

The *Tide*

of MORICHES & MANORVILLE

8th Year, Issue 10, APRIL 2019

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Spring is in the air!
Photo by Pamela Morris



A TALE OF TWO COUPLES. AND TWO PRE-OWNED CARS.

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American Legion celebrates 100 years

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

The American Legion is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, with celebrations across the country. The American Legion Post 1545 in Eastport took part in the festivities with an event on Friday, March 15, honoring service members and looking ahead to the next century. About 90 people attended, including seven past commanders. The event also honored the longest-serving member of the post, Carl Wolronka, who has been a member for 66 years.

"The Eastport American Legion will continue to serve its country and community for the next 100 years," said Dennis Morrill, commander of Post 1545.

The post currently stands at 478 in Montauk Highway. The first known use of the property is a blacksmith shop, shown in a map from 1853. The history then fast forwards to around the turn of the century, when property owner Lyman Ketcham harvested ice from the West Pond. The building was used as an icehouse and in 1902, Ketcham and his son increased the size of the building to accommodate 500 tons of ice. The rear section of the American Legion basement was part of that original icehouse.

The main building of the hall was transferred from the old site of the Eastport School in 1915. What is now the largest room in the hall had to be reconfigured by adding corners, as the school building was not a rectangle. It can still be seen today how the corner spaces don't match the rest of the wall. As early as 1914, silent movies were shown at the hall, then known as Ketcham's Hall, until "talkies" were introduced in 1928. Eastport School athletes used the building as a gymnasium, since the school did not have one.

The Eastport American Legion Post 1545 was organized on Feb. 20, 1947 with first commander Rodney W. Jayne. The American Legion Auxiliary was chartered on July 31, 1948. On May 22, 1950, the



Carl Wolronka, the longest-serving member of the Eastport American Legion Post 1545, cuts the cake to celebrate the Legion's 100th anniversary. Photo by Loredana Losso

Ketcham Hall property was sold to the American Legion, where it remains today.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. It began as a group of World War I veterans that grew into one of the

largest nonprofits in the United States. Today, membership is at over 2 million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France,

Mexico and the Philippines.

Meetings of the post are the first Tuesday of every month at the hall, beginning at 7 p.m. ■

Red Devils earn historic championship title

Center Moriches boys basketball made history last month, after defeating Brentwood to become the first small school to earn the overall Suffolk County championship. The team defeated Cold Spring Harbor for their Long Island Championship hat trick, then won against Dobbs Ferry to earn them the Southeast Championship title. But the boys

fell upstate to Lowville in central New York in the Class B semifinals, ending their 16-game winning streak but earning the team a series of accolades. Pictured is the team and coach Nick Thomas as they are honored by county executive Steve Bellone for their success. Courtesy photo

Glenn Rohrbacker



Teen spawns annual fundraiser for brother with autism

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

Abby Edwards, a freshman at Westhampton Beach High School and a resident of East Moriches, is expanding her annual fundraiser, Pajama Day, which supports the Anderson Center for Autism in upstate New York. She started the fundraiser to support her brother, Riley, who is a resident at the center.

This year's fundraiser will be on Friday, April 12, as part of Autism Awareness Month. She has already spread the initiative to other local schools, and this year the fundraiser will see participants in the Hudson Valley region. She began the annual event at East Moriches Middle School and her first two events raised over \$6,500 for the center. The concept? Wear pajamas to school for one day, and every person who participates pledges \$2 to Anderson. Abby also got families, community members, and businesses to participate in raising money.

Henry H. Wells Middle School in Brewster and Anderson Center for Autism have signed on as participants, and Abby is awaiting formal approvals from others in the region. New participants will be joined by East Quogue Elementary School, East Moriches Middle School, East Moriches Elementary School, and Starbright Children's Center in the effort to raise money and heighten awareness.

