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Roksana Amid/ Herald

Summoning the faithful on Easter

Robert Lynch played the bagpipes at 7 a.m. at Morgan Memorial Park as part of Glen Cove's Easter Dawn Service, where Christian denominations gathered before attending their regular Easter services on Sunday. Story, page 3.

Crescent Beach reopens, finally deemed safe

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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On warm summer afternoons in the 1960s, Roberta Cerassi would ride her bike down to Crescent Beach, an inflatable raft under her arm, and spend hours in the calm, shallow water of the Long Island Sound with her sister. The Glen Cove shoreline, once known among locals as the “baby beach,” was where families gathered, lifeguards knew everyone by name and childhood memories were made.

“It was just a beautiful, beautiful beach,” Cerassi said. “We would hang out all day. It was really the best beach ever.”

Now, after more than a decade of restrictions, Crescent Beach is set for a return to those days — though with significant safeguards in place.

The Nassau County Department of Health has granted conditional approval for the City of Glen Cove to reopen the beach for swimming this sum-

mer, citing improved water quality thanks to years of remediation efforts. The decision, outlined in an April 2 letter from the department to Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck, was based on reduced bacteria levels in samples collected in 2024 and 2025, as well as infrastructure upgrades aimed at addressing contamination from a nearby stream.

We would hang out all day. It was really the best beach ever.

ROBERTA CERASSI
 Glen Cove

For many residents and officials, the approval marks a long-awaited milestone. “Crescent Beach has been part of my life for as long as I can remember — from going there as a kid to bringing my own children years later,” Panzenbeck recalled.

“Seeing it reopen really means a lot. It’s a place for families, for memories.”

Still, the reopening comes with strict conditions that water-quality concerns have not been fully resolved.

Under the health department’s stipulations, the beach

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Celebrating inclusion in Village Square

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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For Marisa Damiano, advocacy began at home. Her son, Nicholas, now a second-grader at Deasy School, once struggled to express himself socially, despite understanding everything around him. He received speech and language services early on, later followed by occupational and physical therapy and counseling after he was diagnosed with autism at age 4.

As she navigated those challenges, Damiano said, she realized that many families like hers needed more support — and a stronger voice.

“I was never ashamed or embarrassed to vocalize the issues that my son has,” she said. “He has helped me to be a better mother, a better teacher and a better person for this community.”

That personal journey led her to help revive the Special Education Parent Teacher Associa-

tion in the Glen Cove City School District — and brought her to Village Square on Tuesday, where she stood among families, advocates and officials at the city’s third annual Neurodiversity Strength Flag raising.

The ceremony, coordinated by Assemblyman Charles Lavine’s office and the City of Glen Cove, marked Neurodiversity Acceptance Month and highlighted a growing movement to recognize and celebrate neurological differences rather than stigmatize them.

For Damiano, the meaning of the flag was immediate and personal. “[It’s about] acceptance, and not looking at neurodiversity as a stigma,” she said. “That we’re all accepted. And that’s what makes us unique and special in our own way.”

The red and gold flag raised above Village Square was designed by Jericho resident Josh

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

A closer look at autism, acceptance, and local impact

By **BRIAN KACHARABA AND ROKSANA AMID**

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Autism Awareness Month, observed each April, highlights the experiences of individuals with autism and promotes greater understanding, acceptance, and inclusion. It serves as an opportunity for communities to learn about autism spectrum disorder, support advocacy efforts, and celebrate the contributions of people on the spectrum while encouraging more inclusive schools, workplaces, and public spaces.

1

■ Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder and its impact

Autism Spectrum Disorder is a developmental condition that affects how people communicate, interact socially, and experience the world. It is called a “spectrum” because individuals can have a wide range of strengths, challenges, and support needs. Some people with autism may be non-verbal, while others communicate fluently but process information differently. Sensory sensitivities, such as heightened reactions to sounds, lights, or textures, are also common. Early diagnosis and individualized support can make a significant difference, helping children and adults build skills, gain independence, and thrive in school, work, and everyday life. Increased awareness has led to more resources and earlier screenings in many communities.

2

■ From awareness to acceptance: changing the autism conversation

While Autism Awareness Month began as a way to educate the public, many advocates now emphasize true acceptance rather than awareness alone. Awareness focuses on recognizing autism, but acceptance goes further by promoting meaningful inclusion, respect, and valuable opportunities for all. This includes creating thoughtfully designed sensory-friendly environments, supporting fully inclusive education, and ensuring equal access to employment and community resources. Listening carefully to autistic voices and diverse perspectives is key to this important shift, as it helps shape policies and practices that genuinely reflect real needs. By moving toward acceptance, communities can break down stigmas and celebrate neurodiversity.

3

■ Tiegerman schools build skills through communication focus

In Glen Cove, Tiegerman School has played a vital role in special education since its founding in 1985 by Dr. Ellenmorris Tiegerman. The school serves children with autism, speech and language delays, and other developmental challenges, emphasizing communication as the foundation for learning. With small class sizes and individualized instruction, Tiegerman integrates speech, occupational, and behavioral therapies into daily academics. The school has supported countless families across Long Island by helping students build independence and social skills. Through its commitment to giving every child a voice, Tiegerman continues to be a leader in specialized education and advocacy.

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Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Residents and clergy gathered at sunrise for the 10th annual Community Easter Dawn Service at Morgan Memorial Park in Glen Cove.

Celebrating Easter Sunday at Morgan Park

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Community members gathered at sunrise at Morgan Memorial Park for the 10th annual Bilingual Community Easter Dawn Service, a tradition that brought together local churches in a shared celebration of Easter and its message of renewal.

“It was 10 years ago today that three churches said, ‘we all share something in common as Christians, and that is the resurrection,’” organizer Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews said at the start of the service. “And that is where this service began.”

Resurrection this morning is about letting go so that the new and the unseen can come into your life.

THE REV. ROGER WILLIAMS

attendees standing together in prayer, music and reflection as daylight broke through the cloudy sky.

The event, which began in 2016 with the Presbyterian Church, Calvary AME Church and Iglesia Ciudad de Refugio, has grown into a multi-church gathering emphasizing unity across denominations and cultures. The service was conducted in both English and Spanish, reflecting Glen Cove’s diverse community.

Though unable to attend due to health reasons, Pastor Tommy Lanham of Glen Cove Christian Church delivered a recorded prayer centered on togetherness.

“As we come together as a body of believers from different churches, from different traditions, to worship you and

Held along the waterfront overlooking Hempstead Harbor, the early morning service began around 7 a.m., with



Musicians performed hymns during the 10th annual Community Easter Dawn Service at Morgan Memorial Park in Glen Cove.

to celebrate the resurrection of your son, Jesus Christ,” Lanham said.

Throughout the service, attendees took turns proclaiming “Christ is risen” in their native languages, reinforcing the event’s inclusive spirit.

Clergy members reflected on the meaning of the holiday and its symbolism of light overcoming darkness. The Rev. Fr. Philip Sandrick drew a comparison between the morning’s overcast sky and the message of hope central to the day.

“The physical sun is still shining just as that light of Christ’s truth shines in the darkness,” Sandrick said.

The Rev. Roger Williams emphasized the personal meaning of the resurrection, describing it as an opportunity for renewal.

“Resurrection this morning is about letting go so that the new and the unseen can come into your life,” Williams said.

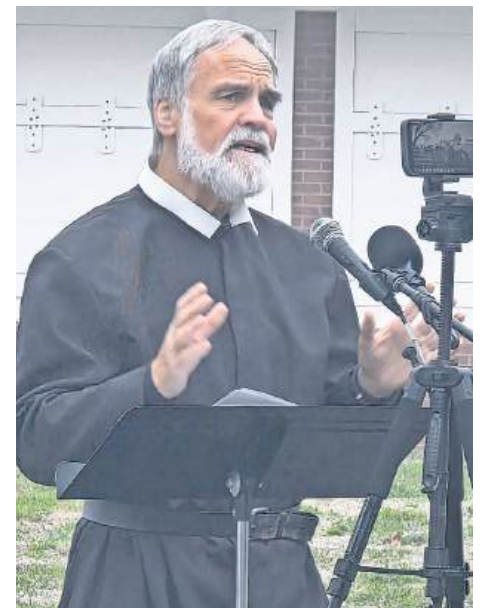
Music and spoken word complement-

ed the natural setting, while a 16-foot cross placed along the beach served as a focal point for reflection.

Easter, one of the most significant holidays in Christianity, commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which believers say occurred three days after his crucifixion. The holiday is observed on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox, meaning its date varies each year. It marks the culmination of Holy Week, which includes Good Friday, and symbolizes hope, renewal and new life.

The Glen Cove service drew roughly 100 to 150 attendees and served as a unifying moment before many participants continued on to individual church services later in the day.

Over the past decade, the Easter dawn service has become a meaningful local tradition, offering residents an opportunity to gather across cultural and denominational lines in reflection and shared faith at sunrise.



The Rev. Fr. Philip Sandrick spoke on light, faith and hope during the Easter Dawn Service at Morgan Memorial Park in Glen Cove.



The Rev. Roger Williams delivered a message on renewal and new beginnings during the Easter Dawn Service at Morgan Memorial Park in Glen Cove.



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THE GREAT BOOK GURU

A salon soap

Dear Great Book Guru,
It has been a wonderful week of celebrations: Easter and Passover feasts, family and friends gathering for seders, egg hunts, and lots of chocolate! As always when we are together, the topic of good books comes up. One of the partygoers recommended a book set in a nail salon... any thoughts?

