

RIVERHEAD NEWS-REVIEW

RiverheadNewsReview.com

NEWS | SPORTS | COMMENTARY

Thursday, January 30, 2025 \$2.50



CHRIS FRANCESCANI/SUNSET BEACH FILMS

A welcome freeze

Area ice boaters got a chance to race again after ten years of not-so-chilly winters kept area lakes and bays from freezing. Saturday's regatta on Lake Ronkonkoma, Long Island's first since 2015, drew competitors from across the region. **Turn to page 5 and visit riverheadnewsreview.com** for on the frosty festivities.

Officials address immigration concerns

School vows to protect students; Hubbard says it's a federal matter

BY ANA BORRUTO AND NICOLE WAGNER
STAFF WRITERS

With anxieties rising about the possibility of ongoing federal immigration raids making their way to the East End, Riverhead Town and school officials are taking a proactive stance in response to community concerns.

The Riverhead Central School District and Board of Education outlined preventative steps they plan to take to protect students from the potential

threat of immigration enforcement actions.

In a Jan. 23 letter to the school community, interim superintendent Cheryl Pedisich and school board president James Scudder emphasized the district's commitment to remaining "a safe and secure haven for all our students, regardless of their immigration status."

Within a week of taking office, President Donald Trump had signed 10 executive orders impacting the country's immigration policies, including ending the 2011 protections restricting federal immi-

gration agencies — such as ICE — from making arrests in schools, churches and hospitals. President Trump also signed an executive order that would redefine birthright citizenship, which could impact local children of noncitizens. As of last week a federal judge temporarily blocked this order, according to multiple news reports.

District officials stressed in the letter that New York State law and current federal protections guarantee that all children, regardless of immigra-

IMMIGRATION | PAGE 9

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PECONIC BAY MEDICAL CENTER

FULL COLOR

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Local plungers
turn out for a
good cause
Page 2



Town launches
Hispanic outreach
committee
Page 3

Area FDs' report
record call
volume in 2024
Page 5

Blue Waves gear
up for return to
hoops playoffs
Page 15



0 4 8 7 9 0 7 3 9 4 9

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

Many municipal meetings and events are held virtually rather than in person. Please check directly, by phone, email or online, with individual town halls, school districts, fire districts and other groups for the most current information.

INDEX

Calendar.....	13
Classifieds.....	18
Crossword	14
Legal Notices.....	10, 17
Northforker.....	10
Obituaries	7
Opinion.....	6
Police News.....	9
Real Estate.....	12
Service Directory	22
Sports.....	15

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C-C-C- Courageous

Roughly 500 supporters attended Sunday's third annual North Fork Polar Bears Polar Plunge at Veterans Beach in Mattituck — and 200 plunged into an icy Peconic Bay. Touted as more than just a fund raiser benefiting CAST and Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program's 'Back to the Bays' initiative, organizers say the event provides an opportunity to come together as a community and find courage as individuals.

DANIEL FRANC PHOTOS



Districts react to state ban on cellphones

Schools to have some say in how to implement new policy

BY NICOLE WAGNER
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Kathy Hochul announced her plan last Tuesday to include “distraction-free” schools as part of the 2026 fiscal year executive budget. The policy outlines restricted use of smartphones and other internet-enabled devices on school grounds during school hours.

The executive budget provides \$13.5 million to aid in the implementation of this proposal for device storage pouches, cubbies or other necessary infrastructure.

More than 70% of teachers nationwide say that cellphones pose a “major distraction” for students in the classroom, according to a Pew Research Center study.

“We’re not developing the skills we need because kids are distracted with the cellphones,” Ms. Hochul said at a press conference last Tuesday. During class, she said teachers are competing for students’ attention with “viral dances ... messages from their friends, sometimes threats [and] bullying.”

Students, parents, teachers, administrators, advocates and local leaders met with Ms. Hochul to “devise a solution” to the “complicated challenge” posed by smartphones in schools. The policy, to be implemented by the start of the 2025-26 school year, will require students to disconnect from their devices throughout the school day — including class time, at lunch and in the hallways.

Schools will have flexibility in implementing the policy next school year, she explained. Districts will have say over how they store the devices and how they will ensure compliance.

Students who need devices for medical reasons, students who speak English as a second language and students with learning disabilities will be exceptions to the policy.

Mattituck-Cutchogue School District Superintendent Shawn Petretti believes the concept of a cellphone ban by the governor is “well intended” and that detaching students from cellphones during school hours creates a “productive and safe learning environment.” He feels that policy regarding the implementation of such a ban should be discussed at the local level.

CALLPHONE BAN | PAGE 17

Town launches Hispanic outreach committee

New group aims to bridge gaps, expand resources

BY ANA BORRUTO
MULTIMEDIA REPORTER

To expand access to opportunities and essential resources for Riverhead’s Spanish-speaking population, town officials, business owners and community leaders are uniting to create the town’s first-ever Hispanic-focused committee.

Alexander Escobar, owner of Café Victoria at Tanger Outlets, founded the Hispanic Development, Empowerment and Education Committee — or HDEEC — to “bridge” systemic gaps in resources and representation by providing mentorship, financial literacy programs and workforce development to the town’s Hispanic population.

The idea took shape when Mr. Escobar approached Riverhead Town Councilman Ken Rothwell about the challenges facing the Hispanic community. After a couple of months exchanging ideas on how to better empower Hispanic individuals and businesses, the committee was formed and officially presented to the other Town Board members on Jan. 16.

Mr. Escobar said the HDEEC aims

‘The committee will cultivate a stronger, more unified Riverhead.’

Alexander Escobar

to launch formally in the coming months. Its members are a diverse group of community leaders, including former Guatemalan diplomat Edgar Mejia; dentist and entrepreneur Montserrat Ruiz; Gary Vogel, managing partner of East Coast Nurseries; Pastor Elias Salcedo, founder of New Jerusalem Church; Annaly Kess, an employee of the Riverhead Central School District; and Daniel Sullivan, a businessman involved in green energy strategies.

HDEEC’s ultimate goal is to “cultivate a stronger, more unified Riverhead — a community where all residents can live, work and thrive together,” Mr. Escobar said in a statement. At the town board work session, Mr. Rothwell, who will be its town liaison, said he was “extremely proud” to be a part of the initiative and told the committee members that they serve as a “voice” that needs to be heard.

“It’s hard to reach out when you have a language barrier issue sometimes — and [as a town councilman, I] feel like am I really reaching out to everybody that we serve, I am really representing everybody we serve,” Mr. Rothwell said at the meeting. “I think this



COURTESY PHOTO

The Hispanic Development, Empowerment and Education Committee aims to ‘bridge the gap’ between the Hispanic community and Riverhead Town.

can be a great step in allowing us as a Town Board, and government itself, to represent everybody.”

The objectives of HDEEC are to “empower Hispanic entrepreneurs and businesses through comprehensive resources and mentorship, expand education and workforce development initiatives to cultivate a skilled, future-ready workforce, strengthen community engagement and foster productive collaboration with local government entities and advocate for meaningful Hispanic representation and elevate cultural awareness within Riverhead.”

Mr. Rothwell also noted that the committee’s work goes beyond representing solely businesses or the school district, but also involves communicating with the town’s parks and recreation departments on how to diversify town events and activities. He added that HDEEC will collaborate with other town committees as well, such as the Anti-Bias Task Force, to further address any needs.

Mr. Escobar called the committee a “strategic conduit between the Hispanic community and the Riverhead Town government.”

“Through open dialogue, needs assessment and collaborative initiatives, we aim to ensure that Hispanic voices are not only heard but also influential in policy and decision-making,” he said. “Councilman Rothwell’s role as the town liaison is pivotal in fortifying this relationship.”

Riverhead Supervisor Tim Hubbard acknowledged the fear he realizes Hispanic individuals have around reaching out to the town government for help. He hoped the formation of the committee will make the Town Hall more welcoming and ease any anxieties Hispanic residents may feel.

“I like to think of Riverhead as one community, and it’s really not right now,” Mr. Hubbard said. “There is a stigma out there right now and it’s got to be erased.”

aborruto@timesreview.com

Supporters speak up for Scott's Pointe

Water park sparked controversy over unauthorized construction

BY ANA BORRUTO
MULTIMEDIA REPORTER

Riverhead Town Hall was packed to the brim last Wednesday night, mostly with supporters from all across Long Island — and even as far away as Maryland — who urged Town Board members to approve the already built go-kart track, pickleball courts and party space in the amended Scott's Pointe site plan application.

Many of the speakers sang the praises of owner Eric Scott, and stressed the benefits they feel the adventure and water park has brought to area children and families, as well as the local economy. Those who spoke in opposition — raising concerns about unauthorized construction, town code violations and the environmental impacts of the project — were often met with boos and jeers from the audience.

'If we do not approve of this, he's going to get destroyed.'

Dominick Scotto

"In the past 20 years, what Eric has gone through to get to where he is now, 99.9% of human beings would have walked away, without a doubt ... That says a lot about his character," said Dominick Scotto, a long-time friend of Mr. Scott. "If we do not approve of this, he's going to get destroyed — the bottom line is this: In this crazy world that we live in, at least for these kids, let these kids have something to do."

Island Water Park originally proposed a water skiing facility on a man-made pond off Youngs Avenue in Calverton. That plan encountered opposition from neighbors, and local officials urged the developers to relocate to town land at the En-



ANA BORRUTO PHOTO

Supporters of Scott's Pointe, the adventure and water park at EPCAL, implored the Town Board last Wednesday to approve the go-kart track, pickleball courts and other facilities that were built without authorization.

terprise Park at Calverton. The owners agreed, and purchased 43 acres for \$714,000 in 2002.

The Riverhead Town Board granted final site plan approval for the facility, with conditions, in February 2022 to allow multiple uses, including the construction of a two-story commercial building with the first floor dedicated for retail and entertainment, including an indoor wave pool and arcade

area, according to court documents. The second floor was to be used for office space and storage only, with no other occupancy without corresponding approvals.

After more than two decades in the planning stages, the 75,000-square-foot, year-round facility opened as Scott's Pointe in November 2023.

SCOTT'S POINTE | PAGE 16

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Area FDs report record call volume

Trend expected to continue even as volunteer numbers decline

BY ANA BORRUTO
STAFF WRITER

Several fire departments across the North Fork reported record call numbers in 2024 and saw an uptick in fire response and rescue incidents compared to past years.

While the Riverhead Fire Department reported a slight year-over-year decrease in calls, with a total of 1,435 compared to 1,482 in 2023, the Jamestown FD saw a slight increase, from 325 in 2023 to 344 last year. The Wading River FD responded to 370 fire incidents and 1,155 EMS calls for a total of 1,522 alarms — 127 more than the previous year.

Bill Sanok, the Riverhead FD's public information officer, said most of the fires the department responded to in 2024 were "pretty routine," however, there was an increase in mutual aid-related calls — which means several fire departments tackled an emergency situation together.

Late in the year, three separate brush fires demanded the Riverhead Fire Department's attention over Veterans Day weekend and several other Suffolk County fire departments — including Orient, Cutchogue, Manorville, Eastport, Wading River and Moriches — responded as well. Conditions were unusually dry for fall, and a red flag warning was in place.

"We had 18 departments show up for the Friar's Head [Golf Club] fire," Mr. Sanok said. "That makes a big difference when you're out there."

Mark Connelly, fire chief for the Wading River Fire Department, said nothing was abnormal about this past year and attributed the increase in call volume to the growing area population as well as age demographics.

