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School district projects \$30M in state funds

By **ROKSANA AMID**
 ramid@iherald.com

With more than \$30 million in projected state aid and the state's 2 percent tax cap still in place, Glen Cove school officials are beginning to shape the 2026-27 budget amid financial uncertainty and rising costs.

At the district's second budget workshop on Feb. 11, Theresa Kahan, assistant superintendent for business and operations, outlined early revenue projections, reserve balances and estimated expenditures for the capital and administrative components of the spending plan. The district has not yet released its total proposed budget or tax levy for 2026-27.

Glen Cove is currently operating with a \$118.1 million budget for the 2025-26 academic year.

State aid is estimated to increase by 4.4 percent, or just under \$1 million to \$30 million. Foundation aid — the dis-

trict's largest source of state funding — is expected to jump by 2.6 percent, or just over \$590,000, to \$23.57 million.

"What you see here is a breakdown of the current estimated state aid," Kahan said.

These amounts are preliminary, and will not be finalized until the governor releases the executive budget.

THERESA KAHAN
 Assistant superintendent for business and operations

"These amounts are preliminary, and will not be finalized until the governor releases the executive budget."

The final state aid totals will be included in the state budget expected to be approved in April.

Kahan explained that foundation aid is distributed through a state formula that considers inflation, pupil need and regional cost differences. Other categories of state funding include excess cost aid for students with disabilities

and expense-based reimbursements tied to district spending reported to the State Education Department.

Universal pre-kindergarten funding remains a variable in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Roksana Amid/Herald

Erit Eguizabal and Ralph Comitino installed a senior banner at the intersection of School and Glen streets in Village Square in 2024.

Banners of GCHS grads will once again line city's streets

By **ROKSANA AMID**
 ramid@iherald.com

Downtown Glen Cove will once again be transformed into a public celebration of its graduating seniors this spring, as personalized lamppost banners honoring members of the high school's class of 2026 will be installed throughout the business district.

The banner project, which began four years ago, was inspired by the banners of veterans displayed around the city, including those in Morgan Park. Organizers saw an opportunity to similarly recognize students preparing to take their next steps after graduation.

Families can purchase a 2-foot-by-4-foot banner featuring a senior yearbook photo for \$80. Orders must be placed by March 20. The banners will be hung in late April and remain on display through July, when they will be replaced by banners for the Downtown Sounds summer concert series. Afterward, families can pick them up at City Hall. Yearbook photos are sent directly from the photography company to the banner manufacturer.

The program, one of Glen Cove's beautification efforts, is a collaboration between the city's Department of Public Works and the Glen Cove Education Foundation. It grew

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

State spending plan will be finalized in April

February 19, 2026 – GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the district's planning. Gov. Kathy Hochul has proposed increasing the per-pupil UPK allocation to \$10,000 to expand access statewide. Glen Cove has about 85 students registered for UPK for 2026-27.

"If this initiative is included in the governor's final budget, we would receive \$850,000 to run the program, not the total allocation that they've shown of \$1.3 million," Kahan said.

Board of Education Trustee Maureen Jimenez asked whether the \$1.3 million figure was what the district received this year. Kahan clarified that funding is based on actual enrollment.

Under the proposal, districts would not be capped at a set number of seats. "If someone wants to register and wants to be in UPK, we need to enroll them and instruct them in some way," Kahan said. "What we get paid depends on who actually enrolls."

Beyond state aid, the district reviewed its payments in lieu of taxes, or PILOTs, stemming from agreements with the city's Industrial Development Agency. Kahan noted that the PILOT agreement for the Glen Cove Villa project at 135 Glen Cove Ave. will end and return to the tax rolls in 2026-27.

The discussion also included reserve balances. "A healthy reserve balance improves our fiscal stability, as well as the district's credit rating, which allows



Herald file photo

The district is projecting more than \$30 million in state aid, as officials continue developing the 2026-27 school budget under the state's 2 percent property tax cap.

us to borrow at lower interest rates," Kahan explained, adding that reserves are reviewed annually by auditors to ensure adequate levels.

On the expenditure side, the capital component of the proposed budget is projected to be just over \$12 million, and includes operation and maintenance of facilities, debt service and transfers to capital. Kahan said that operation and maintenance costs are increasing due to contractual obligations and higher sup-

ply expenses.

She also noted that this is the last year the district will have to pay off its 2022 bond, meaning that payments will not need to be incorporated into the upcoming budget.

The administrative component of the spending plan totals about \$9.3 million, including just over \$85,000 for the Board of Education, \$380,000 for the superintendent's office and \$703,000 for the business office. Administrative costs also

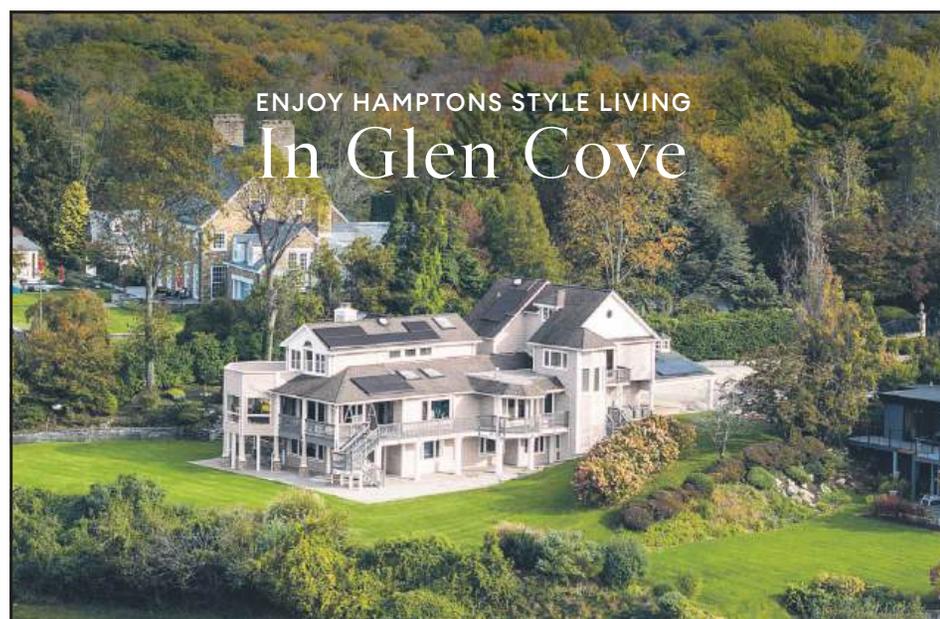
cover auditing, tax collection fees paid to the city, legal services, personnel operations, public information and insurance. Legal expenses have increased to cover superintendent suspension hearings, and insurance costs continue to rise for property, liability, cyber and flood coverage.

The district's financial planning continues under the state's property tax cap. In January, State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli announced that property tax levy increases for school districts and 10 cities statewide — including those on Long Island — will be capped at 2 percent for the fifth consecutive year.

"School district and municipal officials must continue to find ways to deliver services efficiently," a statement on the comptroller's website reads, "as they deal with higher costs and the potential impact of federal actions."

The tax cap, first imposed in 2012, limits increases to 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is smaller, with limited exceptions. Although districts may override the cap with voter approval, DiNapoli's office calculated the inflation factor at 2.63 percent for governments whose fiscal years end June 30, 2027, meaning the 2 percent limit will apply.

The district's next budget workshop is scheduled for March 4, when administrators are expected to review the program component and provide updates on state aid and the proposed 2026-27 tax levy.



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Uncovering Long Island's Nazi past

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

The North Shore Historical Museum welcomed historian Christopher Verga on Sunday for a presentation on homegrown fascism, foreign propaganda and its continued impact on Long Island today.

Titled "Nazis of Long Island: Sedition, Espionage & the Plot Against America," the presentation examined the growth of the various far-right German nationalist movements active on Long Island, and across America, in the 1930s and '40s.

Verga, who teaches at John Jay College of Criminal Justice where he specializes in radicalization, framed his talk as both local history and national warning.

"This is bigger than Long Island," he said. "These guys were trying to flip the United States. 'Der Tag,' 'The Day,' that's what they were trying to go for."

Attendees from across the North Shore, including New York Assemblyman Charles Lavine, asked Verga questions throughout.

Drawing on archival research from institutions including the Longwood Public Library in Middle Island and the Suffolk County Historical Society, Verga traced the rise of the German American Bund, or Federation, and affiliated groups across Long Island, the New York metropolitan area, and the entire country in the 1930s.

He began by discussing the work of journalist Dorothy Thompson, who warned early about Adolf Hitler and fascism. Thompson "blew all the whistles, she sounded all the alarms," Verga said, but was largely ignored as Nazi ideology took root in pockets of the United States.

Verga described a Long Island traumatized by World War I losses, the Great Depression and the 1918 influenza pandemic.

"Most Americans," he said, "still did not want to get involved in the war."

Across the country there were approximately 25,000 members of German-American Bund-related groups around the country. He emphasized that fear of another global conflict created fertile ground for isolationist and extremist movements.

Central to his talk was Camp Siegfried in Yaphank, a Bund-run summer camp and community in Suffolk County.

The camp name itself referenced a Germanic mythological hero used in Nazi propaganda. In the myth, retold in composer Richard Wagner's Ring Cycle of operas, the hero Siegfried slays the dragon Fafnir to rescue the warrior-queen Brunhilde, with its roots in pre-Christian Germanic paganism.

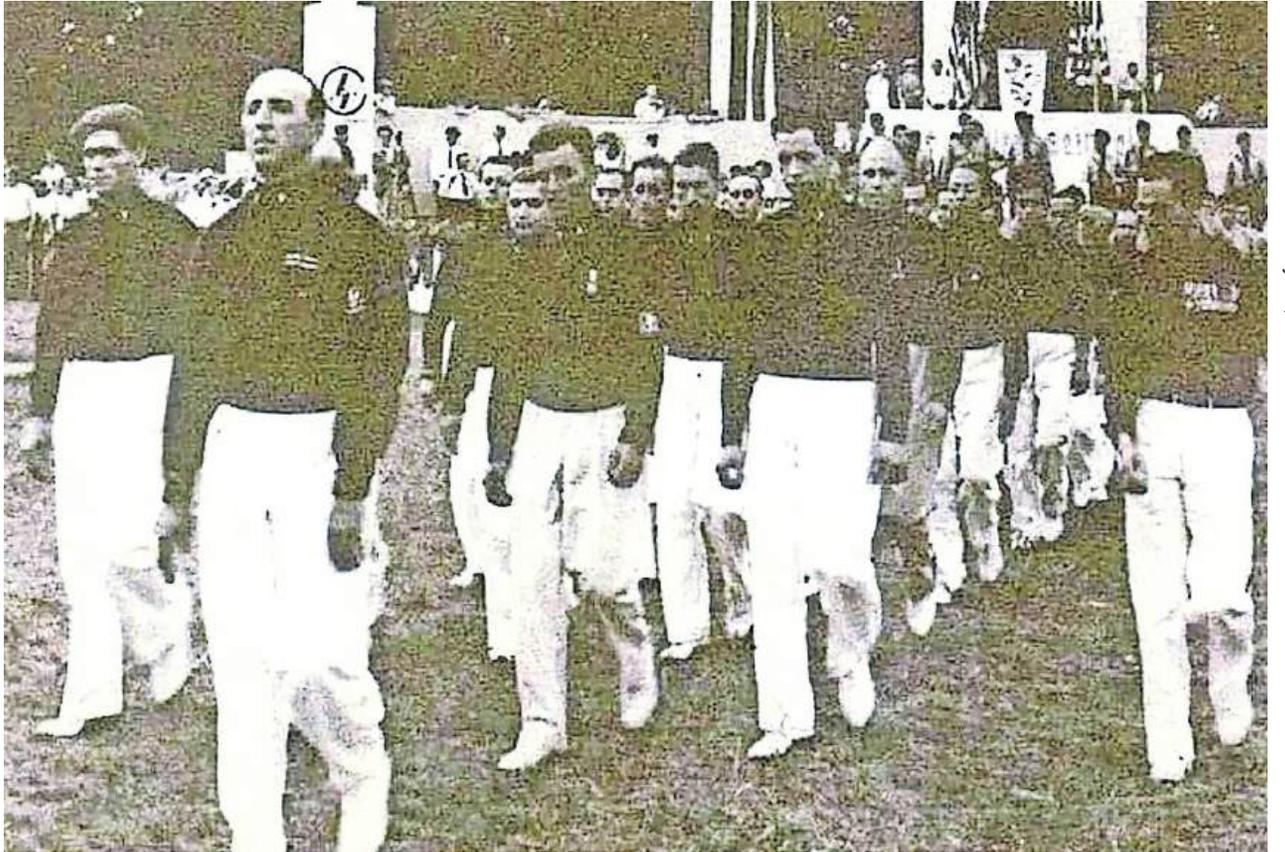
Verga adding that the dragon slain in the legend was often used by fascists as an antisemitic metaphor.

