

the Tide

OF MORICHES & MANORVILLE

thetideofmoriches.com

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Honoring men and women on Veterans Day

Center Moriches Touchstone

BY C. E. PARRY

They're gone now, the men and women who answered the call to serve their country during the First and Second World Wars. All that remains are family memories and names on a bronze plaque almost no one notices on Main Street. But stop for a moment this Veterans Day and you will see a window into another time.

According to the U.S. Census, in 1940 the population of Brookhaven Town was 32,117; the population of Center Moriches was 1,469. Of these, 294 residents—roughly 20 percent of the community—served in the war. The intimate connections in a village where

everyone knew everyone meant that no one was spared the impact war had on our country.

The Moriches community had already endured its share of losses during World War I. Howell Gassert, a Marine Corps Reservist, died in May 1918. Ernest Carter, a United States Coast Guard Service "surfman" stationed at Life Saving Station 67, 4 miles Southwest of Montauk Point, drowned at the station on July 30.

To be a Coast Guard surfman was to undertake perilous work. Always a shadow enemy in wartime—dysentery during the Civil War, malaria in the Spanish-American effort—the outbreak of World War I coincided with the 1918 influenza pandemic. On Oct. 2, 1918, Henry Squires Brown died at the Great Lakes Naval Hospital, one of 21 Navy personnel who died that day of influen-

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Meet this year's Veterans Day grand marshal

The Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches will be sponsoring their fifth annual Veterans Day parade in East Moriches on Sunday, Nov. 5 at 2 p.m.

After a brief observance at the Eagle, which is located at the corner of Adelaide Avenue and Montauk Highway, the parade will continue along Montauk Highway to the Soldiers and Sailors Park for the Veterans Day ceremony.

This year, the American Legion Post 1545, of Eastport, nominated, and the chamber directors selected Charles Wohr, of East Moriches, to be this year's Veterans Day parade grand marshal.

Wohr graduated from Farmingdale High School in 1948 and two months later, he joined the United States Air Force. In 1949, he was assigned to Brookely AFB in Alabama, where he completed his training to become an aircraft and engine mechanic. He began work on the C-54 aircraft and in November of 1949, he was assigned to Wheelus AB in Tripoli, Libya.

Following the Libya assignment in early 1951, Wohr was sent to Brooks Field in San Antonio, Texas, to maintain and fly on C-47s as flight engineer. A temporary assignment to Kelly AFB in Texas followed, and then it was on to McChord AFB in Tacoma, Wash., and the newly introduced C-124 cargo aircraft as flight engineer. He flew missions in support of nuclear weapons testing on the Bikini Island Atoll and also a few missions to South Korea during the war.

After an honorable discharge from the Air Force in 1952, Wohr returned to Long Island taking a job with Grumman on the F9F assembly line. In late 1953, he left Grumman and took a position with Douglas Aircraft in El Segundo, Calif., working on A-7 aircraft. He enrolled in the Electronics Institute and passed in 1955 with a communications license and a radar endorsement.

This led to a job installing and aligning the F-4D fire control radar system. It then led to a position in England, supporting the new contract for intermediate range ballistic missiles, which took him all over eastern England and up into Scotland, where he met and married his

wife of now 65 years, Jean Wohr.

Shortly after, he returned to the U.S., working for Sperry Inc. He worked on the installation and operation of long-range search radars, including the one at Montauk.

He moved his growing family to Springs, East Hampton, in 1962, when he took a position with the FAA Montauk facility. He then worked at LaGuardia Airport, providing support and maintenance on the FAA tower until being reassigned to the radar facility in Islip.

Charlie and Jean purchased a property in Newport Beach, East Moriches, in 1974, and built the house they still live in today. They have five children, 11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, with another due in February. Charles Jr. and Warren both served full careers in the USAF as well. All five children have become successful in their own right.

Wohr, being a longtime member of the Eastport American Legion Post 1545, was adjutant for eight years and the commander from 1995 to 1996.

Upon retirement, he became a volunteer driver (1995-2015) for the DAV, a vital service for veterans providing transportation to and from the VA Medical Center in Northport.

"It is a great honor to have Charlie represent our veterans in this year's parade," the chamber directors said of their selection. ■

Courtesy photo



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Camp Paquatuck Fundraisers name change PAGE 3

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CM Bond vote fails PAGE 20



The Staff on Christmas Eve 2010.



Meet the spirited helpers Charlie, David, Matt and Tom.



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Matthew, Dana & Baby Frankie.

"When I think of this place, the first word that comes to my mind is love. Being able to carry on a family tradition and work with my Dad is a true blessing. Many people don't have the opportunity to work with family. Thanks to the support of this community, for the last 40 years we've been lucky enough to do so. Many things have changed in my life. I've grown up, lived in different houses, become married and had a baby. Through good times and bad, the store was always here for us. The one thing I've learned is that this isn't just a job, this is part of who I am and a family business should be that way. My father always used to say to me "outside of you, your sister and the family, the store is the best thing that ever happened to me". As a kid, I didn't understand, but now I do and I couldn't agree more. From my family to yours, thank you for 40 years of love, blessings, good times, and allowing us to become a part of this beautiful community. We look forward to serving you for many years to come!"

Matthew Navari



Joe in the Early Days.



John and Joe During the Holidays.



Joe, Donna & Tom New Year Eve 1999

Camp Paquatuck fundraisers embrace name change

BY NICOLE FUENTES

The Moriches Paquatuck Squaws, which recently celebrated 50 years in service supporting Camp Paquatuck, recently underwent a name change to the Camp Paquatuck Fundraisers.

The group comprises Long Island women hosting special events in support of the camp, including Pocket Book Bingo, Card Parties, Basket Auctions and their most popular, Spooky Walk.

“We are always looking for new ways to raise funds for Camp Paquatuck,” said president of the fundraisers, Marcella Weiss.

The group donates 100 percent of the profits to the camp.

Camp Paquatuck is a summer camp for children and young adults with special needs. It has been in operation since 1942 when members of the Moriches Rotary hosted a camping vacation for



children afflicted with polio. The first summer was so successful that members decided to continue making sure that “Summer is for Everyone,” the motto of the camp today.

For more than 80 years, the success of this camp has been made possible by donations from the community, including Rotary Clubs and most notably the Moriches Paquatuck Squaws.

Last month, the Camp Paquatuck Fundraisers also celebrated the 35th year of the Spooky Walk.

For more information about Camp Paquatuck, visit their website, camp-paquatuck.com. For more information about The Camp Paquatuck Fundraisers visit campaquatuckfundraisers.com.

The group meets at the camp monthly, with the exception of July and December. New members are always encouraged and welcomed. ■

Courtesy photo

Toys for Tots and a Mitten Tree

BY NICOLE FUENTES

The Center Moriches Library will be once again hosting a Toys for Tots drop-off area as well as a Mitten Tree this holiday season.

