appointment before visiting the office. In addition, appointments for marriage licenses will only be available to Yonkers Residents. Proof of residency is required by at least one of the two parties before scheduling an appointment. City Clerk Vincent Spano is implementing this change in policy to address the increasing COVID cases throughout our region.

“We remain committed to providing the services of this office during this spike in cases while at the same time protecting the health and wellbeing of our visitors and employees,” said City Clerk Spano. “It is necessary to control the number of visitors in our public spaces and this temporary policy change will allow us to do so. This new policy will remain in place until further notice. We ask everyone to refrain from visiting our office if they find themselves ill or have had contact with anyone that has COVID.”

We encourage everyone seeking Birth, Marriage, and Death Certificates or permits to visit our website: <https://www.yonkersny.gov/government/departments/city-clerk/certificates-licenses-and-permits> for information on how to obtain your records via the internet or mail.

Please email cityclerk@yonkersny.gov or call (914) 377-6020 for additional information. Please note that appointments are very limited and all visitors to City Hall must wear a protective face mask regardless of vaccination status. Learn how you may make requests online or via mail by visiting our website: Yonkers City Clerk Office.

Hours of Operation (Appointments Required)

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday (except holidays) 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Tuesday (except holidays) 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

Marriage Licenses: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday (except holidays) 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Marriage Licenses: Tuesday (except holidays) 9:00 am to 6:30 pm

Email cityclerk@yonkersny.gov to request an appointment or for any additional information.

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State Senator Shelley Mayer Seeks Nominations For Youth Leadership Recognition Award



Help recognize student leaders who make our school and community proud!

To learn more about this award program, and to nominate a deserving student, please visit:

MAYER.NYSENATE.GOV



Senator Shelley B. Mayer
37th New York State Senate Senate District

Do you know an outstanding high school sophomore, junior or senior who is a leader in their community? Nominate them for a New York State Senate Youth Leadership Recognition Award!

For more information, visit <https://www.nysenate.gov/.../new-york-senate-youth...>

Yonkers Police Arrest, Charge Staten Island Man in Bronx River Road Homicide



Eric Lamont Prince Williams

On Sunday, June 20th, 2021, at approximately 5 AM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to the area of 463 Bronx River Road on a report of a man down bleeding from the head. Upon arrival officers located an unresponsive male victim down on the ground with an apparent head injury; First Responders immediately rendered medical aid including CPR and transported the victim to a local area hospital where he ultimately died.

Upon examination it was discovered that the victim suffered an apparent gunshot wound to the head. Police Officers cordoned-off the area and initiated a criminal investigation. Detectives from the Major Case Squad and Crime Scene Unit responded to the scene and interviewed subjects and witnesses, recovered surveillance video, and processed forensic and ballistic evidence. With limited initial information, investigators were able to identify the victim, a 22-year-old resident of the State of Delaware; and working backwards traced his past movements and developed associate information including a person of interest.

Over the next five months, in collaboration with prosecutors from the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, Detectives worked to enhance the case and bring charges against the suspect. On December 19th, 2021, Yonkers Police Detectives and members of the FBI Westchester County Safe Streets Task Force canvassed a residence in Staten Island, New York, and located the suspect.

He was found in possession of a loaded, illegal Glock .40 caliber semi-automatic handgun. Investigators believe that the victim and suspect were acquainted, with a history including ties to Delaware. The men travelled together to Mount Vernon and crossed into Yonkers while possibly searching for a car service.

While in Yonkers, investigators allege that the suspect displayed a handgun and shot the victim in the head, the violent culmination of several disputes between them over personal matters. The suspect then fled the area, including later traveling to Delaware.

The suspect is identified as Eric Lamont Prince WILLIAMS, a 22-year-old resident of Staten Island, New York. WILLIAMS was charged in Richmond County with Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2', a Class C Violent Felony in the New York State Penal Law; he was remanded and transferred to Yonkers Criminal Court where on January 3rd, 2022, he was charged and arraigned on one count of Murder 2', a Class A-I Violent Felony in the New York State Penal Law.

The case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office. The victim is identified as Jabree West. The City of Yonkers and Yonkers Police Department offer their sincere condolences to his family and friends. The Yonkers Police Department would like to thank the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, the FBI Westchester County Safe Streets Task Force, the NYPD 120 Precinct Detective Squad, and the New Castle County Division of Police Criminal Investigations Unit for their invaluable assistance in this investigation and commitment to public safety. NOTE: Booking charges are merely accusations and the defendant(s) are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Exclusive: Christian Hostages in Haiti Were Freed and Ransom Paid



17 members from Christian Aid Ministries, CAM, that were held hostage in Haiti

By Dan Murphy

Our story posted on YonkersTimes.com concerning the Dec. 16 release of 17 Christian hostages held for 60 days in Haiti, (<http://yonkerstimes.com/what-happened-with-the-christian-us-hostages-in-haiti-were-they-released-or-freed-was-a-ransom-paid-where-was-the-calvary-the-us-army-rescue/>) resulted in a high volume of emails and calls from our readers, and from interested Americans across the country.