Camp Siegfried was part of a broader network that included camps in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, upstate New York and the Midwest. The stated goal was youth indoctrination modeled on the Hitler Youth. Children were trained in weapons use and nationalist ideology, he said, and the Bund promoted what he described as Aryan-only housing policies in the surrounding community.

Verga devoted time to the German-American Settlement, the housing development corporation that operated the Yaphank community surrounding Camp Siegfried. The settlement required proof of German heritage for property purchases until forced to stop by court order in 2016.

Verga said the Bund structured itself through a series of separate corporations, including the German-American Settlement League and related travel and publishing arms, allowing it to dissolve and reconstitute entities as legal pressure mounted. Publicly, the organization adopted an "America first" front while privately advancing Nazi doctrine.

He also highlighted the scale of Nazi propaganda spending. Citing research attributed to William Dono-



Courtesy FBI

Nazi sympathizers ran a summer camp, called Camp Siegfried after a mythological German hero, in Yaphank, which also provided cover for Nazi espionage during WWII.

van, later head of the Office of Strategic Services which became the CIA, Verga said the Nazi government spent an estimated \$200 million in 1930s currency on propaganda abroad, including support for American-based groups and sympathetic writers.

Of that money, roughly \$3 million was spent on Long Island, equivalent to nearly \$70 million adjusted to inflation.

Local resistance was equally part of the story. Anti-fascist organized boycotts and protests. Disabled American veterans sent undercover investigators into camps. Brookhaven Town Council member Gustav Neuss attempted to use zoning laws to restrict activities at Camp Siegfried.

In 1938, six camp managers were convicted in Suffolk County for violating New York's civil rights law by requiring loyalty oaths without proper filings. Verga recounted a chilling exchange from the trial: when asked in court to demonstrate the camp salute, a witness performed the Nazi salute. The district attorney then asked whether it was an American salute. The witness replied, "No, but it will be soon."

The Bund's most infamous public display came on Feb. 20, 1939, when it held a rally at Madison Square Garden in Manhattan.

An estimated 20,000 supporters gathered inside for what was billed as a "true Americanism" rally. According to Verga, Bund leader Fritz Kuhn spoke for about 30 minutes and attempted to align Nazi ideology with American revolutionary imagery, including invoking George Washington.

Outside, thousands of protesters clashed with police. A Jewish plumber named Isadore Greenbaum rushed the stage in protest and would likely have been killed had he not been removed by police officers.

"Thank God for New York City Police Department," Verga said, "because they saved him that night."

Those same officers chipped in to pay Greenbaum's bail after he was held for disturbing the peace.

Beyond rallies, Verga emphasized that Bund activity extended into espionage. He detailed Operation Pastorius, a 1942 sabotage plot in which German agents landed on Long Island and in Florida with plans to attack American infrastructure. One of the saboteurs, George Dasch, turned himself in to the FBI, leading to



Will Sheeline/Herald

Christopher Verga discussed Nazism's ties to Long Island.

the arrest of others. Most were executed.

Verga also described intelligence gathering related to shipping timetables and aviation manufacturing on Long Island, including facilities in Garden City and at Republic Aviation in Farmingdale.

"This is espionage. This is sedition," he said. "It's not just a crazy bunch of people in the woods."

The museum will host an upcoming exhibit on Black and Women's history months titled No Longer Hidden debuting on Saturday. For more information on the museum's offerings and upcoming events, visit NorthShoreHistoricalMuseum.org.




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On Kindness

Your writer, born and raised in Montreal, Canada, was visiting an old law school friend recently in Ottawa. My friend introduced me to the legacy of a man he admired immensely — the late Rabbi Reuven Bulka, known as Canada's Rabbi.

The Rabbi was the moving force behind the Canadian holiday, Kindness Week — observed the third week of February, to promote kindness and generosity across Canada throughout the year. One of the initiatives is to teach fourth graders about kindness, making for kinder adults while also helping to eliminate bullying.

Rabbi Bulka believed that focusing on others and to causes beyond yourself would not only make you a better person but would also help to reduce anxiety and depression. He taught that kind people are appreciated and beloved and that they serve as exemplars to others. Kindness extends to words as well he said, noting that kind words penetrate as do unkind words.

Canadians are known to be kind people, and Rabbi Bulka was the embodiment of it. He taught the importance of being kind both because it makes the world a better place and because kind people are generally happier people. Being kind to others does not have to cost anything and can be started by anyone at any time. To be good at it begins with a daily resolve “to be kind and do kind” as the Rabbi taught. The need for kindness has never been greater than it is in today's complex world.

In loving memory of Rabbi Reuven Bulka, we share here his 10 KINDmandments: (1) Wake up every day with the firm resolve to be kind and do kind, (2) Say hello to others; wish them well, (3) Hold the door for those behind you, (4) Wherever you go, be pleasant and helpful, (5) Thank whoever has done the slightest good deed for you, (6) Look for ways to compliment others, and then do so, (7) Set aside time to volunteer for a worthy cause, (8) Acknowledge service providers and tell them they are appreciated, (9) Leave a bit earlier so you have time to be friendly on the road, and (10) Make sure to be kind and considerate to your family and friends.

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about”

— Wendy Mass

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CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

- A 38-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested Feb. 7 on Glen Cove Avenue for outstanding warrants for aggravated unlicensed operation and unlicensed operation, and was additionally charged with aggravated unlicensed operation, criminal possession of a controlled substance, illegal plate covering, obstructed view, illegal tint, unlicensed operation and no lights.
- A 58-year-old Locust Valley man was arrested Feb. 9 for aggravated unlicensed operation, failure to yield the right of way, unlicensed operation and driving an unregistered vehicle on School Street.
- A 38-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested Feb. 14 on Cedar Swamp Road and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation, circumventing an interlock device, non-transparent windows, unlicensed operation and operating an unregistered vehicle.
- A 31-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested Feb. 15 on Walnut Road and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation, non-transparent tint, failure to stop for a school bus, unlicensed operation and no insurance.
- A 38-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested Feb. 16 on Glen Cove Avenue for City of Glen Cove arrest warrants for criminal possession of a controlled substance, aggravated unlicensed operation, unlicensed operation, obstructed vision and no inspection.

People named in Crime Watch items as having been arrested and charged with violations or crimes are only suspected of committing those acts of which they are accused. They are all presumed to be innocent of those charges until and unless found guilty in a court of law.

NEWS BRIEF

Alert on mailbox thefts and financial fraud

The Glen Cove Police Department is alerting residents and local businesses to a growing increase in mail theft and check fraud incidents both nationwide and within the community.

Glen Cove and surrounding areas have experienced multiple cases involving stolen outgoing mail and altered checks. Criminals are primarily targeting envelopes containing checks meant for bill payments, often focusing on United States Postal Service collection mailboxes. Authorities say thieves sometimes use glue traps, wires or similar tools to fish mail out of the boxes.

Once obtained, the checks are frequently “washed” using chemicals that remove the original ink. Offenders then rewrite the checks, increasing the dollar amount and changing the payee information. Victims often do not discover the fraud until they are notified of an overdue payment for a bill they believed had already been paid.

To reduce the risk of becoming a vic-

tim, police recommend using black gel ink pens when writing checks, as gel ink is harder to remove. Residents should fill in all blank spaces and draw lines through unused portions of a check to prevent alterations. Authorities also advise against leaving outgoing mail in residential mailboxes overnight and caution residents not to deposit mail in USPS collection boxes after hours. Important mail should be dropped off earlier in the day or brought directly inside a post office.

Officials encourage residents to regularly, review bank statements and consider electronic bill payment.

“The Glen Cove Police Department remains committed to protecting the community and encourages all residents to remain vigilant and take preventative measures against mail theft and check fraud,” said Lt. Det. John Nagle.

—Roksana Amid

GLEN COVE HERALD

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Banners will feature this year's graduates

February 19, 2026 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out of conversations among Councilwoman Danielle Fugazy Scagliola, Ralph Comitino, of the DPW, and Elizabeth Mestres, who is involved in the beautification campaign.

Fugazy Scagliola emphasized that the initiative is not intended to generate revenue. "We don't make any money off of it," she said. "The money that we bring in goes to the banners. It's not like a fundraiser. It's to highlight the great kids in our community."

She cited the veteran banners as a meaningful model. "I love that we highlight our vets in Morgan Park, like a huge, important part of our community and our history," she said. "I love that we're highlighting our graduating seniors, who are a part of our future. It makes me so happy to do this program and be a part of it."

Participation has grown steadily. More than 100 banners were purchased last year. They stretch through the heart of downtown, beginning near Starbucks and extending south toward the police station, then along Glen Street to the senior center. When that corridor fills up, additional banners are installed along Brewster Street.

Comitino, who co-founded the program — and purchased a banner for his son Ryan in 2023 — oversees the installation each year. It took close to three days to hand the banners around the city last spring he said. And their placement is intentional.

"We're trying to put people together," Comitino said. "I like to put the people there that are

sports stars, the valedictorians, right in the middle of town. Looks pretty good. But last year we ran out of space. So I had to put them out on Brewster Street."

For families, the banners are both public recognition and a personal milestone. Latisha Reeves bought one for her 17-year-old son, Mark, who plans to major in sports management or phys. ed. in college next year.

"It's like a celebration of him graduating, and all of the hard work he's put into school," Reeves said. "It's something I've always enjoyed looking at when riding through downtown. I always love looking at all of the graduates, and it's just something really nice. It's a big achievement. I always said when my son graduates, I'll be sure to purchase one for him."

