

the Tide

OF MORICHES & MANORVILLE



Farm worker Tommy Napoli helps with watering.

Courtesy photos

Heat with Heart

Smile Farms serves up hot sauce

BY NICOLE FUENTES

After an abundance of peppers were grown at Smile Farms, employees decided on the perfect solution: making, jarring, and selling hot sauce!

The Heat with Heart hot sauce is composed of peppers grown by the Smile farmers with different abilities. On sale now are the fiery red and earthy green sauces, made with hot and sweet peppers, grown across six Smile Farms campus locations.

They plant many varieties of hot peppers like Krimzon Lee, Helio Habanero, and Hungarian Hot Wax, and sweet ones like Escamillo and Roulette. Rather than contracting a fulfillment center, Smile Farm employs six individuals with developmental disabilities, who pack and ship their bottled hot sauce.

At the farms, over 250 farmers get educational, vocational, and paid employment opportunities from the pepper project. Last year, Smile farmers harvested over 2,000 pounds of peppers, bottling over 6,000 hot sauces.

"We're also excited to share our new relationship with Upstream Hospi-

tality. Smile farmers grow and supply cilantro, basil, and other herbs for their restaurant, The Tap Room Patchogue, to use in their cocktails and tacos," said a Smile Farms spokesperson. "Currently in its pilot phase, the program is expected to expand to include additional vegetables and herbs from Smile Farms throughout the summer and beyond."

The story of Smile Farms dates back to 2015 when the founder of 1-800-Flowers, Jim McCann, took a call from IGHF founder Walter Stockton. Together they began to make a world where adults with developmental disabilities and their communities could work.

McCann's brother, Kevin, lived at the Moriches Independent Group Living—a residence for people with developmental disabilities—where the idea came to help residents like Kevin to flourish with meaningful jobs.

Later that year, the duo partnered with IGHF to open their first Smile Farms campus. Since then, the farm has become a nonprofit leader for agricultural jobs for adults with disabilities.

"For the first time ever, they are able to experience the satisfaction of mastering new skills, the pleasure of contributing to their team and community, and the thrill of taking home a paycheck," the

See **SMILE FARMS** on page 14

Forging summer friendships

Paws of War pups visit Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck

BY NICHOLAS GRASSO

Once a week, Paws of War makes summer even brighter at Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck with visits from furry friends.

Members of the nonprofit, which pairs shelter dogs trained for therapy and service with veterans and first responders, bring their canine companions to interact with the campers at Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck throughout the summer.

The weekly visits are a mutually beneficial experience for the campers and the

veterans. Those attending Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck love the companionship with the familiar adorable faces.

"It feels amazing, so free, and I love these dogs," Marissa Gologorski, one of the campers, said. "I love all of them."

While she loves all the dogs who frequent the camp, Gologorski admitted that Penny, a French bulldog, was her favorite.

"She's so cute," she said. "She lays in your arms, and she's just huggable and kissable."

Of course, the dogs appear to enjoy the wholesome event themselves. Campers

See **PAWS OF WAR** on page 10



MT/Grasso

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at 80** PAGE 6

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championship** PAGE 23

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Helping Makes U Happy donates backpacks loaded with school supplies

Courtesy photos

This year was Helping Make U Happy's eighth year of providing new backpacks and school supplies for children in need. According to founder Keith Caputo, not only does it make the students and their families happy, but it also makes the donors happy as well. This year they collected 66 backpacks to fill with school supplies for all 66 students in the families they fed all summer. The organization also plans to help some who are also in need of back-to-school clothing.

"Sometimes it really does take a vil-

lage, and we are so thankful for all the support we get from local communities, especially when it's time to collect school supplies for students referred to Helping Makes U Happy by school social workers in the Center Moriches and ESM school districts," said Keith's mother and co-founder, Cassy Caputo.

School supply donations are still coming in from local families, as the organization provides supplies throughout the year on an "as-needed" basis to area schools upon request.



Pictured with HMUH founder Keith Caputo is Center Moriches teen librarian Jessica Ceramello, with some of the school supplies donated and brought into the library by awesome teens in the community.