On October 16, a group of missionaries from Christian Aid Ministries, CAM, were in Haiti serving the poor and spreading the word of God when they were taken hostage. Two hostages were freed on Nov. 20, and another three were released on Dec. 5, including a young boy, teenage girl and their mother who was forced to leave two of her children behind. On Dec. 16 CAM made the announcement that the remaining 12 hostages were back in the USA and in relatively good health.

Our story raised the question of whether the hostages escaped or were released? And was a ransom paid for their release?

One of our readers contacted us with information on this story. After a lengthy phone interview, we determined that this source had direct and detailed knowledge about what happened during Nov. and Dec. in Haiti, based on details that have never been published. Some of these facts we will share with you, and you will not find anywhere else.

But let us be clear, while we completely believe that this person was involved in helping free the Americans held hostage in Haiti, we have decided to withhold certain pieces of information that were shared with us, to protect this person and the people on the ground in Haiti and in the US, who helped secure their release.

The two biggest takeaways from this follow up story are that the hostages were freed by their captors and they did not escape. And that a ransom was paid for their freedom.

"This was a long, tortuous process, and a number of wild things happened

during the 8 weeks," said our source who we will call Emma. "Through intermediaries with a longstanding history of work in Haiti, contact was made and a dialogue started with the 400 Mawozo gang who was holding the hostages. A ransom was negotiated and paid to secure their release."

"While many believe that the hostages escaped, they were allowed to leave by leaving a door partially open and the guard left, leaving them free to leave. And any Haitian who may have seen them on their long walk to freedom were instructed to leave them alone, and only to get involved and help them if asked. The guards were right there and saw everything and let them walk away.

Another one of our readers emailed us saying that the FBI was monitoring the situation closely on the ground in Haiti, based on an interview account from one of the hostages. "The missionaries saw planes circling above where they were held. These planes were FBI presence watching the situation. The missionaries confirmed they were FBI after the fact," writes Anna.

"The ransom that was paid did not come from the US government, and it did not come from CAM who refused to pay a ransom. The ransom money came from a Good Samaritan, an American private donor who wanted to help and didn't know the hostages nor the church," said Emma.

Specific details about how much of a ransom was paid was not provided to us. According to published reports, the Gang was seeking a ransom of \$17 Million, or \$1 Million per hostage. Emma said that after negotiations were conducted over a ransom price, the Good Samaritan "gave almost all of what was asked for after the negotiations."

Why did it take so long to secure the hostages release? Because of the lack of trust with the Haitian police. Many published reports have referred to the troubles with the Haitian police as the reason that many gangs in Haiti hold control and power over various parts of the country.

"There were also discussions about trying to rescue the hostages, but CAM didn't want violence, and that was the best decision made by those who considered a military option and rescue. The best way to handle this, even though it took so long, was to negotiate with the hostages and get everyone freed without injury or death. And that is what happened," said Emma.

"Sometimes in Haiti, gangs demand a ransom, receive payment and then demand more. 400 Mawozo demanded a ransom, kept in touch with intermediaries, and kept the hostages in relatively good health.

"When one hostage got sick, medication was obtained and provided, but when that person needed to be hospitalized, he was freed with his wife. They were the first two hostages to be released. The gang never asked for more, which happens frequently, and they ultimately kept their word and released the hostages.

"Most people with knowledge of the situation in Haiti never believed the narrative that the hostages escaped. That is not the way things happen in Haiti, and if they did escape, someone would have contacted the gang before they got to safety," said Emma. "This gang is not about killing hostages. They run this like a business and were trying to get the transaction done.

According to published reports, after walking several miles, the hostages did ask a Haitian to use their phone so they could be rescued. For those of us who have read all reports on this matter, neither President Biden nor the U.S. Government took credit for the resolution and freedom of the 17 American hostages.

We have also not heard from CAM acknowledging that a ransom was paid, and their thanks to whoever it was who helped free 17 members of their church.

"The one issue that many of us, and our friends in Haiti have with CAM and their missionaries is that they should know not to bring young children into Haiti. It is simply too dangerous. I would never bring my children there. You can try and help the people, but leave young children at home," said Emma.

Editor's Note: We have received numerous emails from readers who propose that the hostages were freed with an act of God, and that is how they escaped. I would put it another way. Perhaps God intervened on their behalf and touched the heart of the Good Samaritan who paid the ransom. It is good news that they were all freed and are all home. And it's a classic Christmas story.

Why hasn't the media covered this story? Some believe that it is because the hostages are Christians, and that there is a lack of interest from the American public, and a reluctance from the media to report on it. We hope that is not the case. All 17 were American citizens, and deserve our interest, and yes, our prayers.

Thanks to our source for coming forward and for speaking the truth about what happened. And thanks for your involvement in winning their freedom.

And to the Good Samaritan who paid the ransom—thank you! And God Bless You! Another reason why we write this story and our proud to do so, is because the people involved, and the Good Samaritan wanted the truth to come out. And the truth is that a ransom was paid and that the hostages were freed.

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Notice of formation of youRmore LLC LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/09/2020. 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, 10 Dassern Drive Apt I Dobbs Ferry NY 10522 . Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Thomas Family Taste LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LCC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 268 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of SHINE SIGNINGS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/26/2021. 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, 27 Ravine Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

On This Day in Yonkers History...