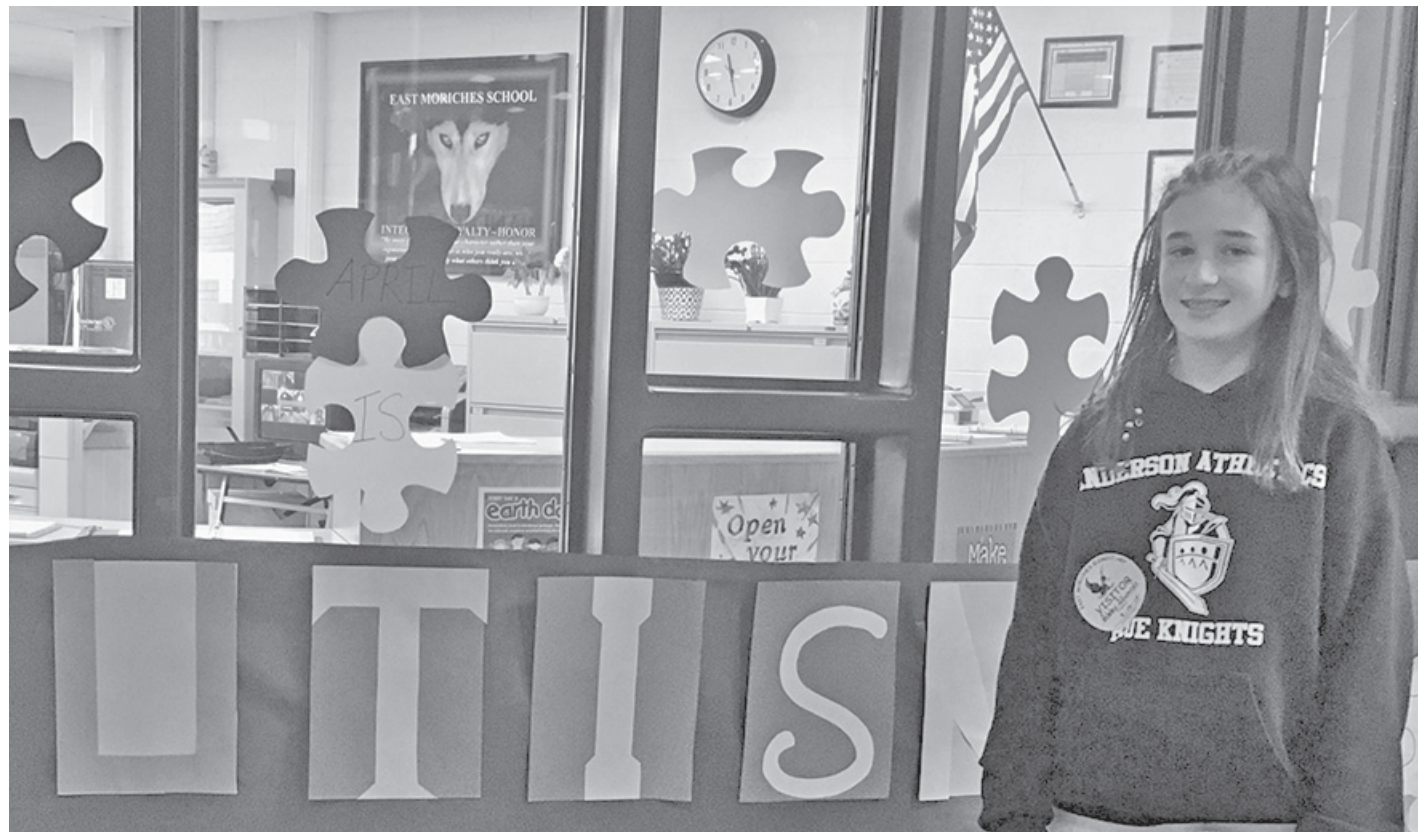
"We have all been touched by her actions," said Eliza Bozenski, chief development officer for Anderson, in a letter urging schools to participate.

Abby's inspiration was to support her brother, who is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. She wants him and his peers at Anderson to be able to participate in trips, athletic activities, movies, the Special Olympics, and more.

"Anderson Center for Autism are the people who provide an amazing life for my brother, Riley, and other individuals with ASD, and that is very important to me and my family," Abby told the *Tide*.

The Anderson Center has also welcomed Abby as a partner, having her at their headquarters and meeting with top officials. She also shared her story and message with families and partners of the center.

"Abby sets a wonderful example for all of us, using her good heart and energy to make a difference in the lives of others," said Patrick Paul, CEO and executive director of the Anderson Center. "She understands the importance of educating others about autism, and the fact that programs and services require funding and support. Abby



Abby Edwards is organizing her third Pajama Day fundraiser, which raises money for the Anderson Center for Autism in honor of her brother, Riley.

Courtesy photo

is an exceptional young lady; we're grateful to have her as part of the Anderson Center for Autism family."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, prevalence rates for autism spectrum disorder are now 1 in 59, compared to 1 in 150, less than 20 years ago. The neurological disorder is associated with social, communicative and behavioral challenges. Anderson Center for Autism is a not-for-profit organization that provides full-time residential care as well as vocational, educational, and clinical services for those impacted. Its mission is to optimize the quality of life for people with autism.

Pajama Day is on April 12, and anyone wishing to donate can visit andersoncenterforautism.org and indicate the donation is for "Abby's Pajama Day" in the special instructions. Schools who wish to participate can also find more information on the website. ■

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Town seeks designation for bay bottom

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

The Town of Brookhaven, in a resolution passed by the town board last month, is requesting that certain areas at the bottom of Moriches and Bellport bays be designated as official agriculture districts with the New York State Department of Agriculture.