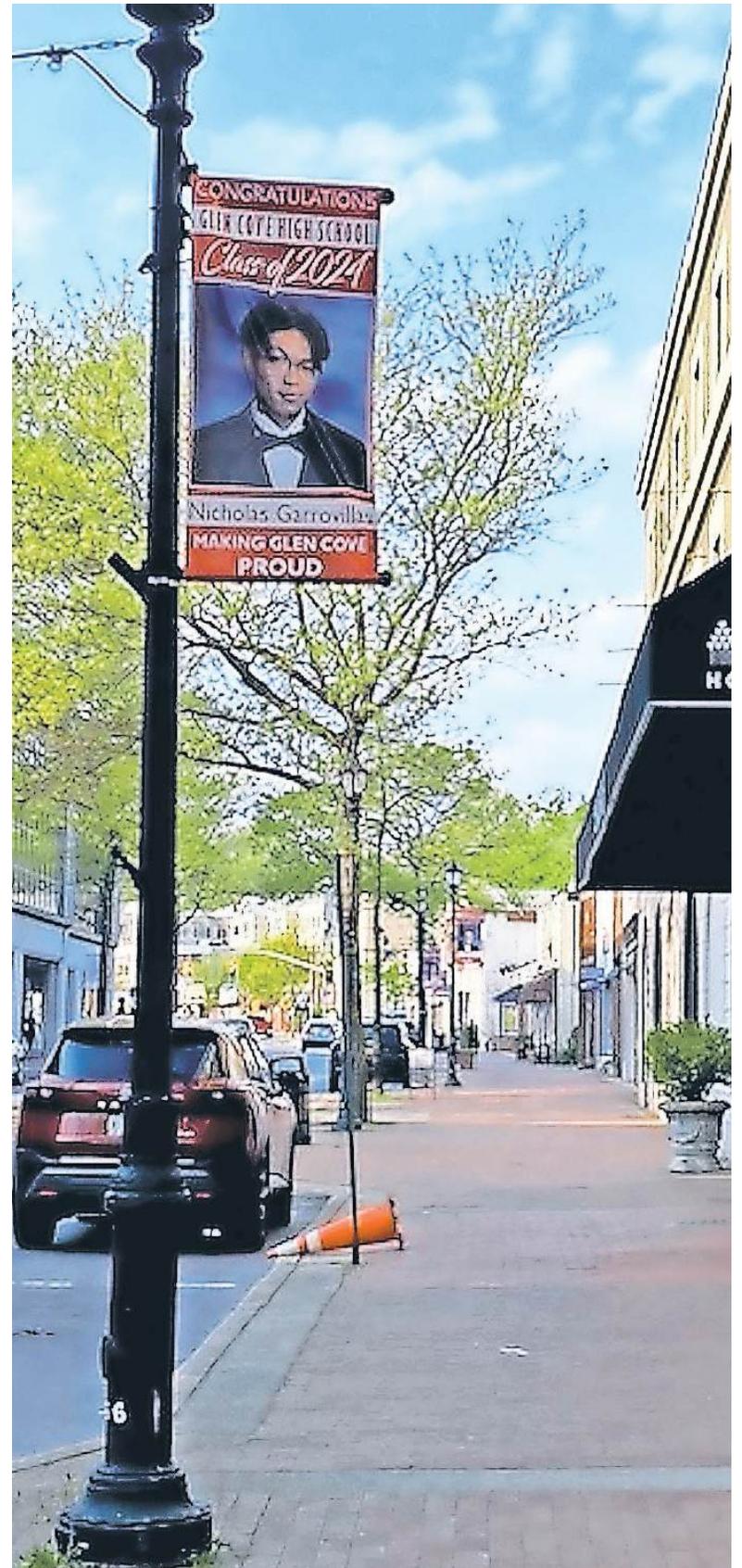
Mark recently became the first boys' basketball player at Glen Cove High School in 27 years to score 1,000 career points, reaching the milestone on Feb. 11, in a game against Garden City. The last player to do so was Todd Johnson, in 1999. A four-year varsity player and the current team captain, Reeves is also involved in Athletes Helping Athletes, a school-based initiative for which he visits other schools to discuss the importance being a student-athlete.

With orders open through March 20, organizers say they hope to include as many seniors as possible. "The more kids that want to be up, the more we want to highlight them," Fugazy Scagliola said.

Families with questions can email the Glen Cove Education Foundation at gcef@outlook.com, or call (516) 676-4402.



Jocelyn Flores's 2024 banner, at the intersection of Glen and School streets.



Nicholas Garrovillas's banner was displayed on School Street.

Roksana Amid/Herald photos

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VIEWFINDER What is one act of kindness you have experienced or given recently?

Compiled by Herald Staff

Ariel Borkowsky —
Farmingdale

Someone paid for my coffee in front of me, and I paid for the person in back of me.

Christie Leigh Babirad/Herald



Jarrold Murphy —
Rockville Centre, age 10

When somebody was being mean to me at recess, my friends invited me to play football with them. Then, when they were feeling sad, I helped them back and let them play with my friends.

Tim Baker/Herald photos



Joe Mascaro
Merrick

I shoveled my elderly neighbor's driveway after the snowstorm.

Abbey Salvemini/Herald



Maria DeLuca
Glen Cove

Somebody on the Glen Cove neighbors Facebook created a group for people to come together and ideate on ways they can help homeless people in the area.

Roksana Amid/Herald



Carson Giacopelli
Lynbrook, age 18

A neighbor with dementia didn't have anybody to help her shovel. So, my family and I showed up to shovel her property for her. No money, it is all part of Lynbrook Cares.

Tim Baker/Herald photos



Nonprofit Leaders

Celebrate Women's History Month as we welcome three of our very own members who lead nonprofits that are helping drive the Long Island economy.



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What's underground comes back around

Undoing the damage: the challenges of managing Long Island's largest chemical spill

By **ALYSSA R. GRIFFIN**
& **JOSEPH D'ALESSANDRO**

of the Herald Community Newspapers

Second installment in a series about water.

It's impossible to discuss Long Island's groundwater without addressing Northrop Grumman.

The Long Island aeronautics industry was a key asset to the United States armed forces in the last century, testing and manufacturing nearly 30,000 airplanes for the U.S. Navy starting in the 1930s, and later producing the lunar module for Apollo 11's landing on the moon. For over 50 years, the Northrop Grumman Bethpage Facility and Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant Site was at the center of American defense and innovation — and one of the largest chemical contamination sites in New York.

According to the state Department of Environmental Conservation, the degreasing agent trichloroethene leaked from NWIRP's plumbing and dumping sites into the Magothy Aquifer — which provides water to much of Nassau County — creating the Navy Grumman groundwater plume.

The plume is a two-mile-by-four-mile body of TCE with the potential to leach into Long Island's South Shore waters and the Great South Bay, according to Jason Pelton, director of Remedial Bureau D in the DEC's Division of Environmental Remediation.

"As plumes go, it's probably the largest in New York state," Pelton said. "It may be one of the largest in the country."

Bethpage's tarnished legacy

Shortly after the plume was identified in 1983, the DEC formed a partnership with both the responsible parties, the Navy and Northrop Grumman, to begin restoration efforts. The two groups operate extraction wells, large structures that siphon water out of the aquifer, filter out TCE, and send the water back underground by way of recharge basins.

"I've been very impressed with the Navy and Northrop Grumman's ability to locate these wells precisely where they need to be, and to see the contaminant numbers that are coming out in these locations," Kristin Granzen, DEC project manager for the U.S. Navy Bethpage site, said.

The joint cleanup effort processes about 10 million gallons of contaminated water per day, according to DEC documents provided to the Herald. The agency estimates that about 80 percent of the contamination — 276,000 pounds — has been removed from the Magothy Aquifer and destroyed in chemical reac-

tions or captured in granulated carbon, preventing any future leaks.

The DEC's 2019 Record of Decision was the first formal plan for cleaning up the site. Before then, there were around 10 extraction wells in the affected area. Since the ROD, the number of wells has risen to 26, supported by five water-treatment plants. The aggressive plan to stop the plume's southward migration was motivated by the DEC's zero-tolerance attitude toward chemical contamination, Pelton said.

"Groundwater exists in these voids between grains of sand and soils in what we call pore spaces," Granzen explained. "Water moves in between those pore spaces. When the contaminants get mixed with the groundwater, that causes movement."

"The water districts should not have to address this," Pelton said. "That's the primary driver here: removing the TCE from the aquifer system so that we've got a better drinking water source."

The DEC's goal is to reduce the aquifer's TCE levels to 5 parts per billion, the groundwater safety standard, though much of the plume's area is still over 50 ppb, according to DEC map data from May 2025.

"The fact that it's predominantly TCE makes it a little bit easier," Pelton added. "The challenge is the magnitude of the contamination ... I would say maybe we're pumping in the interior of the plume for 30 or 40 more years."

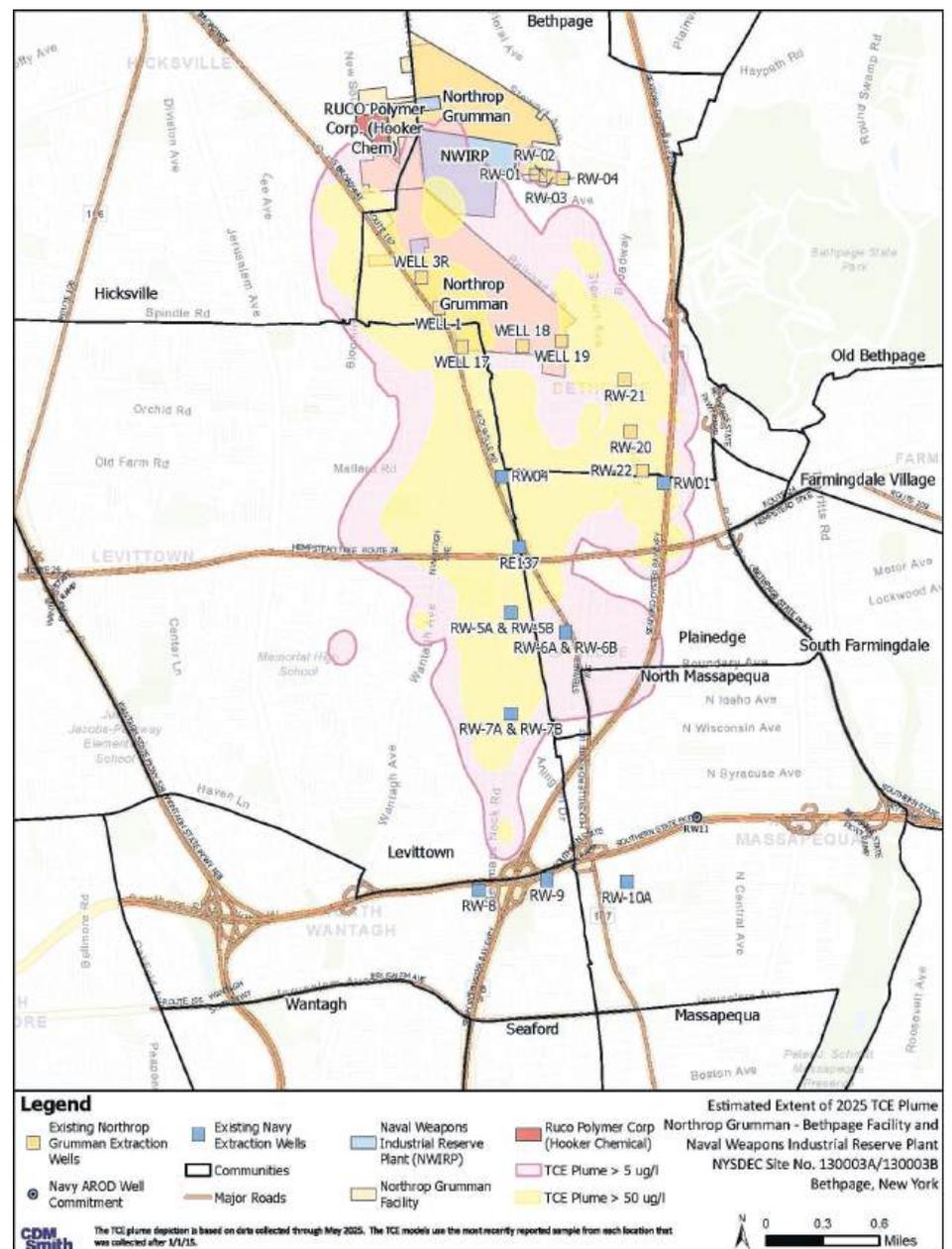
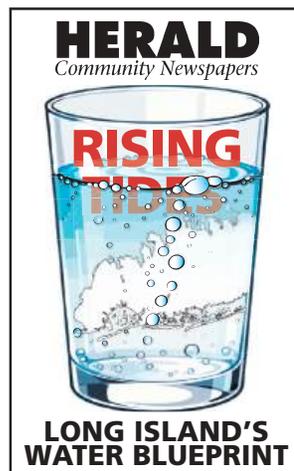
Chemicals linger, at what cost?

