

8th Year, Issue 9, MARCH 2019

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Photo by Pamela Morrison



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CMHS Advanced Regents grad rate skyrockets

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

In a report from the New York State Department of Education, Center Moriches High School earned a 93 percent graduation rate for 2018, up five points from the year before. Of that, 59 percent of students graduated with an Advanced Regents diploma, up 12 points from the year before. In 2010, the rate was only 28 percent, according to the district.

Superintendent Russell Stewart credits the dramatic increase to actually realizing students' potential when he first entered the job. One of his first priorities, he said, was increasing the Advanced Regents diplomas given. Pushing students to reach higher, realize their ability, and support their efforts made a world of difference, he said.

Stewart said that relatively small changes made the biggest difference. He said students were targeted early on in their years, mainly in middle school, and encouraged to take more challenging courses and advanced classes. He said this prepared them for high school and gave them more choices and opportunities later on.

"It took nine years of real hard work," said Edward Casswell, principal of Center Moriches High School.

Casswell agreed that setting high expectations and then following through on them was a major catalyst for success. He said a shared vision – one accepted by administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, substitutes, and anyone who interacts with students – made the difference in allowing students to be successful. Kids were encouraged to reach higher and then supported on the way up.

"The real credit goes to the kids," Casswell added.

There were also changes made to some classes to allow additional support for students, like allowing additional time to take certain courses and providing extra help. There are also opportunities for students to take labs with math or science classes that increase learning time.

"Every student is not the same; some learn at a different pace than others," Stewart said.

The superintendent and principal added that it was a team effort that allowed these approaches to work, and teachers, counselors and administrators were all on board. Casswell said that continuity in staff, where students have seen many of the same faces for several years, also helped in implementing a new vision.

Another change Stewart wanted to see was the removal of barriers to certain students who may want to challenge themselves. This included the reduction of grade requirements for certain courses and others to allow more opportunities for students, with Stewart saying achieving the highest scores possible isn't necessarily the most important goal. Stewart added that the number of Advanced Placement courses, which students can take for college credit, had tripled since he took office.

Center Moriches, compared to the rest of Long Island, has a relatively small student body, and Stewart said teachers took advantage of this to provide individualized education. If students struggled in a course, they could get additional opportunities to make up work or relearn material in a smaller group setting.

Casswell added that the continued success creates a "winning culture" in the district, where kids are optimistic about their chances for success. Every new person hired, Casswell said, needs to share the vision of the rest, which is all about encouraging the best out of students.

The total number of students measured in the data set was 138, with 32 percent earning a regents diploma and 2 percent earning a local diploma. The average graduation rate for New York was 80 percent in 2018.

Moriches Community Center's new home

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

The Moriches Community Center, a nonprofit organization serving students and families in the Moriches Bay area, has officially moved into their new headquarters, the Moriches Bay Recreation Center. The facility opened early this year as the town's first new recreation center in over 20 years and the first in southeastern Brookhaven.

The Moriches Community Center held a grand opening event on Saturday, Feb. 2, where community members, local officials, students, families and volunteers could gather and celebrate the move. Kathleen Johnson, executive director of the Moriches Community Center, is excited to be in the new location and said it opens up many opportunities for growth.

"We've been working on this for almost 19 years, so to see it finally come to reality is just thrilling," she said.

The facility itself is a completely renovated former Knights of Columbus hall, which will be a split responsibility of the town and the center. In the morning, there will be a grantfunded nutrition program for seniors as well as other programming, and after 2 p.m., the Moriches Community Center will have the opportunity to host programs and be a gathering place for students. The process to rezone the property began about two years before the grand opening.

During the afternoons, volunteers will be present to facilitate student-centered programs, which are open to Center Moriches students from right next door, but also students from East Moriches, Eastport-South Manor and William Floyd. One program is a peer leadership workshop for grades 5-7, which takes place every Thursday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. The decade-old program is taught by veteran volunteers, teaching concepts like leadership, teamwork, time



Suffolk County Legis. Rudy Sunderman and Brookhaven councilman Dan Panico hold a volley in a pick-up game of ping-pong at the Moriches Community Center. MT/Rohrbacker

management and relationship skills.

Another program for students is Camp Creativity, which serves grades K-5. In July, the Moriches Community Center offers a weeklong program where kids can have fun with arts and crafts, games, and informal recreation activities. Other camps include Olympic Camp, for grades 2-7 that promotes socialization, competition, teamwork and physical fitness; and a Theater Arts Camp for grades 3-10, which offers lessons and experience in set design, costumes, acting, singing and choreography, and ends with a performance at Center Moriches High School.