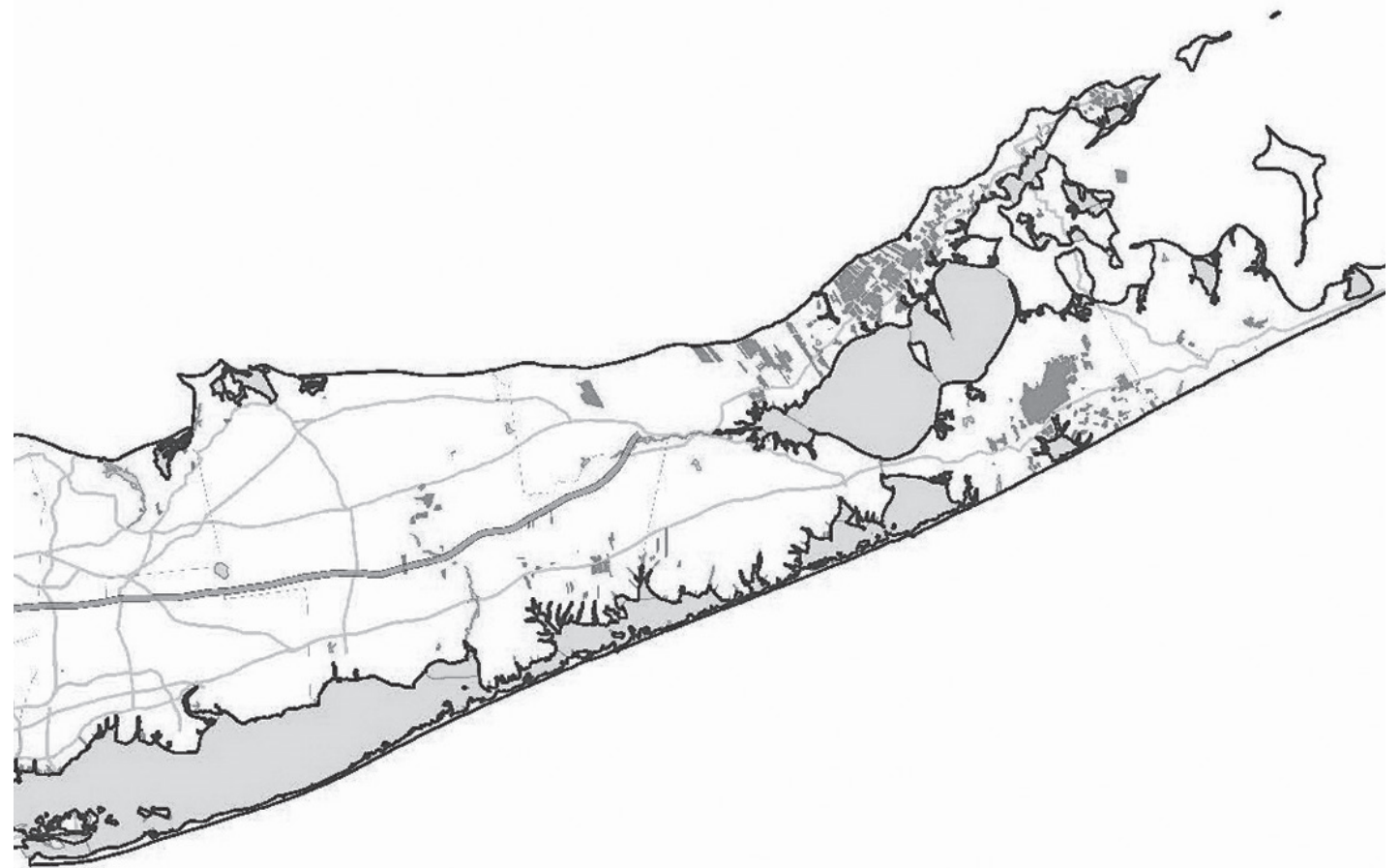
The lands under the Moriches Bay are town-owned and are leased to commercial farmers, who mainly grow oysters and other shellfish. Since the land is government-owned, there is no tax benefit, but the designation gives certain protections and opportunities to farmers. According to the NYSDA, the purpose of the designation is to promote a future of agricultural use for certain lands. The benefits are given to dissuade the conversion into non-agricultural uses; the benefits don't prevent changes, but aim to make farming the most economically viable option for certain parcels. The designation includes protections against overly restrictive local laws, government-funded acquisition or construction projects, and private nuisance suits involving agricultural practices.

Supervisor Ed Romaine said the designation would make Moriches Bay viable for the return of a booming oyster farming industry, which he said was prevalent in the 1950s and 1960s. He added that the Moriches Inlet allows for a better venue due to the cleaner water and the changing makeup of the bay.

"This is an opportunity to restore an industry that was once a major industry in Suffolk County that has essentially died out," Romaine said.

The supervisor added that he supports the industry due to the many benefits oysters provide the bay. Oysters are natural water filters, which can clean 50 times their weight in water per day. They also promote a marine ecosystem and are used for commercial sales. Each year, the town sponsors several organizations that farm oysters to clean the bays, including Moriches Bay Project, which receives thousands of oysters per year.

Laura Fabrizio, a co-founder of MBP,



Agricultural districts across New York give farmers special protections for their land. In dark gray are the districts that have been approved in Suffolk County.

Courtesy photo

said she welcomes a bolstering of the oyster industry, since no matter what the oysters are used for, their growth contributes to a cleaner bay.

The town funds oyster sanctuaries for MBP in Moriches Bay and supplies them with the oysters to populate those farms, which would be one of the targets of this district recognition. MBP, Fabrizio said, is constantly trying to promote and educate the value of oysters through programs and events like their upcoming Oyster Fling on June 26 at Westhampton Beach Marina. The nonprofit also plans to

move forward on their "oyster bar" in East Moriches later this year.

Romaine was not aware of any other water lands that are designated agricultural districts in New York. According to the NYSDA, about 70 percent of state agricultural districts are farmland, but it did not specify what the other 30 percent are. The underwater lands in Bellport and Moriches bays account for about 15,000 acres total. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation allowed the town in 2015 to lease up to 40 acres

of underwater land to farmers, of which about 10 acres is currently split between four farmers.

As of Jan. 1, 2019, 159 agricultural districts existed statewide, containing approximately 25,673 farms and over 9.08 million acres (about 30 percent of the state's total land area). Each county is responsible for processing the requests and setting a time to approve requested districts. March is the month Suffolk County accepts their proposals, and the Legislature will need to make the final determination. ■

Police blotter

Center Moriches

The rear window of a 2008 Ford was damaged while parked on Acorn Circle on Feb. 28.