While the cleanup continues, the plume's public health effects have been a topic of endless discussion. Its cleanup is made possible by collaboration with local municipalities, home to the county's hundreds of monitoring wells collecting data on groundwater. They are a strict quality-control measure assessing whether the water is safe to consume or to use in irrigation.

Kevin Reilly, who oversees the monitoring of the Massapequa Water District as its superintendent, told the Herald that if the chemicals posed no real health risks to the community, there would be no need for the decades-long cleanup effort. The district serves parts of Massapequa, Massapequa Park and North Massapequa, all areas just south of Bethpage, where the plume originated.

After filtration, there are no risks to residents' health, the DEC maintains. "I would say the overall health of the aquifer is healthy," Pelton said. "It's important that people know that their drinking water is really high quality, and it's absolutely safe to drink that water."

According to a chemical profile from the Agency for Toxic Substances and



This map shows the estimated extent of the Navy Grumman groundwater plume, which was first identified in 1983, based on the most recent data from 2025.

Disease Registry, a division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, TCE can be a carcinogen with high exposure, and the state Department of Health conducted an environmental health investigation in Bethpage, finalized in 2013, on whether long-term exposure to contamination from the sites had affected local cancer rates.

According to the department's report, there was no correlation between the presence of TCE in the aquifer with cancer rates on Long Island. The most commonly diagnosed cancers in the areas affected by the plume were those typically seen most often in adults, and no single rare cancer type appeared more than once. Most diagnoses occurred at ages when cancer is generally most common. There was no indication that the cancers were linked to environmental findings.

The health department continues routine monitoring of drinking water and remediation efforts to protect public health as the cleanup progresses.

At the request of the Bethpage community, the department is revisiting the

2013 study, and its work is expected to be completed by the end of this year. In a written statement, the department told the Herald that the update cannot provide a direct link between cancer cases and environmental exposure, including the plume. Evaluations of environmental exposure can draw some health associations, but they cannot determine causality.

"There is no new threat to public health, and prior exposures have been addressed for more than a decade due to the efforts of New York State," the statement read. "The Department is currently working on the study and upon completion of the report will announce findings and host a public meeting."

The race against the spread

The state continues its effort to clean up the plume while keeping the affected communities informed. The DEC facilitates regular community meetings through its Community Participation Working Group, comprising elected officials, agencies, businesses and experts

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Saga of Navy-Grumman plume continues

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

that meet on a quarterly basis. The group was established to foster dialogue, improve public understanding, and encourage discussion of the cleanup.

The DEC staff also provides regular project updates at Bethpage Community Council meetings, which are held at the Bethpage Public Library and open to the public.

According to the DEC's January Groundwater Plume Cleanup Update, public water suppliers treat groundwater using established methods to contain regulated contaminants before they reach homes and businesses. Water is drawn from designated sources, treated to meet all federal and state drinking water standards, and distributed through a network of mains and storage tanks. Throughout the process, water quality is continuously monitored to ensure that it remains safe to drink.

The challenge is the magnitude of the contamination.

JASON PELTON
Remedial bureau director,
Department of Environmental Conservation

"We work really closely with the water districts in Nassau County," Pelton said. "Every single day they provide high-quality drinking water that meets all of the New York State Department of Health drinking water requirements."

The system relies on multiple safeguards to maintain high water quality and protect public health. This approach ensures that if standards are not met, suppliers notify customers and take corrective action, which can include temporarily taking wells out of service.

Negotiations among public water suppliers, the DEC, Northrop Grumman and the Navy have focused on funding the treatment systems used to maintain safe drinking water. The Bethpage Water District, for example, operates treatment systems that are considered among the most advanced in the nation, according to the DEC.

Though it is currently not affected, the Massapequa Water District is just outside the current spread of the plume. "We are not an active part of the cleanup yet," Reilly said. "We monitor — there's monitoring wells that we get the data from the Navy and their consultants and the DEC. But we don't have any contamination in our wells from the Grumman Navy plume at this time."

Common misconception has led many Long Island residents to believe the entirety of the South Shore has been impacted, which is not the case. Nonetheless, Reilly said, "The plume is migrating and flowing towards our district."

He explained that while large-scale, permanent systems for treating the underground water are currently under construction, temporary systems have been installed along the leading edge of the plume. They operate on a smaller scale, but they are designed to be mobile, and can be relocated as needed to respond to changing conditions while the permanent treatment infrastructure is being completed.

"The water districts to the north of us are already treating their wells for the contaminants, and they've spent millions upon millions of dollars to get these treatment systems in place," Reilly said. "We haven't had to do that yet — we're watching. We don't want to have to do that, and we're constantly involved in pushing to get these Navy treatment systems up and running, to treat the groundwater."

Northrop Grumman did not respond to requests for comment.

The plume persists — but containment continues

The Navy Grumman groundwater plume is a case



Photos courtesy Department of Environmental Conservation

The Northrop Grumman RW-21 Area Groundwater Extraction and Treatment system processes water when it is pumped out of the aquifer, before sending it back underground.



Courtesy Northrop Grumman

Northrop Grumman was a major manufacturer in the aeronautics industry for the U.S. armed forces. Above, airplane parts in of one its factories.

study that shows local governments and corporations working together to protect communities. The plume's development and spread also show that the consequences of a mistake can be challenging to deal with, and that decades of damage require as much or more time to repair. The DEC's expertise, Northrop Grumman and the Navy's willingness to take responsibility, and the help of local water districts, were essential in making the restoration effort possible.

The public can receive updates about the plume cleanup effort at the DEC's Bethpage Community Council meetings at the Bethpage Public Library, the Navy's semi-annual Resident Advisory Board meetings online at NAVFAC.Navy.Mil/Divisions/Environmental, and Northrop Grumman's website, Northrop-Grumman.com/Sustainability.



DECEX6 is an early exploration well designed to support the cleanup of the plume. The well, installed in the Town of Oyster Bay by the State Department of Environmental Conservation, awaits potential future use if needed.

Educating on matters of the heart's health

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

Physicians from Glen Cove Hospital made a house call to Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club in Locust Valley this month, not to treat a patient, but to discuss the importance of sports physicals and heart health in young athletes, part of a new community wellness series focused on children and teens.

Dr. Brittany Grella, associate program director of the hospital's Family Medicine Residency Program, and Dr. Sophie Golden, a third-year resident in family medicine, led the presentation, which was sponsored by the hospital and drew parents, community members and school officials.

The doctors focused on pre-participation sports evaluations — sports physicals — and why they are critical before children begin athletic activities.

"So what is a sports physical?" Grella asked. "A sports physical is done for children. It's a checkup prior to playing sports. Typically it's done six weeks before they engage in any activity."

The purpose, she explained, is to identify potential underlying conditions that could put a child at risk during exercise.

The physicians outlined the two main components of a sports physical: a detailed medical history and a thorough exam. The history includes questions about fainting, chest pain, irregular heartbeats and any family history of heart disease. The exam includes height, weight, blood pressure, vision



Will Sheeline/Herald photos

Dr. Brittany Grella, left, and her colleague Dr. Sophie Golden, of Glen Cove Hospital, educated parents and community members about cardiac risks for young athletes.

screening and a head-to-toe assessment, including heart and lung function.

Grella referenced the nationally televised cardiac arrest of Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin in a "Monday Night Football" game three years ago as a reminder that, although uncommon, cardiac arrest is always a risk.

"Although these incidences are rare, they do occur," she said. "So it's really important that we're encouraging our children to get sports physicals."

Golden emphasized that most healthy, low-risk children do not need advanced cardiac testing, such as an electro- or echocardiogram, unless their history or physical exam raises con-

cerns. Citing guidance from the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Board of Internal Medicine's Choosing Wisely campaign, she said that unnecessary testing can cause worry without improving outcomes.

"The key takeaway from the presentation was that sports physicals keep you safe and healthy for sports," Golden said. "For most healthy kids, we don't recommend extra tests like echocardiograms or EKGs, because the doctor's questions and listening work best."

The doctors also discussed inherited conditions such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and Marfan syndrome, as well as arrhythmias that can be passed

down within families. They urged parents to be forthcoming about family history, including unexplained deaths before age 50.

"We could hypothesize till we're blue in the face," Golden said in response to a question about why cardiac events seem to have become more common. She noted the role of social media and increased media coverage in raising awareness. "But I do think a lot of it is due to the media presence. Everybody's getting media on their phone, delivered immediately."

The discussion expanded to include childhood obesity, anxiety, stimulant medications and energy drinks. Golden cautioned that supplements are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

The presentation had added local significance after a November incident in Locust Valley. Danielle Turner, director of health, physical education and athletics for the Locust Valley Central School District, spoke about a senior who collapsed on the first day of winter sports, suffering sudden cardiac arrest.

"A senior, visibly very healthy, physically cleared, 17-year-old collapsed in the gym in front of his team," Turner said. Coaches trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator responded immediately, and the student was transported to and treated at Glen Cove Hospital. "He's back in school," Turner said. "He's functioning. He's not really exercising too strenuously just yet, but he's functioning."

NEWS BRIEFS

Greenberg to be honored fundraiser

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

The Diabetes Research Institute Foundation will celebrate a major milestone this spring as it hosts its 20th annual Cooking for a Cure fundraiser, honoring Glen Cove resident and attorney Jaime Greenberg for his advocacy and longtime support of diabetes research.

The event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at the Crescent Beach Club in Bayville. Tickets are priced at \$125, and proceeds will directly benefit the foundation's mission to fund cutting-edge research aimed at curing and preventing diabetes.

Greenberg, a partner at Greenberg & Greenberg, has a deeply personal connection to the cause. His 21-year-old son, Sean, lives with type 1 diabetes, a life-long autoimmune condition that requires constant monitoring and insulin management. Years later, Greenberg himself was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes following a serious health incident. Those experiences have fueled his commitment to raising awareness and supporting research that could one day eliminate the disease.

Over the past two decades, Cooking for a Cure has grown into one of Long Island's signature charitable culinary events, drawing community members, business leaders and advocates together for an evening focused on both fellowship and fundraising. Since its inception, the fundraiser has generated more than \$1.5 million to advance the foundation's work.

Funds raised through the event support research initiatives centered on restoring the body's natural insulin production and pursuing a biological cure. Scientists affiliated with the foundation are working on therapies that aim to regenerate insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, improve transplant techniques and develop innovative treatments that reduce the burden of daily disease management.

As the 20th anniversary event approaches, organizers say the goal remains the same: to unite the community around a shared mission of hope, progress and ultimately, a cure. This year's fundraiser will both honor Greenberg's personal dedication and continue the decades-long effort to turn scientific breakthroughs into life-changing results for families affected by diabetes.

Suoizzi Secures \$12.3M in Federal funds

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

Congressman Tom Suoizzi announced that Congress has approved a federal appropriations package that includes \$12,352,000 for 12 projects he requested to support communities across Long Island and Queens. The House passed the minibuss appropriations bill on Jan. 8, followed by Senate approval on Jan. 15. The legislation has now been sent to the president for signature.

According to Suoizzi, the bipartisan package delivers critical investments in police equipment, clean drinking water and sewer infrastructure. He said Republicans and Democrats worked together to secure more than \$12 million for projects essential to New York communities, noting that local governments and water districts urged him to pursue the funding.

Among the funded projects is \$956,000 for the Glen Cove Police Department to purchase updated technology and equipment. Glen Cove Mayor Pam Panzenbeck said the Community Project Funding will provide the department with the tools needed

to build on its success and continue keeping Glen Cove safe. Police Chief Christopher W. Ortiz said the funding will allow the department to move technologically into the forefront of modern policing, which he said will directly result in a safer community.