Toys for Tots

The Center Moriches Library will be hosting the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. Look for the donation box in the entrance hallway beginning on Friday, Nov. 4. Those interested can place their donations of new, unwrapped toys to help make a child’s holiday a little brighter. The library will accept donations until Monday, Dec. 19. The Marine Toys for Tots programs bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America’s disadvantaged children. To date, they have distributed 652 million toys to 291 million deserving children. Visit the Toys for Tots website to learn all the ways you can give: <http://www.toysfortots.org>.



Mitten Tree

Starting this month through December, the Center Moriches Library will be displaying their annual Mitten Tree. The tree will be up to help collect new mittens, scarfs and hats for those in need.

“These are wonderful opportunities to help people who are struggling to provide during the cold winter months and

holiday season,” said library director Marcie Litjens, noting the success of it each year.

The tree will be located near the brick column by the Adult Reference Desk to place donations. The library will begin decorating the tree on Monday, Nov. 27 and will accept donations until Friday, Dec. 22.

Teens who bring in donations should stop by the Teen Department to receive an hour of community service. ■

Courtesy photo

Ride the Tide!

Center Moriches churches collect food for holiday season

BY KRAIG KLEIN

A couple of churches in the Center Moriches area are collecting food throughout October and November in order to prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Two churches, the Presbyterian Church of the Moriches and the St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, are specifically collecting donations of food for the holiday season. Both churches gave specific instructions for people seeking to give food to them. The collected food will be turned into meals for local residents to enjoy.

The Presbyterian Church of the Moriches will receive donations on Mondays from 4 p.m. through 7:30 p.m., as its pantry is being set up.

“We will be accepting food donations for Thanksgiving and Christmas,” Presbyterian Church of the Moriches member Dawn Murray said. “We especially need stuffing, gravy, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, vegetables, cake and brownie mixes, and instant mashed potatoes.”



Stock photo

St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church will be accepting donations both in front of the church and at its food pantry, Ernie’s Place. Ernie’s Place also accepts food donations throughout the year. The church’s parish social ministry coordinator, Katie Spellman, said that food donations should be left in a brown bin in front of and to the left of Ernie’s Place.

“We will be providing a full holiday meal for those registered and living within our parish boundaries,” Spellman said. “We typically request the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving meal: canned veggies, stuffing, potatoes, crackers, apple juice, cookies and pies, all nonperishable.”

The Center Moriches United Methodist Church did not respond in time for publication. However, its former pastor, Sharon Pizzo, said that the church she now works at, Christ Church in Port Jefferson Station, has a food pantry.

“We have a tremendous food pantry here!” she said. ■

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Sonnie is back at Bay Street

BY NICOLE FUENTES

East Moriches' Sonnie Betts, a 10-year-old, up-and-coming actress, appeared in Bay Street Theater's acclaimed production of "Ragtime" last year. This year, Betts's latest role is at Bay Street with a part playing Mercy Lewis in "The Crucible" this November.

She is excited to play the character, she said, being that it will be the first time playing a villain.

"It's really exciting for my first play. I have never done main stage and I have a lot of lines," she said.

In an effort to remember all her lines, she said, she uses a blocking method—remembering each line scene by scene rather than in whole.

Betts, a fifth-grader at East Moriches Middle School, discovered her love for acting at the age of 4, and by the age of 6, she made her main stage debut at The Gateway Playhouse as Gretl in "The Sound of Music."

This winter, she was cast as Grace Smythe and served as the understudy for Tiny Tim in Gateway's "A Christmas Carol," at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts. Over the summer, she also starred as Matilda in "Matilda Jr." and was part of the ensemble in "Finding Nemo Jr." at Gateway's Conservatory.

Throughout her young career, Betts has performed in a wide variety of shows at both the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center and The Gateway Playhouse.

Her most recent role, as Gretl, was offered to her under the direction of Will Pomerantz, and is officially her first union job. Betts had a busy summer as well.

Betts also played the title role in

"Annie" in Bay Street's production class last month, and she will be playing young Joan of Arc in a Divaria Opera Production of "Joan of Arc."

"She has been working very hard," said her mother Gerilyn Murphy, hoping some local residents might want to see her perform.

The actress has two younger brothers and parents who are in the gardening and technology fields. She is the only actress of the family. When asked about her daughter's early acting career, Gerilyn said she believes it's her stamina that gets her roles.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Bay Street Theater and Sag Harbor Center for the Arts is pleased to announce 2023's much-anticipated, "Literature Live!" presentation: Arthur Miller's Tony Award-winning play "The Crucible." Classic yet timely, "The Crucible" opens on Thursday, Nov. 9... public performances run through Sunday, Nov. 26. School performances begin Nov. 6.

Bay Street's own associate artistic director Will Pomerantz has been tapped to direct the compelling drama. This is the 15th anniversary of the popular "Literature Live!" performance series.

"The Crucible" is a gripping play set in 17th-century Salem, Mass., during the Salem witch trials. It explores mass hysteria, deception, and the consequences of false accusations in a Puritan community. The story follows the unraveling of a tight-knit society as paranoia and fear lead to a witch hunt that destroys lives.

As part of the programming of "Literature Live!," free performances are available to school groups. Teachers and administrators may register their school groups by contacting director of education and community outreach, Allen O'Reilly, at allen@baystreet.org or by calling 631.725.0818.

Free admission is available to all school students, teachers, and administrators who can reserve weekday performances at times that work for them on a first-come, first-served basis. "Literature Live!" is an annual BOCES-approved Arts-in-Education program where teachers are provided curriculum guides in advance to help with content and additional aspects of learning. Each student performance will be followed by a talkback and Q&A session with various members of the team and the audience.

Tickets for the public start at \$37 and are available online 24/7 at baystreet.org or by calling the Box Office at 631-725-9500, open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and until 30 minutes prior to performances. ■



Ten-year-old, up-and-coming actress Sonnie Betts's latest role is at Bay Street, with a part playing Mercy Lewis in "The Crucible" this November. Courtesy photo

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County legislature candidates debate

Mazzarella vs. O'Neil

BY GARY HABER

The two candidates for Suffolk County Legislature, District 3, stated their case before voters at a Meet the Candidates night at William Floyd High School on Oct. 18.

Republican Jim Mazzarella has represented the district since winning a special election in 2021 over Kate Browning, who served in the county legislature from 2006 to 2017.

Mazzarella is being challenged by

Democrat Thad O'Neil, an entrepreneur and associate adjunct professor at Parsons School of Design in New York, who is making his first bid for elective office.

The 3rd District includes Moriches and a portion of Center Moriches.

The two candidates disagreed over how revenue from a proposed one-eighth percent sales tax increase to fund improved water quality in Suffolk County should be spent.

Mazzarella said he disagreed with the current plan, which would allocate 25 percent of the money raised for expanding sewers and 75 percent for upgrading

existing individual septic systems, so they remove nitrogen from wastewater. Instead, Mazzarella would like to see more money allocated to sewers.

"If we're going to ask voters [and] taxpayers for a one-eighth percent tax, we better get it right," he said.

O'Neil disagreed, stating "the science" supported allocating 75 percent of the revenue to septic systems.