Also pictured with HMUH founder Keith Caputo is community member Mary Brundage, who read about our school supply collection in the Tide and was inspired to help.

Back to school at Center Moriches



The Center Moriches 2022-23 school year will start on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

"We are eagerly looking forward to welcoming back our students and teachers to the 2022-2023 school year," said superintendent of schools Dr. Ronald M. Masera. "It

has been a busy summer hiring new staff and getting our facilities ready for the

new year."

The district welcomes new teachers and staff, including a new high school assistant principal, Katy Forman. This year, work will be done with an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) throughout the district. The district will also receive new lighting and energy efficiencies, which, according to Masera, will save taxpayers money and help support a reduced carbon footprint moving forward. Additionally, the high school and main street gym floors are being resurfaced.

He also said that this year, they will be applying for Primary Years Programme (PYP) authorization through International Baccalaureate (IB) at Clayton Huey.

"We will soon be the first public school in New York State that is fully IB K-12 with the Middle Years Programme (MYP) in our middle school and the Diploma Programme (DP0) at our high school," he said. "We also will be graduating students this coming year with the Seal of Civic Readiness. This is a new credential being offered through New York State Education Department and we have already

been approved to offer it. Because of our involvement with IB and our commitment to community service projects, we anticipate all of our graduating seniors will be eligible for this credential."

The high school has also recently been recognized by NYS Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) as a School of Excellence.

"All in all, there are many wonderful things to celebrate in our Center Moriches schools," he added.

-Nicole Fuentes



Opening access to health care resources

Library and Stony Brook Medicine partner

BY NICOLE FUENTES

The Center Moriches Free Public Library has recently partnered with the Public Libraries of Suffolk County to release the Stony Brook Medicine Healthy Libraries Program (SBMHeLP).

The program allows a unique group of health care professionals and graduate-student interns from the fields of social work, public health, nursing, nutrition, and library science to work together to provide access to both in-person and virtual health care-related resources for public library patrons throughout Suffolk County.

The partnership, library director Marcie Litjens explained, seeks to enhance the health and well-being of Suffolk County residents through library programming, collection development, and dissemination of information on current health topics impacting the community. The program is supported in part by the American Heart Association of Long Island.

"The healthy library program is basically meant to provide resources that can enhance the health and well-being in the community," said Valerie Lewis, liaison for Suffolk County Libraries. "The main goal was to really impact people's health by checking their blood pressure and teaching people how to do self-monitoring."

However, she noted that the program is not meant to substitute visiting a medical physician, but rather to help empower patrons to self-monitor their health.

"It's a very wonderful program," she added.

The program will relaunch this fall in Center Moriches for the second year in a row as one of only eight libraries in Suffolk County.

Last year, Litjens said, the program was very successful.

"The Healthy Libraries Program will be back at our library this fall," said Litjens.

On Sept. 20, Oct. 4, Oct. 18 and Nov. 1, from 2 to 4:30 p.m., interns from the HeLP program will be available at the CM Library for more information. No appointment is necessary and all are welcome.

"We were also part of the pilot program to circulate blood pressure cuffs to the public," Litjens said, proud of their offerings. "This program proved to be very successful and is now expanded to other Suffolk County libraries."

The library will also be hosting their fourth social worker intern this fall. Miranda, the intern, will be available beginning mid-September, every Tuesday and Thursday between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., to assist with emergency shelter, family matters, and food assistance. This is not for counseling services. To schedule an appointment please call the reference desk at 631-878-0940 ext. 5. All are welcome and all information is confidential.

One-on-one appointments:

Do you or a loved one need help: finding resources in your community, finding reliable health information, filling out paperwork for social services, finding housing? Do you have questions about medications or a health problem? Would you like to talk with someone? You can meet virtually with students training in public health, nursing, and social work. The Stony Brook Medicine Healthy Libraries Program (SBMHeLP program) can help with all of these topics. SBMHeLP is a partnership between Stony Brook Medicine and the Public Libraries of Suffolk County. To schedule a one-on-one appointment, please email healthy_libraries_program@stonybrookmedicine.edu.