Holiday Book Lover

Dear Holiday Book Lover, "Pick A Colour" by Souvankham Thammavongsa is a beautifully written look into a world many of us think we know ...but do we really? Set over one day in a small nail salon, this short novel (under two hundred pages) introduces us to a myriad of characters described by a first-person narrator, Ning, owner of the shop. Her five employees all wear Susan name tags, identical black dresses, and have the same hairstyles so that their privileged clients assume their "Susan" is

always ready, always available to meet their needs. There is a practiced script the workers follow - carefully enunciating "pick a color" twice and quickly offering a "ten dollar" special if a customer objects to a price.

Throughout the day, Ning and her employees talk in their native language about their customers with great humor, insight, and - yes - crudity. Ning lives alone above the shop in a sparse studio apartment, and we learn that she had been a famous boxer in her earlier years. Lessons she had learned in the ring come back to her as she maneuvers the intricacies of her daily existence.

This book is a subtle look into the immigrant experience, workplace relationships, and the shifting dynamics of power. Highly recommended.

Would you like to ask the Great Book Guru for a book suggestion? Contact her at annmdipietro@gmail.com.



**ANN
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CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

- A 41-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on March 26 for trespassing on Elm Avenue
- A 21-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested March 27 for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, driving while intoxicated, unlicensed operation, no seat belt, and failure to signal on Robinson Avenue.
- A 28-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested March 27 for criminal possession of a controlled substance and criminal sale of a controlled substance on Glen Cove Avenue.
- A 46-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested March 29 for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, unlicensed operation, no insurance, and suspended registration on Cedar Swamp Road.
- A 64-year-old Amagansett man was arrested March 30 for criminal mischief, making graffiti, and possession of graffiti instruments on Glen Street.
- A 34-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested March 30 for criminal possession of a controlled substance, driving while intoxicated, unlicensed operation, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, and aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle on Tulane Road.

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.

GLEN COVE

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HOW TO REACH US

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Estate Planning

Clients are coming in with printouts based on AI about estate planning, containing a great deal of information that they don't know what to do with. There is a reason they call it "artificial" intelligence. Human intelligence incorporates not only information, but also experience, wisdom and compassion in the application of that information.

Most of estate planning is social work. In the event of disability, who is the best person to make a medical decision for you and why. Who is the best person to handle your legal and financial affairs. Should it be one person or more than one. Should they have to act together or may they act independently. There are pros and cons to each decision as well as other factors to consider such as personalities, competence, geographical location, and sibling rivalry. Your choices must also be consistent with New York law.

Estate planning involves active listening to what the client has to say while gauging their emotions at the same time. Which of these heirs

are going to need some sort of help or protection and what are the options. How do we deal with estranged children. Then there's the question of how and when the estate will be distributed - all at once or over time and at what ages.

Against these complexities, we must factor in second marriages that may have his children, her children, and their children together. We must also consider asset protection planning options for those who do not have long-term care insurance. All of the foregoing further depends on the nature and amount of your assets and the interplay of income, capital gains and estate taxes on those assets. Even the world's greatest estate planning lawyer cannot foresee all future events. The plan should be reviewed every three years for changes in the law, your health, your assets, and your family. For these reasons, while AI is useful for gathering information, it is no substitute for consulting with an experienced lawyer. In fact, it may do more harm than good by giving you a false sense of security about your future.

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Health and Community

By Roksana Amid

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The arrival of April marks National Donate Life Month, a nationwide observance dedicated to raising awareness about organ, eye and tissue donation. Across Long Island and the country, hospitals, schools and community organizations take part in efforts to educate the public, encourage donor registration and honor those whose gifts have saved lives. With more than 100,000 people in the United States awaiting transplants, the month serves as both a call to action and a time of reflection.

1

■ Organ donations saves and improves lives

Organ donation allows individuals to give the gift of life through the transplantation of vital organs such as the heart, kidneys, liver and lungs. One donor can save up to eight lives and enhance many more through tissue and cornea donation.

Patients on the transplant waiting list often face life-threatening conditions, and for many, a transplant is their only chance at survival. Despite advances in medicine, the demand for organs continues to far exceed supply, underscoring the importance of donor registration.

Both deceased and living donations play a role. Living donors can safely donate a kidney or part of their liver, offering hope to patients while they are still alive. Each donation represents a powerful act of generosity that can transform entire families and communities.

2

■ Local advocates put a face to organ donation

In Glen Cove, organ donation awareness is not just a national message — it is a personal one, carried by residents like Pete Prudente, a volunteer firefighter who made the life-saving decision to donate one of his kidneys to a stranger.

Prudente's story has become a powerful example of how one individual can make a lasting impact. As a living donor, he not only helped save a life but also demonstrated that donation is possible for healthy individuals willing to take that step. His experience continues to resonate within the community, offering a real-life perspective on the importance of organ donation.

He has since taken on an active role in raising awareness, participating in community events, speaking about his journey, and encouraging others to register as donors.

3

■ Registering as a donor is simple but impactful

Becoming an organ donor is a straightforward process that can be completed in minutes, often through a state registry or while renewing a driver's license. Individuals are encouraged to discuss their decision with family members to ensure their wishes are understood.

Common misconceptions — such as concerns about medical care or eligibility — are addressed during Donate Life Month, helping people make informed choices. Medical professionals emphasize that saving a patient's life is always the top priority, regardless of donor status.

By registering as a donor and encouraging others to do the same, individuals can play a role in the critical need for transplants and strengthening the sense of community that defines this national observance.



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An egg-citing day at Morgan Park

The City of Glen Cove marked a milestone as families gathered at Morgan Memorial Park for the city's 25th annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 4.

Hosted by the city's Youth Services and Recreation Department, the longtime tradition drew a large crowd of children and parents eager to take part in the seasonal celebration. Participants searched the park grounds for more than 12,000 colorful eggs, which were scattered across designated areas for different age groups.

In addition to the hunt, families enjoyed raffle prizes donated by local businesses, including Henry's Confectionery, and visits with the Easter Bunny, who posed for photos throughout the event.

City officials emphasized the importance of the annual gathering as a way to bring the community together. Youth Bureau Executive Director Spiro Tsirkas noted that the event continues to be a highlight for local families, while Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck thanked staff and volunteers for organizing the celebration.

Now in its 25th year, the Easter Egg Hunt remains a staple of Glen Cove's spring calendar, offering families a chance to celebrate the season and create lasting memories in one of the city's most scenic waterfront parks.

-Roksana Amid



Philomena Gonzales, 3, and Victoria Innamorato, 4, search the grass for colorful eggs during the Easter egg hunt at Morgan Park.



Thomas Daley, 3, stands with the Easter Bunny during the holiday celebration at Morgan Park.



Olivia Magallanes, 2, is joined by her mother, Laidy, during the Easter egg hunt at Morgan Park.



Olivia, 9, and Charlotte, 6, along with their mother, Alexandra, and Willow, 4, all Houghton, take part in the Easter egg hunt at Morgan Park.



Maria Salinas, 6, joins in the Easter egg hunt at Morgan Park.

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Crescent Beach reopens after years of testing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

must close immediately if the nearby stream is found to be draining directly into the swimming area. Warning signs must be posted to alert visitors to elevated bacteria levels near the stream. If testing reveals elevated bacteria levels unrelated to rainfall, the beach's opening could be delayed or halted during the season.

Rainfall remains a key factor. Health officials issue advisories when more than a half-inch of rain falls in a 24-hour period, because runoff can carry contaminants into the water — particularly at beaches like Crescent that lack strong tidal flushing.

"Some beaches don't have the strong tides needed to quickly move contamination out," Alyssa Zohrabian, a public health administrator for Nassau County, explained. "So after rainfall, we may issue advisories, because bacteria levels can temporarily rise."

County officials monitor water quality using specific thresholds. A single sample exceeding 104 colony-forming units of bacteria can trigger a closure, while a 30-day log average above 35 CFUs can lead to longer-term restrictions.

Crescent Beach's water quality issues date back to June 2009, when testing revealed consistently high bacteria levels. While the beach itself remained open for sunbathing and picnicking, swimming was prohibited.

Darcy Belyea, Glen Cove's former parks and recreation director, said the problem was ultimately traced to a feeder stream carrying groundwater and potential contaminants from surrounding areas.

"The water table is very high in that area," Belyea said. "What happens is, groundwater flows into that stream and then into the harbor."

Efforts to address the issue included testing nearby



Roksana Amid/ Herald

After 17 years, Crescent Beach will be open for swimming.

properties, replacing at least one failing septic system and, eventually, implementing broader environmental solutions. After dye testing and environmental surveys in 2009 the beach was initially closed, the Environmental Protection Agency stepped in during the mid-2010s to test the water, and found high bacteria

levels stemming from animal waste, which shifted the cleanup strategy toward environmental fixes rather than sewer repairs. Creative and cutting-edge efforts to reduce and manage bacteria levels included installing Helix filter systems and a box culvert near the base of the stream, utilizing plantings that naturally absorb bacteria, and creating a new conduit for the stream.

County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton helped secure nearly \$1 million in funding for remediation projects, and is continuing to spearhead the pursuit of a \$108,740 intermunicipal agreement between the county and the city for a Caterpillar compact track loader that would be used to maintain the hard-earned progress.

"Reopening Crescent Beach has been my personal goal for the last 17 years, and this project to protect our environmental and improve our quality of life has been a tremendous group effort that four Mayors, regardless of their political party, each supported," DeRiggi-Whitton wrote in a statement. "I am thrilled that the residents of Glen Cove will be able to fully enjoy it for generations to come."