The two candidates agreed on cracking down on speeding in the district.

O'Neil said that voters tell him it's a problem. Mazzarella, deputy chair of the legislature's public safety committee, said police are deploying more

officers in areas where speeding is a problem.

In addition to Mazzarella and O'Neil, the other candidates at the Oct. 18 event were Brookhaven Town supervisor Ed Romaine, who is running for county executive; deputy Brookhaven Town supervisor Dan Panico, who is running for supervisor; the two candidates for superintendent of highways, Dan Losquadro and Mike Kaplan; and the two candidates for Brookhaven Town Board District 6, Karen Dunne and Dr. Kerry Spooner.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 7. Early voting starts on Oct. 28. ■

TOUCHSTONE: Local war heroes

FROM PAGE 1

za, or a related respiratory infection, in that single Naval facility. Of 44 reporting U.S. Navy hospitals, bases, ships, training facilities, and troop transport vessels, a total of 112 men died on Oct. 2, 1918, all but one of influenza, bronchial pneumonia, or other respiratory disease.

According to the World War I Honor Roll for Suffolk County, 129 Army servicemen, 22 sailors, and three Marines lost their lives during the Great War. Of these, 51, nearly 30 percent died from influenza or pneumonia, likely brought on by the flu.

In Center Moriches, four more men were lost to the new conflict. Carlos J. Adams and Robert A. Lamb, both Army privates, were killed in action. Warren T. Dayton, a waist-gunner, and all

but one of the seven-to-11-member crew aboard, died instantly when their B-17 bomber was shot down over Germany on Aug. 12, 1943. His death, and subsequent burial in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, affected the entire community.

Then, on July 10, 1944, Kurt E. Hartman, a U.S. Army sergeant, died of his wounds following the historic June 6 D-Day invasion at Normandy. He is buried in the American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach at Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

By war's end, 11 men had been killed, including Thomas O. Conner, William Eaton, Alfred Fehner, John Prosser, Vernon Robinson, Robert Ross and Claude Schuyler.

Longtime Center Moriches families

like the Bowditches, Hallocks, Havens, Hawkins, Penneys, Spragues and Roses sent their sons and daughters off to a war on the other side of the world.

Servicemen and women whose families had arrived as immigrants from Germany and Poland to work on local farms now set off to fight on soil their forebearers had left.

Many families had two, three, four, even five members serving somewhere in the conflict. Three of these—the Prosser family with three, the Fehner family with five, and the Robinson family with seven—each suffered a loss of one of their own.

The eldest sons of farm owners like the Mattesons and the Wilcoxes were classified 4F to remain at work on the

farms to help support the war effort while their younger siblings served. Arthur Wilcox worked on ship repair at the U.S.N. base in Norfolk, Va. Wilcox's cousin Betty Dayton served as a nurse in North Africa, while Warren flew B-17 raids over Germany. Lloyd Wilcox, who served in the armored tank division in Europe under Gen. George Patton, was present for the liberation of Czechoslovakia in 1945. After the war ended, he remained in Europe for six months to serve with the Army of Occupation.

Finally, the war was over. Men and women returned to Center Moriches to pick up the lives they had left behind. After distinguished service as a B-26 bomber pilot and squadron leader who

See TOUCHSTONE on page 12

Dr. Judy Savino and Dr. Daniel Zito and staff would like to wish you a Thanksgiving filled with peace, love and joy.



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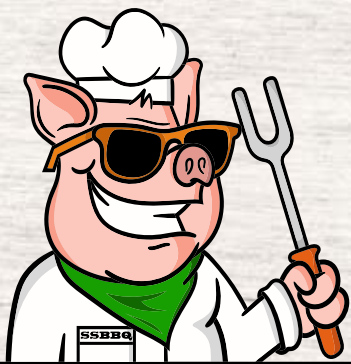
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New pool at camp for special-needs children

Camp Paquatuck overflows with pride during groundbreaking

BY C. E. PARRY

Neither cloudy skies nor autumn's chill could dampen enthusiasm as campers, officials and parents gathered on Sept. 28 to celebrate Camp Paquatuck's groundbreaking on its new pool. Slated to open in time for summer 2024, it replaces the old pool, which closed two years ago.

Welcomed by Camp Paquatuck executive director Kristin Cafiero, guests

enjoyed light refreshments and a presentation by Steve Kronman, president of the camp board. In his summary of the pool's development, he cited many community efforts to raise money so that it could become a reality, including contributions from the Knapp-Swezey Foundation, the Patchogue Rotary's Golf Tournament, Mastic-Shirley Rotary and the Paquatuck Fundraisers, whose efforts added \$400,000 to the fund. Tom Chieffo, vice president of the board and Moriches Rotarian, and Donna Boyle, assistant district director for Andrew Garbarino, also made brief presentations to round out the

occasion.

Special adaptations will make the pool a cherished part of the camp experience. Its zero-access design replaces stairs with a ramp; its maximum depth of 4 and 1/2 feet is less threatening for challenged campers. Floats will be available for campers who want to cool off without going into the water.

From its beginnings 75 years ago as a two-week camp for children with polio, Camp Paquatuck has grown steadily to a full-season facility for children with special needs thanks to the tremendous support of community members and local officials, this year serving 240 children for the season.

The goal to reach the next level of service would increase from 50 to 70 the number of children in each session. Its entire budget of \$1.3 million is covered through donations and fundraising. The annual Spooky Walk in October is a major event in the camp's calendar and a local community tradition, helping to increase awareness of its mission and add to its fundraising efforts.

But for Paquatuck campers, these are not primary concerns as the weather warms and summer begins. On the day of arrival, the only important question, "Is the pool ready yet?" will next year be met with a resounding, "Yes!" ■

All photos MT/Parry



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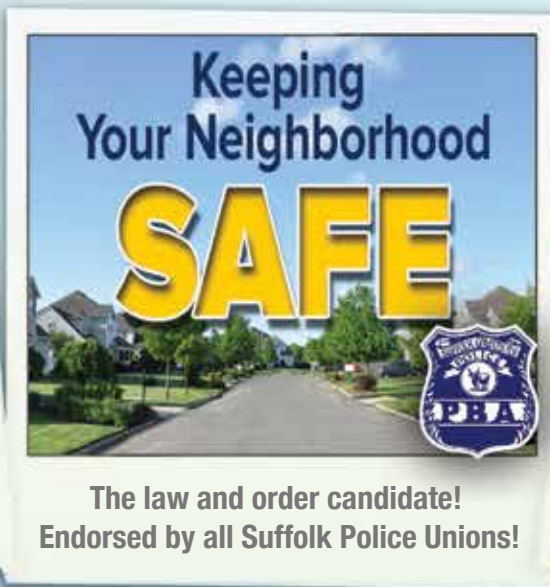
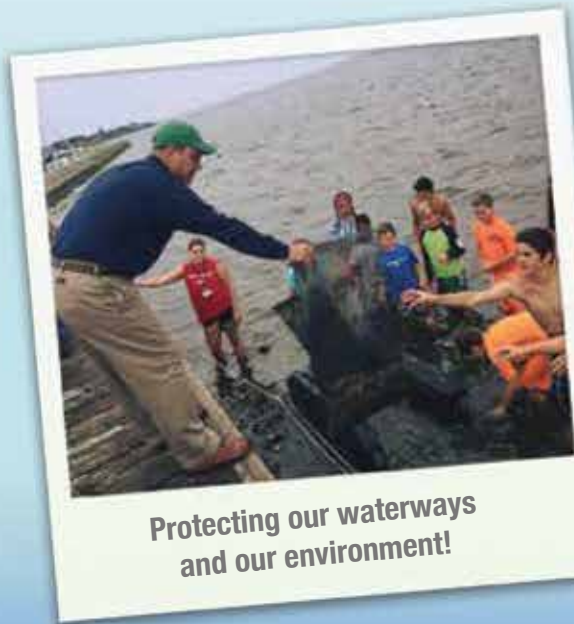
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TOUCHSTONE