A bicycle was stolen from a home on Cozine Road on March 18.

East Moriches

In a newly built home on Culver Lane, someone entered on March 21 and stole an electric stove, refrigerator, and microwave.

A lamppost was damaged at a home on Bay Street.

Eastport

Someone entered Valero gas station on March 11 and displayed a knife but did not leave with money.

Manorville

The glass door to Dunkin' Donuts was damaged on Feb. 28 and the cash register containing cash was stolen.

CRIMESTOPPERS

Arrested for leaving scene of crash

On March 16, Suffolk County Police arrested a man for leaving the scene of a motor vehicle crash that injured a pedestrian in Shirley.

Michael Gruce was driving a 2008 Ford Econoline van, backing out of the driveway of 8 Winston Drive, when the van struck and ran over a male pedestrian at approximately 9:55

p.m. Gruce left the scene in the Ford. The victim was transported to Long Island Community Hospital in East Patchogue for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Gruce was located and arrested on Weeks Avenue in Manorville at 11:35 p.m. Gruce, 50, of Shirley, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident first degree and reckless endangerment second degree. He is being held overnight at the Seventh Precinct and was scheduled to be arraigned at First District Court in Central Islip.

Brewery to begin construction soon

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

The Moriches area's first microbrewery is nearing fruition, as Moriches Field Brewing awaits a final building permit to begin construction on its new space in Center Moriches. The site is at 1 Wilcox Avenue and will feature a six-barrel brewing system with a tasting room.

"I'll be in my bed by 11," joked Rich Flynn, owner of Moriches Field Brewing. The brewery is not a bar, and the tasting room will be closed at typical restaurant hours. He plans for last call to be around 9:30 p.m. The tasting room will also only be open on Thursday evenings and Fridays and Saturdays. The space will be open for community use on Monday through Wednesday.

After Flynn received the building permit, he estimates about 12 to 14 weeks of construction, before moving in his custom-built brewing equipment. He anticipates opening the doors by late summer or early fall, unless there are any big surprises. During construction, he'll be redoing the facade at 1 Wilcox Avenue and transforming it to resemble an older aircraft hanger. The name Moriches Field Brewing stems from Long Island's airfields, and the indoor theme will center around LI aircraft history. The brewing system will be able to handle about double the variety of a normal system.

"We want this to be a place where the community can come buy a beer and take some beer home with them," Flynn said.

The owner anticipates being classified a New York "farm brewery," as much of the ingredients



Moriches Field Brewing is slated to break ground on renovations soon and open its doors later this year.

Courtesy photo

will come from local farmers. The tasting room will have some snacks, but the site does not have a kitchen, so Flynn plans on coordinating with some local restaurants to possibly offer food options.

Flynn, of Bayport, couldn't find a place in his neck of the woods that would fit his vision, but on a drive through Center Moriches, he felt the community needed a place like this. He conversed with friends in the area who agreed, and about two years ago, he put down the roots that are about to sprout.

Flynn got into brewing after traveling for a few years for work and living in London, where the community pubs were an interesting concept

to him – something that was there for and by locals. He also returned to the states missing some of the international beer he was able to have around all the time. He hopes to bring some of those styles into the Moriches Field Brewing room. Also upon returning, he decided to take a career detour, quitting his office job and starting to brew his own beer and shadow local brewers. This venture is also a chance for him to get to know his neighbors, he said, which was something he lacked working in a fast-paced city job.

"It's something that I've been looking forward to doing for a long time," Flynn said. ■

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Keith's Corner

April is all about spreading happiness

April is all about spreading happiness at Helping Makes U Happy! Pictured with Keith are the boys from the East Moriches Webelos Troop 29, who spent a morning at our Helping Makes U Happy Neville Street location, boxing up food for food pantries and making some Easter baskets for children referred to us. Awesome job, boys! In addition to Easter baskets, we will also be having an "Egg My House" kickoff fundraiser to help feed our summer families. Let us help the Easter Bunny hide candy filled plastic eggs in your front yard. Look for flyers around town and at Moriches Bagel Deli, who is so generously sponsoring the plastic eggs for this fundraiser! We are looking for scholarship applications from Center Moriches and ESM seniors who actively participate in community service. Contact your guidance offices to make sure you don't miss the deadline for this \$1,000 scholarship at your school! Tuesday, April 30 is the day we will find out if we are a Long Island Imagine Awards Rising Star Winner. If you are on Facebook, watch for more exciting news about this opportunity. If you aren't, check our website www.helpingmakesuhappy.org. Wishing you all a very Happy Passover and a very Happy Easter!



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Myles

Meet this very handsome and affectionate guy, Myles. He arrived after being picked up by an Animal Control Officer. Myles has found himself homeless, alone and looking for a second chance at a good life. He has lots of energy, loves to go for walks but also enjoys being a couch potato. He is about 98 pounds, 3 to 5 years young, up to date on vaccinations and heartworm negative. Come down and meet Myles.