Looking at other fire stations in the North Fork region, the Mattituck Fire Department racked up a total of 703 calls in 2024, which included 492 emergency medical service calls as well as responses to fire alarms, automatic alarms and mutual aid requests from neighboring departments. The department also responded to five active house fires — a "peculiar" amount for a department that typically handles one or two house fires per year, said Mattituck Fire Chief Bobby Haas.

One of the more devastating house fires took place Nov. 19 on Old Sound Avenue near the Amagansett Building Company. Multiple area fire departments responded to the morning blaze, which claimed the life of Edy Herrera, a dishwasher at C.J.'s American Grill. The incident is still under

FIRE CALLS | PAGE 9



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Orient Ice Yacht Club took part in a traditional 'ice-seeding' ceremony on New Year's Day — and this time, it worked!

Ice boating returns to Long Island after 10-year drought

Racers flock to Lake Ronkonkoma for 'annual' regatta

BY CHRIS FRANCESCANI
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

It's been so long since Long Island waters froze solid enough to race ice boats, that on Saturday, Lake Ronkonkoma Ice Boat and Yacht Club vice commodore Peter Truesdell explained his role this way.

"My job is to put on a regatta once a year," he said. "I've been vice commodore for 10 years, and this is the first regatta."

While serious ice boat enthusiasts travel all over the country to find solid ice to race on, Long Island has experienced a decade-long ice drought.

A four-man LRIBYC team spent all day Friday testing the ice on Lake Ronkonkoma — drilling holes in different places and measuring its thickness for safety, as well as canvassing the massive body of water for any other trouble spots, which, when discovered, were marked off with hazard flags.

Declaring the lake safe for ice boating, organizers put the word out late Friday: the races would take place Saturday morning.

But early the next morning, as racers pieced together their boats and strung up their sails, one key ingredient was still missing: wind. Ice boat captains waited for hours until the wind kicked up to about 10 m.p.h. in the afternoon, and finally took flight across the ice.

LRIBYC commodore Scott Valentine said patience is just part of the sport.

"I've gone to world championships where we've had to sit in a

hotel for a couple days because of no wind or temperature — if it's too cold, we can't sail."

With the wind came bright sunshine, which cracked the ice in places on the lake.

"They were very comprehensive on testing the ice," East Marion racer Rich Clark said of the Lake Ronkonkoma team. "But ice will crack like that when the sun comes out ... It makes you a little nervous when you first hear it, but basically nothing happens — it's just the sound of the crack. It's a long, lengthy crack. It doesn't crack around you, where you

fall in, but it can be a little scary, and it happened a couple of times during the races on Saturday."

East Marion racing veteran Mike Acebo said the ice drought made last weekend a big deal for dedicated sailors.

"Long Island boaters have waited for 10 years now, and we waited prob-

ably another five years before that. So it's just getting to be a rare thing to have ice on Long Island," he said. "We've almost all given up hope of having ice on Long Island, but lo and behold, we've been offered a chance to sail. So it's kind of a special weekend."

Long Island racers are drawn to Lake Ronkonkoma, the island's largest freshwater lake, for its storied history as a premier ice racing spot. The LRIBYC was founded in 1923. Saturday's first race was dedicated to late ice boating legend Richard Crucet, who Mr. Valentine described as a "driving force" in the Long Island ice boating community. Mr. Crucet passed away in 2014 and had been

a big promoter of the sport on Long Island and across the country.

The dearth of freezing weather in the region has gone on so long that it's driven some ice boating enthusiasts to resort to light-hearted, age-old Nordic rituals.

"It's an old, old thing," Mr. Acebo told The Suffolk Times last year of annual efforts to "seed" local waters with ice to induce freezing. "Usually it would happen at the [winter] solstice, the changing of the season. They would get together and they wear stupid hats and fur coats and hockey sticks and they'd throw ice in [the bay]."

He said the LRIBYC — as well as his local Orient Ice Yacht Club — has been performing the ceremony for years during iceboating droughts.

"Every year they would have a blessing of the lake and a 'seeding of the ice.' That's what they called it. It was like storm cloud seeding, but they were seeding the lake to get it to form ice."

On New Year's Day, a group of OIYC diehards, dressed as Norse gods and swarthy Vikings, gathered on the shore in Orient. They wielded hockey sticks and swept piles of machine-made ice into the bay, hoping to induce Mother Nature into a deep freeze. In a previous year's ceremony, they built a little boat, set it on fire and sent it out into the bay. For whatever reason, their patient prayers were finally answered this month.

A similar ceremony unfolded on the shore of Lake Ronkonkoma before Saturday's race, Mr. Acebo said.

Mr. Valentine won all three DN races on Saturday, a popular class of ice boats first developed in Detroit,

ICE BOAT RACING | PAGE 8

OPINION

OUR VIEWS

What's happened to civility?

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

This Golden Rule — a basic, universal principle calling for human decency — has begun to tarnish a bit lately. Growing up, we all must have learned at one point to treat others the way we want to be treated ourselves. However, differing opinions and divisive political rhetoric continue to fuel polarization, sparking outrage, consternation and incivility.

As the Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde said in her recent inaugural sermon: “The culture of contempt that has become normalized in our country threatens to destroy us.” This trend is not only unnervingly prevalent across the country; it is also beginning to impact our traditionally close-knit North Fork and Riverhead communities.

At a public hearing held in Riverhead last week for Scott's Pointe, the room was packed with supporters for the amusement park's amended application. Each advocate who went to the podium sang the praises of the park and the economic and recreational benefits it offers workers and families in the area. Many of the speakers came from across Long Island — even as far away as Maryland — to voice their support.

Unfortunately, those who spoke to instead urge town officials to reject the park's amended application, and require Scott's Pointe's owners to resubmit an updated site plan to seek approval for the attractions that were built without authorization — almost all of them women living in Riverhead Town — were met with boos and jeers from the audience. One audience member was overheard saying the women should “go about their business [and] sip their tea at home.” Riverhead Supervisor Tim Hubbard interjected a handful of times to quell audience interruptions, but no one was asked to leave the public hearing.

Late last week, in response to growing concerns over new White House executive orders, the Riverhead Central School District and Board of Education issued a press release outlining measures they plan to take to protect students from the potential threat of heightened federal immigration enforcement efforts.

While many in the community have expressed support for the district's stance, several comments on our papers' social media sites took a different position, including some who argued that children of area non-citizens — the vast majority of whom hold jobs and pay taxes — should not have the right to public education because of their “illegal” status. One commenter wrote: “I hope they do raid the schools.”

In times like these, a call for unity can seem like “a big ask,” as the Rev. Budde put it — but it's not impossible. When we take a moment to reflect on where the other side is coming from, to put our differences aside and come to a place of understanding, unity can grow.

The reality is this: Words can hurt, and they can circulate. Those who spew vitriol online or in public meetings might believe their words are simply opinions or a matter of free speech. But they can also spark fear in the fourth-grader whose parents are non-citizens or the legions of undocumented workers who have contributed significantly to our local economy for decades and are just trying to make an honest living.

At the end of the day, politics aside, we have only each other to lean on.

“Without unity, we are building our nation's house on sand,” the Rev. Budde said.

Some cracks are starting to show in our community's foundation. Let's each do our part to mend them.

YOUR LETTERS

CUTCHOGUE

Solving water woes

Long Island has a growing crisis of groundwater levels. High water use by both residents and businesses contributes to the depletion of the aquifer beneath us — which is our only fresh water supply.

As we continue to increase population, this water use will only increase, further reducing the groundwater levels. Saltwater from the oceans that surround us is and will continue contaminating that groundwater, especially in coastal areas.

This is an existential threat to Long Island's future. I'm suggesting that our local governments should invest in desalinization plants using this water to replace the present groundwater loss in our wells.

Why not use the vast ocean that surrounds us to our benefit?

Bob Bittner

MATTITUCK

Open letter to Congressman LaLota

I am very concerned about the president indiscriminately pardoning the criminals that stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6. How does this make me feel safer? How do the families of those who died as a result of the action of these insurgents feel? How can those who were in the Capitol building that day say that it was not that bad? I saw the whole thing live on TV! The Republican party has to stop gaslighting us! This action by President Trump was a disgrace and a slap in the face of every law enforcer, judicial officer and jury in this country. This was not a peaceful protest! The silence from the Republican party is embarrassing.

How does this action lower my grocery bill, gas bill or taxes, or give me better health care? All it does is

put very dangerous people back on the street. Many of us will remember this next election. Trump lost in 2020, but he refuses to move forward. It is very tiring to hear him moan about poor, poor him. I thought this time he would have finally grown up.

I hope Congress grows up and starts to think about the people who put them in power. Trump is a lame duck president. The Republican party cannot silently stand by his wrong and quite frankly unconstitutional and un-American way of acting. I am trusting that you, Mr. LaLota, will be strong enough to do what is right for your constituents.

Elena Grefe

SOUTHOLD

Danger ahead

“The Trump administration threatened employees last week with ‘adverse consequences’ if they fail to report on colleagues who defy orders to purge diversity, equity and inclusion efforts from their agencies.” I was lucky; I had 12 years of a fine education provided by the Sisters of St. Joseph in grammar school and the Daughters of Wisdom in high school. They taught us about the teachings of the Nazis in the Germany of the 1930s: Turn in your Jewish neighbors. It makes my blood run cold and if it doesn't for you I fear you are inhabiting that river in Egypt - da Nile.

Rosellen Storm

AQUEBOGUE

Enforce IRCA of 1986

Trump's immigration clamp down would not be happening at all if our town governments and our federal government had and continued to enforce the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. It is still here.

LETTERS | PAGE 8

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OBITUARIES

Eleanor M. Mealy

Eleanor M. Mealy of Peconic, age 89, passed away Jan. 20, 2025, at Plainview Hospital in Plainview, N.Y., after a brief illness.

Eleanor was born Nov. 25, 1935, in Southampton to Edward and Vivian Etheridge. Eleanor's life was defined by love, strength and devotion. She married Frank Mealy Oct. 27, 1962, and together they raised their family on the North Fork of Long Island. Their love and partnership were the foundation of a home filled with warmth, joy and an unwavering commitment to their children. Eleanor was a loving mother to her four children: Kelli, Tanya, Frank and Kyle, pouring all her energy into nurturing,



supporting and providing for them. Her greatest joy was her family, and she found immeasurable pride in her grandchildren, Ciara and Dominic. Eleanor's deep love and dedication to her children and grandchildren were evident in all she did — especially at Christmas — and her family always knew they could count on her, no matter what.

Eleanor was also known for her incredible cooking. Whether preparing a simple meal or hosting a festive holiday spread, she made everything with love. Her kitchen was the heart of the home, and her meals became lasting memories for her family, who will always remember the warmth and comfort she brought through her cooking.

She worked as a seamstress at WM J. Mills Canvas Company in Greenport, taking pride in her work. But her true legacy was as a

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devoted wife and mother. Alongside her husband Frank, Eleanor worked tirelessly to raise, put her children through college and ensure their success. Her love for family extended far beyond her immediate household, and being with her cousins, nieces and nephews brought her immense happiness. Her smile, kindness and nurturing spirit were a constant light in the lives of those around her.

Eleanor was predeceased by her beloved husband, Frank; her daughter, Kelli; her brothers, Edward Jr., Willie and Irey; and her sisters, Doris and Mamie. She is survived by her children, Tanya (James) Cafarella, Frank (Darcie) Mealy, Kyle Mealy; her grandchildren, Ciara and Dominic Cafarella; as well as her brother and sister in law Wendell and Florida Mealy; and a host of nieces and nephews and cousins.