TV star, and Yonkers resident, Morey Amsterdam, in the Dick Van Dyke Show

By Mary Hoar, President Emerita, Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History, President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, January 10th

January 10, 1938: The frantic barking of "Doc," an English Spaniel owned by Reverend William Hicks of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, saved not only the clergyman's life, but his wife! Doc, sleeping in the kitchen, started barking frantically about 1 am. When Hicks went down to see what the problem was, he found flames and fumes pouring out of the refrigerator, with the wall behind the appliance ablaze!

January 10, 1944: Nepperhan Avenue's Corporal Leo Biegay, a mechanic in the First Army Field Artillery, was bombed with propaganda pamphlets while serving overseas. He sent samples to his sister Mrs. Lewis Morrison so she would have an idea of what the Germans were trying to say. The five pamphlets made some interesting statements, such as "Although you had victories in France, your leaders know you will be slaughtered in Germany and still send you forward," "You are dying for Britain," and "your leaders are already involving you in a Third World War." Biegay told his sister no one took them seriously.

Tuesday, January 11th

January 11, 1938: NYS Supreme Court Justice Marsh Taylor declared Francis Heafy to be the legally elected City Clerk, succeeding William McCabe. Democrat McCabe had refused to acknowledge Mr. Heafy's election by the new Republican majority on the Common Council.

January 11, 1955: The Yonkers General Hospital Women's Auxiliary inaugurated a new service; they photographed each newborn! Of course, copies of the photographs, taken for identification and record purposes, were given to the babies' parents.

Wednesday, January 12th

January 12, 1943: Two thousand-eight hundred-fifty helmets finally arrived for the Yonkers civilian protection forces; this was four months after the Yonkers War Council was told they were on the way.

January 12, 1950: Yonkers held its second water holiday, dubbed "Thirstday Thursday," to try to cut down and conserve our dwindling water supply. Our city was very successful and matched the success reached "Dry Friday," the first water holiday shortly before Christmas.

Thursday January 13th

January 13, 1938: Mayor Joseph Loehr vetoed the city budget passed by the Republican majority in the Common Council, stating the were "deliberately endangering the life, health and property" of Yonkers citizens by cutting more than \$800,000 out of his 1938 city budget. He then summoned the Aldermen to a special session at 11 am on January 15th, stating "a default now exists with respect to the adoption of an annual estimate" required by Section 75 of the Second Class Cities Law; it had been more than 90 days since Loehr sent the budget to the Council. Republicans claimed Loehr did not have veto power on a budget estimate. Especially in question were raises granted to city workers the mayor had included in his budget.

Friday, January 14th:

January 14, 1911: Well known Yonkers baseball star Dave Fultz was signed to a second year as Coach of the Columbia University Baseball Team. During Fultz's first year at Columbia, the team had its best season in more than ten years.

continued on pg 7-

Classifieds

Antiques and Collectibles: Old baseball cards lying around? I'm a Local collector paying cash for your sports cards! Call/text: 201-579-0094 E-mail: Finsportsrelics@gmail.com

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

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Hillary is Back! Meetings with VP Harris, Master Class, Interview at Crabtree Kittle House



Vice-President Kamala Harris, left, and former Sec. of State Hillary Clinton

By Dan Murphy

Many in the far-right media 'freaked-out' when news leaked that former Secretary of State, U.S. Senator from New York and First Lady Hillary Clinton was speaking regularly with, and has visited The White House to meet with vice-president Kamala Harris. But the relationship between the two, and the circumstances surrounding VP Harris becoming the first female VP in our history, makes the meeting and the dialogue make a lot of sense.

First the story is true, if you believe the New York Times, who reported on Dec. 23, "Faced with declining approval ratings, a series of staff departures and a drum-beat of criticism from Republicans and the conservative news media, she has turned to powerful confidantes, including Hillary Clinton, to help plot a path forward. Since arriving in Washington, Ms. Harris has sought the counsel of other women — including Mrs. Clinton, the first female Democratic presidential nominee — who have achieved historical political success to help her find a path," writes Katie Rogers and Zolan Kanno-Youngs, (<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/23/us/politics/kamala-harris-biden-administration.html>).

According to the story, "The two speak every few months on the phone; in November, Mrs. Clinton visited Ms. Harris in her West Wing office." "There is a double standard; it's sadly alive and well," Mrs. Clinton said in an interview. "A lot of what is being used to judge her, just like it was to judge me, or the women who ran in 2020, or everybody else, is really colored by that."

The visit to The White House by Secretary Clinton got on the radar of many in the right wing media, but the relationship between Vice-President Harris and Hillary dates back several years, and the mutual admiration and shared experiences in American politics between the two has formed a bond that only now is being noticed by the public.

Harris recently flew back to her home state of California to meet with several prominent female democratic strategists, and many friends of Bill and Hillary Clinton, including former Hillary Clinton spokeswoman and Democratic strategists Adrienne Elrod and Karen Finney, and Jennifer Palmieri, who worked on Clinton's 2016 Presidential campaign.