Ongoing programs include the afterschool drop-in lounge, where students can unwind after long days in school in a safe environment. Homework help and social opportunities are available during this time. On Friday nights, high school students are welcome in the drop-in lounge from 9 to 11 p.m. for ping-pong, other games, and socialization with friends.

For more information on the programs offered and scheduling, visit morichescommunitycenter.org. ■

Dredge completed for Intracoastal Waterway

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

Officials announced on Feb. 4 that the dredge of the Long Island Intracoastal Waterway had been completed. The process started less than a year ago, after unprecedented storms destroyed much of the coastline.

This project was the next phase following the dredge of the Moriches Inlet, which finished in November. Sand was removed from the waterway in the bay and used to replenish Great Gun Beach and Webby Beach, both owned by the Town of Brookhaven. It also restored the waterway to a six foot depth for 2.7 miles. The original plan was to remove 57,000 cubic yards of sand, but the final number ended at 70,000. The project was coordinated by the Army Corps of Engineers led by Col. Thomas Asbury, who also ran the inlet dredge. The project cost \$3 million, compared to the \$12.25 million in funding for Moriches Inlet, both from the federal government.

"Coming on the heels of the completion of the Moriches Inlet emergency dredge, the conclusion of the dredge of the Long Island Intracoastal Waterway is continued good news for our local tourism and maritime industries, environment, public safety and way of life," said Congressman Lee Zeldin.

Zeldin said that boaters were having a



Elected officials announce the completion of the dredge of the Long Island Intracoastal Waterway MT/Rohrbacker

difficult time passing through the waterway, which was too shallow for many boats. Zeldin also took into account the U.S. Coast Guard, which has a station in East Moriches. The Coast Guard can now use the waterway to get through the inlet and out into the ocean. He added that the local economy, which is largely dependent on marine resources,

needed this project to protect merchants' way of life. Zeldin also said the stagnancy of water would pose a threat to marine wildlife and water quality.

"For that next generation of residents who will be out here to enjoy this park this spring, this is a great victory for them," Zeldin said.

Supervisor Ed Romaine said the street bordering Webby Beach was frequently flooded after heavy storms, and the bay was even beginning to encroach on the road. The beach itself was done in a town project a few years ago.

"I've been coming to this beach for almost 70 years, and I have never seen this beach as wide and as protected," Romaine said, adding that it was likely to be eroded again in the future. "But at least we've built it up and protected the street from flooding, and we've given this town beach [a chance for] a lot of people to come enjoy."

Councilman Dan Panico said Great Gun Beach across the bay was also experiencing erosion, and now 10,000 cubic yards of sand is stockpiled there to fix those issues.

The project comes on the heels of the Moriches Inlet dredge, which restored a 10-foot depth and 200-foot width to the channel, mainly to allow boaters to safely access the ocean. The sand was used at Smith Point County Park, where it was desperately needed, officials said.



American Legion to celebrate 100 years

The American Legion Post 1545 in Eastport will celebrate the 100th anniversary of American Legion this month with a ceremony honoring their oldest member, who is 83 years old. The ceremony will take place on March 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the American Legion in Center Moriches and will have cake and catered food. Commanders of several other local posts and the Suffolk County post will be present, as will members of the Eastport Fire Department and members of the community. The American Legion was created in 1919 when members of American Expeditionary Force convened in Paris for the first time. The Eastport post was organized in June 1946 and officially chartered in February 1947. For more information, visit eastportamericanlegion. org or call 631-325-2110. -Glenn Rohrbacker

Courtesy Photo



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Police blotter

Center Moriches

At the Center Yacht Club, someone damaged 13 shrink-wraps on boats by tearing through them on Feb. 22.

On Feb. 19, someone stole a pocketbook, which contained a checkbook, iPhone, and credit card, out of a shopping cart at King Kullen.

Also at King Kullen, someone stole a handicap card from 1968 Mercury Villager in the parking lot on Feb. 13.

East Moriches

At Atlantic Cove Marina, someone cut battery cables and stole five batteries from two vehicles on Feb. 7.

Moriches

Lindsey Ackerson, 27, of Moriches, was arrested for several counts of petit larceny, including three incidents of stealing various merchandise from HomeSense in Riverhead in November of 2018, and one incident of stealing merchandise from Marshalls in Shirley on Oct. 22.