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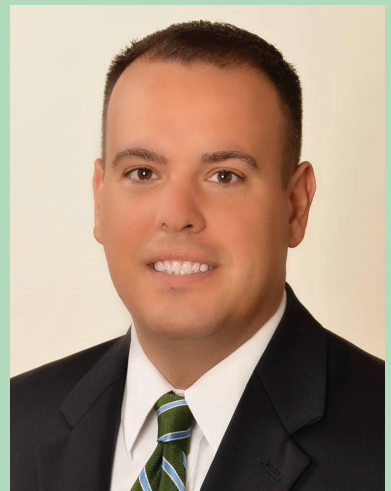


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Supervisor gives state of the town address

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

In his annual State of the Town address, supervisor Ed Romaine touted the successes of 2018 and promised that a "united board" would continue to make the town a better place moving forward. He delivered remarks in a speech at Town Hall on Monday, March 11.

In his opening remarks, councilman Dan Panico said the supervisor's speech would be a story of the town, and of "hard work and real results." Officials from Suffolk County were in attendance, including several legislators, the county clerk, union leaders, the town board, and town hall staff.

One of the top achievements Romaine cited in his speech was a balanced budget without using reserve funds. He also was proud of the AAA bond rating given to the town by S&P last year, which financial advisors have estimated will save "millions" of taxpayer dollars. Romaine said he aims to preserve that rating and keep balanced budgets.

"You've got to live within your means," he said.

Romaine added that while the town is the lowest portion of the tax bill, he would remain dedicated to preventing tax increases and remaining under the tax cap mandated by the state. He added that the town is working to reverse policies that have been sending people off Long Island.

"Our residents cannot pay more in taxes," he

said.

Romaine also spoke about the consolidation efforts in the town, and the \$20 million grant awarded from New York to implement over five years to make government smaller and more efficient. Estimates say the consolidation effort will save \$61 million.

The supervisor took on development, saying the Brookhaven IDA closed on 15 projects in 2018, and expects to close on 19 in 2019. He added that he is still concerned with overdevelopment, adding that "smart growth" was necessary to make the right commercial decisions.

Romaine also mentioned the quality-of-life improvements that have occurred in the past year, including the cleaning of 500 properties and demolition of over 60 zombie homes. A new recreation facility was created in Center Moriches that houses the Moriches Community Center, a senior nutrition program, and will soon have active athletic fields in its backyard.

"No one should live in a neighborhood that is neglected," he said.

For town employees, the supervisor hopes to achieve a fair contract when negotiations happen this year. He also said that due to the rise of the #MeToo movement, the town took additional steps in 2018 to combat workplace sexual harassment, including a new interactive training program mandatory for all town employees and elected officials.

"I am committed to ensuring that our employees receive a fair contract that will not jeopardize services to our residents," Romaine said.

The environment is a favorite topic of Romaine's, and he used the speech to advocate for more steps in combating climate change, including moving more resources toward renewable energy. His goal is to have more solar panels, in addition to those at Town Hall and in Manorville, at the Brookhaven Amphitheater, Calabro Airport in Brookhaven hamlet, and on the roof of Town Hall. He also mentioned a new policy that would convert demolished homes to open space in an effort to alleviate flooding around marshland, which he said acts like a "sponge."

He also was pleased to announce that sewers would "finally" be coming to the Mastics and Shirley area, after the referendum for Phases 1 and 2 passed in January. He added that his administration has protected over 1,100 acres of open space since he entered office. He also promoted an application to the state that would designate areas of Moriches Bay as an agricultural district, providing additional protections and opportunities for oyster farmers. The supervisor reiterated his commitment to recycling, and said the new dual-stream system allows the town to compete in the global market, after they switched in November.

"The global recycling market absolutely

collapsed," he said.

Romaine also discussed the landfill, which he said would close in 2024, five years earlier than originally planned under a previous administration. According to the supervisor, 75 percent of the landfill is capped and he hopes that it will become an energy park once it is closed. He said there is expected to be around \$20 million in the reserve fund once the landfill closes.

The supervisor also announced a \$150 million project with the highway department to repair town roads, saying he was tired of waiting for money from the state or federal government. ■



Supervisor Ed Romaine delivers his State of the Town address.

MT/Rohrbacker

Beware of scammers

Local residents have already paid the price

BY ANTHONY PERROTTA

Authorities recently announced they were investigating an incident where individuals, claiming to be from the United States Social Security Administration, scammed a Suffolk resident out of over \$1,000.

Wayne Chertoff, 67, from Melville, received a phone call on Feb. 28 from a woman who said she worked for the SSA and there was a warrant out for his arrest in Texas, authorities wrote in a statement. The woman told Chertoff he could clear up the warrant if he purchased a Google Play card in the amount of \$500 and provided the caller with the card number.

The following day, Chertoff received another call, this time from a man, who reiterated the warrant information and requested Chertoff purchase two Google Play cards, one for \$400 and one for \$500, authorities wrote in the statement. Chertoff provided the caller with the card numbers.

Both calls showed "Social Security" on Chertoff's caller ID with a legitimate telephone number for the United States Social Security Administration, according to authorities. The callers used spoofing software to make the calls appear as though they were coming from a legitimate source, authorities added.

Chertoff's case, however, is just one of the many scams to which people are falling

victim. This publication reports on similar scams that occur locally, nearly every week, in the blotter section of our print edition.

One such incident involves a Bohemia resident who reported to authorities, on March 4, that someone claiming to be from PSEG called and said they would shut off their power unless they sent four MoneyPak gift cards. The victim complied and lost over \$1,000 in the scam.

Another local incident involved an Islip Terrace resident who reported to authorities, on March 4, that someone claiming to be from the U.S. Marshals Service called and said there was a warrant out for their arrest in Texas. The victim was then instructed to send Google Play cards in order to clear their name. They ultimately complied.