Vice-President Harris' younger sister, Maya, worked for then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. And a podcast that aired in 2020 between the VP and Hillary shows how much they connect. "My heart was so full speaking with Hillary Clinton about Ruth Bader Ginsburg's legacy and our ongoing fight for equality under the law. And, of course, we talked quarantine cooking. Listen to our conversation on Hillary's new podcast, You And Me Both," said Harris. The link to the podcast is below.

The next step in this story concerns the return to the public spotlight by Secretary Clinton. Here in Westchester, Hillary conducted a one hour interview with NBC's Willy Geist at Crabtree Kittle House Restaurant in Chappaqua, one of Bill and Hillary's favorite places and only a mile from their home. That interview link is below.

The other Hillary media appearance that got a lot of coverage was a Master Class course that Hillary is teaching online. You must subscribe to listen and learn about Hillary's advice concerning how you overcame setbacks and disappointments and became resilient. But one clip that has been shared online is Hillary giving the speech that she never got a chance to give. It was her acceptance speech when she won the Presidency in 2016. Hillary lost the presidency to Donald Trump, but read from the speech for Master Class, and gets emotional when parts of the speech includes a conversation with her mother in which Hillary tells her mom, "you will survive, you will have good family, and believe it or not, your daughter will become President of the United States."

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/business/2021/12/08/hillary-clinton-masterclass-2016-victory-speech-orig.cnn-business>

This show of emotion is new for Hillary, and is touching to most who watch it. It's a kinder, more gentle Hillary, and for both her supporters and her critics, it is a sign that a return to political life is not out of the question for the 74 year-old Clinton. Joe Biden is 79.

So lets play this out. Hillary is back in the spotlight and conferring with the vice-president. Vice-President Harris has whispered that she would like to be a part of an all female Presidential ticket if the opportunity presents itself. "The talk in the White House is that Kamala has stated she wants to pick a woman to create the first all-female administration," said far right commentator Jack Posobiec.

How would that opportunity present itself to Vice-President Harris? Only if President Joe Biden decided not to run for re-election in 2024.

The second, unanswered question is, would Hillary take the vice-presidency if it were offered to her? I didn't vote for Hillary or Trump in 2016. I voted for Gary Johnson, the Libertarian, third party candidate. But my political observation is that Hillary looks well rested and ready to return to the political ring. And if the republican candidate is Donald Trump again, we could have that rematch of Trump-Hillary, or Trump-Harris with Hillary as the VP.

And if you have never been to Crabtree Kittle House, its worth your visit. It's not cheap, but you won't be disappointed... and you never know who you might see.

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NOTICE OF LEGAL POSTPONEMENT OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER DYNASTY, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST CGSRE ACQUISITION CORP, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 22, 2021, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Courtroom 200, White Plains, NY on January 14, 2022 at 9:30AM, premises known as 68 Runyon Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester and State of New York, Section 3 Block 3112 Lot 59+60. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,792,943.78 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #50855/2019. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the WESTCHESTER County COVID-19 Protocols located on the Office of Court Administration (OCA) website (<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml>) and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Original Sale date: December 23, 2021 at 10:30AM. Anthony J. Centone, Esq., Referee CLAIR GJERTSEN & WEATHERS PLLC 4 New King Street, Suite 140 White Plains, NY 10604 50855-2019 70507

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER
JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff

AGAINST

Rosetta Silvestro as heir at law and next of kin of Luigia Silvestro a/k/a Luisa Silvestro; et al., Defendant(s)

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated July 8, 2021 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, NY 10601 on February 3, 2022 at 3:30PM, premises known as 147 Florence Street, Yonkers, NY 10704. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, State of NY, Section 5 Block 5235 Lot 34 & 35. Approximate amount of judgment \$101,787.83 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 69552/2016. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the Ninth Judicial District.

John Gifford Molloy, Esq., Referee
LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC
Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff
175 Mile Crossing Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14624, (877) 430-4792
Dated: December 17, 2021
For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832

AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN THE AUDITORIUM at SAUNDERS HIGH SCHOOL (183 Palmer Road, Yonkers, NY 10701).

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV .CURRENT CDC GUIDELINES SHALL CONTINUE TO BE OBSERVED REGARDING ATTENDANCE BY THE PUBLIC.

CONTINUED HEARINGS
5772 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Joseph Weiburg, owner, on premises known as 453 Bronxville Road, Block: 5603, Lot: 7, Zone: S-60 (A206)

NEW HEARINGS
5769 – Improvement and Intensification to a Non-Conforming Use & Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of Ghassem Khorassani, owner, on premises known as 527 aka 531 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Block: 39, Lot: 59.60, Zone: A (B22793)

5773 – Area Variance – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Laurie Hawkes, owner, on premises known as 56 Dellwood Road, Block: 5593, Lot: 86, Zone: S-75 (B24133)

5774 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of NOAM ONE LLC, owner, on premises known as 57 Locust Hill Avenue, Block: 2020, Lot: 1, Zone: A (B28896)

5775 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of Hudson Walk LLC, owner, on premises known as 409 Warburton Avenue, Block: 2121, Lot: 15, Zone: M (B29215)

JOSEPH CIANCIULLI, CHAIRMAN, ZBA
FOR FULL AGENDA, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: <https://www.yonkersny.gov/government/meetings-agendas/-selcat-97/-toggle-all>

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

are still having problems, but we would hope most hospital administrators have sensitivity in situations involving 97 year olds!