Eric Swenson, executive director of the Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee, said the project reflects how coordinated action can improve water quality.

"Clean water and local bathing beaches are essential to our quality of life and we should never take them for granted," Swenson wrote in a statement. "That is the way it should be."

Cerassi recalls the last time she went into the water years ago, unaware that conditions had deteriorated.

"I got really sick," she said. "I didn't know the beach had been contaminated."

Now, she added, she hopes future generations will be able to safely experience the beach as she once did.

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Premier Business Women of Long Island Awards honor top female leaders and innovators

By Abbey Salvemini

The room at The Heritage Club at Bethpage was filled with energy, ambition and a shared sense of purpose on March 25 as business leaders gathered for the 2026 Premier Business Women of Long Island Awards. This annual event honored outstanding women who are not only achieving success within their respective industries but also driving innovation and meaningful change across them.

At the heart of the evening was a clear and resonant message: women are no longer waiting for opportunities to be granted; they are creating their own paths and redefining leadership on their own terms.

Amy Amato, executive director of corporate relations and events at Richner Communications, set the tone early in the night, encouraging attendees to “take a look around this room” as a reflection of progress. She also emphasized the significance of the occasion. “Tonight is about celebrating the incredible women who are leading, building and shaping our community,” she said.

She added that the event is part of a broader mission to create spaces “where women don’t just sit at the table, they own the room,” reinforcing the evening’s theme of empowerment and visibility.

She praised the honorees not only for their professional achievements but also for their role in transforming their industries. “You are not just leaders in your field, you are redefining them,” she said.

Stuart Richner, CEO of Richner Communications, echoed that statement, reflecting on the company’s history and his mother, Edith Richner, a co-founder who once stood alone as the only woman at the table nearly six decades ago. “If she were here tonight, she would be incredibly proud to see a room filled with such accomplished, driven and inspiring women,” he said.

The evening also highlighted the importance of giving back, with proceeds supporting Baby Essentials of Long Island, an organization dedicated to helping families in need provide safe and healthy starts for their children. Richner emphasized the organization’s mission to assist parents facing financial hardship and other challenges, adding a deeper sense of purpose to the celebration.

The honorees themselves brought the evening to life, sharing personal



Tim Baker/Herald

Premier Business Women honorees enjoy the gala dinner with their guests.

stories of resilience, leadership and determination that resonated throughout the room.

Among them, Carol Gomes was recognized in the Healthcare and

Wellness category, highlighting her leadership as CEO and COO of Stony Brook University Hospital. Reflecting on what it means to be a woman in business today, she described it as a sense of empowerment and the confidence to lead with strong conviction.

“We are nowhere near where we need to be; we’re making progress, but there are still many opportunities to advance women into higher leadership positions,” she said.

Ana Ludemann, MBA, was honored in the Financial Services category, celebrating her success in a competitive, male-dominated industry. Now a vice president and wealth management financial advisor, she built her career after arriving in the United States in 2014 with just \$100. Her journey underscored the importance of perseverance and mindset.

“If you work hard and do right by people, there is no way you will not succeed,” she said, adding that resilience is defined not by obstacles, but by how one responds to them.

Honorees in the Insurance and

Rising Stars Under 40, Evelyn Gellar and Jillian Kashuba of Forest Hills Financial Group, echoed the evening’s central themes. Together, they emphasized that while women are increasingly supporting one another and rising into leadership, challenges remain — particularly around work-life balance and equitable opportunities. Their message was clear: building networks and lifting each other up is essential to sustaining momentum in a competitive industry.

Another highlight of the evening was the recognition of the Power Team award, which honored a group of women from St. Joseph’s University. Among them, Jessica McAleer Decatur, Vice President of marketing and communications, reflected on the significance of the recognition and the responsibility that comes with it.

“To follow in the footsteps of these pioneering women is deeply meaningful. As part of the next generation of women leaders, I hope not only to carry forward their legacy, but also to inspire the next generation,” she said.

Throughout the evening, the room buzzed with energy and camaraderie as powerful women mingled,

exchanged stories and shared insights across industries. The atmosphere reinforced the idea that success is not achieved in isolation, but through collaboration, mentorship and a shared commitment to lifting others along the way. Conversations extended beyond individual accomplishments, focusing instead on creating lasting impact and opening doors for the next generation of women leaders.

The event also celebrated the sponsors and partners whose support made the evening possible, including Forest Hills Financial Group, Long Island Contractors Association, and our centerpiece sponsor, St. Joseph’s University. Their involvement underscored the Long Island business community’s ongoing commitment to fostering diversity, inclusion and opportunity.

As the evening ended, the message remained clear: progress is underway, and the future of women in business is being shaped through the shared determination and collaboration of everyone present.

To learn more, see additional photos and view the complete list of honorees and sponsors, visit richnerlive.com.



St. Joseph's University honorees with their Power Team award.



Evelyn Gellar from Forest Hills Financial Group with her award in Insurance.



Rising Star Jillian Kashuba of Forest Hills Financial Group wins the Hotel Collections raffle.



President & CEO Carol Allen from People's Alliance Federal Credit Union with her award in Banking Leadership.



Co-founders Jill Kofler and Janis Hoffman from Mindful Therapy accept their award in Healthcare & Wellness.



Donna M. DiSclafani from Prager Metis CPAs with her award in Accounting.



Dr. Maria Conzatti from Nassau Community College with her award in Education.



Vanessa M. Gordon from Grassi receives her award in Accounting.



CEO Charlene Jackson from Thompson Economic Development Services, accepts her award in Entrepreneurship.



CEO-COO Carol Gomes from Stony Brook University Hospital, accepts her award in Healthcare & Wellness.



Lisa Burch from EPIC Family of Human Service Agencies receives her award in Community Impact.



President of SCO Family of Services Suzette Gordon walks to stage to accept her award.



Honorees Ana Ludemann and Nicole Stefanakos read the Herald commemorative edition with their guests.



Honorees received a Herald crystal award.

EASTER MESSAGE

Resurrection Impact

The resurrection of Jesus is so much more than an annual celebration. Some would call it the greatest event in human history. The impact of this one event is possibly the most influential event that we have ever known.

The Gospel of Luke, chapter 24, tells us about the resurrection of Jesus and the impact it had. It starts with women taking spices to the tomb of Jesus. When they get there, they encounter two angels. These two angels ask the women a significant question: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified, and on the third day be raised again'" (Luke 24:5-7; NIV).

Often times we look for the living among the dead. We try to find life, enjoyment, and fulfillment in things that do not deliver. We are looking for the living among the dead. Jesus came to bring life to people, and he overcame death to do that very thing. Because he was able to overcome death, then he also has the power to bring life to us, even eternal life.

After Jesus rose from the dead, he had an encounter with two men who were still distraught over the death of Jesus. They did not recognize Jesus at first, assuming he was still dead. But as they began to talk and eat with him, they began to recognize who he was. "When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him" (Luke 24:30-31; NIV).

They had a relationship with Jesus because he was alive. He was no longer someone who was dead and gone; he was alive and in their presence. He talked and ate with them. They got to know him better.

Jesus is still alive today, and he desires a relationship with you. He has overcome death to give you life. Jesus wants you to get to know him better.



PASTOR
TOMMY LANHAM

Then Jesus visited others who followed and learned from him before his death. They were frightened, but as Jesus spoke with them and ate with them (are you seeing a trend) they became more peaceful. A relationship with Jesus can make one less frightened and more at peace.

Because Jesus is still alive, he can bring more peace to you and take away much of your fear. We live during a fearful time. In the midst of all the fear and unrest, a relationship with Jesus can help us experience less fear and more peace.

After this, Jesus ascended back up into heaven with the promise that he will return to take us to heaven with him if we establish a relationship with him. After Jesus ascended back into Heaven, this is what those who were there did: "Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Luke 24:52; NIV).

Our best response to the resurrection, relationship, and return of Jesus is to worship him and experience great joy. What could be more cause for worship and joy than having someone overcome death so that you could too?

Tommy Lanham is the Pastor of Glen Cove Christian Church.

NEWS BRIEF

Chamber Culinary Delights May 18

The Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce will host its 28th annual Culinary Delights event on Monday, May 18, from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Mansion at Glen Cove.

The long-running fundraiser will bring together restaurants, caterers and beverage vendors from across the North Shore for an evening of unlimited tastings, including gourmet dishes, desserts, wine, craft beer and spirits. The event is expected to draw hundreds of attendees, continuing its reputation as one of Glen Cove's largest annual gatherings celebrating local cuisine and community.

Culinary Delights also serves as a key fundraising initiative for the

Chamber, with proceeds supporting local charitable organizations, including NOSH Delivers, as well as scholarship programs for students pursuing college and trade education.

Tickets are available in advance, with discounted pricing offered to seniors, veterans and first responders. Early purchase is encouraged, as the event has historically drawn strong attendance. Tickets can be purchased online at glencovechamber.org/culinary.

The evening offers opportunities for networking a support Glen Cove's economic vitality.

—Roksana Amid

PASSOVER MESSAGE

What are Today's Plagues?

In 1984, pop star Madonna released a song reflecting society's obsession with the worship of physicality.

In her song, Material Girl, she declared, "We are living in a material world."

And this trend has continued to grow.

It is also a theme, which -- in many ways -- rests at the core of the Jewish festival of Passover that began Wednesday evening.