CRIMESTOPPERS

Suffolk County Police recently arrested a female dental assistant for stealing jewelry from patients at a

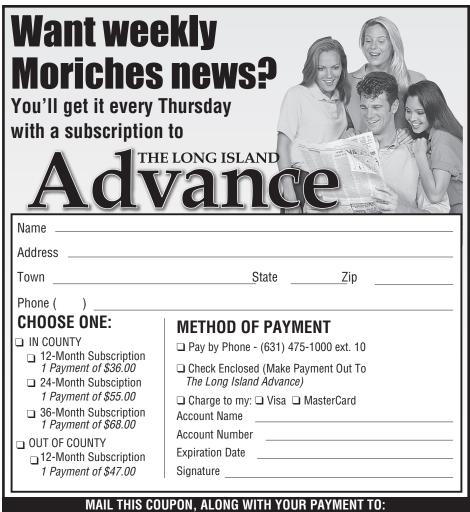
dental office in Rocky Point.

Arieta Gouvakis, a dental assistant to Dr. Elliot Koschitzki at Long Island Implant and Cosmetic Dentistry, located at 31 Fairway Drive, removed jewelry from two patients who were being treated at the office under her care on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2019. Neither patient realized their jewelry was missing until after they left the office.

The Suffolk County Police Property Recovery Squad recovered the stolen jewelry from local pawnshops. The dental office cooperated fully with the investigation once they were notified of the allegation against their employee.

Gouvakis, 38, was arrested at her home in Manorville at approximately 12:30 a.m. She was charged with grand larceny third degree, grand larceny fourth degree, criminal possession of stolen property third degree and criminal possession of stolen property fourth degree. She is being held overnight at the Fourth Precinct and was scheduled to be arraigned at First District Court in Central Islip.

Anyone with information or other patients who think they have also been victimized by Gouvakis are asked to contact the Seventh Squad at 631-852-8752.



THE LONG ISLAND ADVANCE, P.O. BOX 780, PATCHOGUE, NY 11772

Legislature passes offshore drilling restrictions

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

A bill recently passed in the New York Senate and Assembly would aim to prevent certain kinds offshore drilling practices in New York coastal regions. The bill would "prohibit the leasing of state-owned underwater coastal lands for oil and natural gas drilling," according to the text, and "prevent the Department of Environmental Conservation from authorizing leases that would result in the increase of oil or natural gas production from federal waters." The bill would amend the Transportation Corporations Law to restrict the powers of such corporations to develop pipelines associated with the delivery of natural gas or oil from the North Atlantic Planning Area, whose lack of leases lapsed in 2017.

"We have painstakingly worked to preserve and protect our pristine waters, and we certainly do not want to imperil all of our efforts to maintain clean water by allowing drilling off our shoreline," said Sen. Ken LaValle, a co-sponsor of the bill. "I request that the governor sign the bill into law, so we can further protect our waters."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has made repeated pleas to the federal government to not permit more offshore drilling, and has pushed forward bills in New York in the past. The 2019 version passed 47-14 in a Feb. 5 floor vote in the Senate, and is currently in the Assembly to be voted on again before heading to the governor.

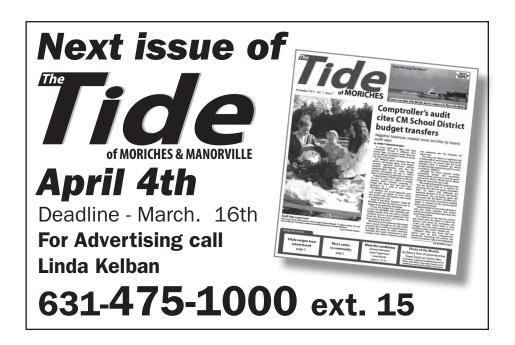
The authors of the bill cite an executive order by President Donald Trump, dated April 28, 2017, the America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, in the reasoning for the need for the law. The Department of the Interior passed a plan before 2017 that would sell leases for gas and oil production in the Alaskan and Gulf of Mexico regions. On Jan. 4, 2018, the Department of the Interior announced its implementation of the executive order, which would provide a new plan to run from 2019-2024. The order says that "the energy and minerals produced from lands and waters under federal management are important to a vibrant economy and to our national security."

Long Island officials expressed their support for the state bill and their opposition to offshore drilling. Brookhaven supervisor Ed Romaine said the practice was "unnecessary" and harmful to the environment. Romaine has also been outspoken about renewable energy and having the town move in that direction.

"I'm delighted that the state Legislature has decided to take this action," Romaine said, adding that the Atlantic Ocean was "no place" for fossil fuel drilling.

After the announcement by the Department of the Interior in early 2018, Congressman Lee Zeldin held an open meeting on Long Island to gather comments from residents.