Eleanor will be remembered for her selflessness, her boundless love, her culinary talents and the lasting impact she made on the lives of everyone who knew her. Though she is gone, her love, guidance and the memory of her radiant smile will live on forever in the hearts of her family. It cannot express how much she will be missed. Rest in Peace. I love you, Mom!

A family service will be held to celebrate Eleanor's life and legacy starting at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 31, at Unity Baptist Church of Mattituck. Following the interment in Calverton, there will be a repast at the church.

DeFriest-Grattan Funeral Home in Mattituck is assisting the family.

George Henry Starkie Jr.

George Henry Starkie Jr., longtime Southold resident, passed away at home Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025. He was 94 years old.

George was born Feb. 12, 1930, in East Elmhurst, N.Y., to Catherine (Long) and George H. Starkie Sr. He was the youngest of three children. After high school, he enlisted with the National Guard and served stateside during the Korean Conflict Era. Prior to moving to Southold in 1982, he lived in Smithtown. In his professional career, he worked as an aircraft engineer for several companies; his last position was with Jamco Aerospace, Inc. in Deer Park, until his retirement in the early '90s. He was an avid boater and fisherman and enjoyed many boating adventures throughout his life. He was a

Paid notice

grateful friend of Bill W. for over 50 years.

George was predeceased by his wife of 47 years, Gail Starkie, in May of last year; his daughter, Diane Stergiopoulos, and her husband, George; and his siblings, Elise Webb and Cecelia Buckley. George is survived by his children, George H. (Butch) Starkie III (Patti) and John W. Starkie (Cheryl); nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; his brother-in-law, Jack McManus; and many nieces and nephews. He will be dearly missed by family and friends.

In honoring George's life, all services will be private, allowing his family and close friends to celebrate his life in a private setting.

DeFriest-Grattan Funeral Home in Southold is assisting the family.

Cathleen Mickaliger

Longtime Riverhead resident Cathleen Mickaliger died Jan. 20 at San Simeon by the Sound Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in Greenport. She was 95.

She was born in Greenport July 15, 1929, to Nellie (Kujan) and Felix Doroski.

Ms. Mickaliger graduated from Southold High School, Mary Immaculate Hospital and School of Nursing in Jamaica, N.Y., and St. Joseph's College of Maine, where she earned a B.S. in health administration.

She married John Mickaliger Nov. 12, 1950, in Cutchogue and remained married for over 61 years. Cathleen dedicated her life to helping people as a registered nurse. Over her career, she worked at Central Suffolk Hospital (now Peconic Bay Medical Center) as night supervisor, emergency room head nurse, assistant director of nursing, director of nursing and assistant administrator for regulatory affairs. She also served as the N.Y. regulatory director at the Riverhead Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (now Arcadia Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation).

Paid notice

She was a member of St. Isidore R.C. Church and the Altar-Rosary Society. Family members said she enjoyed camping, card games, cooking, gardening, sports, stamp collecting, traveling and volunteer work, according to family members. She was highly active as a volunteer at St. Isidore's Elementary School when it opened in 1962.

Ms. Mickaliger is survived by her sons Michael (Judy), of Maryland, and James (Karen), of Florida; her daughter, Kathryn (Karol), of California; grandchildren Meredith Mickaliger-Anderson (Doug), Jon Press (Margaret) and Richard Press (Mimi); and great-grandchildren, Mable Anderson, and Joseph, Elsa and Brooke Press. She was predeceased by her husband, John; sister, Anne, and brother, Robert.

A service was held Jan. 25 at St. Isidore R.C. Church in Riverhead, followed by interment at the church cemetery. Arrangements were handled by McLaughlin Heppner Funeral Home in Riverhead.

Donations may be made to the San Simeon by the Sound Recreation Department or the charity of your choice.

OBITUARIES | NEXT PAGE

2857960

MCLAUGHLIN HEPPNER FUNERAL HOM

MONTHLY AD

2 X 6.75

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries of those who have lived in the News-Review's circulation area may be published free of charge. Information submitted for obituaries is subject to editing to conform to the newspaper's editorial policy and style. Those that do not conform to our editorial policy and style, and those for nonresidents, may run as paid notices. Email: obituaries@timesreview.com. Fax: 631-938-7298. Phone: 631-354-8017.

MORE LETTERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

It did not disappear. It was the 1986 Act that focuses on employers hiring illegal immigrants — also known as the Simpson-Mazzoli Act [and the] Reagan Amnesty Act. Does anybody remember that?

This is what happened to it: Our local governments didn't, haven't and won't enforce it.

Our federal government didn't, hasn't and won't enforce it. Why? Payoffs. Solutions to the current illegal immigration problem can start small: Tell your business owner friend to hire legal citizens first, and/or H-1B Visa college graduates — it is an opportune pathway to citizenship.

Don't accept the "normalcy" of our politicians accepting hush money from the über wealthy and business owners who employ undocumented immigrants. Don't accept the "normalcy" of your business owner friends who have staffed their businesses with undocumented immigrants so your business owner friend can make their profit margins and enjoy their surplus. Rather hire legal citizens and H-B1 visa-holding college graduates. It worked in 1980s in the Hamptons when businesses hired Irish H-B1-holding college graduates. I worked with them when I was a college student in the Hamptons.

Moving forward from this day, demand that our local governments enforce the IRCA of 1986. No excuses. This current chaos would never have happened if it had been enforced. This is not the solution. IRCA-1986 is the solution.

Celeste Tracy

CUTCHOGUE

EVs have it easy

Thanks for the interesting article on EVs ("EVs on the rise across Long Island," Jan. 16). But it should be pointed out that EVs do not pay road tax as the rest of us do at the pump.

They are typically heavier than gas cars and thus cause more wear on our roads.

Richard Brewster

LETTERS POLICY

The Riverhead News-Review welcomes all letters addressed and written exclusively to the editor.

All letters must be signed and include a return email address and daytime phone number, which are used for confirmation purposes only. Letters deemed to be libelous will not be published. Letters about personal disputes will be published only when deemed to be of significant community interest.

The newspaper reserves the right to edit all letters for length, grammar, style and clarity.

Letters should be less than 350 words. Individual writers are limited to two letters per month, at the discretion of the editors.

Letters suitable for publication will appear in the next available edition, as space allows.

Please email letters to editor@timesreview.com. Handwritten letters can no longer be accepted.

OBITUARIES

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Anne M. Aicher

Anne M. Aicher of Southold went to her Lord Jan. 25, 2025. She was 94 years old. She is survived by her husband of 69 years and five children.

Anne was born July 4, 1930, and has been a true firecracker. She was the oldest of four children in her family, and her mother was widowed when Anne was a child, resulting in Anne's going for a job interview the day following her graduation from Dominican Commercial High School in Jamaica. She had won a scholarship to St. John's University, and hoped to use it to attend night classes while working during the day to help her mother with expenses. She put her hands together and silently prayed, "God, please get me a job here," as she walked among the magnificent buildings in midtown Manhattan. She got the job — a good one as a secretary. The heavy workload required her to stop night classes at St. John's after two years.

A few years later, in September 1951, her boss invited her to his home to meet his nephew, Jack Aicher. That meeting resulted in their eventual wedding in June 1956.

After attending the fifth college graduation of her children, Anne returned to college herself, graduated from Molloy University with a magna cum laude degree and won the gold medal for excellence in

English literature. She became a sought-after copy editor, a perfectionist in the language.

Anne was a devoted Roman Catholic and volunteered to help the church in many ventures, including Sunday bulletins. She was especially helpful to the Tribunals of the Dioceses of Rockville Centre and Burlington, Vt. She was thanked profusely by those she assisted.

Anne is survived by her husband, Jack; her daughters, Elizabeth Laliberty (William) of Haverhill, Mass., Patricia Aicher (Steve) of Montclair, N.J., Eileen De Sousa (Rique) of Old Bridge, N.J. and Anne R. Aicher of Ridgefield, Conn; her son, John Jr., (Stacey) of Rockville Centre; her nine grandchildren; and a great grandson. The family is grateful to East End Hospice, who assisted Anne in her final illness.

Her family will welcome visitors Thursday, Jan. 30, from 4 to 7 p.m. at DeFrist-Grattan Funeral Home, in Southold. The Liturgy of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday, Jan. 31, at 10 a.m. at Saint Patrick's R.C. Church in Southold, officiated by Father Abraham Thannickal. The Rite of Committal will follow at St. Patrick's R.C. Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to East End Hospice. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.



Paid notice

2852970
CLIFF'S ELBOW ROOM, INC
 NEWSPAPER AD
 2 X 3.25

2864990
TUCCIO, E.F. REAL ESTATE
 PRINT AD
 2 X 3.25

ICE BOAT RACING...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Mich., in the late 1930s. He captained a brand-new DN he'd gotten after an accident in the year prior. "Last year at the North American championships, a guy totaled my boat during the race," he said. "I had the right of way, and he came up on my blind side and hit my boat, and destroyed it and his boat."

Though racing boats can cost several thousand dollars to build, the competitor graciously gave him a new boat free of charge.

"Proper ice boat etiquette dictates that if you do something wrong, you have to fix or repair the damage," Mr. Valentine said. "He's ranked eighth in the world, and his friend builds boats, so he said he'd build me an exact copy of his boat, and he did."

The thirst to race across the frozen bays dates back centuries on the North Fork, according to Mr. Acebo.

"During the late 1800s, early 1900s up to [World War I], the farmers had nothing to do in the winter," he said. "What were you going to do when your fields were covered with snow? They built old-style, stern-steer iceboats ... every farmer had an iceboat in the ceiling of his barn."

Despite the long pause, local ice boaters still yearn for their next race.

"The first time you try it, and you get going, and there's a nice breeze

and you pull the sail tight, the boat takes off like a jet," Mr. Acebo said last year. "That's the feeling. It pushes you back in the cockpit. The speed is exhilarating. And the speed goes faster and faster and faster and you think you're doing 100 miles an hour when you're doing 45."

"I mean, it's just the most incredible feeling you can have. Now I drive a Porsche. I've skied downhill, rafted in the Grand Canyon. I've flown gliders ... I rode a motorcycle across the country," Mr. Acebo recounted. "This is the most exhilarating thing that I've ever done."

Next week, Mr. Valentine and Mr. Truesdale are heading to the ice boat world championships, which move around the country based on what location has the best ice. Organizers are eyeing Wisconsin, specifically Lakes Winnebago and Monona, according to the DN North America website, with a final update promised this week.

"No matter what happens, when Pete and I go, we always have a great time. We're sailing with the best of the best in the sailing world: America's Cup people, collegiate champions, Olympic champions," Mr. Acebo said. "They're all super people. You can talk to them, have a good time, sit at the bar with them, have dinner with them. There's great camaraderie there."

chris@timesreview.com

FIRE CALLS...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

investigation.

Chief Haas said the last time the department saw a notable increase in structure fires was in 2016 — when there were a total of four. When asked what may have led to the hike this past year, the chief said he didn't think there is a clear answer.

"Some [causes] are undetermined, so we don't know what started them," he said. "So, it's hard to say why the influx in the amount of fires this year."

The Greenport Fire Department responded to 1,144 combined fire and rescue calls in 2024 — the most in department history. Volunteer firefighters and EMTs surpassed 1,000 total responses in November and saw a roughly 14% overall spike for the year.

David Nyce, one of the department's chiefs, said nearly 75% of the calls are rescues, which refers to any medical-related response. Most fire-related incidents result from automatic alarms — which refers to the alert systems commonly integrated in homes and commercial buildings. Sometimes, use of the terms automatic alarm and false alarm can be "interchangeable," Mr. Nyce said.