FROM PAGE 6

flew 55 combat missions over North Africa, southern France and Northern Italy, Robert Matteson, Dartmouth Class of '38, married Julie Fresenius in 1945, started a family and a career in fine boat building and repair. Among his creations was the 16-foot fiberglass Cottontail racing sloop.

Zollie Privett returned to oversee the education of little baby boomers who filled the elementary school, where he served as principal.

Chester G. Osborne, who had studied at the New England Conservatory of Music and was a trumpet player in the Boston Symphony under Arthur Fiedler, served in the U.S. Army Band before arriving in Center Moriches, where he taught music for many years, later becoming its director of music education. In addition to his teaching and family responsibilities, he composed music, wrote children's books, and was for many years the curator at the Manor of St. George in Mastic. His son, Jimmy, continues that tradition, at his music school on Main Street.

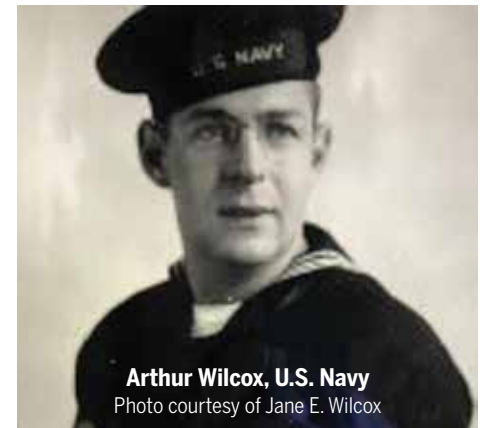
Lloyd Wilcox, who had completed a degree in mechanical engineering prior to enlisting in the Army in 1944, eventually moved to Illinois, but returned every summer with his family. His daughter, Jane, a professional genealogist, has created an ancestry page about the Center Moriches Honor Roll, annotated with details of her family's participation in World War II, much of

which she learned after talking with her relatives as a child.

For Jane Wilcox, the Honor Roll is an important snapshot of Center Moriches during World War I and World War II, since the history gives us context for people's lives, while people give story and meaning to its history.

"People talk about the Greatest Generation," Jane said. "I'm really proud of my dad's service. It's important to remember the extraordinary circumstances the world found itself in, where every community in our country was touched."

For the families whose loved ones served, and for those of us who live here, the Center Moriches Honor Roll remains, in tribute to those who sacrificed so much, a touchstone for our town. ■



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'Bee'ing thankful

A visit with Manorville's master beekeeper

BY C. E. PARRY

Google "bees on Long Island," and you'll find lots of pest-eradication services.

Clearly, bee killing is a thriving business here. Yet, without bees, our supply of many fruits and vegetables would disappear. And for people like Peter Bizzoso, beekeeping, rather than bee killing, is a family tradition dating back to the mid-19th century.

The owner of South Paw Farms in Manorville, Bizzoso has cared for his own bees for more than 55 years. It is, he explained, time-consuming, hard work. Hives need to be placed in a good location, one with ready access to vegetation and water, and away from direct proximity with neighboring homes. Hives to house the bees can be purchased or made from scratch using commercial materials, but the real investment of time and energy is in the beekeeper's education.

For a novice, or a beginning beekeeper, books and articles are a source of information; an even better resource is a local beekeeper club, where one can work with more experienced members to learn how to establish, and keep, hives that will form an apiary. From there, it is possible to become a master beekeeper.

A master beekeeper has studied bees for a long time, taken courses from the Eastern Agricultural Society, and passed a three-to-four-day examination. Before this more academic approach to beekeeping originated, problems often developed related to the inappropriate placement of

hives in residential locations, resulting in conflicting needs of bees and neighbors. In 1972, Dr. Roger Morse developed a beekeeping program at Cornell University, where he trained 17 new instructors, including Peter Bizzoso, who could then take what they had learned about best practices back into their communities.

Bee hives also are established communities with well-defined categories of members. The queen rules the hive; her distinct pheromones allow other bees to identify her.

As many as 700 male drones and anywhere from 35,000 to 55,000 female worker bees populate it. These worker bees are tasked with grooming and feeding the queen, whose production of 1,000 or more eggs each day helps keep the hive active. And an active hive produces honey, the bees' food source.

Only honeybees (apis) make honey in quantities large enough to allow collecting.

Bumblebees (bombus) make only a small amount, roughly a teaspoon, sufficient to feed their young. Honeybees fly on to flowers seeking nectar. As they do so, they pick up pollen on their bodies and transfer it to other plants as they continue the process of gathering what will become honey once they return to the hive. There, nectar is placed in six-sided cells, from which other bees take it and add an enzyme that turns it into honey, which is then stored in cells. Once each cell is filled, it's sealed with a thin layer of wax produced in a gland in the bee's abdomen and will keep indefinitely if untouched.

Many people mistake vespers—hornets, wasps, yellowjackets—for honeybees, but they differ in significant ways.

Vespers do not produce honey or wax, and eat papier-maché products from houses and other structures. Yellowjackets nest in the ground or in the soffits of a house. And they can be aggressive.

Bees, on the other hand, are not; unless threatened, as when someone waves their arms at them, they will not attack. Once a bee has stung, it dies. Those that rush to defend a hive have sacrificed for the preservation of the rest.

Clearly, bee survival is a communal process. Honey produced over many months is food to sustain the hive through the winter. Removing it requires an experienced keeper. Taking too much will leave them without sufficient food to survive and they will starve, curling up in the base of empty cells, seeking nourishment that is no longer there.

Since they don't hibernate, they meet the challenge of keeping warm when temperatures fall below 55 degrees by "balling up," or clustering together in the hive's center, the outside bees' movement creating warmth for those closest to the center while they consume honey. When they tire, the outer bees migrate into the center to rest, eat, and warm themselves while others warm the ball.

And, like bees, humans like to be warm and fed. Bizzoso is adamant about our need to better appreciate the connection between bees and our tables.

"People don't realize how important bees are," he said. "They'll tell you their food came out of a can, with no idea how it got there."