"Even just the exploratory phase of offshore drilling would be detrimental," Zeldin said in a statement after the meeting. "The seismic testing would affect fish and marine life populations and is a major concern for our environmentalists, fishermen, oyster growers, and other businesses that are part of our historic and growing seafood economy."





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Councilman Daniel Panico

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Update on Lily Lake dredging

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

The drain-and-dredge project at Willow Lake in Yaphank went as planned, though the dredging downstream at Lily Lake has been halted for the time being due to concerning sediment buildup.

"We started seeing the turbidity levels go up as the lake got low," said Anthony Graves, the Town of Brookhaven's chief environmental analyst. "And we realized that as the lake was turning into a river, the channel was narrowing, and the velocity of the water was picking up and cutting into the sediment and starting to send it downstream."

Turbidity, a measure of water transparency, can be harmful at high levels to fish. Turbidity levels are recorded each day at three different locations along the river and within the impoundment. Any level recorded over 25 NTUs must be reported to the DEC.

Since Oct. 10 of last year, Graves said that one reading deemed necessary to report. About 90 percent of the readings have been below 10 NTUs.

In that time span, there has been some pushback from environmentalists regarding the dry-dredge methodology that was instated. The pushback includes the call for acquisition of particular permits to dredge the approximately 66,000 cubic yards of sediment.

A State Environmental Quality Review Act process decided a Negative Declaration for the instated methodology, meaning that an environmental impact statement is not necessary. The grounds for the Negative Declaration cited environmental restoration for its reasoning on a nondevelopment parcel.



The river right below the Lily Lake dam. A pump connected to heavy machinery snaked along this pathway in November, and now a turbidity curtain is here. MT/Waszynski

Kevin McAllister, biologist and founder of Defend H2O, spoke before the Brookhaven town council on Feb. 14, citing the town failed to comply with obtaining permits to dredge from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on grounds that it is a significant coastal fish and wildlife area, and from the Central Pine Barrens Commission under Environmental Conservation Law Article 57.

"The SEQRA review was deficient," McAllister said. "It should have been [deemed a Positive Declaration]."

The Central Pine Barrens Joint Planning and

Policy Commission is also a relevant agency to the project, as Lily Lake is located within the core of the Pine Barrens. The commission, however, cited the project was deemed as nondevelopment and is not subject to review under the commission's jurisdiction.

"Whether or not an environmental impact statement is required is a determination that would be made by others," said John Pavacic, the commission's executive director. "But in this particular case with regard to the commission's jurisdiction on this matter, the commission determined that it is

nondevelopment and therefore not subject to commission review."

Some environmentalists were concerned with the definition of "development" in Article 57.

"This is land use — it just happens to be underwater," said Mike Madigan of the environmental group Open Space Council.

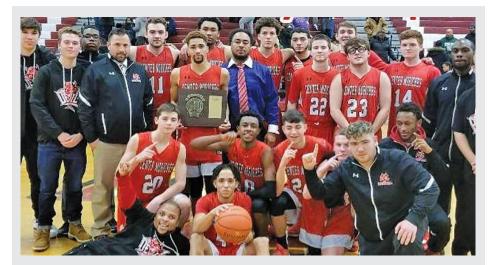
Regarding the acquisition of a 404 dredgeand-fill permit from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Graves said that a permit of such nature is only relevant to areas involving navigable waters.

According to a Defend H20 press release, also noteworthy is the effect on the brook trout population during spawning season, considering excessive turbidity levels.

'The Carmans River is at the southern end of the native range of coastal brook trout," said Doug Swesty of the Sea Run Brook Trout Coalition. "It's New York's last best hope of restoring an anadromous brook trout fishery. And the only way to do that is to remove the dams — the barriers.

The Lily Lake Advisory Panel, led by Graves, held its first meeting Feb. 21, which was a closed meeting. The panel discussed the instated methodology of dry dredging and other things relevant to the project.

"They really just want to do this, and we think it's a very bad idea to do it quite the way they want to do it, which is completely clean out the entire lake of what was an estuary," commented Madigan for the Open Space Council. Madigan was present on the panel, which is made up of environmentalists, civic leaders, and other relevant stakeholders. The next meeting is not scheduled but is estimated to take place at the end of March.



They're the champs!