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Students will be placed in public libraries (virtually) as a public health intern as part of an interdisciplinary team. The student would be investigating what the needs of patrons are in reference to the social and behavioral determinants of health, preparing educational materials, and assisting with learning outcome assessments. The team consists of nursing, social work, public health, and library science students. The team works together to address public library patrons' needs by offering health information, referrals to social service providers, and case management. Students will be responsible for gathering resources and creating presentations,

partaking in trainings, and assessment activities. The internship could develop into a practicum, but that is not required for participation.

Public health students will be supervised by Dr. Benz Scott, MPH program director. Interested students must be available during the day hours on Tuesdays in order to participate with the team on fieldwork days (virtually).

If you are interested in being a part of the program and making an impact on local communities, please contact Dr. Benz Scott at: lisa.benzscott@stonybrook.edu.

For more information about the HeLP program visit: https://publichealth.stonybrookmedicine.edu/healthy_libraries_program.

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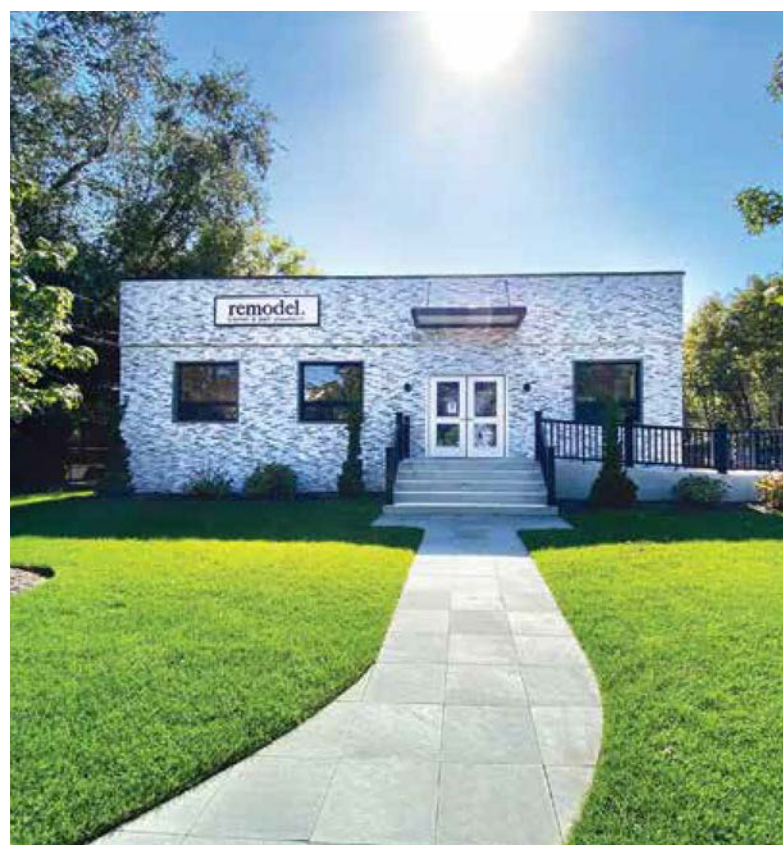
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Remembering Chet Wilcox



A young Joe Rera with his Dad and Chet.

Courtesy photo

Longtime Center Moriches resident dies at 80

BY PATRICIA KALOSKI

Family and friends gathered at Rockhill Country Club, in Manorville, on Saturday, July 30, to remember the late Chester (Chet) Harvey Wilcox III, a longtime Center Moriches resident and business owner, who died on May 3 at the age of 80.

Born July 21, 1941, Wilcox was a third-generation Wilcox who called Center Moriches home for more than 50 years. His family moved to the hamlet from Vermont in the late 1800s, when they learned that the railroad was extending farther east to Center Moriches. Seeing it as an opportunity, the Wilcoxes settled in the hamlet, where they made their living in duck farming, operating farms on Old Neck Road (now the Wilcox Farms housing development) for decades.

Wilcox worked on the farm during most of his childhood and young adult life, but in 1962, joined the United States Airforce, said his daughter, Margaret (Meg) Wilcox. While enlisted, Wilcox studied to become a weatherman and was stationed in French Frigate Shoals, an Island in the South Pacific.