There was also a significant house fire on Anglers Road in November. The Greenport, Southold, Shelter Island, Cutchogue and Mattituck fire departments responded shortly after homeowner Mary McCabe evacuated the one-story, three-bedroom house. Volunteers battled the flames for more than two hours that afternoon, according to previous reporting. The cause of that fire also remains under investigation.

In terms of medical-related incidents, Mr. Nyce said the Greenport fire department responded to an increased number of alcohol overdoses throughout the year — including a notable spike over the summer. Around that time, Greenport Village passed an anti-loitering law in an effort to help ease the overwhelming number of emergency calls. Mr. Nyce, a former Greenport Village mayor, said the fire department has worked with local officials, the town police department and the hospital to address this issue.

The East Marion Fire Department responded to 134 total calls in 2024, which breaks down to 53 fire-related and 81 EMS calls. Volunteers responded to nine active fires last year,

a significant increase from the two fires recorded in 2023.

Although its full year-end tally has not yet been finalized, the Cutchogue Fire Department reported responding to 511 total calls, up from 498 in 2023. On the year, 369 calls were rescue-based and 142 were fire or fire alarm related. The Southold Fire Department also reported a slight uptick, from 747 total incidents in 2023 to 787 last year.

Recruitment continues to be a struggle for most local fire departments and the need for more — particularly younger — volunteers remains. Chief Haas said that with the rising cost of living, volunteerism is at an "all time low" across Long Island. Mr. Nyce noted that many potential recruits who move to the North Fork are coming from places where firefighters are paid to volunteer, providing an incentive to stay involved and compensate for the time burdens of required training.

One positive change, Mr. Sanok believes, is how the severity of fires has gone down due to improvements in early detection. Training has also increased "significantly," he said, and Riverhead has been fortunate in maintaining its volunteer pool.

"We've had a lot of young people that have joined and stayed — real active members, and the training has been very active," Mr. Sanok said. "Some people like me, [serving as a volunteer for] 50 years or more, and there's not many coming in — but, it's a sign of the times."

After being down to about 50 members in previous years, Mr. Donnelly said there has been an uptick in recruitment for the Wading River FD this past year, with nearly four to five volunteers joining per quarter. Today, they have roughly 70 volunteers total with 20 new members.

He said the department worked to streamline the membership process, so those who are interested can apply more easily through their website. The department has also upped its community outreach by posting signs calling for volunteers and attending more public events.

"We got some people back that had left the department over the years that now found time to come back and join us again," Mr. Donnelly said. "It was actually a very positive year for us."

aborruto@timesreview.com

POLICE NEWS • RIVERHEAD

On Jan. 22, Christopher Marczewski of Riverhead, 45, was charged with alleged burglary, alleged grand larceny, alleged driving while intoxicated, alleged criminal possession of a controlled substance, alleged false impersonation and alleged possession of a forged instrument. Mr. Marczewski was also arrested on an outstanding warrant.

- Last week, Krisnaba Zala, 34, of Riverhead; Alexandra Lally, 26, of Mastic Beach; Kristen Lally, 46, of Mastic; David Cullington, 40, of Ridge; and Melissa Kust, 43, of Riverhead were charged with alleged petit larceny. Ms. Kust was charged with seven counts and Mr. Cullington with three, according to police.

- Vincent Wilson, 59, of Southampton; Sean Glogg, 26, of Riverhead;

Sherry Nucci, 44, of Brooklyn; Gina Lewis, 40, of Riverhead; and Lorenzo Ajcuc, 58, of Riverhead were arrested on outstanding warrants, according to police, with Mr. Ajcuc arrested on two outstanding warrants. Mr. Glogg was also charged with alleged trespassing.

- Vincent Accardo, 43, of Rocky Point and Leonel Perez Antonio, 20, of Riverhead, were charged with alleged DWI. Mr. Accardo was also charged with alleged criminal possession of a controlled substance.

- Christina Kamaiko, 47, of Greenport was charged with alleged aggravated, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Those who are named in police reports have not been convicted of any crime or violation. The charges against them may later be reduced or withdrawn, or they may be found innocent.

IMMIGRATION...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion status, have the right to free public education. New York State has also reiterated that "immigration enforcement actions cannot occur on school grounds without legal documentation," and Riverhead school administrators said they plan to follow the guidance of legal counsel to affirm the validity of any "supposed legal documentation" before complying with any action by a federal immigration agency.

Additionally, the school district plans to provide resources to help families understand their rights and tap its legal counsel for guidance on how to properly respond to any challenges the immigrant student population may face, which could potentially be "ICE officers appearing at [the] schools' doorsteps," the letter stated.

The school board is considering revisions to its policies, as well, to further strengthen privacy protections for student information.

Under the landmark 1982 Supreme Court decision, *Plyler v. Doe*, "a state cannot prevent children of undocumented

immigrants from attending public school unless a substantial state interest is involved." According to the New York State Department of Education, under federal and state law, public schools must accept school-age migrants and other students experiencing homelessness, living in shelters or other temporary housing.

State public schools also must enroll students immediately, even if they cannot provide proof of residency, immunization records, school records or other documents typically required for enrollment. However, students must receive at least one dose of any required vaccines within the first two weeks of attending school to remain enrolled.

"The Riverhead School District will always stand in defiance of any initiative, regardless of its source, that threatens the safety and well-being of any of our students," the district's letter read. "We will continue to advocate for our students and defend their absolute right to an education free from harassment, intimidation or fear-mongering — it is our sacred vow to ensure that every child in our care feels safe, supported and respected."

Several parents and other community members applauded the

district's stance at a school board meeting Tuesday night. Kerry Spooner, a parent of a Pulaski Street sixth-grader, said the district's letter gave her "hope" and she urged the board to create more "transparent, accessible mechanisms" for families to report any incidents of discrimination or harassment on school grounds.

"These fears don't stay at home — they follow our children into the classroom, affecting their ability to learn," Ms. Spooner said at the meeting. "Your letter affirms what we hold sacred: that schools must remain safe spaces for learning, regardless of federal policy shifts. Our schools must be sanctuaries where these fears are alleviated, not amplified, and where every child's right to education is adamantly protected."

Riverhead Town Supervisor Tim Hubbard followed the school district with a release issued on Jan. 24, which stated that enforcement of federal orders remains the responsibility of federal agencies, but did not rule out the use of Riverhead Town police as an assisting local agency.

"Immigration enforcement and related issues are purely federal functions and

are administered by federal agencies," Mr. Hubbard's statement read. He further reiterated that, per policy, Riverhead police personnel will not stop, question, interrogate, investigate or arrest anyone based solely on suspected immigration status, and will not detain anyone for suspected civil violations of federal immigration laws or a related civil warrant.

In an updated release published Tuesday, Mr. Hubbard clarified that the Town of Riverhead firmly supports President Trump's new policies, but further emphasized that immigration is strictly a federal matter and that "neither immigration enforcement nor deportation proceedings are legally permissible functions of the Riverhead Police Department, unless there are criminal charges pending."

"As has always been the case, in the event the Riverhead Police Department is asked by a federal agency to provide support or assistance in their efforts, they will do so," Mr. Hubbard said in Tuesday's release. "It is simple: The Town of Riverhead and the Riverhead Police Department will not obstruct the federal government's efforts to address immigration."

aborruto@timesreview.com

'These fears don't stay at home — they follow our children into the classroom, affecting their ability to learn.'

Kerry Spooner

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LEGAL NOTICES

Deadline: Monday at 10 a.m. | Submit notices to quickadcreator.com | Information: support@nynewspapers.com

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF SUFFOLK PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION, Plaintiff AGAINST UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RITA MANDRACHIO IF LIVING, AND IF HE/SHE BE DEAD, ANY AND ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN TO PLAINTIFF, CLAIMING, OR WHO MAY CLAIM TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN, OR GENERAL OR SPECIFIC LIEN UPON THE REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THIS ACTION; ET AL., Defendant(s)

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 31, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Riverhead Town Hall, 4 W. 2nd Street, Riverhead NY 11901 on February 18, 2025 at 10:00AM, premises known as 24 Lewin Drive, Wading River, NY 11792. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Riverhead, County of Suffolk and State of New York, District: 0600 Section: 027.00 Block: 01.00 Lot: 010.001. Approximate amount of judgment \$339,955.61 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #205985/2022. Thomas S. Zawyrucha, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive Williamsville, NY 14221 22-000109 83820

PROBATE CITATION

File No: 2022-162
SURROGATES COURT SUFFOLK COUNTY
CITATION-SUPPLEMENTAL
The People of The State of New York
By the Grace of God Free and Independent
To: FOR ANY AND ALL UNKNOWNNS AND FOR PETER DOE:

"The distributees, heirs at law and next of kin of Margaret Ann Lee, deceased, if any living; and if any be dead, their respective distributees, heirs at law, next of kin, legatees, devisees, executors, administrators, assigns and successors in interest, all of whose names, whereabouts and addresses are unknown and cannot be ascertained with due diligence, being any persons interested in the estate of Margaret Ann Lee, deceased, as distributees or otherwise."

"Peter Doe, (the name being fictitious) being any person or persons who are the maternal first cousins of Margaret Ann Lee, deceased, if living, and if dead having survived decedent, their executors, administrators, distributees, heirs at law, next of kin, successors and assigns of any such persons, all of whose names, whereabouts and addresses are unknown and cannot be ascertained with due diligence."

A Petition having been duly filed by Patricia Thompson, who is domiciled at 56 Mullen Hill Lane, Southampton, NY 11968. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Suffolk County, at 320 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York, on March 11, 2025, at 9:30 o'clock on the forenoon of that day, why as decree should not be made in the estate of Margaret Ann Lee, lately domiciled at 37 North Bishop Lane, Southampton, NY 11968 admitting to probate a Will dated October 16, 2017, as the Will of Margaret Ann Lee, deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to Patricia Thompson. No further relief is requested. Dated, attested and sealed January 7, 2025 Hon. Vincent J. Messina, Jr. Surrogate. Doreen A. Quinn, Chief Clerk. Name of Attorney: Robert E. Marcincuk, Esq.. Telephone Number: 631-283-7007. Address of Attorney: 250 North Sea Rd, Southampton, NY 11968. [Note: This Citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have the right to have any attorney appear for you.]

TOWN OF RIVERHEAD REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

The Town of Riverhead is seeking Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) for PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES during construction for the new Class A Biosolids Upgrade project to be constructed at the Riverhead Water Resource Recovery Facility. SOQs will be received by the Town Clerk of the Town of Riverhead at Town Hall, 4 W Second Street, Riverhead, New York, 11901, until 11:00 a.m. on February 6, 2025. Information about the project and a complete Request for Qualifications packet may be obtained by visiting the Town of Riverhead website at

www.townofriverheadny.gov on or after January 25, 2025. Click on "Purchasing Department", then "Current Bids and RFPs" and follow the instructions to register. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RIVERHEAD JAMES M. WOOTEN, TOWN CLERK**

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

NJCC-NYS COMMUNITY RESTORATION FUND LLC,

Plaintiff,

Against

PAUL T. HUGGINS JR., ET AL.