For most who attended Hebrew school or those who explored the Passover narrative in Sunday school, the story appears straightforward:

The Israelite slaves were liberated from Egypt, and because they were in a hurry to outrun Pharaoh's pursuing army, they didn't have enough time to let their bread rise.

Hence, Jewish law dictates that we refrain from eating "chametz" or leaven throughout the holiday.

But -- as our ancient rabbis taught, -- to truly embrace the spiritual aspect of Passover, we need to reach back and examine exactly what the Israelites were escaping from.

The Egyptians worshipped physical gods. There were gods that governed the Nile River, others that controlled fertility. There were gods of the sun, medicine, and environment, among many others. Pharaoh believed he was a god.

These deities were often represented by physical entities, such as crocodiles, geese, cows, dogs, and frogs.

But through the Ten Plagues, a message was sent to the Egyptians and, by extension, across future generations: There is only one transcendent God that embodies justice, fairness, and unity.

So, if -- as many scholars suggest -- the Ten Plagues represented an assault

of physicality, is there a connection with today's world?

So many these days have become obsessed by gossip, superficiality, and the pursuit of pleasure, often delivered through technology -- especially social media.

It begs us to reflect upon the plagues -- too often unchecked -- that afflict our lives today. They include racism, hunger, homelessness, environmental degradation, and indifference to suffering.

Indeed, Passover inspires us to consider, "What are today's plagues?"

And perhaps more importantly, "What are their antidotes?"

At our Seders, rather than merely recount the traditional Passover story, the festival beckons us to include additional readings and props to inspire all those assembled -- espe-

cially children -- what freedom truly means, and to consider today who remains enslaved.

During this time of renewal across many religious platforms, let us consider the true meaning of freedom.

Let us reflect upon the state of the world around us and even consider the opinions of others with whom we may not agree. Let us flatten our souls like a piece of matzah.

For while the world presents us with so many accessible avenues towards pleasure, these do not lead us toward true freedom.

Rather, let us break free from the material world, and pursue what we truly desire during these troubled times.

It is freedom and peace for all -- and for each of us, a life of meaning.

Rabbi Irwin Huberman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Tifereth Israel, serving Glen Cove, Sea Cliff and surrounding area.



RABBI
IRWIN HUBERMAN

NEWS BRIEF

HMTC annual Yom HaShoah

The Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County will host its annual Yom HaShoah commemoration on Sunday, April 12, from 1 to 2 p.m. at its Crescent Beach Road location in Glen Cove.

Held in partnership with Congregation Tifereth Israel and North Country Reform Temple, the event will honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of others killed under Nazi rule.

Holocaust survivor Bertha Strauss will share testimony. Rabbi Churgel

and Cantor Gustavo Gitlin will participate.

The community is invited to attend and reflect. The commemoration will include moments of remembrance and reflection as attendees gather with survivors and their families. Organizers emphasize the importance of preserving these stories for future generations

—Roksana Amid

'A massive win for every neurodivergent person'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mirsky, 33, and features a diamond-shaped field with an infinity symbol at its center — a representation of the broad spectrum of how people think, learn and behave.

Mirsky, who is on the autism spectrum, said the colors were deliberately chosen to stand out and challenge longstanding perceptions. "Red's a power color. It represents immense inner strength," he said. "Gold is first place, because we're not treated as first-class citizens."

The symbolism, he explained, reflects both the resilience of neurodivergent people and a push for equity and recognition. "It's meant to be bold," Mirsky said. "It's meant to be almost in your face, because that's the only way to make change."

Now in its third year in Glen Cove, the flag-raising has grown from a local initiative into part of a broader statewide effort. This year marks the first time New York is lighting landmarks in the flag's colors — red, white and gold — to recognize Neurodiversity Acceptance Month, a milestone Mirsky described as deeply meaningful.

"This is a massive win for every single neurodivergent person in the state of New York," he said.

Glen Cove Mayor Pamela D. Panzenbeck was also in attendance, and

voiced her support for the initiative, calling the annual ceremony a point of pride for the city. "I used to be a teacher for 34 years in a high school," Panzenbeck said. "I taught students of every single level of ability."

Lavine, who has played a key role in advancing the initiative and coordinating the annual ceremony, was unable to attend because of a meeting in Albany. In a statement, he praised Mirsky's advocacy and the broader movement behind it. "I am very proud of Josh Mirsky's efforts to promote the understanding that each of us learns differently," Lavine said, "and that it is our responsibility to guarantee that everyone is treated with respect and equality."

The concept of neurodiversity — which includes conditions such as autism, dyslexia and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder — reframes these differences as natural variations in how the brain functions, rather than deficits. Advocates say that shift is critical to improving outcomes in education, employment and everyday life.

According to the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, the new color scheme, used across state buildings this year, signals a move beyond awareness and toward celebration.

"I am so proud to fly New York's

Neurodiversity Strength Flag to represent belonging for the tens of thousands of self-neurodiverse New Yorkers who add value to our families, workplaces, and communities," the office's Commissioner, Willow Baer, said in a statement.

In Glen Cove, that message resonated strongly with families like the Damianos. Nicholas, his mother said, is thriving with the support he receives in school — and her advocacy has extended beyond her own family. After noticing gaps in resources for students in self-contained classrooms, she pushed for changes in literacy programming, and helped bring SEPTA back to the district last year to support other families navigating similar challenges.

Looking ahead, SEPTA plans to expand its programming with meetings throughout the school year and potential partnerships with the district's special-education department to host parent workshops and guest speakers.

For Damiano, the flag raised above Village Square is more than a symbol. It is evidence of progress, and a reminder of the work still ahead.

"It shows a sense of belonging," she said. "And that it's ok to be different, because that's what makes us special."



Roksana Amid/Herald

Nicholas Damiano, left, and Josh Mirsky are both neurodivergent. The flag symbolizes a step toward inclusivity in the state.

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L.I. Association hosts state transport chief

Presentation by DOT Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez ranges from speeding to potholes

By NOAH PERETZ

nperetz@liherald.com

The Long Island Association hosted state Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez as a guest speaker last week. Dominguez spoke about Gov. Kathy Hochul's fiscal year 2027 executive budget and policy proposals for the DOT.

Appearing at LIA headquarters in Melville on March 31, Dominguez explained that Hochul's administration matched the federal funding for New York state's transportation needs from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in 2021 with a five-year, \$35 billion plan. Hochul added \$800 million to the plan last year to offset the cost of tariffs and inflation.

"Our federal dollars are expiring on Sept. 30, which presents a unique challenge," Dominguez said. "We need to make sure that we are positioning New York for the next level of transportation funding."

She detailed Hochul's proposed spending plan, which totals \$260 billion. Federal funding is down 11.4 percent, or \$10.3 billion, and state operating funds have increased by \$157 billion. The state is expecting \$17 billion more in state revenue over the next two years than earlier estimates.



Noah Peretz/Herald

DOT representatives, including Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, center right, made a presentation to the Long Island Association.

"The governor is committed to economic growth and making sure there is a social safety net, and funding that social safety net across the board without increasing taxes," Dominguez said. "In sum, the 2027 Executive Budget successfully balances two simultaneous realities that we have real momentum here in New York, and addressing the volatility that we know is ahead."

The budget plan includes automated work-zone speed enforcement with new

speed cameras. Dominguez noted that some drivers have been speeding at over 100 miles per hour through work zones, according to the cameras.

The budget proposes deployment of the cameras on non-controlled-access highways, like Sunrise Highway. It also proposes protections for highway maintenance workers against violent assault.

Dominguez also touched on Hochul's plan to lower the cost of car insurance.

The plan proposes changes to the state's auto insurance laws that will punish perpetrators of staged car crashes.

The spending plan also includes funding for filling potholes on main roadways. "We are on a blitz statewide addressing potholes," Dominguez said. It proposes investments of \$107 million for paving on Long Island, including 50 miles of the Northern State Parkway and 35 miles of Sunrise Highway.

Action Long Island representative Michael Rodin suggested more improvements he wanted to see. "We want to make sure public transit is a part of the DOT's agenda in the future," he said. "We want roads to be able to accommodate buses as well as more cars — a lot of people take public transit to work."

When the presentation was open for questions, Dominguez addressed a concern about independent contractors' coverage under the anti-assault provisions in the budget. "The worker assault provision covers state employees as well as independent contractors," she said.

"We need to make sure elected officials understand that transit and the lives of transit workers are important, so they fund initiatives to help these efforts and these people," Marc Herbst, executive director of the Long Island Contractors Association, said. "If we don't ask, they don't respond."

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Simmons in National Softball Team

Glen Cove High School senior Brooke Simmons has been selected to compete on the Puerto Rican National Softball Team, earning an opportunity to represent Puerto Rico on the international stage while still in high school.

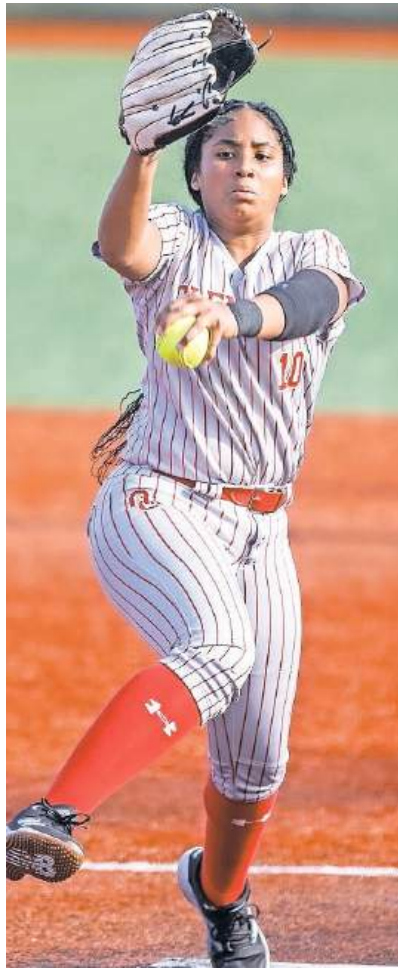
Simmons, a member of the Class of 2026, will participate in upcoming Women's Softball World Cup events scheduled in Peru, the Dominican Republic and Canada. The tournaments serve as part of the qualification process for the 2028 Olympic Games, placing her among top athletes competing at an elite level.