While Wilcox grew up fishing, it's in the South Pacific where he found his true passion for the sport, said Meg. There, he became acquainted with species of fish he'd never encountered before in the waters of Long Island. In fact, his time in the South Pacific became a bit of a family joke, said his nephew, Barry Wilcox, who quipped that while Uncle Chet was fishing in the South Pacific, his father, Chet's brother, was stationed in Vietnam.

After completing his tour of duty, Wilcox returned to Center Moriches to again work at the duck farm. Soon, however, he decided that he wanted to go to college, which is where he met his wife, Margaret, Meg said. They married and decided to stay in Center Moriches to start their family. As time went on, the Wilcox family saw the decline of the duck farming industry, and eventually made the decision to get out of the business. But first, Wilcox made a move that married his love of fishing to his livelihood, when he found himself purchasing a store on Main Street, B&B. The "Bs" stood for Benny's Bait and Barbershop, where in the mid-1960s, one could pick up a new fishing lure after getting a fresh shave. Wilcox didn't continue the barber services, but instead, focused on the bait and tackle aspect.

In the early years of owning B&B, Wilcox employed his father, an important fixture in the store, who rarely took a day off.

Wilcox's B&B Tackle Shop became a focal point for the fishing community in Center Moriches and surrounding hamlets, where fishermen could get more than bait and fishing line. Wilcox always had the most up-to-date fishing reports and tips on the best places to fish on any given day.

This vast knowledge of local fishing is how the infamous "breakfast club" was

born, said Doug Kaloski, one of the original members. Wilcox and Kaloski fostered a special friendship that spanned more than 50 years, thanks to their many shared experiences, like owning duck farms and fishing.

Kaloski recalled how it all began, when he stopped by the tackle shop on his way home from work as a truck driver one morning. It was about 5 a.m., and Kaloski decided to pop in and see Wilcox to catch up on the fishing report. Soon afterward, Kaloski's cousin, Joe Gregory, seeing Kaloski's truck in front of the shop, stopped in, and then another local friend and fisherman, John Bunai. Wilcox's best friend and employee, Ronnie Lamiroult, would join in the conversation as well. The "breakfast club" would see members come and go over the years, but the core members remained, and while they almost always talked about fishing, they also "cured the ills of the world," said Kaloski.

Wilcox memorialized this special group of fishermen with a polaroid camera, which he usually used to take photos of customers with their catch. "He wanted to have a picture of the 'breakfast club' members so that when we were no longer there, he would always have a picture to remember us by. That picture is taped to the inside corner of the display case," Kaloski said.

As much of an avid fisherman that he was, Wilcox never owned a boat, said Meg, but instead, fished from other people's boats or from the beach. She also said that her father almost never killed any fish, but instead would tag and release them back into the water, so that marine biologists could study the fish. Wilcox also didn't eat seafood.

His greatest pleasure came from sharing his love of fishing with others, especially children, which is why, for years, he organized an annual snapper derby at Union Dock; the coveted prize was a new bike, which every kid wanted, noted Barry. He also donated fishing poles and equipment to those less fortunate.

"Uncle Chet would do whatever he could do to let others catch fish. He got his most joy when he could tell people where to fish," Barry said.

Wilcox had a positive and important impact on countless fishermen over the years, including the late Joseph Rera, a Center Moriches teenager who perished in a fishing accident in November 2020. Joe, too, was an avid fisherman and a frequent visitor to B&B Tackle, said his father, Derek Rera. He described Wilcox as "very generous," especially when it came to supplying his son with bait.

"Chet was always happy to help fishermen with how and where to try and catch the fish of their dreams, and even tell you a good joke or two," said William Jakob, of the Montauk Surfcasters Association.

"He was loved by everyone," said Meg. "He was very ethical and never took advantage of anyone."

"He was a pillar of the community, and a piece of that community will be forever missed," added Barry.



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Family blends cheesesteaks with homemade Italian eats

Espo's Cheesesteak Factory serves up at local market

BY NICHOLAS GRASSO

Although his family legacy is rooted in the restaurant industry, Antonio Esposito himself never desired to open one of his own. That was until he made cheesesteaks at his daughter Mia's 6th birthday party this past May.