Center Moriches boys basketball was recently crowned Suffolk County Champions in a tight game against Brentwood, winning 76-70 on Feb. 28. CMHS made history as the first team outside the top two enrollment classes to win the title. The team is on a post-regular season winning streak, recently defeating Wyandanch 102-93 to claim the small school championship. The team hasn't lost a game since Dec. 29, and in their league, they are undefeated. It was a big night for star forward Micah Snowden, who banked 45 points, coming off of two playoff games against Mattituck and Bridgehampton, where he scored 34 and 25, respectively. The team was set to play Cold Spring Harbor in the Long Island Class B Championship on March 6, the results of which were not available at press time. Glenn Rohrbacker

Courtesy photo



CM wrestler is state champion

Jordan Titus, a sophomore at Center Moriches High School, was recently crowned the Division II champion in wrestling for his weight class. He defeated Matt Garland of South Jefferson/Sandy Creek in the 120-pound class. He moved up the ranks in the championship tournament held on Feb. 23 at the Times-Union Center in Albany. After his win, the community came out for a parade in his honor. "We are just so proud of Jordan and the entire wrestling team," said CMHS principal Edward Casswell. "This young man is going to go far beyond high school." Pictured is Titus (center) with the other top performers after being decided winner.

-Glenn Rohrbacke

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Moriches Bay Garden Club Spring is in the air!

The first meeting for the 2019 gardening year is March 21, 7 p.m. at the East Moriches Methodist Church, 370 Montauk Highway. We are pleased to have Diane Schwindt as our first guest speaker. Schwindt is the resident historic cook at the Ketcham Inn. Culinary and medicinal foods and herbs that were used between 1600 and 1800 are Schwindt's specialty. We are all looking forward to the presentation and maybe some sample culinary tidbits. We welcome everyone.

I am in Florida this month and so had to poll my fellow members to find out what they were doing in their gardens. Happily for me, some members responded. On nice days, Lily Brown is finishing up the dead-heading that didn't get done in the fall. Eileen DiRicco said that between thaws she is moving hellebores and baby rhododendrons! Now, that is a perfect example of the way a seatof-the-pants gardener operates. Do it when you have time. Diane Tuttle rescued a robin that had become trapped under the netting of her pond. Other members are repotting houseplants and some are planting vegetable seeds. I shared with members that I was having trouble growing amaryllis in Florida. I have planted them in the ground because that's what they do in Florida; so far, no sprouts. Several members sent me photos of their spring blooming bulbs so I can see for sure spring is coming to Long Island. Take a minute to look around and see the signs of spring in your neighborhood.

Maura Pollack



Keith's Corner



Helping Makes U Happy

Spring is coming....and Helping Makes U Happy cannot wait! Thanks to the generosity of many in our communities, we'll be filling up the shelves of various local food pantries this month. On March ,9 our founder Keith Caputo, who was the recipient of the DAR Community Service Award in October, will be one of the honored guests at their annual Awards Day Tea. The next day, Sunday, March 10 at 2 p.m., we will be looking forward to the Moriches Chamber of Commerce's St. Patrick's Day Parade! Once again we'll be selling our green St. Pat's T-shirts and sweatshirts at the parade, so look for our table this year in front of Brothers Four Pizzeria! On March 21, Keith and his mom Cassy will be filming a video interview as a finalist for the 2019 Long Island Imagine Awards, which recognizes some of Long Island's most effective and innovative nonprofit organizations. The competition is fierce, so wish us luck! Pictured above with HMUH founder Keith Caputo and junior board co-chair Kayla Mitchell is Morgen Montemurro of Center Moriches. Morgen has been nominated by one of her teachers to attend a special science, technology, engineering and math forum this summer. In an effort to raise funds to attend the forum, Morgen will be organizing an indoor yard sale on Saturday, March 23 at the HMUH building at 1 Neville Street, Center Moriches. The fee is \$10 for all you can carry, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will be happy to accept your yard sale item donations through March 20 this month - no large furniture, TVs, computers, printers or clothes, please. Call or text 631-848-9008 before dropping off. We will also still be accepting prom clothing donations for the Suffolk County Police Department Prom Impact 2019 through the date of the yard sale on March 23, and we are continuing our collection of items for the comfort cases for the children who must be relocated from their homes. Have a great, happy, and helping month all!

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Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Letters must be 300 words or less, in good taste and not libelous, signed and include a daytime telephone number for confirmation of authorship. Our email address is ADVletters@optonline.net.

Douglas E. Marino

It is not our aim to tell readers what to think, but to provide them with food for thought and to make interpretive editorial comment on the news.

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Around Moriches & Manorville Compiled by Suzanne Link

Sunday, March 10

St. Patrick's Day Parade – Annual Chamber of Commerce of Moriches parade on Main Street Center Moriches, 2 p.m. This year's grand marshal is Arthur Gerhauser. Visit <u>www.moricheschamber.org</u>.