District officials said the selection reflects Simmons' years of dedication, skill and commitment to the sport. Athletic Director Christian Dottin described the achievement as significant, noting that competing for a national team at this stage is a rare accomplishment for a high school athlete.

In addition to her international opportunity, Simmons has committed to continue her academic and athletic career at Howard University, where she will play Division I softball following graduation.

Simmons is expected to begin competition with Team Puerto Rico this summer. School officials said her accomplishment is a source of pride for the Glen Cove community, which will be following her progress as she competes against top talent from around the world.

— Roksana Amid



Derrick Dingle/ Herald

Tommy Lanham is citizen of the year

Tommy Lanham, pastor of Glen Cove Christian Church since 2019, was named Citizen of the Year during the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge awards ceremony on March 29. The award was presented by former Glen Cove resident and Exalted Ruler Chris Petrella, recognizing Lanham's outstanding service to the community and his continued commitment to uplifting others.

The Citizen of the Year Award honors individuals who make a meaningful impact both locally and in surrounding communities. Petrella said Lanham stood out for his unwavering enthusiasm, strong faith and dedication to inspiring others, even while facing his own battle with cancer. He noted that Lanham's positive outlook and energy have resonated widely, bringing people together and encouraging a spirit of compassion and connection.

Lanham has been actively involved in community efforts, including distributing water to attendees during Glen Cove's Downtown Sounds events and founding the Pick Acts pickleball group, which has drawn widespread participation. Petrella added that Lanham's influence extends beyond public service, crediting him with helping others strengthen their faith and



Courtesy Tammy Lanham

Tommy Lanham, pastor of Glen Cove Christian Church since 2019, was named Citizen of the Year during the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge awards ceremony on March 29.

approach life with resilience.

Lanham describes enthusiasm as a "God-inspired fire" that drives people to live with passion and purpose, a philosophy he continues to share with his congregation and the broader community.

— Roksana Amid

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Bessent, Blakeman tout Trump's tax cuts

April 9, 2026 — GLEN COVE HERALD

By JULIA CAPITELLI

jcapitelli@liherald.com

To promote President Trump's economic agenda, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent visited Long Island and took part in a panel discussion with Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and business executives from across the county.

The March 30 discussion, at the county legislative building, focused on three aspects of the Working Families Tax Cut Act: the elimination of taxes on tips and overtime pay, the creation of so-called Trump Accounts and the higher cap on the income tax deduction for state and local taxes. Under the law, parents can open and contribute funds to accounts for their children under age 18. As part of the pilot program for the accounts, children born during Trump's term will receive \$1,000 from the Treasury Department.

"It's something that's going to help every family in America," Blakeman, the Republican candidate for governor, said of the program.

The law includes an increase in the state and local tax deduction cap from \$10,000 to \$40,000. It also allocates roughly \$170 billion to carry out the administration's immigration and border objectives, and raises the federal debt ceiling to \$5 trillion.

"That's the American way," Bessent said of the tax cuts. "Work harder, keep more of your money."

The SALT deduction avoids double taxation and allows certain taxpayers to reduce their federally taxable income. To offset the cost created by this and the elimination of taxes on tips and overtime, the law cuts nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid and reduces food assistance and clean-energy incentives.

Panelists shared their perspectives on the law, mostly as it relates to their businesses. Michael Serao, executive vice president and chief administrative officer of First Central Savings Bank, claimed that Trump Accounts could help students build financial literacy.



Courtesy Nassau County

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and several business executives discussed President Trump's economic agenda on March 30.

But much of the discussion focused on the elimination of taxes on tips and overtime, and the SALT deduction. "I am surrounded by hardworking people, who come into the diner and tell me how happy they are about their tax returns and about how much more money they are getting back," Gus Tsiorvas, owner of the Embassy Diner, in Bethpage, said.

According to the Internal Revenue Service, the average tax refund this year is roughly 10 percent higher than it was in March 2025. "This means more discretionary spending here in Nassau County," County Comptroller Elaine Phillips said, "which allows

Bruce not to raise taxes."

Blakeman reiterated his assertion that Nassau is "the safest county in America where we haven't raised taxes one penny in four years."

In a statement about Blakeman's use of taxpayer resources to campaign as everyday costs escalate, Democratic County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton said the Bessent visit was "as shameless as it gets."

"Nassau residents aren't stupid — they feel the squeeze every time they fill up, check out at the grocery store, or pay a bill," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "The cost-of-living crisis is real, and it's being driven directly by the disastrous tariffs and global instability coming from the same out-of-touch allies in Washington [Blakeman] continues to stand with."

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STEPPING OUT

'Rent' star Adam Pascal returns to reimagine the jukebox musical

By Iris Wiener

When Adam Pascal pulls into Long Island these days, it's not just a commute; it's a homecoming layered with memory, coincidence, and creative possibility. This spring, the Tony-nominated performer-turned-director from Syosset is channeling all of that into "Feels Like the First Time: The Foreigner Musical."

The new production premieres April 17 at the Little Theatre on Long Island University's Brookville campus.

The project, created in collaboration with the legendary rock band Foreigner, marks the launch of LIU's New Works Initiative and Pascal's tenure as the university's inaugural Artist-in-Residence. But for Pascal, the journey to this moment is anything but typical.

The path to directing the show began not in a rehearsal room, but at a backyard barbecue.

"Tom Dunn [Tilles Center's creative producer, executive/artistic Director and Dean of LIU's College of Arts and Design] lives across the street from my sister. I first met Tom and his wife at a barbecue," Pascal relates. "Tom said, 'We're doing this thing. Do you want to direct it?'"

From there, the pieces quickly began to align. A previous version of the musical had been developed, but Pascal and the team — including book writer Stephen Garvey and arranger David Abbinanti — set out to reshape it into something fresh: a high-energy, heart-driven story set in the 1980s, centered on three families whose lives collide when a rock star arrives for a backyard concert after an MTV contest win.

"We wanted to create something that was fun and that had heart, that understood its purpose using Foreigner's music," Pascal says.

That purpose, however, comes with a unique creative challenge. The musical weaves iconic songs into an original narrative — a process Pascal describes as both complex and deeply collaborative.

"You're creating a story, and in many ways building a scene backwards," he explains. "You have these lyrics that were never written to be narrative in that way, so you have to do a lot of reverse engineering."

Still, that creative freedom is part of the appeal.

"We get to reimagine these songs," he adds.

"They've now become narrative storytelling songs."

The new musical features a company of 26 performers, primarily LIU students — a fact Pascal calls fortuitous.

"The combination of this process, this particular show, and this university ... it couldn't have been a better melding of all things."

For Pascal, working with students isn't just about mentorship — it's personal, as he has two sons the same age as the young cast. His directing style reflects that perspective, blending instinct, experience and a focus on emotional authenticity.

"I approach it from a much more naturalistic and real place. I'm trying to orchestrate a picture and to get them to use their emotions in a physical way."

That lived-in approach comes from decades in the industry, which includes roles in Broadway's "Aida," "Memphis" and "Something Rotten," besides the iconic "Rent." However, Pascal quickly points out that he was never formally trained.



Photo courtesy Jack Roman

Adam Pascal, left, with Tilles Center's Executive and Artistic Director Tom Dunn, is launching LIU Post's New Works Initiative, an incubator for developing and refining new theatrical works by both emerging and established writers.



- Friday through Sunday, April 17-19 and Thursday through Sunday, April 23-26, varied times
- Tickets are \$43.82, \$17.82 students; available at tillescenter.org/events
- Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville

"My approach can only be [described as] a layman approach. I'm fortunate enough to now have 30 years of experience making musicals."

And yet, for all his Broadway credentials, Pascal is candid about the challenges facing the industry today — particularly the financial barriers that make developing new work increasingly difficult in New York City.

"We all have to change the mindset about working in New York," he says bluntly, pointing to rising production costs and systemic issues. Instead, he sees projects like "Feels Like the First Time" as part of a larger shift — one that prioritizes creativity, collaboration and accessibility over tradition and expense.

"I want to take the power out of Broadway's hands and put it back into the hands of people who make theater," he states.

That philosophy is evident in the show's development process, which Pascal praises for its efficiency and clarity of vision.

For LIU students like Anna Frost, being part of that process is nothing short of transformative. A senior serving as dramaturg for the show, Frost is deeply embedded in the rehearsal rooms, helping to shape the evolving script.

"It is so exciting for me to work on a show which is in development," she says. "I get to work with a living, breathing text."

For her, the experience underscores the importance of new work in today's theatrical landscape.

"There has to be new art that is relevant to what is happening now," she adds. "Getting to be a part of something that will be history is really cool."

Pascal agrees and hopes the students recognize the significance of their involvement.

"They'll forever be connected to this show as the first people that played these characters," he says. "If the show becomes a hit, they'll always have that on their resume."