So, how can we do a better job of nurturing our relationship with bees? Bees will forage up to 5 miles seeking nectar. Adding flowering specimens like bee balm, cat mint, clover and sunflowers to your yard will attract and help sustain them. Planting flowering trees—especially fruit-bearing trees like apple, cherry, pear and plum—creating a vegetable

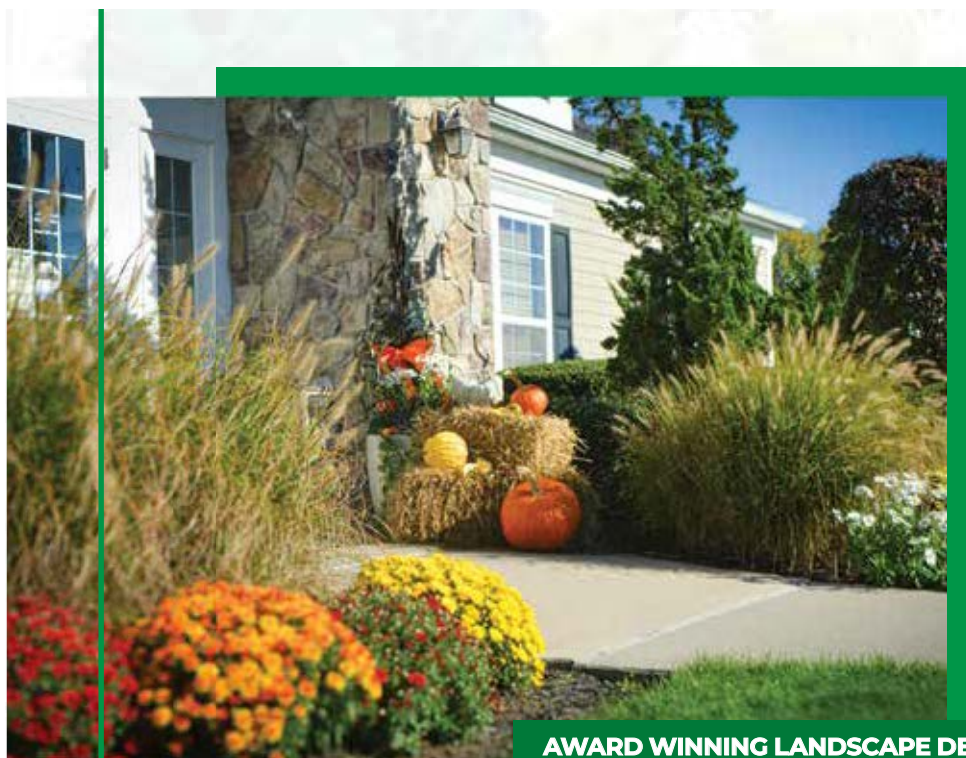
garden, and setting up a bird bath with water are all good solutions, too.

But don't undo all those good efforts by using pesticides and weed killers, compounds that contain neonics. Neonicotinoids are chemicals used to treat lawns and golf courses for insects like grubs, and to kill fleas and ticks.

These chemicals kill indiscriminately, wiping out not only pests but also pollinators like butterflies and bees, as well as wildlife like birds, deer and fish. Once in the soil, they remain active for years, entering the water supply through rainfall and irrigation systems in lawns and farm fields. The soil becomes depleted of helpful bacteria and insects that improve crop health and increase production, exactly the opposite of what was intended.

That well-fertilized, weed-free lawn may look attractive, but it's a food desert for pollinators. And without their presence in our farms and gardens, our own food supply will be threatened.

So, this year, as we gather to celebrate the harvest season and anticipate the growing season to come, let's give thanks for the many fruits of their labor, and hope for the continued presence of bees. ■



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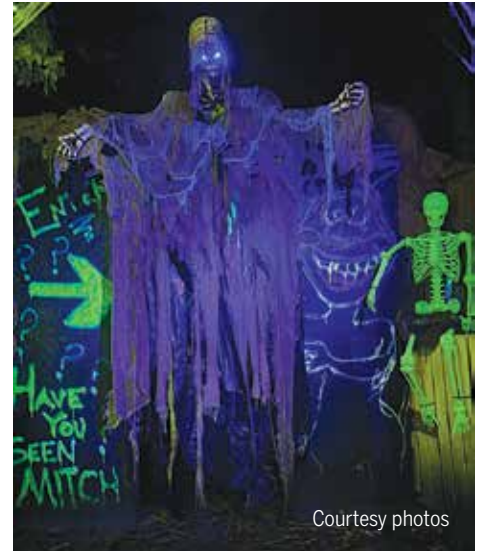
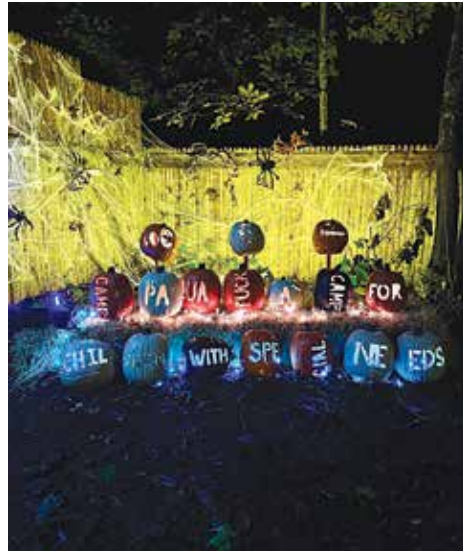
Thirty-five years of the Spooky Walk

This year, the Spooky Walk celebrated its 35th year as a benefit to Camp Paquatuck, a camp for children with disabilities. The walk was open on Oct. 20, 21, 27 and 28.

The Spooky Walk began in 1989 and has developed into one of Long Island's most popular Halloween events. The Camp Paquatuck Fundraisers were the first volunteers, along with family and friends, to set up, dress up, and haunt

unsuspecting visitors as they strolled through the camp grounds. Today, they have more than 500 volunteers who make the Spooky Walk possible. Spooky Walk's first weekend went really well, despite the poor weather forecast. According to Marielle Frey, Camp Paquatuck Fundraisers publicity manager, the first night attracted about 800 people and the second night about 2,800.

-Nicole Fuentes



Courtesy photos



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CM bond vote fails

Renovations and turf field rejected by the community

BY NICOLE FUENTES

The Center Moriches School District hosted a \$45 million bond vote on Oct. 24 for two phases of projects, including major building upgrades as well as a turf football field. The vote ultimately failed, with 341 yes votes to 610 no votes for Proposition 1 and 258 yes votes to 690 no votes for Proposition 2.

"The district will reflect upon these results and begin planning its next steps in the coming weeks. We will keep the community informed of any new developments," the district released in a statement after the results.

The project, according to Keri Loughlin, assistant superintendent for business, had a focus on health and safety, with roof replacement and sidewalk repair. Also, part of the proposal was the bus loop construction for 559 Main Street, which was purchased after last year's referendum passed.