The Village of Sea Cliff will receive \$1,092,000 to construct sewer lines connecting the existing Nassau County sanitary collection system tributary to the Glen Cove Water Reclamation Facility. Sea Cliff Mayor Elena Villafane said the award recognizes more than two decades of sustained commitment to protecting the harbor and coastal environment by replacing outdated cesspools with modern sanitary sewer infrastructure. She said the funding will advance sewer expansion efforts that improve water quality, protect public health and strengthen long-term community resilience.

In addition to the 12 funded projects, three other Suoizzi-supported initiatives totaling \$5,350,000, there is a \$2.5 million for the Incorporated Village of Lattingtown to repair the emergency evacuation route along East Beach Drive.

-Roksana Amid



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State Republicans rally around Blakeman

County executive, now the GOP nominee for governor, has plenty to say about Hochul at convention

By CHRIS COLUCCI, ABIGAIL GRIECO
& ANGELINA ZINGARIELLO

of the Herald

After three days of official business, rallying the party faithful and nominating the state Republican slate, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman was front and center at the party's convention in Garden City last week, and accepted the GOP's nomination to be its gubernatorial candidate.

If elected, Blakeman would be only the second Long Islander to become governor, 127 years after Teddy Roosevelt did so, and the first Nassau County executive to hold the state's top office.

Blakeman criticized Gov. Kathy Hochul and pledged to cut income taxes for middle-class families, reduce electricity bills by rolling back state-imposed fees and mandates, and redirect spending he said is being wasted to instead fund schools, infrastructure, hospitals and services for veterans.

"Taxes are soaring, electric bills and insurance premiums keep climbing out of control," Blakeman said on Feb. 11, the third and final day of the convention. "Crime is rising. Businesses are leaving the state in record numbers. Families and seniors are being priced out of their homes. New York ranks dead last for economic development, and number 45 out of 50 states in the nation for affordability, and it's all a direct result of Kathy Hochul's failed policies."

He vowed to oppose congestion pricing, protect Second Amendment rights and support law enforcement, including keeping violent offenders in prison and revisiting criminal justice policies such as cashless bail and parole standards.

"I will bring the experience, leadership and focus on public safety," Blakeman said. "We will make you safer in your homes and your communities, and we will continue to fight for your families. I will be governor for all the people, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, abilities and lifestyles."

Upstate Madison County Sheriff Todd Hood was introduced as Blakeman's running mate, the candidate for lieutenant governor. Hood pledged to support Blakeman and help lead what he described as an effort to fix the state's pressing problems. A third-term elected sheriff with more than 30 years of law enforcement service, Hood framed his candidacy around public safety and government accountability.

He argued that the state has become less safe and more expensive under one-party rule, criticizing bail laws, anti-police rhetoric and high taxes that he said have hurt communities and driven families and small businesses out of the state.

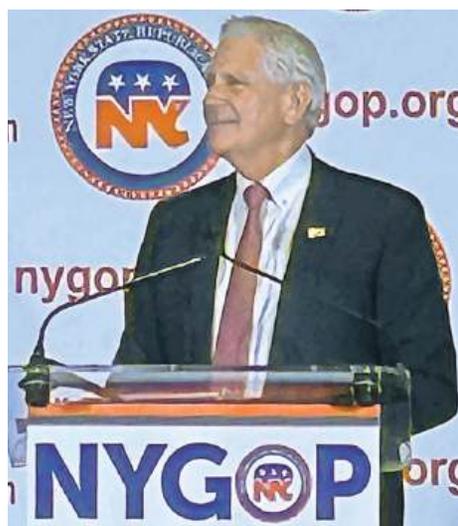
Hood said that he and Blakeman would stand with law enforcement and crime victims, cut taxes, rein in state spending and work to make New York more affordable.

"That's the kind of leadership that I'll bring to the lieutenant governor's office," Hood said. "Bruce Blakeman and



Angelina Zingariello/Herald photos

State Republican Party members showed their support for Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman's gubernatorial run.



Blakeman, the party's nominee for governor, noted Gov. Kathy Hochul's "failed policies" on Feb. 11.

I are running to restore common sense."

Former Gov. George Pataki, New York's last Republican governor, who served three terms, from 1995 to 2006, offered his support as well, making clear the party's push to win back the governor's office.

"I've known Bruce for decades," Pataki said of Blakeman. "He is someone who loves this country and loves this state. He is someone who has dedicated his life to public service to make the lives of others better. And he hasn't just tried. He has succeeded."

Delegates also nominated Saritha Komatireddy, a former federal prosecutor, for attorney general, with 86.3 percent of the vote. She defeated Brooklyn attorney Khurram Dara. Komatireddy emphasized her experience prosecuting terrorism and public corruption, and pledged to focus on public safety.

"I've spent my life in public service and public safety," she said. "New Yorkers are tired of seeing criminals released over and over again while families feel



Photos courtesy Brian Grogan

Saritha Komatireddy, a former federal prosecutor, is the GOP's pick for attorney general.

unsafe in their own communities."

The party's nominee for comptroller, Joseph Hernandez, shared his family's story of emigrating from Cuba after his father was a political prisoner. He criticized current Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli and outlined plans to invest \$1 billion in Israeli bonds and launch a proposed \$10 billion "Empire Opportunity Fund."

"I know a communist when I see a communist," Hernandez said of DiNapoli. "My friends, he is a communist." Long Beach Republican Chairman Jim Moriarty pointed to Nassau County as a microcosm of the state.

"In Nassau County, the demographics and all other statistics mirrors the state of New York," Moriarty said on the second day of the convention. "He's got tremendous executive experience," he added of Blakeman. "He's shown he can win and attract bipartisan support. He's going to be a tremendous candidate and a great governor."

Along with Hochul, the Democratic



George Pataki, the last Republican to serve as governor, joined the party's push to win back the office.

slate includes incumbents Attorney General Letitia James and DiNapoli, a native Long Islander. The lieutenant governor candidate is Adrienne Adams, the former speaker of the New York City Council.

Hochul received a boost in her campaign when current Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado suspended his campaign for governor, deciding not to challenge her in the Democratic primary.

Blakeman is expected to face a challenge in the Republican primary from Libertarian candidate Larry Sharpe. That election is June 23. The general election is on Nov. 3.

Despite Republican support inside the building, Democrats outside made their presence known on Feb. 11.

"We're here to send a message to our Republicans over in the hotel across the street that we're not going to stand for electing a man as governor of this state who's going to kowtow to Donald Trump," state Democratic Party Chairman Jay Jacobs said.



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The Glen Cove chamber of Commerce celebrated its 27 years of bringing Culinary Delights to the North Shore last year.

A forkful of fun at Culinary Delights

The Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce will host its 28th Annual Culinary Delights on Monday, May 18, from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Mansion at Glen Cove, located at 200 Dosoris Lane.

The longstanding food and wine showcase, presented in support of NOSH Delivers, brings together top local chefs, award-winning restaurants and food and beverage vendors from across the North Shore for an evening of tastings in an elegant setting. Guests will sample a wide variety of cuisine, along with fine wines and spirits, while enjoying live music and raffle opportunities throughout the night.

Culinary Delights has become one of the Chamber's signature annual events, drawing hundreds of residents, business leaders and food enthusiasts. Participating restaurants and catering companies will offer signature dishes and specialty items, giving attendees the opportunity to experience the diversity of Glen Cove's dining scene in one venue.

Early bird tickets are currently available for \$65 per person. Discounts are offered for seniors and first responders. Tickets can be purchased online at GlenCoveChamber.org/Culinary. Additional event information is available by contacting the Chamber at 516-676-6666 or by emailing info@glencovechamber.org.

Proceeds from the event help support NOSH Delivers, the Glen Cove-based food relief organization that provides groceries and essential items to families in need throughout the community.

Organizers encourage residents to purchase tickets in advance, as the event traditionally draws a strong turnout. With its combination of fine foods, wine and spirits, live entertainment and community spirit, Culinary Delights continues to serve as both a celebration of local businesses and a fundraiser benefiting neighbors in need.



Dr. Patricia Charlemagne
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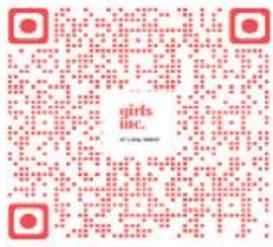
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STEPPING OUT

Hoops, hijinks and history Harlem Globetrotters at 100

By Andrew Coen

A century after the team's founding, Harlem Globetrotters storied history comes alive when the latest iteration of the quick-fingered hoops stars return here.

The Globetrotters bring their 100 Year Tour to Nassau Coliseum, on Feb. 21, giving fans a chance to see the team's well-known acrobatic dunks, trick shots and long-range shots up close. This special appearance marks the first time the iconic team — debuting their new 100 Year jerseys — has performed in the arena against longtime rivals, the Washington Generals, since 2017. From gravity-defying dunks to game-changing tricks, everyone will certainly feel the history, the joy, and those “wow” moments in true Globetrotters style.

What started with Curly, Meadowlark, Wilt, and Geese continues on today with Hammer, Torch, Bulldog, Cheese, Jet, Wham, Thunder, TNT — and so many more. Taking inspiration from the fun-loving and awe-inspiring players of the past, today's Globetrotters stars are ready to wow you on the court and in the crowd.

The team is full of a number of talented men and women basketball players who were for various



Photos courtesy Harlem Globetrotters
Andrew “Big Dog” Whitsett, right, a 7'1" forward/finisher, commands attention with his size and presence on the court.



The centennial season's “5th Quarter” post-game session gives fans some special moments with players.



Guard Lucius “Too Tall” Winston's favorite trick is the 2 Ball Spin. He holds eight Guinness World Records, including Most Figure Eight Dribbles in One Minute (2020) and Most Three Point Shots Made By a Pair in One Minute (2020).

reasons counted out throughout their lives, according to Lucius “Too Tall” Winston, who has spent the last nine years with the Globetrotters. Winston, despite his nickname, only measures 5'11" and was told by a former coach at age 15 he was too short to play college or professional basketball.

“You have a ton of guys through our team that had to face adversity and that builds character,” he says. “I got a chance to see that coach a couple years ago after he saw me play and he said he wanted to apologize for what he said to me and I told him if he didn't tell me those words at that age I probably wouldn't be where I am today.”

Winston is as fanatical about basketball today as he was as a young player in his hometown of Russellville, Ala. His love of the sport has crossed from player to coach to motivational speaker. Winston dedicates his personal time to organizations that shine a light on the sport with emphasis on leadership, team work and focus. True joy for him comes with motivating kids to get out of their comfort zone and pursue their dreams — anything is possible with good character, good grades and hard work.

The Globetrotters have revolutionized the sport of basketball throughout its 100-year history, including popularizing the slam dunk. The team's roster includes Zeus McClurkin, who set a record for the most dunks in a minute with 16 in 2016.

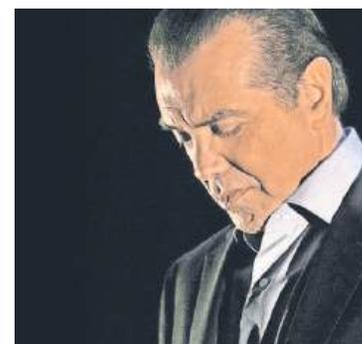
In addition to the Globetrotters' famed high-flying dunks, the number of long-distance shots are always a thrill. The Globetrotters famously introduced a 4-point shot in 2011, 30 feet from the basket, which is seven feet longer than the NBA's three-point line.

Winston, who played college basketball at Tuskegee University, relates that interaction with the fans is what makes attending a Globetrotter game particularly unique. Among the signature moments, the team holds a free postgame autograph session. And during the game those in the crowd are frequently called down to the court to participate in stunts. Everyone can also take part in premium options that enable pregame access to meet players along with joining the team for warmups on the court.