The Suffolk County Police Department stressed the fact that neither government agencies nor utility companies will ask for payment of fees, fines or bills via prepaid gift cards.

PSEG Long Island recently spoke to a group of seniors at the Great South Bay YMCA in Bay Shore, where they warned them about increasingly sophisticated scams that are being used to target customers.

In 2018, more than 4,088 scams were reported to PSEG Long Island, a 75 percent increase from 2017, according to the energy

company's numbers. In total, PSEG has received reports of more than 10,000 scams over the past five years, with a 6 percent victim rate.

PSEG also asks customers to be aware of email scams and unannounced in-person visits, as there have been reports of scammers pretending to be company solicitors in order to gain access to people's homes and steal items. As for email scams, PSEG doesn't ask customers to provide personal information online without first logging into their personal account.

Last year, the Arkansas-based telecommunications firm, First Orion, released a report on what they refer to as an "epidemic" of phone call scams taking place throughout the county. The report, which analyzed data from over 50 billion calls over an 18-month period, found that mobile phone scam calls are on the rise. Only 3.7 percent of calls to cell phones were fraudulent in 2017. This number increased to 29.2 percent last year and is expected to reach 44.6 percent by the end of this year.

The report also found that fraudulent landline calls are decreasing. Only 24.8 percent of scam calls are expected to come from landlines this year, as opposed to 56 percent in 2017. The report notes this shift is largely due to fewer people using landlines.

In addition, the report makes reference to "neighborhood spoofing," a tactic where

a scammer disguises their phone number and displays it as a local number on the would-be victim's caller ID. This increases the likelihood that the person receiving the call will respond.

However, it appears that millennials are more likely to become victims of phone scams than seniors.

In a survey from 2017, First Orion also found that people in their 20s and early 30s are six times more likely than baby boomers to disclose personal information to scammers who are able to verify the last four digits of their Social Security number. The study, which surveyed 1,000 mobile phone users, also found that three times as many millennials have experienced a financial loss from a scam when compared to baby boomers.

The Federal Trade Commission reported last year that the average loss from a phone-based scam was \$720 in 2017.

First Orion's 2017 survey found that 40 percent of people between 20 and 29 years old who went to the FTC about being contacted by a scammer lost money, as opposed to 18 percent of people aged 70 years or older. The study also found that 32 percent of the millennials surveyed said they would talk on the phone with someone claiming to be an IRS agent, despite the fact that the IRS doesn't call individuals. ■

The fight for funding continues

Pols, vets and others speak out on the need for mental health services

BY ANTHONY PERROTTA

Elected officials and various veterans organizations are urging the state Legislature to restore funding for a program that provides peer-to-peer support for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other adjustment conditions.

The Joseph P. Dwyer Project, which is named after a Long Island veteran who lost his battle with PTSD in 2008, has served over 10,000 veterans across the county since its inception in 2012. The Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency and Suffolk County United Veterans oversee the program.

New York State's executive budget this year included no funding for the project, compared to last year, when 23 counties across the state received \$3.735 million in funding.

"It is our profound duty to serve our



Iconic image of Pvt. 1st Class Joseph Dwyer helping an Iraqi child (March 25, 2003).

veterans both home and abroad," said Suffolk County executive Steve Bellone during a press conference in Hauppauge last week. "Oftentimes when our veterans return home, they carry scars with them."

Bellone's office said he will be traveling to the Hudson Valley and western New York in the coming weeks, trying to build support among state and local officials for the program.

"The Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Project has a proven track record of assisting our veterans to regain their lives and I urge Albany to reverse course immediately and fund this vital program," Bellone said.

New York State Sen. John Brooks (D-Massapequa) believes, due to the broad support for the program, that funding will be restored before the budget's deadline on April 1.

Brooks, who was recently named chair of the state's Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs Committee, said representatives from all 23 counties that the program serves in NYS have spoken to him about the importance of restoring the funding.

"These are heroes helping heroes," Brooks said, noting that the state Senate not only hopes to restore the amount from last year's funding, but has also called for an additional \$1 million. "The urgent need for this program, and others like it, is evident in the needs of those suffering from their experiences, and our first goal is to make sure they know that they have not been forgotten," Brooks said, adding his opinion that the programs should be taken nationwide.

John Damato, a 56-year-old Iraq War veteran who served in Baghdad from 2004-2005, said he didn't feel the effects of PTSD until years after returning home to Long Island. He recalled being home alone one day when something "triggered" him. "I couldn't even walk my dogs," he said. "That's how bad I was."

Damato originally sought help from the VA. He praised the agency, but said there aren't enough resources to treat the amount of veterans who need help. Damato eventually learned about the Joseph P.



Suffolk County executive Steve Bellone alongside other elected officials and veteran activists at a recent press conference.

MT/Perrotta

Dwyer Project. "It has helped me so much," he said, adding that before participating in the program, he wouldn't have been able to go out in public, let alone speak in front of group like he did last week. Damato has since become a facilitator with the program.

New York State Assemblyman Steve Stern (D-Huntington) and Suffolk County Legis. Susan Berland (D-Commack), who serves as chairwoman of the Suffolk County Legislature's Veterans Committee, also spoke in support of the program and urged Albany to restore its funding. Nassau County executive Laura Curran was scheduled to speak during the meeting last week, but was unable to attend.