Go out and get fresh air everyday, even if that means a walk around the block. Bodies are made to move, not stay static. If you are in a big, quiet park like Tibbetts in Yonkers or Saxon Woods don't wear a mask unless you are allergic to something in the park. You want to get fresh air in your lungs. Even in the cold, crack the windows open in your house or apartment to let fresh air come in.

Many gyms have good deals right now. Look for a less crowded gym or go at off hours. Your mask must cover your nose and throat. And we need synchronization between rules in Westchester and New York City and frankly the rest of the state. It can't be that I have to show my Vaccination Card over the Westchester line in the Bronx but in Westchester I need to be masked up with no need to show vaccination cards. We need uniformity in rules otherwise everyone will go nuts.

If we want to end this pandemic, workers in Westchester should have to show they are fully vaccinated to work. Customers must to protect the workers show proof of vaccination just like they do in New York City to enter a restaurant. Nobody likes doing this, but it keeps both employees and customers safe.

The folks that own Ridge Hill should open the Main Street that runs through the complex. It's impossible for handicapped people to park near the destination they are going to. The road was closed to allow for tables and chairs outside during the summer for al fresco dining. Too cold now. Ridge Hill 'tear down those gates' that block access to stores from the Apple Store to just in front of TJ Maxx by vehicle, and add more handicapped parking!

If you picked up one of those Covid tests at the Office of Emergency Management on Saw Mill River Road or in Mount Vernon or other municipalities that offered them, save the test for when you have symptoms. Don't just use it because you have it. Be careful and report to the Attorney General's office companies that price gouge you for getting tested. These services should be available free of charge at State, County and Local Government facilities.

I'll have more tips for you next week. If you have a tip you think I should include you know how to reach me. If we all work together, things will get better and back to normal sooner than you think.

Happy, Healthy New Year my friends!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoisonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy 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.

Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Nominates Riverside HS Senior as A US Presidential Scholar



Daniel Leon

Upon the recommendation of Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Riverside High School Senior Daniel Leon of Yonkers has been nominated for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program by State Education Department Commissioner Betty A. Rosa.

The Presidential Scholar recognition is one of the nation's most prestigious honors for high school students and is awarded after a very selective process. Daniel is one of just 25 students from New York to be nominated as a candidate, and he now moves up in the selection process.

"I'm thrilled that Daniel Leon of Riverside High School was nominated for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program by Commissioner Rosa. Daniel is an exceptional student who has overcome personal barriers and stands out as a leader among his peers, said State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. "Mastering class materials and tests at school, Daniel has already earned 13 college credits at Westchester Community College. Outside of school, he guides others in how to study and learn. Coming from a working-class immigrant family, Daniel is determined to show members of his community and extended family — many who have not finished high school — the importance of education. I was proud to recommend him for this prestigious honor."

"Daniel Leon is the master of his own destiny and a champion for his peers, administrators and teachers at Riverside High School. Throughout his years in Yonkers Public Schools, Daniel was laser focused to overcome his educational challenges," noted Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of the Yonkers Public Schools. With the support of his caring family and teachers, Daniel mastered high school academics and simultaneously earned college credits towards his career goals. Daniel understands the value of an education sharing this passion by helping his peers study and being a role model for his immigrant family and community. He personifies the prestigious Presidential Scholars Program.

Yonkers Public Schools wants to thank Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins for nominating Daniel Leon and Education Commissioner Betty A. Rosa for choosing Daniel for the prestigious Presidential Scholars Program."

Riverside High School Principal Dr. Don Solimene shared, "Since entering our building four years ago, Daniel Leon has exhibited true determination and a drive to succeed in all that he does. Daniel has taken a keen interest in the academics and programs at Riverside and has displayed from early on a level of performance above his peers. Daniel's overall goal is to succeed and to show members of his community that education can pave the way for a better life for immigrants who are trying to achieve the "American Dream." As his principal, I have seen Daniel grow from a shy 9th grader to a mature and committed young man who has taken on roles and responsibilities beyond his age. I am greatly impressed with Daniel and his academic successes. He has overcome many challenges and barriers to taking on additional responsibilities to help others. We, at Riverside, are very proud of his achievements and look forward to seeing him continue to grow and excel."

In January, Daniel will join other students who were nominated from all 50 states and will be invited by the US Department of Education to apply for the next step in the Presidential Scholars Process. Semifinalists will then be notified in mid-April and Scholars will be notified in May. Students ultimately selected will go to Washington in June to meet national and international figures, including government officials, authors, and educators, Students will then receive the U.S. Presidential Scholars medallion at a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

Saunders Trades & Technical High School senior Jaden Halevi, was also nominated for the prestigious program.

Team "Walk to Victory" Raises \$76,345 for Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley



Julie Shanus Kivell and Amy Shanus

Team Walk to Victory has raised \$76,345 to date for the 2021 Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer's, the most they have ever raised for the organization and a record-breaking amount for a family team.