“You get to see guys that can play the game at a high level who can jump out of the gym and shoot the ball extremely well and you'll also see plenty of entertainment as well,” Winston says. “It's a high quality game from start to finish and then at the end fans are allowed to come down courtside and get autographs and take pictures with us.”

International icons, the Globetrotters are considered “ambassadors” of the game, beloved the world over for their special brand athleticism that combines the skills and foundations of basketball with a uniquely theatrical flare. From breaking the NBA color barrier with alums like Nat “Sweetwater” Clifton signing a pro contract as a member of the New York Knicks or courting future Hall of Famers like Wilt Chamberlain and Connie Hawkins; or Curly Neal and Meadowlark Lemon dazzling sellout crowds; to ushering women into professional basketball; to the current group, the Globetrotters' reach and impact attract attention.

The current team of elite men and women, holders of an unprecedented 60+ Guinness World Records, including 18 set just last year — the most of any team in any sport — bring a fresh look of gravity-defying dunks and game-changing tricks against their renowned rivals in this special centennial season.



Wild days in the Bronx

Chazz Palminteri is back on the Paramount stage with his electrifying solo performance of “A Bronx Tale,” the autobiographical one-man show that launched his remarkable career. Riveting and deeply personal, it draws on Palminteri's bruising Bronx childhood, including the moment — at nine-years-old — when he witnessed a gangland killing that forever shaped his view of the world. Palminteri inhabits 18 vivid characters, seamlessly shifting between friends, foes and family members to conjure an entire neighborhood with nothing but his voice, physicality and storytelling prowess. First written and performed in 1989, “A Bronx Tale” became a sensation, hailed as one of the most sought-after properties since “Rocky.” The original production paved the way for the acclaimed film adaptation — directed by Robert De Niro — and later a hit Broadway musical.

Sunday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountry.com.



Sarah Hanahan

Tilles Center Atrium becomes an intimate lounge to showcase exciting up-and-coming jazz talent Sarah Hanahan, presented in collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center. The dynamic, soulful alto saxophonist is swiftly emerging as one of the most compelling new voices in jazz. A graduate of both the Jackie McLean Institute of Jazz and The Juilliard School, she blends deep-rooted swing and bebop traditions with a bold, modern intensity. Since stepping onto the scene, Hanahan has performed with an extraordinary range of jazz luminaries. Her commanding tone, technical mastery, and melodic imagination have taken her to major stages across the U.S. and abroad, with regular appearances at premier New York City venues. Whether fronting her own quartet or collaborating with some of the music's most revered artists, Hanahan plays with passion, precision and an unwavering commitment to the ever-evolving art of jazz.

Thursday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m. Tilles Center, LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville. Tickets available at tillescenter.org or (516) 299-3100.



- Feb. 21, 2 p.m.
- Tickets range from \$50-\$200; available at ticketmaster.com and harlemlglobetrotters.com
- Nassau Coliseum, Hempstead Tpke., Uniondale

YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD

CALENDAR

FEB
21 **Black History Month Gala & Legacy Awards**

I Am My Sister invites all to an elegant black-tie evening celebrating culture, leadership and community impact at its annual gala. This year's theme, "Our Stories, Our Strength: A Legacy of Power," sets the tone for a night of inspiration, recognition and fundraising in support of the organization's youth leadership and empowerment programs. Enjoy a cocktail hour followed by dinner, dancing, raffles, a silent auction, live performances and the presentation of Legacy Awards honoring local trailblazers who have made lasting contributions to Glen Cove and the surrounding community.

- **Where:** The Metropolitan Caterers, 3 Pratt Blvd.
- **Time:** 6 p.m. cocktail hour; program begins at 7 p.m.
- **Contact:** iammysister.org or call (516) 528-4989

Art explorations

Converse, collaborate and create with kids at Family Saturdays at Nassau County Museum of Art. Get inspired by the art and objects in the galleries and then join educators at the Manes Center to explore and discover different materials to create your own original artwork. Kids and adults connect while talking about and making art together. A new project is featured every week. \$20 adult, \$10 child. For ages 2-14. Registration required. \$20, \$10 child; members free.

- **Where:** 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** Noon-3 p.m.
- **Contact:** nassaumuseum.org or (516) 484-9337

FEB
22 **Ink & Impressions**

Stop by Sands Point Preserve to step into the role of ancient scribes with instructor Mike Evans. Craft your own reed pens and natural ink using plant-based materials, all while exploring how ancient writing evolved from the land itself. This workshop blends history, artistry, and reflection — perfect for those who enjoy tactile creativity with a story-rich context. For adults and youth 12+. \$40, \$35 members. Registration required.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 10 a.m.-noon
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

**FEB**
27 **"Don't stop believin'...**

Voyage rocks on with another dynamic tribute to Journey. The popular band takes everyone back to the '80s when Journey's timeless music ruled the airwaves. Hailed by fans and critics alike, the band performs the music with chilling accuracy. Voyage is celebrated for their uncanny ability to recreate the legendary sound, energy and passion of one of rock's greatest bands. With their blistering guitar solos, lush keyboard arrangements, electrifying stage presence, and stunning harmonies, the band has earned a reputation as the ultimate homage to Journey's timeless music. Fronted by vocalist Pedro Espada, whose range and tone is acclaimed as rivaling the iconic Steve Perry, he's backed by a lineup of world-class musicians — Robby Hoffman, Greg Smith, Lance Millard, and Dana Spellman — who bring every note to life with precision and heart. Voyage doesn't just perform Journey's greatest hits, they transport audiences back to the height of arena rock glory. From the soaring ballads of "Faithfully" and "Open Arms" to the anthemic energy of "Don't Stop Believin'" and "Separate Ways," every performance is a journey through the soundtrack of a generation. Whether you're a lifelong fan or discovering the magic of Journey for the first time, Voyage promises a night of unforgettable rock 'n' roll.

- **Where:** The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington.
- **Time:** 8 p.m.
- **Contact:** ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com

Art talk

Nassau County Museum of Art hosts Dee Shapiro, a New York-based artist, is known for her richly detailed paintings exploring geometry, architecture, and place. She discusses works from her City and Landscapes series featured in The Real, Surreal, and Photoreal exhibit, which capture the rhythm and structure of urban and natural environments. \$20, \$15 seniors, \$10 students (members free). Limited seating, register in advance.

- **Where:** 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** 3 p.m.
- **Contact:** nassaumuseum.org or (516) 484-9337

FEB
24 **Pre-council meets**

Glen Cove City Council holds a pre-council meeting prior to its regularly scheduled session to outline key topics on the agenda and allow council members to prepare for public discussion. Residents and interested parties may attend to stay informed about upcoming city business. Meetings often include updates on municipal projects, policy matters, and

community concerns.

- **Where:** Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen St.
- **Time:** 7:30-8 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 676-2000

FEB
26 **'Brown Bag' Art Chat**

Grab your lunch and join Nassau County Museum of Art Docent Riva Ettus for her popular "Brown Bag Lecture" at the museum. Explore "The Real, Surreal, and Photoreal," through a lively and informative presentation. No reservations. First come, first seated.

- **Where:** 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** 1 p.m.
- **Contact:** nassaumuseum.org or (516) 484-9337

MAR
1 **Drawing Parallels with Simon Deng**

Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center hosts Simon Deng, a South Sudanese-American human rights activist and former child slave who has dedicated his life to fighting modern-day slavery and promoting freedom. Enslaved at age nine during a militia raid, he

escaped after three years and later found refuge in the U.S., where he became a prominent voice against human rights abuses in Sudan and Darfur. Deng joins Alan Mindel, Chair of HMTCL's Board of Directors, for a powerful conversation about the hardships, resilience and purpose that have defined his life and advocacy. Register at hmtcli.org/events. Suggested donation of \$18.

- **Where:** The Inn at Great Neck, 30 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck
- **Time:** 2-4 p.m.
- **Contact:** hmtcli.org or 516-571-8040

Hempstead House Tour

See the grand rooms inside the massive 50,000-square-foot Tudor-style mansion at Sands Point Preserve, the former summer residence of Howard Gould (1912-1917) and later Daniel and Florence Guggenheim (1917-1930). For adults, but children 5+ are allowed. \$10 per person.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** Noon-2 p.m.; also March 15
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

MAR
6 **First Fridays: Through Stained Glass**

Explore the extensive collection of medieval and renaissance stained glass at Planting Fields! During this walk and workshop for adults, participants will discover the travels and stories of a few of the 40-plus stained-glass panes that illuminate the historic house-museum, the Main House. Guests will be guided by Collections and Exhibitions Manager Emily Leger, and Archivist Marie Penny to view the Corpus Vitrearum, an International scholarly compilation of historic glass windows. Also make your own faux stained glass to bring home and enjoy! \$25.

- **Where:** Main House, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 2-3:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210

MAR
7 **Winter Forest Walk**

Join naturalist Virginal Dankel for an interactive winter stroll across the Nassau County Museum of Art grounds. During this seasonal walk, participants can expand their knowledge of the natural world and strengthen their powers of observation. Adults only. \$20, \$10 members. Registration required.

- **Where:** Manes Education Center, 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** nassaumuseum.org or (516) 484-9337

Having an event?

Items on the Calendar page are listed free of charge. The Herald welcomes listings of upcoming events, community meetings and items of public interest. All submissions should include date, time and location of the event, cost, and a contact name and phone number. Submissions can be emailed to kbloom@liherald.com.

Glen Head residents oppose Propel

More permits required before construction

By **JULIA CAPITELLI**

jcapitelli@liherald.com

As the Propel project to install underground powerlines across Long Island into the Bronx and Westchester awaits approvals, Glen Head residents continue to raise concerns and oppose the construction.

The New York Power Authority and New York Transco plan to install nearly 90 miles of cables in the Propel project. Three of the proposed lines will pass through Glen Head and Glenwood Landing. A roughly 9.1-mile line will run from a Uniondale hub to Shore Road and a 17.7-mile line from Melville to Shore Road. Another 17.7-mile line will run from Shore Road to Westchester.

With construction expected to start later this year, Propel continues moving through the permitting process which includes permits at the federal, state and local levels. The project is still waiting for approvals from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the New York State Public Service Commission.

The project is going through the Article VII process at the state level to review several aspects of a project, including environmental compatibility and public need. It also requires public input. Transco says the Propel team has used many methods of public outreach, such as public information sessions, surveys and open houses, but Glen Head residents say there is a lack of communication to their community specifically.

“The fact that they refuse to come and meet with our community,” said Glen Head resident Christine Panzeca, “is more than insulting.” Panzeca has opposed the project from the beginning and has joined George Pombar, head of the Glen Head Glenwood Landing Civic Council, in organizing informational events for the community regarding Propel.

Marykate Guilfoyle, manager of media, communications and events for New York Transco wrote in response to written questions that Propel is still on track to meet its permitting targets and start construction this year. New York Independent System Operator, the state grid operator, requires the project to be in-service by May 2030. However, the timeline of construction itself remains unclear.

“Each project is unique,” Guilfoyle wrote, “and there are no specific standards.”

Residents raised concerns related to construction, such as worsening traffic, difficulty getting students to and from school and trouble accessing driveways.

In Guilfoyle’s response to written questions, she wrote that construction will be done in phases to limit disrup-

tions. She added that people will not be blocked from getting in or out of their driveways.

Pombar also expressed concerns about impact on local businesses, especially if construction makes it difficult for people to find parking and access buildings.

On a phone call, Guilfoyle said that the Propel team put out a survey that businesses can take to communicate details such as their parking situations and seasonality.

She explained that the Propel team will use the information to plan construction so impact to businesses is minimized.