Defendant(s)

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered 07/03/2019, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, at Riverhead Town Hall, 4 West 2nd Street, Riverhead 11901, on 2/21/2025 at 1:00PM, premises known as 12 Ida Lane, Aquebogue, NY 11931, And Described As Follows:

ALL that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in Aquebogue In The Town Of Riverhead, County Of Suffolk And State Of New York District 0600 Section 046.00 Block 01.00 Lot 033.004 The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$512,949.88 plus interest and costs. The Premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 069613/2014 Denise Merrifield, Esq., Esq., Referee. SHELDON MAY & ASSOCIATES Attorneys at Law, 255 Merrick Road, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 Dated: 1/3/2025 File Number: 38439 CA

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Mellonhead Productions LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/09/2024. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Evan Mellinger: 440 Midland Parkway, Southold, NY, 11971. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, CELINK, Plaintiff, vs. DASHAWN PARKER, AS POSSIBLE EXECUTOR, HEIR, DEVISEE, DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF ESTELLE HICKS, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on November 21, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Riverhead Town Hall, 4 W. 2nd Street, Riverhead, NY 11901 on March 6, 2025 at 10:30 a.m., premises known as 29 Bell Avenue, Aquebogue, NY 11931. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Riverhead, County of Suffolk and State of New York, District 0600, Section 085.00, Block 03.00 and Lot 036.00. Approximate amount of judgment is \$359,377.14 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #619896/2019. Cash will not be accepted, only certified or bank checks made payable to Ralph Gazzillo, as Referee.

Ralph Gazzillo, Esq., Referee Greenspoon Marder, 1345 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 2200, New York, NY 10105, Attorneys for Plaintiff

riverheadnewsreview.com

TOWN OF RIVERHEAD PUBLIC NOTICE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE,

that a public hearing will be held before the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, at 4 West Second Street, Riverhead, New York on the 19th day of February, 2025 at or about 6:05 p.m. to consider a proposed local law amending Chapter 257 of the Riverhead Town Code titled, "Peddling and Soliciting" The code change involves the removal of fines listed in the code section itself and allows fines to be set by resolution of the Riverhead Town Board.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the entire text of the proposed local law and the provisions of the existing law to be amended may be reviewed at the Office of the Town Clerk, 4 West Second Street, Riverhead, New York 11901, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and can be accessed on the Town of Riverhead website at:

www.townofriverheadny.gov under the Agenda and Minutes for the January 22, 2025 Town Board Meeting. Dated: Riverhead, New York January 22, 2025 **BY THE ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RIVERHEAD JAMES M. WOOTEN, Town Clerk**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Abundant Faith LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/26/2024. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY designated as agent of upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Abundant Faith LLC: 2200 Stillwater Avenue, Cutchogue NY 11935. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

TOWN OF RIVERHEAD PUBLIC NOTICE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE,

that a public hearing will be held before the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead at Riverhead Town Hall, 4 West 2nd Street, Riverhead, New York at its regular meeting to be held on the 4th day of February, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Riverhead Town Hall, 4 West 2nd Street, Riverhead, New York, to hear all interested persons with regard to the adoption of a final order concerning the petition for water main extension to provide water service to the properties to be benefitted by the proposed Extension No. 97 – Forge Road and designated as District 600, Section 118, Block 5, Lots 1.1, 1.2, 2 through 11& 12.1, Section 119, Block 2, Lots 59 through 62, and Section 139 Block 1, Lots 1 through 4 on the Suffolk County Tax Map, Riverhead, New York, to be funded through the 2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Emerging Contaminants, the Town Community Preservation Fund, and the payment of key money pursuant to the Riverhead Town Code; Dated: Riverhead, New York January 22, 2025 **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RIVERHEAD JAMES WOOTEN, Town Clerk**

TOWN OF RIVERHEAD PUBLIC NOTICE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE,

that a public hearing will be held before the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, at 4 West Second Street, Riverhead, New York on the 19th day of February, 2025 at or about 6:05 p.m. to consider a proposed local law amending Chapter 301-229 of the Riverhead Town Code titled, "Yard Sales, Attic Sales, Garage Sales and Auction Sales" The code change involves the removal of fines listed in the code section itself and allows fines to be set by resolution of the Riverhead Town Board. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the entire text of the proposed local law and the provisions of the existing law to be amended may be reviewed at the Office of the Town Clerk, 4 West Second Street, Riverhead, New York 11901, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and can be accessed on the Town of Riverhead website at:

www.townofriverheadny.gov under the Agenda and Minutes for the January 22, 2025 Town Board Meeting. Dated: Riverhead, New York January 22, 2025 **BY THE ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RIVERHEAD JAMES M. WOOTEN, Town Clerk**

Thursday means the
RIVERHEAD
NEWS-REVIEW

TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NOTICE TO BIDDERS Sealed bids for JANITORIAL AND KITCHEN SUPPLIES

will be received by the Town Clerk of the Town of Riverhead at Town Hall, 4 W Second Street, Riverhead, New York, 11901, until 11:00 a.m. on February 13, 2025 at which time all bids received shall be opened and read aloud. Bid Specifications and/or Plans may be obtained by visiting the Town of Riverhead website at

www.townofriverheadny.gov on or after January 30, 2025. Click on "Purchasing Department", then "Current Bids and RFPs" and follow the instructions to register. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RIVERHEAD JAMES M. WOOTEN, TOWN CLERK**

Make your business known!



Advertise in the Service Directory. Call Karen at 631-354-8029.

TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NOTICE TO BIDDERS Sealed bids for TWO WAY RADIO SERVICE FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

will be received by the Town Clerk of the Town of Riverhead at Town Hall, 4 W Second Street, Riverhead, New York, 11901, until 11:00 a.m. on February 13, 2025 at which time all bids received shall be opened and read aloud. Bid Specifications and/or Plans may be obtained by visiting the Town of Riverhead website at

www.townofriverheadny.gov on or after January 30, 2025. Click on "Purchasing Department", then "Current Bids and RFPs" and follow the instructions to register. **BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RIVERHEAD JAMES M. WOOTEN, TOWN CLERK**

TOWN OF RIVERHEAD PUBLIC NOTICE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE,

that a public hearing will be held before the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead, at 4 West Second Street, Riverhead, New York on the 19th day of February, 2025 at or about 6:05 p.m. to consider a proposed local law amending Chapter 207 of the Riverhead Town Code titled, "Dogs and Domestic/Farm Animals" The code change involves the removal of fines listed in the code section itself and allows fines to be set by resolution of the Riverhead Town Board. PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the entire text of the proposed local law and the provisions of the existing law to be amended may be reviewed at the Office of the Town Clerk, 4 West Second Street, Riverhead, New York 11901, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and can be accessed on the Town of Riverhead website at:

www.townofriverheadny.gov under the Agenda and Minutes for the January 22, 2025 Town Board Meeting. Dated: Riverhead, New York January 22, 2025 **BY THE ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF RIVERHEAD JAMES M. WOOTEN, Town Clerk**

northforker

Paumanok releases non-alcoholic wine

‘De Nada’ brand comes in red, white and rosé

BY AMY ZAVATTO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, LIFESTYLE

Paumanok Vineyards has released its first no-alcohol wine label, just in time for Dry January. For those who have taken a step back from vino, spirits and beer — or plan to continue — De Nada, which hit shelves this month, offers a trio of screw capped, de-alcoholized wines, filling the thirsty demand for beverages without booze.

“It’s not news that the fastest growing segment in wine is low-alcohol and no-alcohol. That’s been true for a couple of years now,” says Paumanok and Palmer winemaker Kareem Massoud. He started talking about dipping a toe into the category the with his dad, Charles, a few years back but spearheaded it in earnest about a year ago. They are the second Long Island winery to launch a de-alcoholized wine. Wölffer in Sagaponack on the South Fork was the first, with Spring in a Bottle.

“The name is almost a triple entendre,” says Massoud. Literally translated, “de nada” can have two meanings: “of nothing” and “you’re welcome,” which seemed like the perfect name for the label that’s launching the family business into the non-alcoholic sector.

“It’s non-alcoholic, so it’s a reference to the absence of the alcohol,” says Massoud. “And then, of course, it means ‘you’re welcome.’” For that



MELISSA ZALESKI COURTESY PHOTO

Kareem Massoud showcases his de-alcoholized wines, made in Chile by Juan Esteban.

part, Massoud credits the response to creating an affordable, well-made product offering an alternative to alcoholic beverages. “We’ve already had some people saying, ‘This is great! We’ve been waiting for this!’ So, you’re welcome!” he laughs.

And the third part is a nod to where the wine is made: Chile.

For De Nada’s creation, Massoud partnered with Juan Esteban a 25-year veteran of the Long Island

PAUMANOK | PAGE 17

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HOUSE/GENERAL

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HOUSE OF THE WEEK



This waterfront home offers three bedrooms and 2 baths, with a private dock and a perfect exposure to sunsets. The interior is “warm, cozy and incredibly serene.”
Location: Southampton
Price: \$1,675,000
Broker: Brown Harris Stevens, Southampton, 631-702-7526

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Listings prepared for Times Review Media Group by Suffolk Vision Inc., Nov. 15, 2024.

BAITING HOLLOW (11933)

- James & Adele Maloney to Emily & Brett Kirkpatrick, 4003 The Fairway (600-40.03-1-3) (R) \$550,000

CALVERTON (11933)

- Emily & Gregory Zilnicki to Teresa & Allan Zilnicki, 113 Northgate Circle (600-61-3-46) (R) \$650,000

CUTCHOQUE (11935)

- Estate of Eleanor DeVecchis to Thomas & Deborah Campbell, 4300 Depot Lane (1000-96-5-9) (R) \$399,000

DERING HARBOR (11965)

- Alfredo Paredes & Brad Goldfarb to 21 Harbor Lane LLC, 21 Harbor Lane (701-1-1-3) (R) \$8,750,000

MATTITUCK (11952)

- Christine Meskouris Trust to Tenforty Central LLC, 1940 Central Drive (1000-106-1-27) (V) \$1,800,000

RIVERHEAD (11901)

- Robert & Patricia Kwasna to Wilmer Garcia & Ada Reyes, 42 Fairway Avenue (600-111-2-9) (R) \$650,000
- SJSC Properties LLC to 17 Wilson Avenue LLC, 17 Wilson Avenue (600-106-1-1) (R) \$500,000

SHELTER ISLAND (11964)

- Inselbuch Family Trust to JABRDA LLC, 4 Cove

Way (700-18-3-54.001) (R) \$3,750,000

- Laura Tuthill & John Needham to County of Suffolk, 80 South Midway Road (700-23-1-33.002) (V) \$3,000,000

- Philippa Abeles & Kim Tierney to Darshan Patel, 7 Marc Street (700-15-4-18) (R) \$1,700,000

SOUTHOLD (11971)

- Claire Blair to James & Lorraine Woll, 1750 Seawood Drive (1000-79-8-1) (R) \$759,000

- Brian Walker & Deanna Witte-Walker to Gregory & Paulette Ofrias, 645 Shepard Drive (1000-78-1-20) (R) \$755,000

WADING RIVER (11792)

- Giuseppe T. Rosini (Referee) & Maria Parra (Defendant) to Deutsche Bank, 66 Canterbury Drive (600-115-1-10.064) (R) \$1,556,968

- Hubertus & Kerstin Van Dam to Vartan & Vivian Kiretchjian, 123 North Woods Drive (600-35-4-23) (R) \$910,000

- Peter Kelley to Jonathan Garcia & Zoe Garcia, 41 Michaels Lane (600-96-1-9.022) (R) \$575,000

(Key: Tax map numbers = District-Section-Block-Lot; (A) = agriculture; (R) = residential; (V) = vacant property; (C) = commercial; (R&E) = recreation & entertainment; (CS) = community services; (I) = industrial; (PS) = public service; (P) = park land; as determined from assessed values in the current tax rolls.)