That sense of legacy resonates deeply with Pascal himself, particularly given his return to Long Island. He remains deeply connected to his roots, and optimistic about its potential as a hub for theatrical innovation.

"There's no better place for it," he says of LIU. "They have the facilities, the desire and the proximity to the city."

As for what's next, Pascal continues to develop new musicals through his production company, including an adaptation of "Ruthless People." He's also set to direct "Our Little Secret: A True New Musical" in Toronto. For now, "Feels Like the First Time" offers something that feels incredibly meaningful — a chance to build, collaborate, and rediscover the spark that started it all.

Or, as Pascal might put it, to make it feel like the first time all over again.



Mike DelGuidice

Local favorite Mike DelGuidice returns to the Paramount stage with his popular residency, delivering the high-energy, feel-good performances that have made him a hometown standout. Backed by his powerhouse band, DelGuidice brings the music of his idol, Billy Joel, to life with passion and precision, celebrating decades of iconic hits in a rousing, crowd-pleasing show. A multi-instrumentalist who grew up immersed in music, DelGuidice's deep knowledge of Joel's catalog ultimately led to sharing the stage with the Piano Man himself, touring around the world. Alongside Joel's beloved classics, he weaves in his own original songs, showcasing the songwriting that has earned him a devoted following. Whether performing on stage or connecting with fans through his "Live on the Porch" series, which brought audiences together during the pandemic, DelGuidice continues to share his love of music in ways that resonate far and wide.

Friday and Saturday, April 10-11, 8 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com.



Fleetwood Macked

Eighteen years ago Fleetwood Macked set out to provide audiences with the truest live Fleetwood Mac experience as possible and haven't stopped since. Much of the realism comes from the New York-based band's history. Husband and wife musical team Hillary and Michael Epstein (Stevie and Lindsey) and friends Tracy Wells, Jay Novas, Phil Weiss and Andrew Nadien (Christine, John and Mick) have made great music together in various incarnations that finally all came together with their mutual love of Fleetwood Mac. They are and have always been professional touring rock musicians, which also adds to the authenticity of the sound of the band. Fleetwood Macked live brings audiences the passion, depth, heart, and the musicianship Fleetwood Mac's music requires. Out of love and respect musical liberties are not taken, songs are recreated just as Fleetwood Mac intended them.

Friday, April 10, 8 p.m. \$48. My Father's Place 1221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. Tickets available at mfproductions.com.

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CALENDAR

APR 9 **On Exhibit**
Nassau County Museum of Art joins in the celebration of America's 250th anniversary. Its landmark exhibition explores how Long Island has reflected and shaped the story of American art. From Revolutionary-era portraiture and folk art to nineteenth-century landscapes, Impressionism, and the bold innovations of Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art, the exhibition highlights how every major art movement found expression here. From Brooklyn to Montauk, Long Island's natural beauty, coastal light, and close connection to New York City inspired generations of artists and gave rise to thriving art colonies and postwar creative communities. Featuring paintings, decorative arts, and historical objects displayed together in immersive settings, the exhibit celebrates the region's enduring influence and its rich artistic legacy. On view through July 12.

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

APR 11 **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

APR 12 **Curator's Talk**
Join Nassau County Museum of Art Chief Curator Franklin Hill Perrell for an illuminating talk on the current exhibit "250 Years of Art on Long Island." Drawing on his deep knowledge of the region's artistic heritage, Perrell explores how Long Island has both reflected and shaped the story of American art over the past two and a half centuries. From Revolutionary-era portraiture and nineteenth-century landscapes to Impressionism, Abstract Expressionism, and Pop Art,



APR 19 **Micky Dolenz**

Micky Dolenz celebrates the 60th anniversary of The Monkees with a special tour honoring the band's enduring legacy and timeless sound. In this nostalgic and high-spirited performance, Dolenz takes audiences on a musical journey through The Monkees' rise to fame, performing their biggest hits in chronological order while sharing personal stories from his decades in entertainment. As the last surviving member of the beloved group, Dolenz brings both heart and history to the stage, paying tribute to bandmates Davy Jones, Peter Tork and Michael Nesmith, while celebrating the fans who helped transform a fictional TV band into a global sensation. A true entertainment veteran, Dolenz's career spans decades and disciplines — from his early days as a child star on "Circus Boy" to his work as a singer, actor, director and radio host. In recent years, he has continued to keep The Monkees' music alive for new generations, including a solo tour performing the group's 1967 album "Headquarters" in its entirety. This is sure to be a heartfelt, hit-filled evening that blends music, memories and a lasting connection to one of pop culture's most iconic acts.

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

he traces the artists, communities, and movements that flourished from Brooklyn to Montauk. \$20, \$15 seniors, \$10 students (members free). Limited seating, advance registration required.

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

APR 14 **City Council meets**
The Glen Cove City Council holds its regular meeting to discuss city business and upcoming matters.

- **Where:** Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen St.,
- **Time:** 7:30-8 p.m.

APR 15 **Locust Valley Garden Club**
The Locust Valley Garden Club returns! All gardening lovers are welcome to attend the monthly meeting at Locust Valley Library. Featured speaker Steve Dougherty presents "Pruning 101," a primer on waking up trees and shrubs from winter dormancy. A themed lunch of members' home dishes follows each meeting. Join

inand consider membership in the future. Meetings are held monthly, generally on the third Wednesday.

- **Where:** 170 Buckram Road, Locust Valley
- **Time:** 10 a.m.
- **Contact:** ltassis@aol.com

Board of Education meets

Glen Cove Board of Education holds their next meeting at Glen Cove High School. An executive session is scheduled prior to the public portion of the meeting.

- **Where:** 150 Dosoris Lane
- **Time:** 7 p.m.
- **Contact:** glencoveschools.org or (516) 676-2000

APR 16 **'The Great Gatsby' Talk & Tour Part II: Beneath the Glamour**
This portion of

Hempstead House's Gatsby talk and tour series at Sands Point Preserve takes a closer look at the lives of George and Myrtle Wilson, the servants of East and West Egg, and the Valley of Ashes. Explore how Fitzgerald portrays the lower classes through the lens of the privileged Nick Carraway and how his personal biases impact the narrative. Join in

a rare tour of the service areas and a thought-provoking discussion on invisible labor, exploitation, and the human cost of a society obsessed with wealth and status. \$25, \$20 members.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 6:30-8 p.m.
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

APR 18 **E-Waste Special Recycling Day**

Residents can safely dispose of electronic waste during this special recycling event. Items such as computers, televisions and other electronics will be accepted.

- **Where:** 100 Morris Ave., Glen Cove
- **Time:** 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 676-2000

Cooking Demonstration

Start your day with easy, protein-packed breakfast ideas with a session at Glen Cove Public Library. Join Sheetal Alreja for a live demo featuring Blueberry Milkshake Overnight Oats and savory Egg Bites, along with tips for creating balanced, make-ahead breakfasts

that keep you full and energized. Registration required; class size is limited.

- **Where:** 4 Glen Cove Ave, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Contact:** glencovelibrary.org or (516) 676-2130

APR 19 **Ecotherapy Walk**

Join certified guide Linda Lombardo on an Ecotherapy Walk at Sands Point Preserve. The theme is Earth Day: Flowers and showers, a sensory connection with nature. Ecotherapy, also known as Forest Bathing, is not simply hiking in the woods, or a walk on a beach. The focus is on connection and relationship, allowing the heart to open to the beauty of the natural world, and at the same time, understand our belonging in that world. Register for individual walks or a series of three. \$135 for series of 3, \$120 members; \$49 per session, \$44 members.

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

APR 26 **Earth Day Exploration**

Join certified guide Linda Lombardo on a spring walk at Sands Point Preserve. Celebrate Earth Day on the trails searching for the signs of spring all around us. Look for swelling buds, emerging wildflowers, animal tracks in the soil, newly built nests, and other clues that the season is changing. Along the way, discuss what these discoveries tell us about the plants and animals that call this place home — and how everything is connected in early spring. \$15 (\$10 members). \$5 children (member children free).

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

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.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22, 2026
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Chocolate Expo draws sweet crowd to Coliseum

The Chocolate Expo drew a large crowd to Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale on March 22, with attendees filling the venue throughout the day.

The one-day event featured more than 80 vendors offering chocolate, baked goods and specialty foods. While chocolate was the focus, many vendors also sold non-chocolate items such as cheeses, matcha tea, honey, and beverages.

The expo included live demonstrations, interactive presentations, and family-friendly activities. A children's area featured face painting, balloon twisting and balloon art by Robbie Furman, who created hats and animal shapes for attendees.

A balloon sculpture of a horse and carriage was on display near the entrance highlighted television show "Little House on the Prairie." The Western themed show ran nine seasons from 1974.

Television personalities, Dean Butler, Patrick Labyorteaux and Todd Bridges from "Little House on the Prairie" were the celebrity guests and took photos with visitors. During the event there was a special panel with moderator asking the cast questions. The panel drew a large audience.

The Chocolate Expo, which has been held since 2012, is part of a recurring series that brings food vendors and attendees together at venues across the region.

— Stacy Driks



Tim Baker/Herald photos

Dean Butler, left, Patrick Labyorteaux and Todd Bridges were celebrity guests at the event. During their time there, they spoke during a panel discussion about their time on "Little House on the Prairie," which aired from 1974 to 1983. Bridges also starred in "Diff'rent Strokes."



Ken Jeong, left, and executive chef Lawrence Rosenberg hold Reese's and peanut butter Bacon Bites, a sweet-and-savory treat. Rosenberg's product is made from real bacon and enrobed with chocolate.