The event came a few days after the American Legion, the largest veterans organization in New York State, lobbied Albany to restore the project's funding. The program is named after Pvt. 1st Class Joseph Dwyer, a Mount Sinai resident who enlisted in the United States Army after Sept. 11 and went on to become a combat medic in the 3rd Infantry Division.

Dwyer gained national attention after a photograph of him carrying a wounded Iraqi boy, while his unit was fighting its way into Baghdad, became heavily publicized. Some have said, in more recent years, the famous photo embodied many of the ideals that Americans wanted to believe about the Iraq War, which began in 2003.

Five years after the war began, Dwyer found himself in and out of treatment for addiction and PTSD. His delusions and bouts of violent rage, brought on by his deteriorating mental state, caused his wife to become fearful and leave with their young daughter.

Dwyer was eventually found dying in his North Carolina apartment, reportedly surrounded by pill bottles and paint solvents. He was 31 at the time of his death.

It has long been reported that an average of 20 veterans in the United States suffering from PTSD die by suicide every day. The Department of Veterans Affairs confirmed a slightly higher number in a report from last year. The results found that the number of daily suicides (20.6) is made up of both veterans (16.8) and active-duty service members (3.8). These numbers amount to 6,132 veterans and 1,387 service members who die from suicide in a given year.

Army veteran Ralph Mims was homeless before seeking help from the program, which he said, "led [him] in the right direction" with its various services that include helping to find employment and education opportunities.

As he stood alongside his wife and four children, Mims remarked, "I hope the funding in the budget is restored because I don't know where I would be right now." ■

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The
Tide
of MORICHES

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.

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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Sunday, April 6

Spring Scallop Dinner – Annual dinner at East Moriches United Methodist Church, 370 Montauk Hwy., 4:30-7 p.m. \$20 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Menu includes Peconic Bay scallops, cole slaw, potato, rolls, coffee, tea, soda or water and choice of dessert. Takeout available. For advance sale tickets, call John at 631-878-1898.

New Saturday Night Service – South Bay Bible Church, 578 Montauk Hwy., East Moriches announces its new, Saturday evening service at 5 p.m. Go to church on Saturday night and sleep in on Sunday. Visit www.southbaychurchli.org.

Thrift Shop – The Moriches Bay Historic Society's Barn Shop is open for the season! Find rescued treasures, local artists' work, and unique one-of-a-kind items. Shop purchases support the historic John Scudder Havens Homestead, 15 Montauk Hwy., Center Moriches. Shop hours are: Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

Blood Drive – Give the gift of life at the annual Zachary Powell blood drive at East Moriches Fire Dept., 9 Pine St., East Moriches, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hero sandwiches and raffle prizes for all donors. To schedule an appointment, call Judith at 917-566-8537.

Sunday, April 7

Fill-A-Bag Sale – The Barn Thrift Shop at Temple Beth Emeth, 52 Mt. Sinai Ave., Mt. Sinai will open rain or shine, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fill a big for only \$5. Weather permitting; boxes of free items will be placed outside. Every kid can pick 2 free books. Call 631-928-4103.

Saturday, April 13

Food Drive – The East Moriches Fire Dept. will be collecting non-perishable food items at the firehouse, 9 Pine St., East Moriches, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Food will be distributed to local food pantries.

Wednesday, April 17

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 www.mphistorical.org.

Thursday, April 18

Moriches Bay Garden – The club will meet at The Masury Estate, 67 Old Neck Road, Center Moriches, 7 p.m. At 8 p.m., guest speaker Erich Weltsek, a recycling coordination aide for Brookhaven Town will speak about "Recycling Education." Horticulture: members will bring flowering bulbs. All welcome. Call 631-605-0760 or visit www.morichesbaygardenclub.org.

Saturday, April 20

Easter Saturday Service – South Bay Bible Church, a non-denominational Christian church, will hold a special Easter services at 5 p.m.

Sunday, April 21

Easter Sunday Services - South Bay Bible Church will hold Easter services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Visit www.southbaychurchli.org or call 631-909-8241.

Events...

Historic House Tours – Tour the John Scudder Haven Homestead (circa, 1755) located at 15 Main St., Center Moriches. Call Loren at 631-457-9763 to make an appointment. Visit the museum shop on the premises, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Antiques and collectibles. Follow them on Facebook.

Book Sale – Browse gently used and antique books at the Ketcham Farm Book Barn, 81 Main St., Center Moriches. Proceeds support Ketcham Inn restoration. Open Thurs.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit www.ketchaminn.org for details.

Volunteer Advocates Needed - Family Service League is seeking volunteers to train as advocates for adult-care residents. Volunteer Ombudspersons visit residents weekly to ensure quality of life. For information, call 631-470-6756 or email jwirnkula@fsl-li.org.

Volunteers Needed - Suffolk County Helen Keller Services seeks individuals to visit homebound blind and elderly people. Read mail, socialize and transport. For more information, call 631-424-0022.

Moriches - Years Ago

Compiled by Vanessa Graniello

75 Years Ago

April 1944

Three local folks in uniform met in Italy and naturally had a lot to talk about. The three were Lt. Elizabeth Brooks, Army nurse, of Center Moriches; Capt. Leo Hersh of the Army Dental Corps, formerly a dentist in Center Moriches; and Capt. Edward N. Maxwell, who left the pastorate of the East Moriches Presbyterian Church to enter the Army as a chaplain.