Monday, March 11

New Starting Point Group – South Bay Bible Church is launching a conversational small group where the curious can find answers to questions about God, life, and, faith. Group meets at the church, 578 Montauk Hwy., East Moriches, 7 p.m. Call 631-909-8241 or visit <u>www. southbaychurchli.org</u>.

Tuesday, March 12

Income Tax Counseling – Trained counselors will be at Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Library Tuesdays through April 2 to assist with personal income tax preparation, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To make an appointment, call 631-399-1511, ext. 240.

Wednesday, March 20

Mastic History - The Mastic Peninsula Historical Society will meet at the Mastic Fire Dept. Hall, 7:30 p.m. Call 631-281-7347, email mphs333@optonline.net, or visit <u>www.mphistorical.org</u>.

Thursday, March 21

Moriches Bay Garden – The club will meet at the East Moriches United Methodist Church, 370 Montauk Highway, East Moriches, 7 p.m. Guest speaker Diane Schwindt, resident historic cook for the Ketcham Inn will talk about culinary and medicinal herbs used between the 1600-1800s. Horticulture: members will bring house plants. All welcome. Call 631-606-0760 or visit <u>www.morichesbaygardenclub.</u> org.

Saturday, March 30

Joy Prom 2019 – Festive event at Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck for special needs children and adults, 5-9 p.m. \$25 per attendee with registration form, and \$10 for caregiver (limit 1). Call or text to register at 631-766-2474, or email paquatuck.squaws@yahoo.com.

information.

Food Pantry Mondays and Fridays, 11:30 a.m. to 1

p.m. and Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. Call 631-208-4050.

Free Food for Seniors - The Commodity

Supplemental Food Program is offering free food

for seniors age 60 and over who meet income

guidelines. Food packages include cheese, milk,

starches, cereals, juices, canned fish, meats,

vegetables and more. Call 631-491-4156 for

Events...

Casino Bus Trip – Mastic Beach Property Owners Association trip to Mohegan Sun, Friday, April 5. \$45 tickets include \$15 food voucher and \$15 in tokens. Bus picks up at the MBPOA clubhouse, 8 a.m. To sign up, email mbpoa1928@ optonline.net, call 631-399-6111 and leave a message, or stop by the clubhouse any Friday night after 7:30 p.m. **Biblical Counseling Training** – South Bay Bible Church will offer intensive classes to help people earn a Certificate in Biblical Counseling. Classes begin on Friday, March 22, 6 p.m. and take place at the church located in East Moriches. Two payment options available. To find out more, visit <u>www.</u> southbaychurchli.org/biblicalcounseling.

Food Pantry – Word of Life Ministries, 15 Frowein Rd., Center Moriches, will open its Angel

Moriches - Years Ago compiled by Vanessa Graniello

75 Years Ago March 1944

East Moriches and Center Moriches members of Hampton chapter, American Red Cross, plan to furnish a recreation room at the East Moriches Coast Guard station, and H.M. Vogel is asking for help in getting the articles needed, such as a settee, bookcases, writing tables, card tables, smoking stands and easy chairs.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union met on Thursday at the home of its president, Miss Lillian Raynor. Those who attended from East Moriches were Mrs. Percy Raynor, Mrs. Edith Warner, Mrs. Paul Warner, Mrs. May C. Stuart, Miss Jane Mills, Mrs. Harry Huson and daughter, Gladys.

Mrs. Hylda Hoehn, of Center Moriches, was awarded a \$25 war bond.

Mrs. Daniel L. Brown and Miss Margaret T. Kay entertained in honor of Mr. Brown's birthday, Mrs. Julia Smith, Mrs. Ida Brown, Mrs. Nora Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Reeve and Leslie Brown of East Moriches. Mr. Brown received two birthday cakes, a shower of cards, candy, salted nuts, flowers and other gifts.

A dispatch from an Eight AAF Bomber station in England says Tech. Sgt. Edward J. English of Chichester Avenue, Center Moriches, has been on 25 combat missions against Hitler's German forces as engineer and top turret gunner on a Flying Fortress of the Eighth Air Force.

Gilbert H. Dodds, national champion and world record holder in the mile run, filled two local speaking engagements at the Bible Protestant Church of Eastport and Center Moriches High School.

The girls of the Moriches Grammar School organized a 4-H club with the assistance of Mrs. Ralph Lukert, Mrs. Theodore Lukert, Mrs. B. Keane and Mrs. Lila Burtsell. The officers of the club are Eileen Campbell, Joan Bindel, Gwendolyn Lukert, Eileen Krassel, Emily Sammis, Virginia Hall and Bernice Weisner. The Red Cross workers in the Moriches area for the most recent March drive are Mrs. George DeBeauchamp, Mrs. Fred Schwaner, Mrs. Raymond Havens, Mrs. Clarence Penney, Mrs. Theodore Lukert and Mrs. Ralph Lukert.