A public notice from the Army Corps of Engineers from June 2025 states that the overall purpose of the proposed project is “to satisfy the New York State Public Service Commission-declared Long Island Offshore Wind Export Public Policy Transmission Need to increase transmission capability from Long Island into southeastern New York.”

Some offshore wind projects off Long Island have been cancelled after the Trump administration did not issue permits. Residents also continue to claim that Propel is connected to both wind projects and battery energy storage systems.

“It’s disingenuous,” Panzeca said, “for them to present these as all separate projects.”

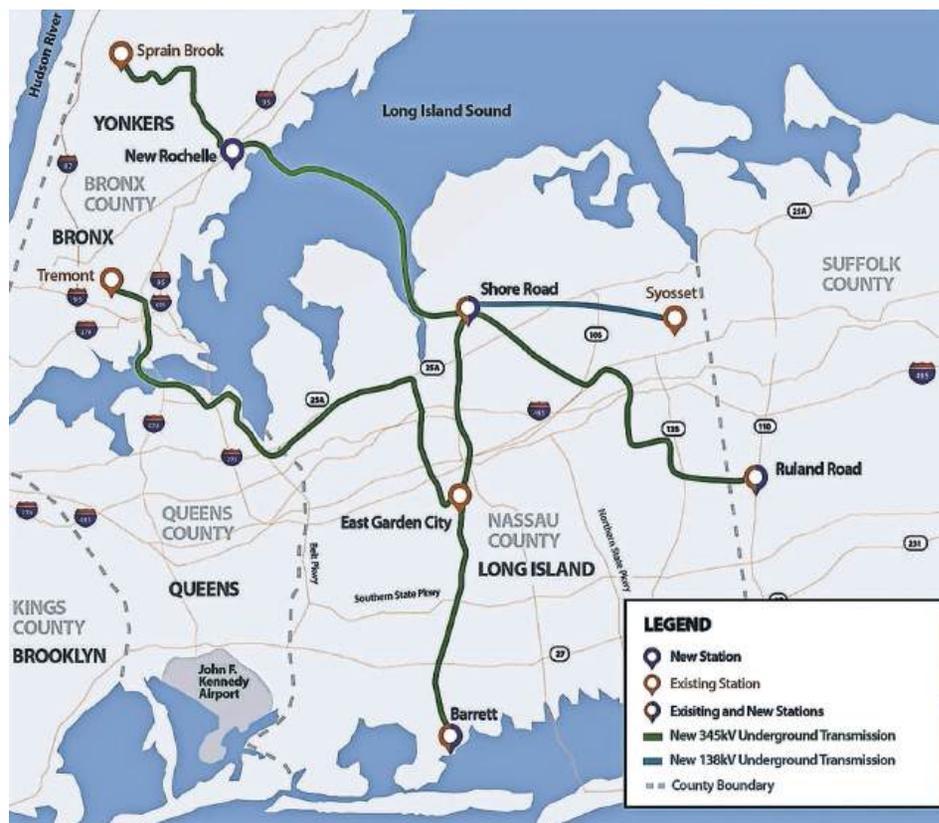
In the same response to written questions, Guilfoyle reiterated that Propel does not include battery storage nor is it affiliated with battery storage developers. She said via phone call that Propel is not a wind project.

The Public Service Commission released a Public Policy Transmission Need in 2021. Since then, the state grid operator has identified issues with downstate grid pertaining to congestion, reliability and capacity to move power.

Guilfoyle explained in a separate written response that Propel’s transmission lines are “energy agnostic,” meaning they do not move any one specific type of power. The state grid operator selected Propel in 2023 to address trouble with reliability and power flow.

“Propel NY is not tied to offshore wind and does not rely on any generation source,” Guilfoyle wrote. “The Propel NY project holds no contracts or agreements with wind developers or projects, better storage companies or projects, or any other generation sources.”

Should all required permits be issued, Propel construction is expected to begin this year. Guilfoyle wrote that as construction gets closer, the companies will share “detailed, location-specific information” with affected residents, businesses and municipalities.



Herald file photo

Three lines in the Propel project will pass through Glen Head and Glenwood Landing.



Will Sheeline/Herald

Christine Panzeca shared her research on Propel NY’s planned transmission project with business owners and members of the Greenvale Civic Association last November.

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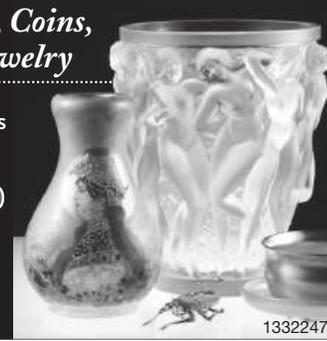
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OPINIONS

I'm focused on getting New York's tax dollars back

For decades, New Yorkers have faced high taxes, rising prices and infrastructure in need of repair. At the same time, we've been subsidizing other states with our federal tax dollars. New York is a big "donor" state, while most red states are "taker" states.



**TOM
SUOZZI**

I'm always trying to bring money back to my district, and in the past couple of weeks I've had some new success doing just that. I announced more than \$17 million in funding for community projects in my district.

Everyone knows that we're facing a cost-of-living crisis. From health care to housing, energy to groceries, prices are sky-high. To make matters worse, New Yorkers bear one of the heaviest tax burdens in the country, which only adds to our cost of living. People are leaving our state at a record pace.

When I was born, New York had more than 40 representatives in the U.S. House. Now we only have 26. That number will be smaller after the next census,

as low-tax states continue to grow rapidly while New York's population stays essentially the same. That's not just a loss of political power, but a referendum on how expensive it is to live here. Between our sky-high property taxes and the loss of our full SALT deduction (which I continue to fight to reinstate), it's no wonder people are moving out.

They're fleeing to red states in the South with much lower state taxes. The irony is that states like New York have long sent more money to the federal government than we get back, and Washington spends it proping up "poor" states like Florida, South Carolina and Tennessee. For every dollar we pay in federal taxes, we get 91 cents back. Kentucky gets \$2.50. It's just unfair.

Meanwhile, our town and village governments are under water. Our infrastructure is older and more expensive to maintain, and local budgets scramble to keep up. While New Yorkers fund new projects in the South, our own infrastructure risks lagging behind and our taxes continue to rise. We have been subsidizing our own demise.

That's why one of my core missions

in Congress is simple and direct: bring our money back home.

I'm working to make sure my constituents get a fairer return on the dollars we contribute to the federal government. That means fighting for federal funding that eases the burden on local governments, strengthens our infrastructure and protects public health and safety.

Recently that work paid off. I secured millions of dollars worth of projects for my district, making sure federal money was included in a funding package that Democrats and Republicans worked together to craft. Those funds will support a wide range of critical projects that directly affect my constituents' lives.

They'll help replace old sewer pipes in Roslyn and Manorhaven, and replace old cesspools with new sewer lines in Sea Cliff. They will help prevent harmful runoff into Hempstead Harbor and Manhasset Bay, helping preserve our Long Island Sound ecosystem. Other projects will protect drinking water supplies from so-called "forever chemicals" and other contaminants.

The funding will also provide much-needed technology and equipment for

the Glen Cove Police Department. In Bethpage, the money will help build infrastructure to remove chemicals from the water supply linked to the Navy-Grumman plume. It will help create a vibrant downtown in Huntington by supporting affordable housing and business spaces. And in Lattingtown, these funds will go toward repairing emergency evacuation routes along East Beach Drive, improving our roads and safety during severe weather.

Securing funds for sewer repairs and water wells isn't glamorous work, but it's crucial. It's not only about improving public health, environmental protection and local infrastructure; it's also about fairness. New Yorkers contribute massively to the federal government, subsidizing growth in other states, and it's time we got our fair share back.

I'll never stop fighting to make sure we get back as much of the money we send to the federal government as possible, and use it to lessen the pressure on local budgets, improve our public health and safety, and reduce costs. In the months ahead I'll propose a dramatic change to the federal tax code to try and bring more of New Yorkers' money back to New York, to reduce our tax burden. Stay tuned.

Tom Suozzi represents the 3rd Congressional District.

The question 'why' haunts county government

Often as a Nassau County legislator, I find myself questioning why certain issues unfold the way they do. On many occasions and with increased frequency in this hyper-partisan age, the operations of government are closely tied to politics.

The "why," however, isn't always readily apparent — and it's our job as legislators to dig deeper and identify the cases in which that connection is found beneath the surface.



**DELIA
DERIGGI-WHITTON**

Take contracts for outside legal counsel, for instance. While the county continues to benefit from an attorney's office staffed by many qualified lawyers, it is occasionally necessary to outsource highly complex cases to firms with special expertise. The emphasis, however, should be on "occasionally."

During the administration of former County Executive Laura Curran, the county spent approximately \$5 million for this service. Fast-forward to 2025 and the administration of Bruce Blakeman, and a recent audit by the Nassau Inter-

im Finance Agency identified more than \$23 million in spending on outside legal counsel last year alone.

Many of these outside-counsel contracts are for cases that are ill-advised legally or should be handled in-house.

Some recent examples include spending \$3.2 million to defend county fee practices that courts have already ruled illegal or unconstitutional; millions to defend a case brought by Newsday, alleging financial retaliation over critical coverage; and millions more right after Election Day 2025.

The last included a contract for a Republican legislative candidate. While Blakeman's administration initiated it last spring, they failed to disclose it until after Election Day, when it arrived at the Legislature for our consideration.

While the "why" was abundantly clear in that example, the answer for many of the other contracts can be found only in the fine print. Every proposal the Legislature receives comes with a list of the firm's political contributions, as required by county law. Most, if not all, of those donations go to the county executive or his Republican colleagues in the Legislature.

The same holds true for Blakeman's

disastrous handling of the Department of Assessment. According to one assessment expert, the tax rolls are more inaccurate now than they have been at any point in the past 25 years — so why has Blakeman chosen to keep them frozen, do nothing, and then dishonestly claim that he "fixed" the system?

Campaign donations.

The firms that challenge homeowners' assessments each year make huge sums of money by taking advantage of dysfunctional, indefensible tax rolls that are riddled with inaccuracies and discrepancies. And, right on cue, those firms donate generously to Blakeman and the Republicans, who keep the system broken for their benefit — and county property owners are the ones who end up paying the price.

Finally, the "why" I find hardest to accept is related to the county's nearly \$100 million in opioid fund reserves. For nearly five years, most of these funds have sat in bank accounts, and as of December, a review of Nassau's financial system shows that less than 7 percent of the money has made it out of those bank accounts and into actual treatment initiatives.

The technical nature of the "why" in

this case makes it no less an outrage. The county's financial condition is monitored by Moody's and other rating agencies, and municipal reserves are a major factor in their determinations. Instead of delivering resources to agencies that offer lifesaving prevention, treatment and recovery resources to people struggling with addiction, Nassau has released the funds at a snail's pace. Having these funds on the books artificially increases the county's total reserves. While that may have helped our bond ratings, that's little comfort for families that are desperate for help and hope.

Now that we understand the "why" behind these glaring examples of dysfunction, it's incumbent on us all to answer the next-most-important question — "how?" How do we correct these errors? How do we install guardrails to prevent their return? And most important, how do we ensure that we are always serving the people of Nassau County to the best of our ability?

That must be our mission throughout 2026. It's time for the Legislature to reassert its crucial role as a coequal branch of government, and challenge the county executive when his administration's actions conflict with the best interests of county residents.

Delia DeRiggi-Whitton represents Nassau County's 11th Legislative District and is the Legislature's minority leader.

That means fighting for federal funding to ease the burden on local governments.

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ROKSANA AMID
Editor

JULIA CAPITELLI
Reporter

RHONDA GLICKMAN
Vice President - Sales

OFFICE
2 Endo Boulevard
Garden City, NY 11530

Phone: (516) 569-4000

Fax: (516) 569-4942

Web: glencove.ljherald.com

E-mail: glencove-editor@ljherald.com

Twitter: @NSHeraldGazette

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Misleading safety data could hurt kids

A Feb. 2 report, “Violent and Disruptive Incidents and Bullying in New York Schools,” from State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli should serve as a wake-up call for anyone tempted to declare victory on school safety.