The first proposition was for infrastructure including the roof replacement, door replacements, sidewalk repair, new boilers, library upgrades, an auditorium revamp, a dedicated space for the music department and as well as family consumer science classroom upgrades and new locker rooms at both the middle and high schools.

The second proposition was for a new turf field. The district currently uses the nearby Town of Brookhaven turf field, though there are no bleachers. The new field would include the existing, already replaced lighting as well as new bleachers for viewing and a press box.

The total cost for the field would have been about \$3.6 million. Proposition 2 was contingent on Proposition 1 passing. However, both failed.

The work was to be done in phases over the course of three to four years, spreading the costs. ■

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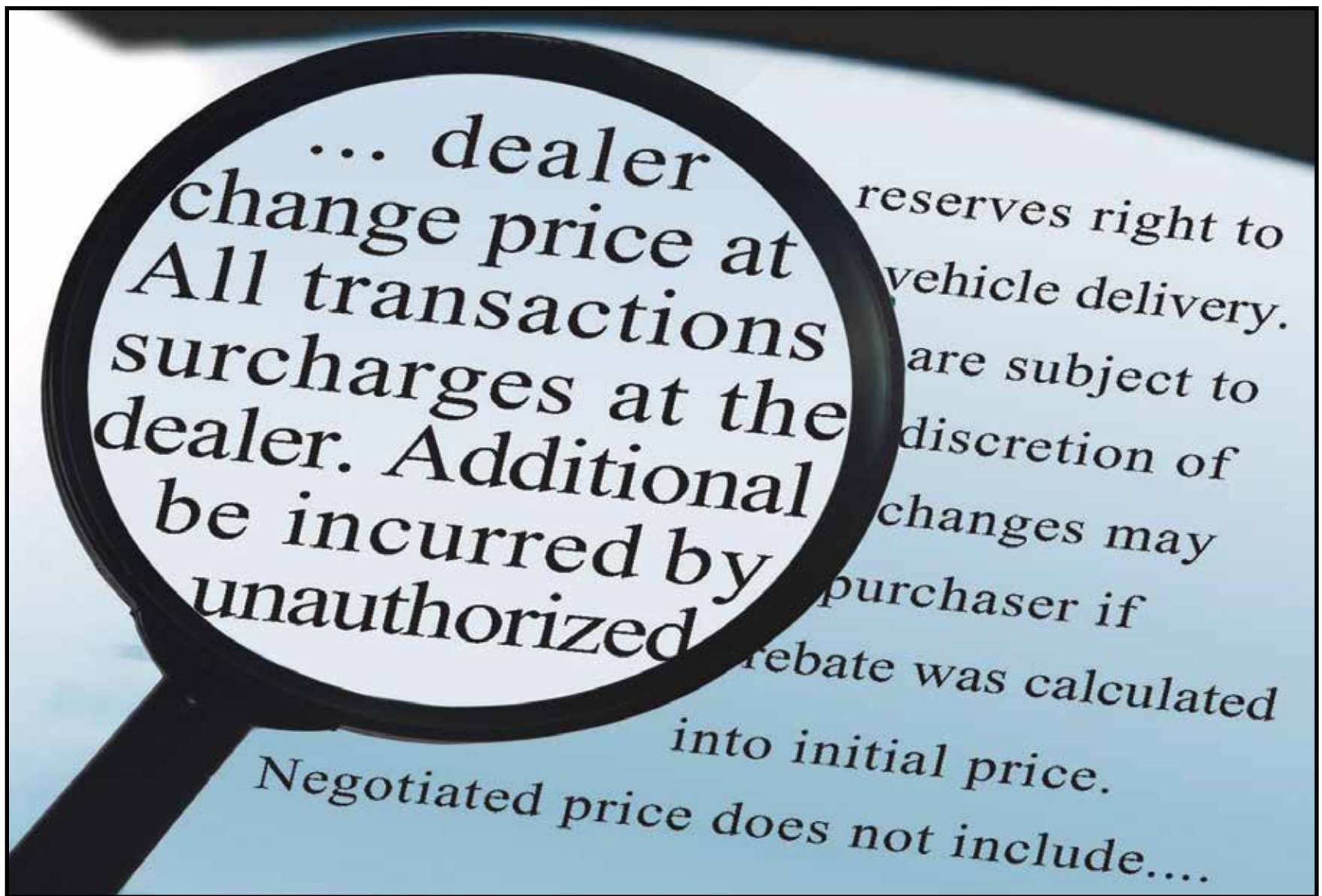
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EARLY VOTING INFORMATION

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OCT. 28 - OCT. 30: 10:00am - 6:00pm

OCT. 31 - NOV. 1: 7:00am - 3:00pm

NOV. 2 - NOV. 3: 12:00pm - 8:00pm

NOV. 4 - NOV. 5: 10:00am - 6:00pm

VOTE NOVEMBER 7, 2023
at regular polling place 6 am to 9 pm

A full listing of polling places is available at suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/BOE/2023-General-Election-Dates-and-Times

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OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 ELECTION DAY	8	9	10	11

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KEITH'S CORNER

Let's talk turkey

November is the time we “talk turkey” at HMUH!

Our top turkey Keith has his arms open wide, asking for your help in filling them with Thanksgiving nonperishables for families referred to us by schools and counselors.

We also try to assist other local nonprofits when they fall short with Thanksgiving donations, and by partnering with our friends at Caitlyn's Vision, we will once again help the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office with their Thanksgiving giveaway for folks in need.

Donations can be dropped off at the deck box in front of 44 Hawkins Avenue, Center Moriches, or in the beige drop closet at the HMUH Building at 1 Neville Street, Center Moriches.

We hope everyone will come out for the Veterans Day parade on Nov. 5 at 2 p.m. on Main Street, East Moriches. Let's show our veterans how much we appreciate them!

On Sunday, Nov. 19, we are partnering with TJ's Heroes of Mastic Beach to host “Holiday Wishes for Willow,” a holiday gift card bingo, at the Mastic Fire Department beginning at noon and ending at 6 p.m. There will be music by Acoustic Keith from 12 to 1 p.m., comedy with John Butera from 1 to 2 p.m. (and we thank them for the donation of their services), and then the bingo from 2 to 6 p.m.

All proceeds from this event will be donated to a local family whose 5-year-old daughter suffers from Beals syndrome, a rare connective tissue disorder with resulting breathing complications necessitating frequent surgeries and rehabs. Heroes/chips available for purchase or BYO. Please help us help Willow and her family have a happy holiday.

For more info, please call 631-848-9008 or visit our website <http://www.helpingmakesuhappy.org>.

Have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving, all! ■



CHAMBER UPDATE

Chamber student of the month

The Moriches Chamber of Commerce recently awarded senior Isabella Rayburn as October's Business Student of The Month. Rayburn is the Center Moriches High School's senior class president and in the top 10 percent of her class. She is involved in six honor societies—National Honor Society, English Honor Society, Social Studies Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Science Honor Society—and she is the treasurer of the Spanish Honor Society.

She is the vice president of the DECA club, involved in student council and the student leaders club. Rayburn is a varsity volleyball player, where she has earned All-League Recognition during her freshman and sophomore years and all-conference recognition her junior year.