Much of the money was raised at the team's sixth annual Alzheimer's Luncheon and Card Party: "Take Me To Provence!" that was held at Brae Burn County Club on Thursday, Oct. 14.

The themed event featured cards and luncheon tables outside, as well as raffles and 14 vendors. Several attendees who have been caregivers for loved ones with Alzheimer's gave touching and informational speeches.

It was started by Amy Shanus of Chappaqua, New York and her daughters Julie and Maggie, who planned the fundraiser along with event committee members Abby Salzman, Tracey Greenfield, Linda Potash, Lee Leva, Sarene Shanus, Jill Ham-burger, Laura Brounstein, Michelle Cohen, Nancy Taub, Amy Kramer, Leslie Gerson, Monica Levy, Jo Rosenfeld, and Karen Spiegel. Each year, the event has a different theme to keep it fresh and new.

"We are so grateful to be able to host this event each year and raise money for a very important cause that is close to our hearts," said Amy Shanus.

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. The Westchester Walk was held on Sunday, Oct. 3, at Westchester Community College in Valhalla. To date, it has raised \$602,378. Fundraising will continue through Dec. 31. To learn more about the programs and services offered locally, visit alz.org/hudsonvalley.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

January 14, 1931: Supreme Court Justice Joseph Morschauer announced he would inspect the flume built by the City of Yonkers to change the course of the Nepperhan River. Former Mayor Wallin asked for an injunction on behalf of Peene's Wharf Corporation; the company alleged \$150,000 damage was done to their waterfront holdings. According to the filing, debris from the flume blocked one side of the company's dock.

January 14, 1952: Pianist Toba Brill of Edgecliff Terrace performed at Carnegie Hall with the National Orchestral Association. A child prodigy, she made her debut at Town Hall at the age of 14.

Saturday, January 15th

January 15, 1938: Assured by lawyers Mayor Loehr had "exceeded his legal power" by vetoing the Common Council's slashed 1938 budget, the seven Republican Alderman on the Common Council did not attend the special session called by the Mayor. It was expected the GOP coup would end up in court to force adoption of the original budget. Because of the unpassed budget, 2,000 city employees received their first 1938 paychecks with the raises Republicans cut out of their revised budget.

January 15, 1953: Television, radio and stage star-- and Yonkers resident-- Morey Amsterdam appeared at the Commander's Dinner of the Second Battalion, Auxiliary Police Corps, held at the American Legion's Bregano Post on Crescent Place.

January 15, 1955: Otis Elevator Company's President L. A. Petersen held a meeting for all employees and their wives at Brandt's Theater on South Broadway. He discussed the conditions management needed to keeping operations in Yonkers. Although claiming no decision to move had been made, he clearly stated the company could not remain in Yonkers unless costs were cut, while dangling the possibility of a mid-Western plant as the alternative.

Sunday, January 16th

January 16, 1915: After Vaudeville comedian Gus Williams of Waring Place met with his New York booking agent, he sent his sister-in-law a telegraph from the Getty Square Train Station, asking her to tend his wife Emma. After leaving the telegraph office Williams pulled out a pistol and shot himself. There was no suicide note, leaving family and friends to speculate why he ended his life; they assumed health issues and career concerns might be the reason. Besides being a nationally known entertainer, he had served in the Civil War, was active in the GAR Kitching Post No. 60, and frequently performed at Yonkers organization fundraisers.

January 16, 1947: Sixteen-year-old Doris Wish was installed as Secretary of the Treasury of the world's smallest republic, the George Junior Republic. The first youth community in the country, it was established by William George in 1909; it had a constitution, legislative body and judiciary. Still in existence, George Junior Republic now is focused on helping at-risk youth become responsible, well-adjusted and successful adults.

Questions or comments? Email YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com.

For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org, call 914-961-8940 or email yhsociety@aol.com.

Majority Leader Tasha Diaz , continued from pg 1-

on the council and look forward to the successes that we will have as a democratic supermajority."

"But I will be voting no on the rules and the selection of Councilmember Tasha Diaz as Majority Leader and Councilmember John Rubbo as majority whip. I have strong reservations about councilmember Diaz serving as Majority Leader. I do not believe that she possesses the skills and temperament to lead and push the democratic agenda forward. She voted no for the affordable housing ordinance. This is my 9th year on the council, and I'm excited to serve, and that doesn't stop with a title change," said Pineda-Isaac.

Councilmember Shanae Williams was even more vocal against Diaz's selection as Majority Leader. "This is a historic day to have a black woman as council president and a majority of women of color on the council. But I will be voting no because I do not think that councilmember Diaz is the most qualified for the job.

"The majority leader is responsible for meetings with the mayor and the commissioners and with our democratic caucus. She (Diaz) has rarely submitted legislation, she called the cops on residents expressing their opinions, she has threatened me on the council chambers, cursed out our commissioners and deputy mayor, told councilman Rubbo that she will F him up, and did little to quell tensions during the pandemic. These are not the best skills for majority leader.

"Councilmember Diaz is the least qualified to serve as majority leader. She doesn't contribute to the conservation and doesn't ask questions or make suggestions. She is a junior member of the council and it shows. She is not ready and I do not support her," said councilmember Williams.