While official data shows that rates of “serious” violent and disruptive incidents are near zero, bullying, cyberbullying and drug-related incidents are rising statewide — in many cases exceeding pre-pandemic levels. That disconnect matters, because it reveals a system that risks measuring safety by definitions rather than by students’ lived experiences.

According to DiNapoli’s analysis of seven years of School Safety and Educational Climate data from the State Education Department, bullying is now the most frequently reported school safety incident.

In the 2023-24 school year, bullying, not including cyberbullying, accounted for nearly two-thirds of all reported incidents statewide. Almost 30,000 bullying incidents were reported, translating to 12.4 incidents per 1,000 pupils. In schools that reported at least one incident, the rate was far higher.

Cyberbullying, meanwhile, remains officially “low” in the data, but that is precisely the problem. Anonymity, off-campus activity and the digital lives students have after dismissal make cyberbullying notoriously difficult to detect and report. The report itself acknowledges that many incidents likely go unreported. When nearly 35 percent of public schools report no bullying or

cyberbullying incidents, the question is not whether bullying exists, but whether schools are capturing it honestly.

Drug-related incidents tell a similar story. After dropping during the period of remote learning, the number of drug incidents in secondary schools has risen above pre-Covid levels. Statewide rates climbed from 4.2 incidents per 1,000 students in 2017-18 to 6.5 in 2023-24, with especially high rates in upstate districts. These are not abstract numbers. They reflect daily realities that students, teachers and families confront in hallways, bathrooms and social spaces.

Yet at the same time these troubling trends are rising, reports of serious violent and disruptive incidents — such as assault, sexual offenses and weapons possession — have plummeted. That decline coincides not with a dramatic transformation of school culture, but with changes to reporting definitions implemented in 2021-22. Under the revised rules, incidents are only reportable if the offender is at least 10 years old, the incident meets felony criteria, and it has been referred to law enforcement.

The result is a dataset that may be technically accurate under state rules, but deeply misleading if taken at face value. Schools may still experience serious incidents that never meet the threshold for state reporting, creating a false sense of security for parents and policymakers who rely on these numbers to assess safety.

This is not the intent of New York’s school safety laws. The Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act,

enacted in 2000, and the Dignity for All Students Act, adopted a decade later, were designed to protect young people and ensure transparency in reporting harassment, bullying and violence. After the Sandy Hook tragedy in Connecticut, New York state rightly sought to refine and streamline reporting to focus on prevention. But refinement must not become minimization.

Limiting cellphone use during the school day is a modest step in the right direction. It will reduce in-school distractions. But bullying and cyberbullying don’t stop at the dismissal bell. Students carry their social worlds and their conflicts home in their pockets. Without sustained education, intervention and accountability, phones will simply resume their role as weapons after school hours.

Schools need to be honest with themselves about what these incidents are and properly report them to the State Education Department. That honesty isn’t about protecting reputations or presenting a picture of perfect calm. It’s about identifying real problems so they can be addressed.

Pretending a school or district is blissful may look good on paper, but it does nothing to protect students. Reliable, transparent data is the foundation of meaningful solutions.

If we want safer schools in reality and not just safer statistics, we must confront bullying, cyberbullying and substance use head-on, report them accurately, and commit to prevention that extends beyond the school day. Our children deserve nothing less.

LETTERS

Peter King goes too easy on ICE agents

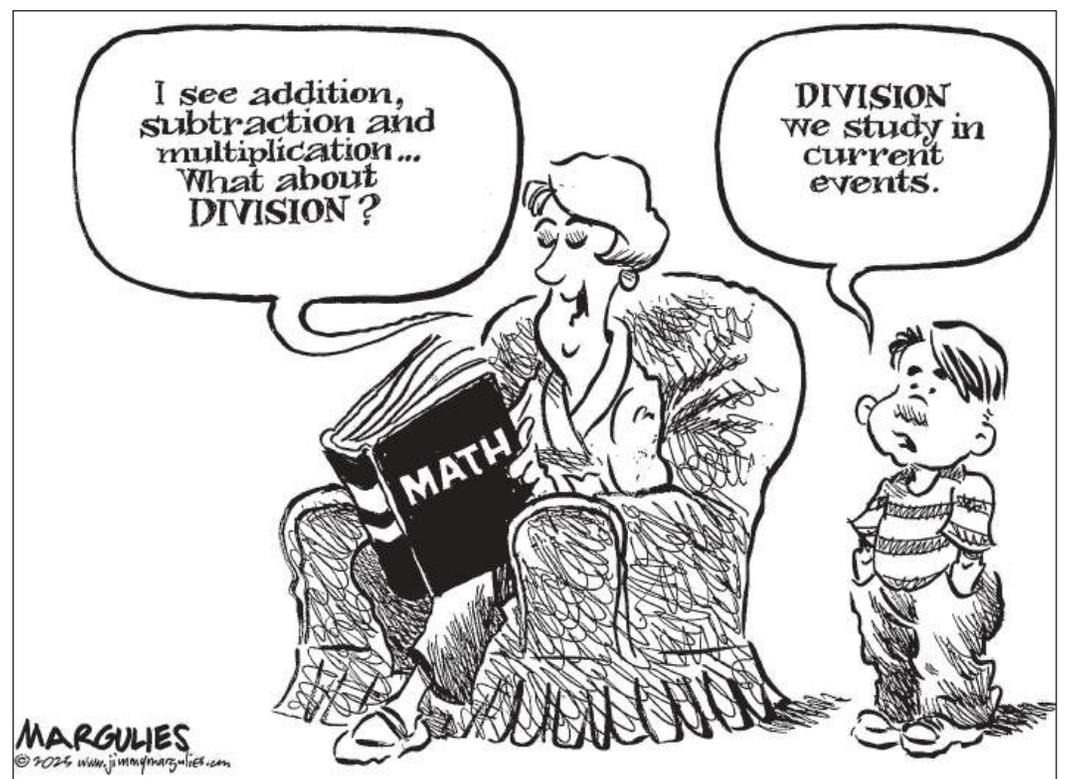
To the Editor:

Re Peter King’s column “There are better ways to resolve the immigration crisis” in last week’s issue: The videos we all saw of Renee Good and Alex Pretti being shot to death by ICE agents contradict Mr. King’s description. He referred to these horrific acts as “heat-of-the-moment reactions to unexpected incidents.”

Additionally, Mr. King opposes “any requirement that ICE agents remove their masks” because “wearing masks has become absolutely essential for them.”

If only Mr. King found it in his heart to have similar consideration and respect for the families of Renee Good and Alex Pretti.

JOSIE MARINO
Lynbrook



OPINIONS

The part of Tom Suozzi's record no one is talking about

I've spent my life around politics, and I've learned that it's easy to judge a leader by a single headline.

It's much harder, and far more meaningful to look at their entire record, the choices they've made over time and the values that guided them when it truly mattered.

That's why I feel compelled to speak up about Tom Suozzi.



DAVE MEJIAS

Long before immigration became a national wedge issue, before cable news shouting matches and social media outrage dominated the conversation, Tom Suozzi was doing the work. Quietly. Consistently. He acted because he

believed in what was right and what actually made communities stronger. He followed his conscience.

Tom was just 31 when he was elected mayor of Glen Cove. In the 1990s, long before immigration was a political talking point or a cable news obsession, he helped create the first hiring site for immigrant workers on the East Coast. It wasn't just about connecting people to jobs. While workers waited for employment, they were offered English classes,

citizenship preparation, and access to support services that helped them navigate life in a new country.

The message was simple and powerful: we want you to succeed here.

No one talked about the "Latino vote" back then. It happened because Suozzi believed, and still believes, that integration strengthens communities, that dignity matters, and that when people are treated with respect, the entire community benefits. Those values weren't rhetorical. They were embedded in real policies that improved lives.

When Suozzi became Nassau County executive, those same principles guided his leadership. He has always believed in strong, professional law enforcement. But he also understood that real public safety depends on trust. When communities are afraid of the police, crimes go unreported. Witnesses disappear. Victims stay silent. And we are all less safe as a result.

That's why his administration made clear that Nassau County police would focus on local public safety, not federal immigration enforcement. This was about protecting the integrity of policing and ensuring that officers could do their jobs effectively, without turning neighbors into targets or undermining

cooperation between police and the people they serve. It was about making sure victims of crime felt safe enough to seek help, regardless of where they were born.

The results were real. Victims of real crimes were more willing to come forward. Officers could focus on stopping violence and keeping neighborhoods safe. Trust was preserved, and Nassau County was stronger because of it.

At the same time, while Suozzi was county executive, just next door, in Suffolk County, inflammatory rhetoric and aggressive enforcement were tearing at the fabric of communities. That atmosphere of fear and dehumanization didn't exist in isolation. It contributed to the climate that led to the murder of Marcelo Lucero, a heartbreaking reminder that words and policies have consequences far beyond politics.

Suozzi chose a different path, one rooted in safety, accountability and humanity. And his commitment to inclusion wasn't symbolic. It was structural.

When he became county executive, the county had never elected a Hispanic legislator. Suozzi didn't just talk about representation; he helped make it happen. I know, because he helped me get

elected as the first Hispanic legislator in county history. He understood that government should look like the people it serves, and he took concrete steps to make that a reality.

Today, he serves in Congress, where immigration policy is shaped by federal realities and national challenges. He has made real immigration reform a priority, understanding that lasting solutions require serious governing, not slogans, not fear-mongering and not political theater. He has been clear: The border should be secure, and violent criminals should be deported. But immigrants who have lived here for decades, worked hard, paid taxes and raised families deserve a legal path forward, not to be targeted, treated inhumanely or used as political props.

I've seen Tom Suozzi lead when it was hard. I've seen him take risks when others stayed silent. And I've seen him stand with immigrant communities throughout his career, not just when it was convenient.

No person, and no politician, is perfect. But Suozzi has always put himself on the front lines, never shied away from a fight, and never walked away from the people he serves.

That's the part of his record people should be talking about.

Dave Mejias, an attorney in Glen Cove, served in the Nassau County Legislature from 2004 to 2009.

Long before immigration became a national wedge issue, he was doing the work.

LETTERS

Who's left to report the truth?

To the Editor:

As a former reporter, I cherish a free press — and with our democracy hanging by a thread, I refuse to sit by while truth tellers are silenced.

I was bothered that Washington Post owner Jeff Bezos caved to President Trump's demand that the Post stay out of presidential endorsements. But what bothered me more was watching people cancel their subscriptions over it. That's cutting off your nose to spite your face. Why punish a newspaper already struggling to survive? Did we forget that reporters are stationed around the world, risking their lives to bring us the truth — and that in times of conflict, they're always the first targets, precisely so the truth never reaches us?

The Post loses \$100 million a year, yet it remains an essential truth teller. This is the paper that exposed Watergate. Not surprisingly, Trump admired President Richard Nixon. Both detested the press because its job is to investigate corruption and

report the truth. And let's not forget: a Washington Post journalist was murdered at the direction of a Saudi prince while Trump looked the other way.

While Trump manufactured a crisis in Greenland and ICE gunned down American citizens, the final board meeting of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting barely registered. Jimmy Kimmel's being pulled off the air and the cancellation of "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" already feel like ancient history. Even as wars rage in Ukraine and the Middle East, coverage keeps shrinking — and that is no accident.

And now Bezos is laying off a third of the Post's staff, including a war correspondent in Ukraine. With Secretary of War Pete Hegseth blocking Pentagon reporting, Trump forming a "Board of Peace" with Putin and other authoritarian leaders, and independent news sources collapsing, who is left to deliver the truth?

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