She is also heavily involved in all of the leadership initiatives being taken at Center Moriches High School. She was active in the planning of P.S. I love you Day activities, the Section XI Using Our Voices Conference and the Using Our Voice Mental Health Run Series. Additionally, she has appeared on CBS News, advocating about mental health in teens, been selected for the NYSPHAA Leadership conference in Albany, presented at the National Athletic Directors Conference and attended Gov. Hochul's Youth Mental Health Listening Session.

Outside of school, Rayburn is a water safety instructor as well as a lifeguard at the Moriches Yacht Club, where she

works with children teaching them how to swim, be comfortable in the water, and how to act in the case of an emergency. She also coaches youth volleyball for Long Island Blaze Volleyball Club throughout the winter and has been a part of the Girl Scouts since she was in kindergarten.

Rayburn plans to major in business when she attends college next fall.

Last month, the chamber's Fall Fair was a huge success, with over 100 vendors, live music, and awesome food trucks. The Veterans parade is on Nov. 5. Parade and starts at 2 p.m. on Main Street, East Moriches, and ends at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park with a ceremony. The Winter Festival is on Dec. 10 in Center Moriches. The next chamber meeting is on Nov. 10 at Sunsets at Senix in Center Moriches at 6 p.m.

Also, the chamber's new website is published! ■

Courtesy photo



OBITUARY

Former columnist dies at 80

Maureen T. Pollack

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Maureen Pollack, a longtime writer of the Moriches Bay Garden Club column featured in the *Tide of the Moriches*, died at the age of 80 on Sept. 25, at Good Shepherd Hospice in Port Jefferson, after a three-year battle with ovarian cancer.

As the eldest daughter of her parents, Edmund and Catherine (King) Pavlak, she attended West Hampton schools, graduating in 1961.

After graduation, she worked for the Suffolk County Treasurer's Office in Riverhead. She then married Kenny Williams of Eastport, and together they had two children before being divorced.

While living in Westhampton and working for the county, she met and married John Pollack, in 1972. Together they had one child, to which Pollack became a stay-at-home mom for several years.

She was later divorced and eventually began working for the Shoreham-Wading River Library, North Shore Library, as an audio-visual clerk. She retired from the library in 2006.

She was an avid traveler and visited China, Russia, Europe, England, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland many times to visit family.

In 2005, Pollack relocated to the Holiday Beach community in Center Moriches. She enjoyed volunteering and fundraising for their annual yard sale and Victorian Tea, which benefited the restoration of the Masury Estate ballroom.

Gardening was her passion. In 2011, she reimagined the remembrance garden at the Masury with fellow Moriches Bay Gardening Club members, where she was a longtime member.

At the club, she served as president from 2020 to 2021, and hosted many flower shows.

As part of her devotion to the com-

munity, she worked with clients from IGHIL in maintaining the Masury grounds and worked alongside an Eagle Scout on their project at Bank Street Park in Center Moriches. For the past 16 years, Pollack had assisted her son in selling locally caught fish at the Westhampton Beach farmers' market.

“Mom had a passion for living life to the fullest. Everything she did, she jumped in with both feet and enjoyed the journey,” said her daughter, Theresa Pellecchia, of her beloved mother. “She always saw the best in people. That is how I can hope to live the rest of my life.”

She was predeceased by her parents and her ex-husband, John Pollack. She is survived by her siblings, Edmund, Judy, Cathy and Christine. She is also survived by her children, Theresa, Robert, and Alan. She has four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Services were held at Moloney-Sinnicksons in Center Moriches. ■



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OF MORICHES & MANORVILLE

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Eastport native turns Patriots cheerleader

A Q&A with Haley Schmich

BY JORDAN STANKOVICH

Haley Schmich is an Eastport native and Eastport-South Manor 2017 alumna. Schmich attended Adelphi for undergrad then Hofstra to receive her master's.

She was a member of the dance team for two seasons for the professional lacrosse team at the Nassau Coliseum, the New York Riptide, and currently is in her first season in Foxborough as a cheerleader for the six-time Super Bowl champion New England Patriots.

Tide: How did you get into cheerleading?

Schmich: I danced competitively my whole life growing up. When I was in college, I did participate on the Adelphi Dance Team for a short period of time, and that was sort of my first introduction to pom-style dancing, which is a lot of what is done on the Patriots Cheer Team and the cheer team is a lot of dancers. I will say, there is a lot of routines that we learn and that's kind of where I got involved with it. I danced competitively throughout high school as well. I danced in West Islip. My mom owns the dance studio Divine Rhythms in West Islip. I wasn't on the cheer team in high school. I had to pick at a pretty young age to get into either competitive dance or cheer. and I went the dance route.

Tide: When in your life would you say that you thought it might be possible to make a career out of it?

Schmich: That's a good question. I don't know if I was ever 100 percent sure that it would be possible. When I graduated from Adelphi in 2021, I knew that I wanted to pursue dance in some sort of professional field. I wasn't sure if I wanted to cheer for a professional organization or if I wanted to dance in a company, but when I graduated I knew that it was sort of time to start auditioning, and that's what led me to dancing for the Riptide for two years, sort of on a smaller scale, as I got my master's degree at Hofstra. It was really just a leap of faith, honestly; I just sort of thought if other people can do it, why shouldn't I try, too

Tide: Can you talk about how you enjoyed the dance team at Adelphi?

Schmich: I danced at Adelphi with their dance team with pom-style. It was short, though, because I ended up changing my major a bit. I really only did it for my freshman year when I was there, and it was good, it was a great experience. I don't think I would be where I am if I hadn't had that first initial reaction and that kind of experience with the dance team. It ended up just not really fitting with my schedule. I was working throughout college, and it was a lot to balance. I would say of my transition into a professional career that's sort of

out of the norm is that I did take a break from dance for a while I wasn't 100 percent sure when I was finishing up college if I was going to continue. My last two years at school I didn't dance much at all. I started to take a break from it and I was more involved in the gym and physical fitness in that sense and then at Hofstra because it's for master's, you can't be on the dance team there if you're master's student, but I taught dance throughout that time at my mom's studio and that was also where I started with Riptide. I was dancing just not through Hofstra; I was cheering for the Riptide team.

Tide: Please talk about dancing for the Riptide Dance Team for two years. Once again you were representing a local Long Island team.

Schmich: Yeah, absolutely. That was great. Dancing for the Riptide was definitely a great introduction to the professional world. I think it really did prepare me to move forward with my career. I think it was a great transition time in my life, where I was able to dance and able to stay in shape and retain choreography and work on a lot of things that are important when you are trying to audition for bigger teams such as the Patriots, and it was great. Everybody there was so kind, and the organization, I only have great things to say about it.

Tide: How did you end up getting involved with working for the Patriots?