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Calendar of Events

All ages

Sunday, Feb. 2, noon-4 p.m.: **Annual North Fork Chili Cook-Off** at Greenport Harbor Brewing Co., 42155 Main Road, Peconic. Local restaurants and first responders compete; special beer released for the occasion. Tickets: adults, \$31; kids under 12, free. Reservations: eventbrite.com.

Fairs and festivals

Saturday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.: **Fourth Annual Southold Winterfest** at the Southold Historical Museum's Maple Lane complex, 55200 Main Road, Southold. Vendors, demonstrations, food, drink, entertainment, music, crafts for kids. Free. Information: southoldhistorical.org.

Saturday, Feb. 8, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: **Indoor Antiques, Fine Art and Crafts Fair** sponsored by Old Town Arts and Crafts Guild, at Southold Recreation Center, 970 Peconic Lane, Peconic. Vintage items, art, photography, pottery, jewelry and more. Food and baked goods available. Free.

Fundraisers

Saturday, Feb. 1, 7-10 p.m.: **"Let's Make Some Noise"** dance party fundraiser hosted by Southold American Legion Auxiliary, at Southold American Legion Post, Main Road. Proceeds help fund local veterans support programs. Tickets: \$20, in advance; \$25, at the door. Information: post803.com.

Lectures

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2 p.m.: **'The Unsettling Legacy of Wayland Jefferson'**, talk by author Jacqueline Dinan in the Community Room at Cutchogue New Suffolk Library. A tale of missing

evidence, racism and collective amnesia regarding the 1935 Southold-elected official historian.

Meetings

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 10:30-12:30 a.m.: The **Peconic Amateur Radio Club** hosts open house at the Custer Institute and Observatory, 1115 Main Bayview Road, Southold. Learn more about the world of amateur radio and community service.

Music

Friday, Jan. 31, 5:30-7:30 p.m.: **Acoustic Jam Session**, sponsored by Friends of the Library at Cutchogue New Suffolk Free Library. Bring your instruments, tapping feet and listening ears! Musicians of all ages, styles of acoustic music and levels of ability are welcome. Listeners welcome. Free.

Theater

Saturday, Feb. 1, 6:30-9 p.m.: **Hamlet La Tele-novela**, an exciting and comedic bilingual adaptation of Shakespeare's play, sponsored by CAST at Treiber Gathering Hall, Southold. Play starts at 7 p.m. Free. Registration: castnorthfork.org.

Ongoing events

Friday mornings 10 a.m.-noon: The **Riverhead/Jamesport Homemakers** meet at the George Young Community Center, 446 South Jamesport Ave., Jamesport. Knit, crochet and sew for charity. New members welcome. Information: 631-765-1768.

Through April: **Free house tours** of Tuthill House Museum offered by Mattituck-Laurel Historical Society, 18200 Main Road, Mattituck.

Private walking tours about local history: \$20, nonmembers; \$15, members; free under 12. Schedule a tour: 631-745-2752.

Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.: **Docent-led tours** at Hallockville Museum Farm, 6038 Sound Ave., Riverhead. Tickets: \$15, adults; \$10, seniors and children. 631-298-5292, hallockville.org.

Saturdays, 8 p.m.-midnight: **Stargazing** at Custer Observatory, 1080 Main Bayview Road, Southold, weather permitting. Suggested donation: adults, \$5; under 12, \$3. 631-765-2626, custerobservatory.org.

Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.: **Blacksmithing demonstrations** with Tom Barry at Village Blacksmith Shop, 101 Front St., Greenport. 631-477-2100, eastendseaport.org.

Sundays, 1:30-4:30 p.m.: **Docent-led tours** at Southold Indian Museum, 1080 Main Bayview Road, Southold. Tickets: \$10, adults; free, children and K-12 students. Email to arrange tours Monday through Friday. Information: indianmuseum@optonline.net.

Exhibitions

Through January: "All That Remains," exhibit of work by sculptor and graffiti artist **Christopher Vivas**, at Southold Free Library, upstairs in the Lucy Hallock Folk room, 53705 Main Road. Closing artist's reception: Sunday, Jan. 26, 1-3 p.m.

Through February: A group show by **Good Ground Artists**, a group of artisans who produce art of all styles, at Mattituck-Laurel Library's Art Gallery.

Through March 1: 2025 Elizabeth Richard Memorial Members' Show **'LOOK UP'**, sponsored by East End Arts, at the Andy Tarshis Fine Art Gallery, 133 East Main St., Riverhead, and 11 West Gallery, 11 West Main St., Riverhead. East End

Arts members share their interpretations of the sky. Free. Information: eastendarts.org.

Through early March: **Rock, Paper, Scissors**, an exhibit featuring artworks by Kaitlin Beebe, Louise Eastman and Peter Treiber Jr. at Cutchogue New Suffolk Free Library.

Wednesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.: **'Striking a Chord: Suffolk County's Early Music Identity'** at Suffolk County Historical Society Museum, 300 West Main St., Riverhead. Examples of early instruments, early composers, immigration influence and recording technology advancements. 631-727-2881, suffolkcountyhistoricalsociety.org.

At the libraries

Our local libraries host a variety of events for all ages. For calendars and more information:

Riverhead Free Library, 631-727-3228, riverheadlibrary.org.

Mattituck-Laurel Library, 631-298-4134, mattitucklaurellibrary.org.

Cutchogue New Suffolk Free Library, 631-734-6360, cutchoguelibrary.org.

Southold Free Library, 631-765-2077, southoldlibrary.org.

Floyd Memorial Library, Greenport, 631-477-0660, floydmemoriallibrary.org.

CALENDAR POLICY

The calendar is a sampling of in-person events planned by local nonprofit organizations. Events must be open to the general public and be not-for-profit, nonpartisan and nonsectarian in nature. Send information about in-person events to calendar@timesreview.com; the deadline is Friday at noon. In-person, virtual and online events may be posted at northforker.com/submit-event.

'The Minutes' casting call

Riverhead Faculty and Community Theatre will hold auditions for Tracy Letts' "The Minutes" on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 1 to 4 p.m. at North Shore United Methodist Church in Wading River. The plot follows a motley crew competing for influence using snappy, brazen dialogue, broaching both comedy and tragedy. Auditions will have an ensemble focus with nothing to prepare in advance. Rehearsals will be weeknights from the end of March through April at NSUMC, with show dates from April 25 to May 4 at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Greenport.

Contact director Huck Hirsch with interest or questions at huckhirsch@gmail.com.

Vendors wanted

The Old Town Arts and Crafts Guild seeks vendors for its Antiques, Fine Art and Crafts Fair set for Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Southold Town Recreation Center in Peconic. Those interested may sell their creative wares — photography, fiber arts, pottery, wood carvings, jewelry, silver, glass and more. For more information, email oldtownguild@aol.com or visit oldtownartsguild.org.

ACHIEVEMENTS

• Wading River residents **Lindsay Langella**, majoring in special education early childhood, and **Rachael Sereno**, an athletic training major, have been named to the fall 2024 semester dean's list at East Stroudsburg (Pa.) University.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

No. 1212: Hopping Mad

by Dylan Schiff Universal Press Syndicate

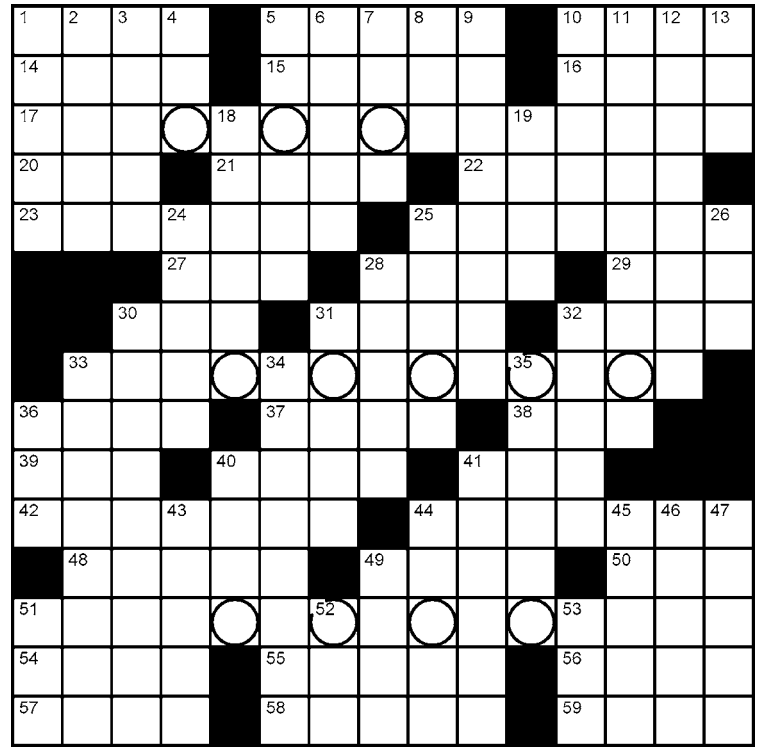
ACROSS

- 1 Plant-based ____
- 5 "BuzzFeed Unsolved" cohost Madej
- 10 Events with smokers, for short
- 14 Like many people in the Fertile Crescent
- 15 ____-mouthed (vulgar)
- 16 Boor
- 17 "You're 100% correct!" (In this answer, note letters 4, 6 and 8)
- 20 Course that might teach someone to say "It's nice to meet you": Abbr.
- 21 Geometry calculation
- 22 Bakery desserts
- 23 Space similar to a man cave
- 25 ____ Stone (famous artifact with hieroglyphs)
- 27 "____ better to have loved and lost ..."
- 28 Green Avenger
- 29 Hypotheticals
- 30 Apt letters missing from "_ont_i_er"
- 31 Greek sandwich
- 32 Greek god of love
- 33 Certain law firm worker (... letters 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12)
- 36 Simple shelters
- 37 Stiletto feature
- 38 Hongbao color
- 39 Contacts via WhatsApp
- 40 Got on in years
- 41 "The Wild Thornberrys" actor Curry
- 42 Annoying nonhuman commenter
- 44 Someone who mimics
- 48 Gathered intel

- 49 Lump in a naughty kid's stocking
- 50 Commotion
- 51 "How can we become just as amazing?" (... letters 5, 7, 9 and 11)
- 54 Bring on board
- 55 Happening
- 56 Big name in canned fruit
- 57 Chooses
- 58 Full of 'tude
- 59 Snow day conveyance

DOWN

- 1 Sleepover game challenges
- 2 Like boxty and colcannon
- 3 Scouts BSA bird
- 4 "Not gonna lie ..."
- 5 Ferns' reproductive units
- 6 Fine-tuned, as skills
- 7 Flour ground in a chakki mill
- 8 Ultimate degree
- 9 Hazel or blue
- 10 British fella
- 11 Very weary
- 12 Travel in search of
- 13 Piggy's place
- 18 Hummus ingredient
- 19 Luchador's covering
- 24 Huge fans, in slang
- 25 Like farm living
- 26 Mule's father
- 28 Publicized heavily
- 30 Cleaves
- 31 Say hi to
- 32 No friend
- 33 Abruptly desert
- 34 "ABSOLUTELY!"



- 35 ____ word score (Scrabble board phrase)
- 36 "____ Dark Materials"
- 40 Fivers, in old slang
- 41 Like a cozy spot by the fire
- 43 Tiny arachnids
- 44 Podiatrists' concerns
- 45 Yuletide tune
- 46 "Hometown Glory" singer
- 47 Carried around
- 49 Actors' prompts
- 51 "____ goes there?"
- 52 Eggs, to biologists
- 53 Some music store offerings

No. 1211: Just for Kicks

Edited by David Steinberg

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SPORTS

RIVERHEAD 71, CENTRAL ISLIP 35

Blue Waves gear up for first playoff run since 2019

Boys squad looks to secure No. 2 seed with three games to go

BY MICHAEL HEJMEJ
CONTRIBUTOR

Good news, Riverhead: We have a playoff team this winter.