Mr. and Mrs. Domenick Rosilio, of Center Moriches, have received a letter from their daughter, WAC Pvt. Annetta Rosilio, now stationed at Columbus Army Air Force field in Mississippi, saying that she has received a medal for best car maintenance in the motor pool where she was assigned. She was also chosen to participate in an Army show touring 17 nearby towns, the purpose being to increase the sale of war bonds.

Playing in March at the Center Moriches Theatre: Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon in "Madame Curie"; Kay Kyser in "Swing Fever"; Dennis Morgan and Irene Manning in "Desert Song"; Ann Baxter and Thomas Mitchell in "The Sullivans"; Spencer Tracy and and Irene Dunne in "A Guy Named Joe"; and Orson Welles and Joan Fontaine in "Jane Eyre."

50 Years Ago March 1969

Whenever the weather locally gets cold and snowy, we're sure to get a letter from Mary Skidmore of East Moriches, who, with her husband Skid, weathers out the winter in Florida. This month, Mary tells us that Skid caught an 18-pound snook while sitting on the bank of the Pithlachascottee River in New Port Richey in his rocking chair.

The current trend of eliminating deteriorating buildings along the Center Moriches Main Street continued with the destruction of a former home located at Montauk Highway and Bank Street.

James Dineen of Center Moriches, chairman of the St. Patrick's Dance sponsored by the United Societies of St. John's R.C. Church, kissed the famed Blarney Stone in Ireland, which legend says, gives the kisser the gift of elocution.

Cindy Kuech of Union Avenue, Eastport, celebrated her 9th

Teen Counseling - The Sanctuary Program of Brookhaven Youth Bureau offers free individual or family counseling for town residents ages 12-21. Call 451-8011 to speak with a licensed clinical worker.

Abuse & Abduction Prevention - Parents for Megan's Law and The Crime Victims Center will hold educational workshops for children, teens, staff and adult community members. Call the helpline at 689-2672 for information or to schedule a workshop.

BiasHELP - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender.BiasHELP proudly supports the LGBT community year round. For more information on BiasHELP's anti-bias programming and efforts visit <u>www.biashep.org</u> or call 877-END-Bias.

Pay Your Taxes Online - Brookhaven taxpayers can now access their Real Property Tax Statements. View, print and/or pay taxes. Choose online credit card or checking account payment. Visit <u>http://brookhaven.org</u> for details.

Conservation - Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) along with the Sierra Club, RELI and National Wildlife Federation urge residents to support renewable energy goals for Long Island. To find out more, contact: David Alicea (Sierra Club) at 223-6330, Adrienne Esposito (Citizens Campaign) at (516) 390-7150 or Gordian Raacke (Renewable Energy Long Island) at (516) 313-6611.

birthday with a party. Her guests were Meg and Beth Paszklewics, Rene Haines, Patricia Morgan and Alicia Wilczewski.

Moriches Lions Club officials met at the Center Moriches Library with librarian C. Gerard Donnelly to discuss future efforts on behalf of the library. Lions who attended the meeting were William F. Armstrong, president; Michael Helfant, vice president; Henry Bunke, secretary; John Mohr, eyesight conservation committee chairman; and Robert Woodley, Friends of Library president.

Playing bridge is more than a form of enjoyment; it is also a subject of instruction at the Center Moriches High School Adult Education program. Members of the program are Mrs. Edward Hughes, Mrs. Sidney Benson, Mrs. Harry Beese and Mrs. Rose Celi. Mrs. William Hale is the bridge instructor for the program.

President of the Bayview Community Hospital's Ladies Auxiliary, Mrs. Kay Donadeo, along with vice president Matilda Kramer, presented a check of \$1,000 to the fund-raising chairman Thomas M. Neppell Jr.

Instructor Genaro Benedetto is offering a 10-session course on self-defense in the Center Moriches High School Adult Education Program. Mrs. Maria McKee and Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart are among the participants in the class.

Todd D. Kelley, of Eastport, performed at a recital given by several of the piano students of Mr. Francis Reeve at his home in Fort Salonga. He played "Gavotte in B Flat" by Handel and "Invention in F" by J.S. Bach. Attending the recital from Eastport were Mr. and Mrs. Kelley and daughter, Beth; the Rev. and Mrs. M.E. Kelley Sr.; and one of Todd's piano pupils, Robin Warner.