Debra Warshaw, left, and Gayle Zwebach, both of Plainview, and Esther Almeraris of Floral Park hold chocolates from Dorothy Cox's Chocolates. The chocolate vendor is a family business in Massachusetts.



An attendee dressed as "The Mad Harlot" stood out among the crowd.



James Carucci of Nut Punch, a vendor offering nut-based snacks, joined the chocolate expo, not entirely selling chocolate but a variety of different vegan snacks inspired by nature with nuts and seeds for an active lifestyle.

HERALD LGLE1 0409 **PUBLIC NOTICES**

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that First Central Savings Bank (the "Bank"), a New York State chartered savings bank, located at 70 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York 11542, is seeking stockholders' written consent to approve the reorganization of the Bank into a holding company form of ownership through a share exchange effected pursuant to Section 143-a of the New York Banking Law, under the terms and conditions of a Plan of Acquisition of All the Capital Stock of First Central Savings

Bank by First Central Bancorp, Inc., dated as of August 27, 2025. Stockholders of record, as of April 1, 2026, will receive from the Bank, at the address appearing on the books of the Bank, an information statement/prospectus and written consent in lieu of a meeting, which when submitted will have the same force and effect as a vote for the reorganization proposal at a meeting of stockholders.
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LEGAL NOTICE
ASSESSOR'S NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF THE FINAL ASSESSMENT ROLL THE ASSESSOR OF THE COUNTY OF NASSAU HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that he has completed the 2026/2027 final assessment roll, which will be used for the 2027 levy of Town and County Taxes in the Towns of Hempstead, North Hempstead and Oyster Bay, and the City of Glen Cove and the City of Long Beach, and for the 2026/2027 levy of school taxes in such Towns and in the City of Long Beach. A certified electronic copy of the roll was filed

with the Department of Assessment on April 1, 2026. The electronic roll may be examined on public terminals located in the offices of:
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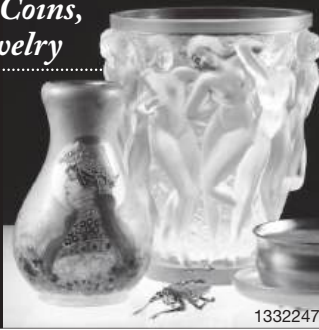
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OPINIONS

Did I ever tell you about my grad school?

Rosemary and I and our son Sean recently visited the University of Notre Dame. In many ways it was a homecoming.

Rosemary, her mother and her sister graduated from St. Mary's College, adjacent to Notre Dame, in the days before it accepted female students. Her father



PETER KING

and two brothers are Notre Dame grads. Our daughter Erin and I graduated from Notre Dame Law School, and Sean earned his MBA from Notre Dame's Mendoza School of Business. Sean is now an affiliated scholar at the university's Liu Institute for Asian

Affairs, and regularly lectures on Asian geopolitics and economic policy at the institute and the Mendoza School.

When I was growing up as an Irish-Catholic kid in blue-collar Queens, Notre Dame embodied Irish-Catholic immigrant success in becoming a part of the American fabric and achieving the American dream. That success was exemplified by Notre Dame's fabled football teams, which dominated college

football during that era. Of course, there was and is more to the university than football. Notre Dame was founded at a time of severe anti-Catholic bias in the country, led by hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan and the Know Nothing movement. There also was anti-Catholic bias in academia well into the 20th century, which Arthur Schlesinger Sr. described as "the anti-Semitism of intellectuals."

Notre Dame, though, went beyond being a defensive religious fortress to making Catholic thought a part of American life, along with full acceptance of other religions, with open debate and finding common ground encouraged. Striking that balance can be difficult, but it is still working. Religious freedom was on display on the campus last year, when pro-Hamas demonstrations did not devolve into the antisemitic violence that occurred at other universities, such as Columbia. Students were given prescribed locations and time periods for demonstrations, and those who ignored them were arrested. The result was intelligent debate without violence.

Rosemary and I visited this year to meet with some of Sean's academic colleagues and watch him in action. We

also walked around the campus, taking in iconic sights like the Golden Dome and rekindling old memories. On our first morning, we met with Frank Pomarico and his wife, Eileen. A Queens native and a graduate of St.

Francis Prep, Frank was the captain of Notre Dame's 1973 national champion football team, coached by the legendary Ara Parseghian. Frank and Eileen live in South Bend, and are amazingly friendly and interesting. It was a great way to start the day.

Then we walked over to the law school to meet with Diane Desierto, a professor of international law and human rights, a native of the Philippines, a friend of Sean's and a true scholar. Desierto updated me on the state of the law school (all good), her strong belief that law students should be exposed to all sides of issues and that legal education must include a moral component.

We had lunch with Josh Gobel, a good friend and a longtime member of the South Bend Police Department who now works in the Notre Dame P.D. in various key capacities, including protecting visiting dignitaries, such as Supreme Court Justice Amy Cony Barrett — who

attended the law school at the same time as Erin. Great conversation with Josh, as always.

After a visit to the campus bookstore, Rosemary and I joined Sean at the Morris Inn on campus for dinner with Michel Hockx, a Chinese scholar and a professor at the Liu Institute, where Sean had just finished teaching a class. Hockx, who is originally from the Netherlands, has been teaching at Notre Dame for 10 years, and has worked with Sean on various projects. After dinner, we all walked to the Mendoza School to watch Sean give a lecture to a group of students preparing to visit Japan.

He discussed the intricacies of Japanese political, cultural and economic development since the end of World War II, the country's relationship with the United States and the threats it faces from China. My biased opinion? A thoughtful, virtuoso performance. (He must have gotten it from Rosemary, who was a teacher.)

The next day we flew back to New York. Rosemary and I went home to Seaford, and Sean to his apartment in Manhattan — all three of us with new Notre Dame memories to share. And yes, Notre Dame football is still great. Go, Irish!

Peter King is a former congressman, and a former chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security. Comments? pking@liherald.com.

My wife and I visited a university you may have heard of to watch our son in action.

Will there be a blue wave this fall?

Is this the year of the blue wave? Will it be a modified one or a total rout? Is there any chance of a red wave? Not likely. But, once again, we are facing a year in which the U.S. House of Representatives, and perhaps the Senate, are up for grabs, and the early odds favor the party that's out of power.



JERRY KREMER

We often refer to political prognosticating it as "reading the tea leaves." But tea leaves are no longer the best way to pick winners and losers. There are now so many more sophisticated ways to handicap the races, some of which we have been used

for years and others that are brand new. The media is dominated by daily polling announcements, and if you give the polls any credence, they spell bad news for President Trump and the candidates of his party.

Poll after poll, whether from the left or the right, seem to indicate that this may be a very bad year for Republicans.

You know that things look bad for them when Fox News consistently announces polls showing that everyday Republicans and independents are slowly moving away from long-favored party candidates. In addition, well-known commentators such as Megyn Kelly and Tucker Carlson are predicting only bad things for the party come November.

The newest form of political projections is occurring on such outlets as Kalshi and Polymarket. On Kalshi, people trade contracts on the outcome of real-world events. They are deep into gambling on sports events, but lately have also been involved in betting on political events. Polymarket is built on a crypto platform. People bet on "yes" and "no" shares that reflect the feelings of the bettors and their inkling to pick winners. Both platforms have become highly controversial. Demands are being made for them to be regulated by Congress, but that won't happen soon.

If you want to find more reliable trends, pay attention to what's going on in Washington and around the country. This year, more than 30 Republican

members of the House have announced that they won't seek re-election. Some are campaigning for Senate seats and others are running for governor, but the vast majority of the retirees have

I've seen many waves, red and blue, which are part of the ups and downs of politics.

announced that they're eager to spend more time with their families, the age-old excuse to get out of Washington.

At last count, there were 35 House seats up for re-election that were tilting toward the Democrats. If the blue wave is really going to happen, most of those seats will go to the Democrats. In 2025 the party won major races in Virginia, New Jersey and New York. This year, a number of Democrats have had upset wins in races for state House seats in districts that Trump won in 2024 by wide margins. If these victories are any indication of the national trend, it's all bad news for the Republicans.

Up to a few months ago, there was little or no talk about Democrats having any chance to take over the U.S. Senate, but the latest polls seem to show a tightening of the races in Maine, North Carolina, Texas and Ohio. If Democrats can

pull off any upsets in these key states, Jon Ossoff can hold on to his seat in Georgia and a newcomer can win in Michigan, the party's chances of capturing the Senate will improve remarkably.

One of the more disturbing factors for Republicans is the fact that Trump hasn't made any strong statements about his desire to see his party stay in power. He is promoting various ideas about how they can win at the ballot box, but any federal effort to take the power to oversee voting away from the states will likely be struck down as unconstitutional.

Having reached an advanced age, I've seen many waves, both red and blue. They sometimes last two years, and occasionally continue for four years. The swings back and forth between parties are part of the ups and downs of politics. So if it turns out that the Democrats have a great year, they'd better handle their newfound power very carefully, because two years can pass very quickly.

Jerry Kremer was a state assemblyman for 23 years, and chaired the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee for 12 years. He currently chairs the Capitol Insight Group, a government relations firm. Comments? jkremer@liherald.com.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Local News Day now means more than ever

Somewhere on Long Island tonight, a village board will vote on a zoning variance, a school district will finalize a budget or a contractor will win a bid. None of it will lead the network news or trend on social media. But it will matter — to the family whose street gets rezoned, to the teachers whose contract is on the line, to the taxpayers footing the bill.