For the first time since 2019, the Blue Waves boys basketball team clinched a playoff berth in Suffolk County's League I with a few games remaining and a chance to improve seeding position. Riverhead ripped through Central Islip, 71-35, Monday afternoon at Central Islip High School in a push to solidify second place in the league.

From the opening tip, Riverhead was on a mission. Peter Lagnena was the key scorer early on and didn't miss. The junior sharpshooter posted 15 points in the first quarter as the Blue Waves grabbed an early 20-point lead.

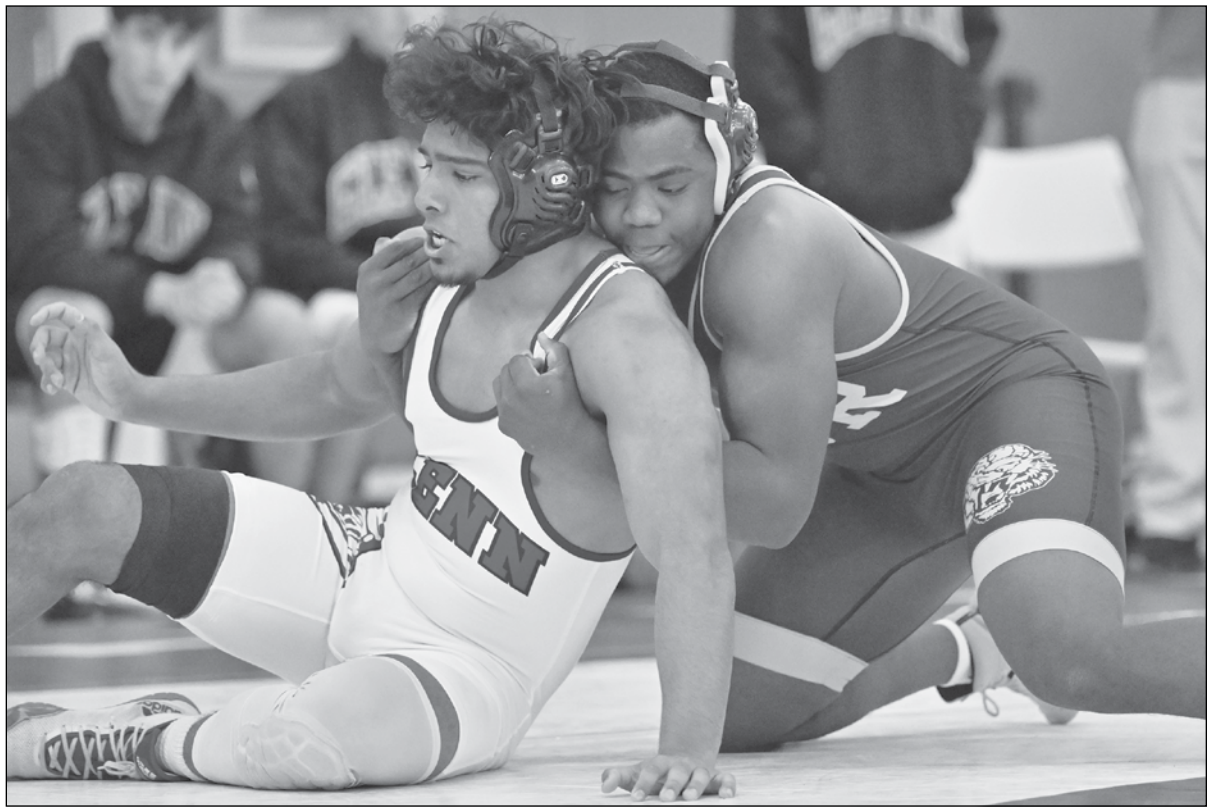
"I couldn't believe how much space they were giving me," Lagnena said. "It's the most space I had to shoot all season, so I didn't think about it and just shot it every time."

The Blue Waves kept scoring and extended the lead to as much as 40 points before head coach Pat Fabian pulled the starting lineup at the beginning of the fourth quarter. When Lagnena cooled off a bit in the second half, DeShawn Watkins took over the scoring load, equaling Lagnena's point total with 17.

"We've just been locked in as a team," Watkins said. "Getting into the playoffs this early took a lot off our shoulders, so we've been focusing on playing good team ball."

Riverhead got contributions up and down the

BLUE WAVES | PAGE 16



BILL LANDON PHOTO

SWR's Jer'Shawn Coffey lost on a last-second takedown in the 190-pound division, one of the closest bouts of the match.

JOHN GLENN 43, SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER 29

Wildcats wrestlers miss out on state tourney

Young team surged to No. 7 ranking

BY MICHAEL HEJMEJ
CONTRIBUTOR

The Shoreham-Wading River boys wrestling team came into the season unranked in the state. They arrived at the Suffolk County Division II dual meet championship on Saturday ranked 7th. John Glenn, the only division opponent that defeated them this season, stood in their way in a bid to make the state championships.

SWR's head coach, Joe Condon, did everything he could to get them to this place. He flooded the schedule with tournaments and meets against some of the best schools in the state. With virtually a brand-new team from last year and without a single senior, the

team soared to a 19-5 overall record, beating two teams ranked ahead of them in New York State.

So when the Wildcats eventually lost to John Glenn, 43-29, in the Suffolk County championship at Bay Shore High School Saturday, Condon went immediately to the officials' table hoping his team might still earn a wildcard bid based on their solid season record.

"No chance for it," Condon said immediately after meeting with the tournament officials. "The wildcard entry is a joke. It's only based on how many returning all-county wrestlers you have coming back. But we're ranked 7th in the state and John Glenn is ranked second. Out of the 16 teams mak-

WILDCATS | PAGE 16

THE ROUNDUP

GIRLS BASKETBALL

JAN. 27: RIVERHEAD 64, CENTRAL ISLIP 17

Riverhead posted their highest point total of the season on Monday against Central Islip. Logan Pilon scored a game-high 17 points and Adriana Martinez added another 15. Kyleigh Lennon also had a big game, scoring 13. The Blue Waves have their backs against the wall, needing to win their final two games to make the playoffs. They've played to an 8-6 overall record and a 4-6 record in League I thus far. One of the games they'll need to win is against William Floyd, a team they lost to 38-28 earlier in the season.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

Jan. 30: Riverhead at William Floyd, 4 p.m.

Feb. 4: Riverhead at Patchogue-Medford, 5:45 p.m.

Jan. 28: Shoreham-Wading River 50, Hampton Bays 27

After suffering their first loss of the season against Kings Park, Shoreham-Wading River has bounced back

and won two games in a row to bring their overall record to 15-1 on the season. The Wildcats are gunning for a top spot in the playoffs so winning out is crucial. Grayce Kitchen led the way against Hampton Bays, scoring 15 points. Ashley Bell scored 12. SWR has four games remaining on the schedule. If all goes to plan, they should have a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

Jan. 30: Sayville at SWR, 4 p.m.

Feb. 3: SWR at Islip, 6:45 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

JAN. 28: SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER 64, HAMPTON BAYS 33

Shoreham-Wading River broke their five-game losing streak with the victory over Hampton Bays on Tuesday. Zach Makarewicz led the team in scoring with 16 and Tyler Lievre chipped in 12. The 11-day layoff is exactly what

the Wildcats needed to refocus and get healthy. They are still clinging to their playoff hopes as they currently hold a 4-6 record in League VI. With four games remaining on the league schedule, SWR will need to win three of their remaining four games to earn a playoff berth. The Wildcats won six games in a row during a stretch in the beginning of the season so they're definitely capable of putting some wins together.

GIRLS WRESTLING

Two Riverhead girls found the podium in this weekend's Steven Mally Tournament in Greenlawn, N.Y. On the multi-school team, based in Bellport, Miiko Foster, a freshman, has continually gotten better and won her first tournament. Her teammate Delilah Evans also earned a medal, finishing in third place. The Suffolk County individual tournament, the first in its history for girls wrestling, will take place Sunday, Feb. 9.

MICHAEL HEJMEJ

BLUE WAVES...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

lineup, including a star-studded performance from their sophomore point guard Anais Mitchell, who collected 13 assists and scored 16 points — one of which was a rim-rattling dunk off a fast break.

“We haven’t made the playoffs in a long time here at Riverhead,” Mitchell said. “It’s a huge achievement for us. We made a huge leap as a team this year, and we’re gelling well.”

Defense has been the mantra from the beginning of the season, and that’s led to much of the success this year. Being able to run multiple sets, staying aggressive in the passing lanes and crashing the defensive boards have been some of the main points of emphasis this year.

It helps having a 6-foot-6 Liam Lennon on the court as well. The senior captain scored 10 points against Central Islip — but more importantly blocked six shots and got his hands on two steals.

“If Liam is affecting the middle of the paint, we are going to be in every game we play,” Fabian said. “He’s such a big part of the puzzle, and maybe he isn’t scoring as much as the others, but he’s affecting the game in so many other ways. Without him, I don’t think we would win as many games this year.”

WILDCATS...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

ing it, we won’t be one of them. We beat the fourth-ranked team in the state, so head-to-head wins apparently don’t matter. The state has to change the formula and, unfortunately, they haven’t looked into doing it.”

The Wildcats had no chance because they mostly have first-year varsity wrestlers this year — aside from reigning New York State champion Gavin Mangano — as most of last year’s starting lineup graduated. They didn’t have enough all-county wrestlers because most of them were on JV last year. The only way SWR could make it to states as a team was to beat John Glenn — and they fought like hell to do it.

After losing to John Glenn, 46-19, during the regular season, Condon moved some wrestlers around, having a few guys compete at a higher weight class to give them a better chance at winning the overall match. Mangano, Thomas Matias and Shane Cowan were among those to move up a weight class.

Mangano wrestled at 145-pounds and still won handily with a pin in the first period. Matias, at 108 pounds, defeated his opponent by technical

Riverhead (7-2 League I, 10-7 overall) clinched the playoffs against Brentwood last week. It’s a big step forward for a team that managed only three wins last year.

“It’s crazy what happens when the kids all buy into what you’re preaching,” Fabian said. “We are a team first. Nobody is bigger than anyone else on the team. I think that’s part of the reason we’ve had success. We all want the best for each other.”

The goal now is to secure the second seed in the division. They’re battling Longwood for that spot — a team they split the season series with. Longwood also clinched a playoff berth with a 6-4 league record.

Riverhead still has William Floyd (10-0), Walt Whitman (4-5) and Patchogue-Medford (2-7) on the schedule. Winning two of those three games will secure second place in league play, but Longwood’s 13-5 overall record could sway the committee to seed them higher despite the league records.

“Our goal right now is a home playoff game,” Fabian said. “We love playing at home and have only lost one time there. It’s just something about the crowd and the intensity they bring. It’s a hard place to play. The team knows how important each game we play is the rest of the way. We’re motivated. Making the playoffs isn’t enough anymore. We want a playoff win.”

fall, 18-1. Cowan had the job of going against all-state John Glenn wrestler Tommy Aiello and got pinned but went down fighting.

“Any of these guys will do what is best for the team,” Condon said. “They’ll wrestle anyone and that’s why I have such a great group of kids. They want what’s best for the team.”