But the other two council democrats, Council President Collins-Bellamy and Councilmember Rubbo, did support Diaz for Majority Leader. "Most of this is inside baseball. I'm saddened to see our dirty laundry aired in public. We can disagree behind closed doors but we should publicly move forward on in a united front and compromise. I'm happy to support councilmember Diaz for Majority Leader for the next two years just as I supported councilmember Pineda-Isaac for the last two years."

Council President Collins-Bellamy said, "I look forward to working with all of you to do great things for the city. This is a historic moment, and I am humbled and thankful to serve as the first African American woman as council president and I take this role very seriously."

"I congratulate councilmember Diaz on her new role. I'm here to support her in any way possible and wish her God's grace moving forward. I saw your passion and I am inspired by it. I will be supporting you for majority leader."

The two council republicans, minority leader Mike Breen and councilmember Anthony Merante, also had a vote in the council rules and who the majority leader would be. Councilman Merante said that "I wanted to reach out to all of the women on the council and if they could come together I would be the fourth vote to make one of them majority leader. Unfortunately that could not happen, and I threw my support to councilmember Rubbo. He is a good leader and may not be in line with the other council democrats but he works with everyone. But he didn't acquiesce the position. So I will support councilmember Diaz, she will be a good majority leader and we will work together."

Minority Leader Breen said, "If this is a referendum on affordable housing, just because councilmember Diaz voted no on the 20% affordable housing ordinance doesn't mean she is against affordable housing, She has her own views on the subject and supports affordable housing as she sees fit."

Councilwoman Diaz, said, "Thank you to everyone who believed in me. I have always been the underdog and stayed true to my morals. People may feel intimidated because I fight for the things that I believe in and that my constituents want. I stayed true on affordable housing. If 20% of nothing gets built, you get nothing. We are still at a stalemate. From day one I have been a team player but now it seems that I am a target.

"If anyone wants to say something and get it out, I have no problem. As a mother, and a wife, I won't bash anyone or tear them down. And to the two women we tore me down today, I would remind them that we are here to get things done. Actions speak louder than words.

"They came here rehearsed to attack me. I have no script. But if that's how they want to play, as a woman, I'm here to move the council forward," said Diaz, who was elected Majority Leader by a vote of 5-2.

Yonkers Rising was also designated as the official weekly newspaper for the City of Yonkers for the next two years. We thank the council for their vote and trust.

Roosevelt Wins Yonkers City Hoops Tournament Palisades Prep Finishes Second

The Palisade Prep Boys Basketball team finished second in the Yonkers City Tournament. In the first round game on Monday December 13th, the boys defeated cross town rival YMA by a final score of 78-40. Deneli McIntosh led the Phoenix with 17 points while Jalen Brown added 16 points and Louis Martinez added 15 points. The win advanced the fourth seeded Phoenix to face the number one seeded Yonkers Bulldogs in the semi-finals. The semi-finals took place at Lincoln High School. The Phoenix won that match-up decidedly by a final score of 69-28. Deneli McIntosh again led the Phoenix in scoring netting 21 points. Jalen Brown added 16 points and Miguel Gonzalez added 13 points. All nine of the players on the Phoenix boys varsity team scored in the game.

The championship game pitted the Phoenix against the Roosevelt Sharks. After a back and forth first half which saw both teams go on huge runs. The Phoenix made runs to both start the game and second quarter but the Sharks countered with runs of their own. In the second half the Sharks outplayed the Phoenix and pulled away to win 56-36 and capture the city tournament title. The next week the Phoenix had both of their games postponed due to covid issues. Now after a week of vacation the entire Yonkers Public Schools Athletics program's are on a covid pause due to the rising number of cases in our school and community. The Phoenix will be back in action on Tuesday January 11th when they travel to Clarkstown South for a non-league match-up.

Reservations Open for Westchester County Parks Group Picnic Reservations for 2022 Season

Group picnic reservations are now open for the 2022 season. Due to an abundance of caution, reservations are only available by phone: (914) 231-4575, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said, "Our group picnic reservations fill up fast, reserve as soon as possible to secure your space!"

Picnicking, including outdoor pavilions, is allowed at the following parks: Blue Mountain Reservation, Peekskill, Croton Gorge, Cortlandt Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson, George's Island Park, Montrose Glen Island Park, New Rochelle, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla, V.E. Macy Park, Ardsley, Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale, Saxton Woods Park, White Plains, Sprain Ridge Park, Yonkers, Tibbetts Brook Park, Yonkers Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River, Willson's Woods Park, Mount Vernon.

Winter Sports Injuries , continued from pg 1-

"I also see many shoulder injuries in skiers and snow boarders, who frequently dislocate their shoulder. Sometimes it pops out of place and with some kids it becomes a recurring injury, especially if they also play football or soccer and then go into winter sports. The shoulder for these types of athletes can become unstable and we recommend rehabilitation therapy to strengthen the muscles around the rotator cuff. If they don't strengthen the muscles around the shoulder then dislocations will keep happening," said Dr. Small, who recommended resistance band exercises, and internal and external rotation exercises, which will help strengthen the shoulder and rotator cuff.