In most cases, a Herald reporter will be in that room. But in too many communities across the country — and increasingly in our own backyard — that reporter's chair sits empty. And when no one is watching, things have a way of going sideways.

April 9 is Local News Day, a national moment to recognize what local news does, why it matters, and what we lose when it disappears.

Local news isn't the shouting matches on cable or the partisan warfare that passes for national political coverage. Local news is the Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Day parade and the Hewlett High School science fair. It's the Nassau County budget hearing that will affect your property taxes for the next decade, the obituary that captures a neighbor's life, and the investigation that stops a bad idea before it becomes law. At Richner Communications — publisher of the Long Island Herald — we've been doing this work since 1964. Sixty-two years, three generations, over 100 local employees, nearly 30 weekly newspapers.

The Founding Fathers understood the stakes. The free press is the only indus-

try they considered important enough to protect by name in the Constitution. But we are failing that promise. Since 2004, one-third of all American newsrooms have closed. There are 43,000 fewer local reporters and editors working today than there were then. New York alone has lost nearly half its newspapers, and a quarter of the state's counties now have one or no local news sources. Digital-only outlets have not filled the void.

Today, more than 2½ newspapers shutter in America each week. The consequences are documented and dire: Communities without local news see lower voter turnout, higher taxes and measurable increases in corruption, political polarization, and even toxic environmental emissions.

Wealth is no inoculation from this trend. The Scarsdale Inquirer was founded in 1901 and served one of the wealthiest communities in America for 123 years. It closed without warning in January 2024. The Westchester village — mirroring the demographics of many Long Island communities — still doesn't have a newspaper over two years later.

Compounding this problem is the rise of artificial intelligence, which can now manufacture articles, quotes, and entire "news sites" that look authoritative and cost almost nothing to create. That means the news environment has only grown harder to navigate. Trusted news brands, with reporters who actually live and work in the communities they cover, are more important than ever. It's the reason that we at the Herald use A.I. as a tool to support, not replace, the report-

ers you know and respect.

And yet the climate for news in America has rarely been more hostile than today. The United States now ranks 57th in the world in press freedom — labeled "problematic" by Reporters Without Borders, placing us alongside countries we're accustomed to lecturing about democratic norms. Arrests of reporters and editors in America nearly tripled between 2023 and 2024. A national shield law for reporters has failed to pass Congress twice. Right now, the Pentagon is aggressively curtailing press access, a policy that flies in the face of a functioning democracy. The temperature in Washington sets a tone, and that tone travels — all the way to the reporters covering Long Island's myriad municipal entities.

The Herald has always believed that local news is worth fighting for. It's why we helped found the Empire State Local News Coalition, which won a first-of-its-kind state tax credit for local newspapers. That legislation is already helping newspapers survive that might otherwise have gone dark, meaning that thousands of New Yorkers who might otherwise have lost their only trusted local news source still have one.

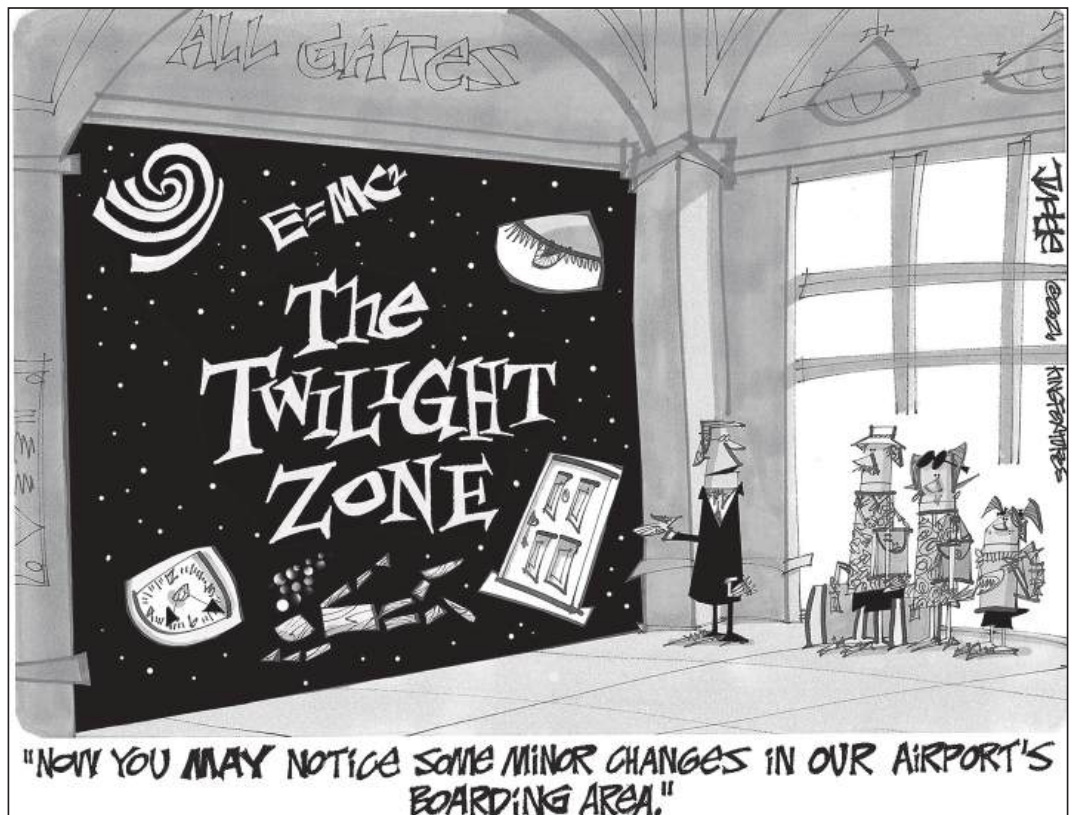
Every community gets the local news it deserves — which is to say, the local news it supports. If you want a paper that shows up, you have to show up for it. On Local News Day, make that decision. Subscribe. Advertise. Tell your neighbors. The Herald has been here for over a century. Whether we're here for the next one is, in no small part, up to you.

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Be heard. Be part of the conversation.



"NOW YOU MAY NOTICE SOME MINOR CHANGES IN OUR AIRPORT'S BOARDING AREA."

OPINIONS

Washington must start solving problems

The American people are fed up. The chaos at our airports was awful, the Department of Homeland Security has not been fully funded during these very dangerous times, and the people are demanding that Immigration and Customs Enforcement live up to the standards of all other federal law enforcement agencies.

They are sick and tired of the endless blame game. All across America, people are demanding that politicians put partisanship aside and work together to fix the very real problems we face.

The anger and annoyance are real. And frankly, I agree.

That's why I've introduced bipartisan legislation to immediately reopen DHS while advancing common-sense reforms to ICE. Alongside my Problem Solvers Caucus co-chair, Republican Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, who served as an FBI agent for more than 15 years, I am trying to cut through the dysfunction, isolate the problem areas where negotiations have stalled and work together to actually get something done.

Our solution is common sense: fund the parts of the DHS where there are no disagreements, like disaster response and cybersecurity, and institute real reforms to ICE that most Americans have been hungering for. It only makes sense to hold ICE, a federal law-enforcement agency, to the same safety and accountability standards of every other bureau in the nation.

That means body-camera and officer-identification requirements, higher training standards, a crackdown on roving patrols and limitations on agents wearing masks. The legislation would also lay out stronger warrant requirements and rules governing activity in sensitive locations to ensure that enforcement resources are focused on the "worst of the worst."

It seems simple, but Congress has been in a political standoff that perfectly exemplifies what's wrong with Washington. Let me explain.

The budget for the DHS is \$97 billion. \$87 billion of that funds everything from the TSA agents at our airports to Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster responses, cybersecurity units and the Coast Guard. The remaining \$10 billion funds ICE.

Democrats have been saying for weeks that they will fund the \$87 billion that doesn't go to ICE right now. That would have ended the airport disaster, paid our TSA agents far earlier and kept the core functions of DHS operating. We would not vote to fund the other \$10 billion for ICE, however, until there were real reforms.

While Republicans resisted at first, there was eventually enough consensus among both Democratic and Republican members of Congress to at least reopen the non-ICE agencies of DHS. But just as bipartisan negotiations in the Senate were making progress, President Trump intervened with a directive to his party: "No deals with the Democrats."

To be precise, he outlawed deals with the "Crazy, Country Destroying, Radical Left Democrats."

That's outrageous. Once again, that's politics getting in the way of progress. Finger-pointing has been all too prevalent.

I have built my career on finding common ground for the common good. It has always been my philosophy that I'll work with anyone, regardless of political party, to get things done for my constituents. As co-chair of the biparti-

san Problem Solvers Caucus, I've worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to tackle the nation's toughest issues. Just a few months ago we passed legislation out of the House that extended health care tax credits to prevent skyrocketing premiums for millions. Unfortunately, then as now, the president got in the way, changing the debate from bipartisan health care wins to Venezuela and Greenland before the Senate could close the deal.

I represent a district that voted for Trump and for me. My constituents aren't interested in partisan talking points — they want results. They want safe airports, secure borders, a functioning government and a lower cost of living. And they want their elected officials to work together to deliver.

People are concerned that the Department of Homeland Security has not been in the game. They're outraged about the illegal and immoral behavior of ICE. And they're frustrated that politicians are too busy pointing fingers to solve our problems.

We don't have to choose between security and accountability. We can do both. We don't have to accept dysfunction in Washington. And we certainly don't have to tolerate political games when real people are being affected.

Tom Suozzi represents the 3rd Congressional District.

Calling us
'Country
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