Al Bloom, Mrs. Lucille Ceruti, Miss Marion Ceruti, Miss Joan Kuech, Mrs. Jane Weber, Robert Weber, Matthew Rosso and daughters, Nancy and Jody, Mrs. Perry Glander and Miss Susan Vignali, all of Eastport, went to New York, where they had dinner at the Japanese restaurant Saito and attended the operas "Cavalleria rusticana" and "Pagliacci" at Lincoln Center.

12

Raking and making their way to Cooperstown

By PATRICIA KALOSKI

They raked dozens of lawns and stuffed hundreds of leaf bags last fall; they have been prepared to face winter temperatures to shovel driveways in the event of a snow storm; and come spring, they will have a hose in one hand and a sponge in the other to wash cars. They are the members of the Moriches Bay Red Devils 12U Travel Baseball Team, and they're doing whatever it takes to raise funds so they can attend the annual Cooperstown Baseball Tournament planned for Aug. 17-23.

Cooperstown, located in Ostego County in Central New York, is the baseball capital of the world. Rumored that it's where America's favorite pastime was born, all things baseball can be found there, including the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. You can also find Cooperstown Allstar Village, America's first and only baseball resort and tournament camp for baseball players ages 10-12; it's there that the Red Devils 12U players will have the unique opportunity to play against their peers from all over the country and world.

"Going to play baseball in Cooperstown is somewhat of a rite of passage," said Red Devils coach Steve Hiller. "A lot of these boys have grown up with each other and have been playing ball together since they were 5, so for them to be able to experience Cooperstown as a team is pretty special."

Getting to Cooperstown is a commitment, though, for the players and their families, coaches said. There's the financial aspect and with that in mind, coaches organized a team meeting with both players and their parents in November to discuss the feasibility of attending the tournament. The players enthusiastically participated in brainstorming fundraising ideas. In fact, Red Devils player Andrew Foster not only suggested a Fortnite tournament, but organized it as well.

"At the time we were trying to think of fundraising ideas, everyone was playing the video game Fortnite, so I thought we could raise money by doing something that everyone was doing anyway," Foster explained. Fortnite is an interactive video survival game that can be played on various gaming consoles. Approximately 30 people participated in the weekend-long tournament that was held last December, reported Foster. He said a profit was made that will go towards the Cooperstown Tournament.

The Red Devils 12U team also put in some serious sweat equity during a leaf-raking fundraiser they organized last November. The entire team, along with coaches and parents, spent three consecutive weekends at houses in Center Moriches, East Moriches and Manorville, where they raked multiple lawns, front and back, for a donation.

"The response from the community was overwhelming. I don't think any of us anticipated so much support, but what we kept hearing was that people were happy to donate because they appreciated that our boys were getting directly involved in the



The Red Devils are hoping to go to Cooperstown. Courtesy photo

effort to raise funds for the tournament. It was a great lesson for everyone," said Red Devil mom Danielle DeRosa.

Fundraising has been a team effort all around, with even the Red Devils' moms initiating their own fundraiser. They organized an arts-and-crafts project where they painted and stenciled a variety of messages and sayings on decorative wooden door tags. The tags were then offered to the community for a nominal donation.

The next and largest fundraising event is a St. Patty Gras Party, planned for Saturday, March 9, 6:30 p.m., at Rock Hill Country Club in Manorville. Many festivities are planned for the evening, including an indoor bocce ball tournament, a Mardi Gras/St. Patty's selfie station, raffles, a balloon pop with prizes, a DJ, dinner buffet and more. It is also rumored that Red Devils coach Dave Kaloski is willing to shave his head if a certain monetary goal is achieved during the event. The plan is to have attendees bid on his head, with the winner having the honor of taking the razor to his locks.

"These boys have worked hard over the last several years," noted Kaloski. "When we first formed, some of the kids had never even played organized ball. I remember a few of the parents dubbed us 'the little team that could' the first season. We made it far, but didn't win the championship game, and the team was heartbroken. Since then, the boys have been determined to win and they have, every year since, losing only one game in the last two summer seasons. If shaving my head brings the boys closer to playing ball in Cooperstown, then I'm happy to do it," said Kaloski.

The Red Devils are counting the months until the Cooperstown tournament. They started training in January with weekly indoor workouts and drills so that they will be ready to play competitively come August.

The Moriches Bay Red Devils 12U team is one of seven teams that make up the nonprofit organization Red Devils

Youth Hardball Inc. For more information about the upcoming St. Patty Gras Party, visit <u>https://www.facebook.com/</u>events/393062564838110/. ■





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