"With shoulder dislocations, your child should be assessed for strength in the muscles around the shoulder to determine shoulder stability. For many kids under the age of 16, I see recurring dislocations happening within 3-6 months, if they don't get physical therapy or treatment," said Dr. Small.

Concussions are also another common winter injury that Dr. Small sees in patients and wants parents to be on the lookout for. "Concussions are an important but sometimes confusing winter injury. A concussion is defined as a trauma to the head, neck, shoulder, or chest that results in a series of symptoms, but there must be a cognitive deficit. 95 percent of all concussions occur as a result of trauma to head. The mechanism is that the head whips back during the injury and that injures the brain. The most common symptom is headache. When you hit your head you may have immediate headache and dizziness but there may not be a cognitive feature until one week later. In 90 percent of concussion patients, we see confusion and cognitive deficits right away. Parents need to be aware of the symptoms, and if their child has had a recent head trauma, they should stop skiing or doing any other winter sports until they are evaluated. And parents need to be on the lookout to see if the symptoms arise after a few days.

Neck pain is another symptom to be looking for after a hit to the head or other area after a hard fall. Kids may suffer a compression fracture in the neck bones and should have a X-ray/CT scan taken to assess for a compression fracture or disc herniation.

Dr. Small said that the public is now more aware of concussions than five years ago, but suggested treatments are different. "Some emergency rooms and pediatricians want total brain rest... That will make it worse. We need to decrease screen time on computers and phones, but you can go back to school in one to two days and begin light walking at that time. Too much rest isn't good with a concussion. There should be relative rest and computer breaks and less time on our phone, but no need to shut everything down."

Frostbite is another winter injury to be cautious of. "If the hands or ears are exposed to extreme cold without protection, we see frostbite in our patients. Layering clothing and always wear gloves, mittens and cover your ears and nose. If you get your feet wet while skiing, sleigh riding or skating, change your socks. You don't want to have cold feet outside for long periods of time. Protection of the outer layers of the skin is the best prevention."

Frostbite victims experience poor circulation and are more common with patients that have underlying conditions or are on ADD medication. For those patients, the more exposed they are to the cold, the more their skin can become hypersensitive if not treated. Don't put your body at risk if you are outside for long periods of time, prepare for it by dressing properly."

One myth that Dr. Small wanted to debunk is that helmets prevent concussions. "Helmets don't prevent concussions; they prevent skull fractures. Just look at all the NFL players who experience concussions, they are all wearing helmets."

Dr. Small says the best way to prevent concussions for winter sports athletes is to strengthen your back and neck muscles.

Who is at risk for concussion? "Those who have had a prior concussion, and those with a learning disability and ADD. In addition, this subset of patients, once they have the concussion typically have prolonged symptoms."

Dr. Small said that while many people have been exercising at home for the past 18 months during COVID, "we are seeing some of the same overture injuries because they are jogging and doing push-ups and sit ups at home. We see a lot of stress fractures and tendinitis. People are staying active but in a different way. They are doing the same exercise over and over again."

Dr. Small recommends all parents, "when in doubt come in and have your child see their physician. It's better to hear your doctor say it's not a concussion or a fracture, than to sit on the symptoms for a month. Some of these injuries are hard to detect without an x-ray and if not treated they can get worse."

Dr. Eric Small, MD FAAP, CAQSM is a nationally recognized expert in Primary Care Sports Medicine and Pediatric Sports Medicine at Mount Sinai Doctors. With over 20 years practicing sports medicine exclusively, Dr. Small is the only board certified Pediatric Sports Medicine Physician in Westchester County. His practice focuses on sports injuries and concussion management. As team physician for local high schools and colleges, he sets policy regarding sports injury management and return to play protocols.

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English Bulldog Puppies, Free to a Good Home

Free to good home 14 weeks male and female English Bulldog Puppies. They are AKC Registered and love to be carried all around if interested email (ceo.private.msg2021@gmail.com

Notice of Formation of Jovanna Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 5/14/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jovanna Realty LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C., Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

2022 COVID Inauguration Day in Yonkers, photos by Donna Davis



City Councilman John Rubbo takes oath from City Clerk Spano for second term



Councilmember Corazon Pineda-Isaac takes oath from City Clerk Spano for second term

Dr Ruth Visits Untermyer Gardens Grand Illumination



City Councilman Anthony Merante takes oath of office from City Clerk Spano for second term

Dr Ruth Westheimer, left, paid a visit to Untermyer Gardens Grand Illumination on Dec. 27. Dr. Ruth, who is 93 years young, called Mayor Mike Spano, who explains, "I received a delightful call from Dr. Ruth commenting how much she, her daughter and son-in-law enjoyed their visit to Untermyer Gardens' Grand Holiday Illumination this past weekend. Dr. Ruth was impressed by the majesty of the Gardens, the Menorah Lights and the delicious hot chocolate. Thank you, Dr. Ruth, for your visit to The City of Yonkers and appreciation of our city's finest gem."

The Grand Illumination is closed for the year, but there will be lots going on at Untermyer Gardens soon.



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