This match was much closer than the first time around and, had a few bouts gone the other way, the result could have been much different. One of the closest matches of the night featured SWR’s Jer’Shawn Coffey and John Glenn’s David Rafiq in the 190-pound division. The score was tied 1-1 until literally the final second in the third period before Rafiq earned a takedown and the victory. There was some controversy about whether he got

the takedown in time but after officials discussed it, the result stood.

“I’m super proud of this team,” Condon said. “We’re just scratching the surface of what we’re going to be. Most of the guys out there were freshman and sophomores. They’re battling it out on the big stage against seasoned varsity senior wrestlers. Yes, we’re disappointed that we lost but this entire team returns next year. We’re only going to get better.”

‘I’m super proud of this team.’

Joe Condon

SCOTT’S POINTE...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

In July 2024, Riverhead Town took legal action against Scott’s Pointe, claiming that Island Water Park Corp. had received some but not all required approvals for work on the property — and went ahead with developing the attractions anyway. A go-kart track and pickleball courts were constructed on land that was supposed to remain wooded, according to the town’s initial complaint, which called for the owners to return the property to its “pre-violation status.”

The legal rift began when a video was posted on social media showing motorized race cars on an asphalt track speeding through what had been designated as a “wooded area” on the approved site plan, the complaint said. The town also alleged that the second floor permitted for office and storage space was being used as a “party room.” These complaints led to an investigation of the premises.

At the time of the initial filing, Riverhead officials asked a state Supreme Court judge to shut the facility down, force the owners to dismantle attractions built without proper permitting, including the pickleball courts and go-kart track, and fine the company at least \$100,000.

Earlier this month, Island Water Park Corp. and the Town of Riverhead reached a settlement in which the Scott’s Pointe operators agreed to pay \$50,000 in civil penalties to the town for the illegal building and non-authorizations. The park owners also pleaded guilty to violating certain sections of Riverhead Town code and paid \$5,700 in fines, according to the settlement document. Additionally, Scott’s Pointe agreed to pay Suffolk Paving Corporation nearly \$70,000 for the construction of an emergency access road.

Since the lawsuit was filed, Scott’s Pointe has submitted an amended site plan, which seeks legalization of the go-kart track and pickleball courts, and the conversion of an interior storage area for use as a catering and event space. If the revised plan is not approved within 18 months, Island Water Park Corp. agreed in the settlement to remove the go-kart track and pickleball court and restore the wooded area. That restoration would have to be completed within 90 days.

Several speakers reiterated Mr. Scotto’s sentiments about Mr. Scott’s character and the need for a “safe” attraction that customers of all ages can enjoy. A majority of those who expressed their support at the podium were residents from towns outside the Riverhead area. Current and former employees also spoke about their experiences working at Scott’s Pointe.

James Bissett, son of the late Long Island Aquarium developer Jim Bissett III, touched on his father’s experiences and the struggles he faced to get his project approved by the town. He said those

seeking to do business in Riverhead find it hard to “get s--- done.”

Sal Ferrari, CEO of a 3D home design firm called SQ4D, said that, as a business owner new to Calverton, he has been experiencing the “same headaches” as Mr. Scott to get his plans approved. He said the town’s rules and regulations should possibly be reevaluated, so projects such as Scott’s Pointe can be “fast tracked” because they are “good for the community.”

“Rules are not meant to be broken, but they are, and they’re broken because people get their back put to the wall and they don’t have a choice,” Mr. Ferrari said. “You have to survive — we are building businesses, we’re creating jobs.”

Those who disputed the amended project said they are not opposed to the water park itself, as they see the benefit of its recreational uses for the community. However, they urged the Town Board to deny the amended application and instead require the park operators to submit an environmental impact study for the unapproved attractions.

“We’re not talking about aesthetics here, we’re talking about serious environmental damage that may have long-lasting consequences,” said Claudette Bianco of Baiting Hollow. “While this project may be a great asset to the town of Riverhead, it must be done in accordance with the rules; it should not take a lawsuit to get this

owner to comply. It is incumbent upon [the Town Board] to hold him accountable.”

The amended site application was accepted for review by the Riverhead IDA on Jan. 6, and includes an updated budget to show what has been added and removed within the plan, as well as more accurate job creation estimates — which fell short of initial projections.

According to the 2024 document, Scott’s Pointe currently has 26 full-time employees, 161 part-time employees and 75 full-time equivalent employees — a total of 262. In its initial 2021 economic impact analysis, the operator projected 345 full-time equivalent jobs and 420 part-time/seasonal positions.

In the revised application, the applicant projected 42 full-time and 161 part-time employees in the first year of operation — and only a slight increase to 46 full timers and 189 part timers in the second year.

Scott’s Pointe anticipates site plan approval by March and DEC approval by June. The amended application stated that the DEC had concerns about the “footprint of the lake” and wanted the operators to finish the “reclamation” process, which requires having sufficient vegetation. The DEC will reinspect the area in six months and if they pass that inspection, Scott’s Pointe will receive “reclaimed status.”

A physical petition currently circulating in support of Scott’s Pointe has so far collected 80 signatures while an online version has attracted more than 2,000 backers.

‘It must be done in accordance with the rules.’

Claudette Bianco

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YOUR HOMETOWN

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NEWS EVERY DAY

PAUMANOK...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

wine industry veteran and a native of Chile. Esteban is the former winemaker for Laurel Lake Vineyards, and oversaw the transition after Laurel Lake was purchased by media mogul Dan Abrams in 2021 and renamed Ev & Em Vineyards. Esteban moved back to his home country, where his family owned vineyards and a winery in the Maule Valley. Massoud spent time there years ago participating in a harvest in 2002.

"It was my first time in South America, and I arrived in Chile and Juan Esteban is the one who picked me up at the airport, and I spent three weeks with him and his family before I started work," recalls Massoud. "It was like I was some long lost cousin or something. They were so hospitable, and they basically took me in as practically as a part of their family. It was amazing."

The two winemakers had always wanted to collaborate on a project, so when the idea of crafting a de-alcoholized wine moved to the forefront, Massoud reached out to his friend and colleague in Chile to see if it was something that could be done there.

"People ask, 'Well, how do you make a wine without alcohol? How do you do it?' And the answer is you make wine, and then you remove the alcohol," says Massoud.

'We're going to start trying to sell it to grocery stores, supermarkets and farm stands.'

Kareem Massoud

"So, that gets you to the obvious: It tastes a lot like wine, but it's missing the alcohol."

Alcohol, of course, does more than just give you a heady little buzz when you consume it. It acts as a preservative in a beverage, extending its life. That's why an open bottle of high-proof spirits on your bar hangs on indefinitely. Alcohol also adds something else you might notice that's missing when you sip any de-alcoholized wine: body.

It's why sparkling wines without alcohol tend to be very popular; the bubbly texture adds to the feel of it in your mouth that the lack of alcohol has stripped away. Still, the act of making a de-alcoholized wine as opposed to a non-alcoholic wine is preferable — and definitely tastier. In the former scenario, an actual wine — not just crushed grape juice — is made from the get-go, so you're left with the taste of the thing you liked in the first place.

There was more collaboration on the project, too. Massoud's wife, Karen, drew the cool retro label and his cousin Steven Baust, a graphic designer, honed the final look.

"We're going to start trying to sell it to grocery stores, supermarkets and farm stands," says Massoud.

De Nada is vegan and gluten-free, and being offered as a sauvignon blanc-based white, a rosé blend of merlot and sauvignon blanc and a red that's 100% cabernet sauvignon. Bottles are \$18 each, but for the entire month of January, Massoud is offering a 50% discount online at their web store and at both Paumanok (1074 Main Road, Aquebogue, 631-722-8800) and Palmer (5120 Sound Ave., Riverhead, 631-722-9463) tasting rooms. As the wine isn't an alcoholic product, it gets to skip all the state-by-state alcohol laws and can be shipped anywhere.

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CELLPHONE BAN...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"I think local Boards of Education should be the ones designing and implementing policies for their districts," Mr. Petretti said.

His district implemented its own policy regarding the use of personal devices this year. At the elementary level, students with personal devices should keep them turned off and out of sight. At the junior high, students are not allowed to have their phones out at any point during the school day. High school students can have phones throughout the day, but when they walk into a classroom, they are placed in a designated spot for the duration of the class period.

Mr. Petretti said that the policy has been well received by the school community. "Students do appreciate the ability to disconnect from their phones and focus on their academics during school time," he said.

While the current policy in the district has received positive feedback, Mr. Petretti said he doesn't "necessarily agree with a full ban where the secondary students would have to surrender their phones for the full day."

Students in the Greenport School District are allowed to have cellphones in school, with use allowed at teachers' discretion. To minimize distraction, phones are required to be put away during class time unless permitted by the teacher.

Greenport interim superintendent Ryan Case added that the district recognizes the importance of communication between parents and their children, particularly in emergency situations.

"If the state issues a directive requiring changes to cellphone policies, we will review the guidance and implement a new policy accordingly while maintaining a focus on our students' learning environment," Mr. Case said.

Southold School District Superintendent Anthony Mauro said the district is still reviewing the first draft of the state budget, including the device-free schools proposal. He said the district will plan to carry out any new initiative once the final version of the state budget is released and requirements are outlined.

"There is certainly merit to unplugging during the school day, but I also feel there is merit to teaching students how to appropri-

ately utilize technology, since it is such a big part of their lives," Mr. Mauro noted. "Balance is the key to successfully integrating technology into our lives."

In Oysterponds Union Free School District, Superintendent Justin Cobis said the Board of Education has not had a policy regarding cellphone bans in its kindergarten through sixth-grade classrooms, as phones have never been an issue there.

"I always err on the side of local control, and I always would err on the side of local districts deciding what is best for their constituents," Mr. Cobis said. "That being said, we would always move forward and be in compliance with state issues such as this."

In the Riverhead Central School District, teachers and administrators are authorized to confiscate student cellphones that are being used in violation of the code of conduct. Teachers and administrators can request that phones not be permitted in class during the school day.

In a comment sent to The Suffolk Times, the Riverhead district said it is in the process of revising its code of conduct to incorporate verbiage that will align with the governor's proposed policy.

Students at Shoreham-Wading River High School must check in their personal devices when they enter each classroom and retrieve them after class. High school students are allowed to access their phones when they are not in an instructional period.

For students in kindergarten through fifth grade, the Shoreham-Wading River Central School District prohibits personal devices from being brought to school. For grades 6 through 8, any personal devices that are brought to school must be stored in student lockers during school hours.

The district said its current policy was developed in collaboration with family, students and staff. Shoreham Wading River Superintendent Gerard Poole said the policy "has successfully enhanced student engagement while reducing classroom distractions."

"As New York State considers device-free legislation, our district hopes that the final policy will preserve local decision-making authority and continue to allow meaningful parent involvement in developing these plans," Mr. Poole said.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Deadline: Monday at 10 a.m. | Submit notices to quickadcreator.com
Information: support@nynewspapers.com

Greenport Union Free School District
720 Front Street
Greenport, New York 11944

Notice to Proposer

The Greenport Union Free School District hereby invites the submission of proposals from reputable and qualified architect/engineering companies for furnishing architect/engineering services in the School District. The RFP may be obtained at the School District Administration Office between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday beginning on January 30, 2025. Requests for specifications may be emailed to snuzzi@gufsd.org. Proposals will be received until 4:00 p.m. on March 10, 2025 at the School District.

The Board of Education reserves the right to consider experience, services and reputation in the architect/engineering field, as well as the financial responsibility, in considering proposals. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals in whole or in part, when in its sole discretion it deems that it will serve the best interests of the School District.

Dated: Sandra Nuzzi
District Clerk
Greenport Union Free School District
720 Front Street
Greenport, New York 11944