At a meeting of the East Moriches Fire Department, Arthur W. Willis was reelected chief and Clarence R. Howell assistant chief.

Staff Sgt. Thomas Sinnickson of Center Moriches was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for action over Marshall Islands.

A meeting of the Moriches 4-H Club was held at the school with Eileen Campbell presiding and Dorothy Deaner was appointed as assistant song leader. Two cheers were worked out by the cheer committee under the direction of Virginia Hall.

Arthur W. Willis, chief of the East Moriches Fire Department, now employed as a civil fire department member at Suffolk Air Base, received the Order of the Purple Heart because of injury suffered in the Argonne campaign in France during the last war.

George Herrmann of Center Moriches, now a field director of the American Red Cross, left for Washington to receive his orders for overseas duty.

Nineteen Center Moriches Girl Scouts from Troop 13 went to New York to attend the circus, chaperoned by Mrs. Warren Wenzel, Mrs. James Belli, Mrs. R.H. Clark, Mrs. Richard Bernstein, Mrs. Otto Pieper, Mrs. Gladys Loper and Miss Janet Shoemaker. The scouts who took the trip were Janice Wenzel, Dorothy Rybicki, Joan Belli, Joyce Clark, Barbara Davis, Shirley Bernstein, Joan Edwards, Gay Fields, Helen Maschek, Bernice Maschek, Anna Roth, Ruby Bell, Carol Mae Bernstein, Marie Pugh, Joan Titmus, Joan Pieper, Ann Leigh, Dolores Loper and Marilyn Merritt.

A party was held by Mrs. Lubinoski to celebrate the opening

of the new picking house in Eastport for the duck pickers and men who work there.

Chester Swezey of Eastport was in charge of the last meeting of the Moriches Rotary Club held in the Long Island Hotel.

The Moriches Women's Club gave a luncheon and card party at its clubhouse on Lake Avenue. A special prize of a flower container, gift of Mrs. Donald Portser of New York, which Mrs. George Stone filled with pansies, was won by Mrs. R.T. Dayton. The committee in charge comprised Mrs. Roger Criado, Mrs. George Stone, Mrs. W.L. Darnell and Mrs. Edward Snedeker.

Frances Hammond, of Center Moriches, is to begin at the Royal Alexandria Theatre, Toronto, Canada, playing the lead of Ina in "The Old Soak."

Playing in April at the Center Moriches Theatre: Eddie Bracken and Betty Hutton in "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek"; George Sanders and Virginia Bruce in "Action in Arabia"; Ann Harding, Evelyn Keyes and Jinx Falkenburg in "Nine Girls"; and Ann Sheridan and Dennis Morgan in "Shine On, Harvest Moon."

50 Years Ago

April 1969

During the snowy days when we were busy shoveling snow, Mary Skidmore of East Moriches and her husband, "Skid," were busy battling fish. But Mary is back in East Moriches now, and just so she didn't get away scot free from snow, we arranged with the weatherman for a bit of a surprise when we got a quick squall of the white stuff on Sunday morning.

David and Mark Tuttle, students at Houghton College, are spending the Easter vacation with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Emroy Tuttle of Montauk Highway, Eastport.

Over 200 dinners were served at the highly successful spaghetti dinner sponsored by the Eastport PTA in the school dining hall. PTA members in charge of organizing the event were Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Pitcher, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Iversen, Mr. and Mrs. Waldemar Burding, Viola Malloy, Martin Skarka, Mary

Raynor, Gene Kelley, Guy Washburn and Edward Kaniecki.

A number of young boaters have received safe boating certificates after completion of a safe boating course conducted by Warren G. Burch and Elbridge Tuthill of the Moriches Bay Power Squadron. The young boaters from East Moriches include Regina N. Marcazo, Elisa R. Pizzo, Yvonne A. Pizza, Steven Tooker. And from Eastport, Mathew Antosz, Paul Arlee, Edward Barrett, Christine Capozzola, Gregory Capozzola, Mike Chituck, Genevieve Eaton, Darren Farlow and Steven Goss.

Mrs. Ginna Lee's second-grade class at the Nathaniel Woodhull Elementary School recently presented a seasonal Easter Program for the enjoyment of all students in grades kindergarten through third grade. Students who performed included Daniel Barrett, Michael Warren, Mary Jo Donnelly, Gina DeGregorio, Kathy Brennen, Kristen Fairchild, Paul Leonardi, Edward Hennessy and Peter Adams.

Miss Marion Ceruti of Eastport spent the day visiting Central Suffolk Hospital and at the office with Dr. Lloyd Georgeson of Riverhead in connection with the Doctors of Tomorrow Program sponsored by the Suffolk Academy of Medicine, to whom she had submitted a 1000-word essay.

Margaret Strebel, the spelling champ of Center Moriches Elementary School, competed in the News Spelling Bee held at the State University at Farmingdale. She was supported by her fellow students Cindy Malanchuk, Lillian Roth, Cathy Andrews and Barbara Kennedy, who was the spelling champ at Center Moriches High School.

"The Naughty Nineties" will be staged by the East Moriches PTA at its second annual show. It will include their favorite number, "Daisy," to be performed by Mrs. Patty Smith and Herb Iversen.

Playing in April at the Shirley Drive-In Theatre: "Dracula Has Risen from the Grave"; Julie Andrews in "Star!"; and "The Undertaker and His Pals."

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