Schmich: So, I actually knew a few people who had auditioned in previous years for the team, and I always knew if I was going to audition NFL that it would be for the Patriots. I love the look, I love the style. I think the team has such a great bond from what I can even just tell on social media. It seemed like everybody was very genuine and this past year when I was graduating, it just felt like the right time to audition, and I actually had reached out to just a few people on the team from Instagram and people who I didn't even know personally, but they were so kind, and they were so willing to just tell me a bit about the audition process. The auditions are very involved, and they were so kind and so helpful. ■



Courtesy of the New England Patriots/Dwight Darian

YEARS AGO

75 Years Ago

NOVEMBER 1948

Two nonagenarians proved that you're never too elderly to make your voice heard when they went to the polls to cast their ballots in the local Moriches election. The civic-minded residents are **Mrs. Adalaide Albin**, 93, of Eastport, and **Mrs. Abigail R. Tuthill**, 91, of Remsenburg.

Heading the Poultry Breeders Association for the coming year will be locals **John Lukert**, an East Moriches hatcheryman, as vice president, and **Chris Muller** of Moriches, of Cook Park Farm, as secretary-treasurer.

Serena Accardi was elected president of the Yankee Juniors of East Moriches School.

A luncheon party celebrating the 82nd birthday of **Mrs. Julia Smith**, of East Moriches, was held at the home of **Mrs. R.J. Simes**. Mrs. Smith was the teacher of the branch class of the East Moriches Methodist Church Sunday School for 45 years.

The 56 members of the Center Moriches High School band attended the "Band of America" broadcast in New York City, and also took a tour of the NBC radio and television studios. The band students were accompanied by **Mr. and Mrs. William Fechter** and **Mr. and Mrs. Chester Osborne**.

Center Moriches band students **Faith Henderson**, **Joan Belli**, **Wilbur Layman**, **Joan Pieper** and **George Smith** were nominated and elected to the All-Long Island High School Band, which met at Port Washington for two days of rehearsal and a festival concert. Additionally, **Lois Lukert** was selected to the All-State High School Band, which will meet in December for their annual festival.

Playing in November at **The Center Moriches Theatre**: Ray Milland and Ann Todd in "So Evil My Love"; George Brent and Jane Powell in "Luxury Liner"; and James Stewart in Alfred Hitchcock's "Rope."

50 Years Ago

NOVEMBER 1973

Clare Burgess, a ninth-grader at Center Moriches High School, is displaying her collection of dolls from Scotland, Ireland, China, Japan, and many other countries, made of silk, china, leather, and plastic, at the Center Moriches Free Public Library.

Using the International Code Flags for her design idea, **Mrs. William J. Brown**, of Center Moriches, has knitted an afghan, which is on display at the Center Moriches Free Public Library. Since each letter of the alphabet is represented in the afghan, the 26 codes, each with a different symbol and each one a different color, make a most attractive work of art.

Approximately 30 people from the Assembly of God Church of Center Moriches walked 20 miles to aid in the financial support of a new church building, spearheaded the church's pastor, **Rev. Leonard Bucket**.

Keith Scanlon received the National Bank of North America Athlete of the Week Award for his outstanding play as quarterback following William Floyd High School varsity football team's defeat of the John Glenn High School.

Angelo Barraca, of the James V. Kavanaugh Knights of Columbus Council 5293, in Mastic, was honored as Knight of the Year.

Mrs. Lois Langhorn Henry was chosen as homecoming queen at the homecoming parade of William Floyd High School. Runners-up were **Corine Barone**, **Vianna Petrucci**, **Angela Congeto** and **Cheryl Elliot**.

Dance committee members **Rich Smith**, **Kay Crosby**, **Dave Rogers** and **James Arden** got together to make plans for the annual Fall Charity Dance to benefit Camp Paquatuck, to be held at Regis-Sheraton Roof and Penthouse.

Change of Watch took place at the Mastic Beach Yacht Club, with the following posts installed: **John Dolan**, commodore; **Joseph Gosselin**, vice commodore; **Ed Hoyer**, secretary; **John Burrows**, treasurer;



November 1973: Pinning up the Clothesline Art Show sponsored by the Center Moriches Bay Area Friends of the Fine Arts are G. Gerald Donnelly, library director, and Mrs. Alice Davis, secretary. The winning art and entries are on display at the Center Moriches Library.

er; and **Marty Kramer**, measurer.

Budding artists were honored at the Center Moriches Free Public Library when the Friends of the Library handed out prizes in the first annual Clothesline Art Show. The winners of the contest, which invited drawings from preschool to grade 12, were **Eric Kangas**, **Robert Muller**, **Louis Kochansky**, **Charlie Henderson**, **Mark Feldman**, **Mary Lynn Atkins**, **Laureen Giordano**, **Ingrid Neuhoff**, **Regina Blechner**, **Clare Burgess**, **Beverly Graeser** and **Jeffrey Seng**.

Cynthia Ireland and **Vinnie Nasta** received awards for outstanding handwriting from **Edward Leistman**, principal of William Floyd Middle School, after they participated in the national contest of the ABC's of American Industry publishing company.

Southampton College now boasts a jazz band under the direction of **Frank**

(**Sonny**) **Dallas**, of Shirley. Sonny Dallas is a jazz musician who is working toward his bachelor's degree at Southampton.

Members of the Brookhaven Town Recreation Senior Citizens program held a sewing fashion show at the Mini-Mod Recreation Center in Mastic, under the direction of program supervisor **Adelaide Silkworth**. Among those participating in the show were **Dorothy Crowley**, president of the Mastic Beach Club; **Elsie Huf**, Mini-Mod hostess and chairperson from the Center Moriches Club; and **Anna Marotta**, chairperson and hostess from the South Brookhaven Club.

Playing in November at local United Artists Theatres: "Live and Let Die"; "The Heartbreak Kid"; "Billy Jack"; and Barbara Streisand and Robert Redford in "The Way We Were."

- Compiled by Vanessa Graniello

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'BBQ done different'

Smoke Shack BBQ opens in Center Moriches

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Owners Mike and Brandon Cahill have recently opened their second Smoke Shack BBQ location in Center Moriches. Their first food truck location is in Mastic Beach.

The brick-and-mortar location features orange and green décor, a nod to the colors of the Cahill's two food trucks.

The duo opened their first location in 2017. As lovers of all things barbecue, they were inspired by Nana Jennette Cantone's homemade barbecue sauce recipe to continue their business venture and expand into the Cahill franchise.

Cahill grew up learning and working in his family's butcher shop, which led his son Brandon to study culinary arts at William Floyd High School. After graduation, he went on to Johnson & Wales University.

"At Smoke Shack BBQ, we start preparing delicious food before the meat even hits the grill," the website reads. "From the time it takes to slow cook our meats to perfection to what spices



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CONTACT
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and sauces are used, our pitmasters pay great attention to detail throughout the barbecue process to guarantee the best flavors in every bite!"

The menu includes pulled-pork sandwiches, grilled chicken sandwiches, smoked brisket, porky mountain fries, loaded knishes and baked potatoes, nachos, Philly cheese steaks, burgers, wraps, quesadillas, tacos, ribs, salads, platters and plenty of sides.

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