"I just wanted to see everybody's face, how they'd react," Esposito said of his party offerings. "I couldn't make them fast enough. I put the sternos up, I was ready to put the sandwiches on, but every time I made one, it was gone. I couldn't even eat one that day."

"People were surrounding him to make those cheesesteaks," Mascia Esposito, his wife, added. "That inspired him."

Two weeks later, the couple popped up a tent in Calverton, grilled some thin-cut rib eye, and served cheesesteaks. They also began cooking their fresh eats at the Moriches Artisan Markets every Sunday at the New Amsterdam Nursery. As the weeks went by and the word spread in Center Moriches, the couple decided to dedicate their whole week to the nursery.

For three months, the couple, alongside their middle child, Alessio Esposito, and his friends, ran their tent. The operation is currently on pause, but for good reason: the Espositos are securing two food trucks. They await inspections and approvals to have one permanently



Espo manning the grill at the Moriches Artisan Market.

Mt/Grasso

stationed at the nursery, which Antonio Esposito said should be completed within the coming weeks. The other will make appearances at street fairs and festivals.

"I never thought about opening up a truck," Antonio Esposito said. "It just happened. I honestly did not have a plan. I'm so overwhelmed, excited, and nervous at the same time because it got so big, so quick."

The Espo's Cheesesteak Factory menu boasts an array of classic and unique cheesesteaks. Customers can order a traditional cheesesteak with onions, mayo and white American, provolone or mozzarella cheese, and top it off with mushrooms, peppers, and hot cherry peppers.

There's also the pizza steak, slathered in pizza sauce and mozzarella cheese, plus pepperoni for those who want the works.

The couple even incorporate some of their family favorites on their rotating list of specialty items. For their son, they serve Alessio's Chopped Cheese, with colby jack, lettuce and tomato; and for their daughter, they craft the Mia's Choice, balsamic-marinated grilled chicken topped with onion, mushrooms, fire-roasted red peppers, provolone, lettuce, tomato and a balsamic reduction.

The specialty menu even featured a bacon, egg, and cheesesteak as well as a broccoli rabe cheesesteak and a chicken alla vodka sandwich.

"It's all handmade, homemade, wholesome goodness that we eat at home and I want to share to the world," Antonio Esposito said. "I don't want anybody to be excluded from what we normally have as Italians at home."

Born in Monte di Procida, in Italy, Mascia Esposito now shares traditional dishes she made her whole life at home with her legions of customers. She created a fan favorite with The Sunday sandwich: her tender homemade meatballs smashed on the grill, topped with her savory Sunday dinner sauce, mozzarella and parmesan, and served on a brioche bun.

"There are so many ideas we have, and obviously, we have a limit on preparing things; that's why we created the specials of the day," Mascia Esposito said. "We have so many other things that we want to come up with that we made at home growing up with my childhood experiences."

"We already have so many regulars here," she continued. "The way they're walking towards us with a smile like they've known us for who knows how long, it's wonderful; it makes you feel good about what you're doing. You get to know these people; it's very fulfilling."



A cheesesteak with the works.

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PAWS OF WAR: Campers meet furry friends

FROM PAGE 1

pet and walk the dogs, hold them on the swings, and even take some up the playground equipment and down the slide.

"It's great for her to deal with different people, and it's also wonderful for the kids," Penny's owner, John Beck, said. "It's a win-win, and the more she socializes, she's well-mannered. I started bringing her out as soon as I could."

He and the other veterans with Paws of War, who dedicated their lives to service in the armed forces, continue their steadfast duty to serve in civilian life. This includes reaching out to all members of the community to make new human and animal friends.

"It gives an opportunity for our veterans and first responders and other volunteers to give back," Kelli Porti, the

veteran and community outreach liaison for Paws of War, said. "We're about service and giving back to the community."

Some of the veterans enjoy bringing their therapy and service animals around to anyone who could benefit from some positive puppy playtime.

"I try making it every week," veteran Barry O'Rourke said, his Australian labradoodle Lucy at his side. "I just love giving back and bringing her to camp. This morning we were at an assisted living facility, and then we came here."

Aside from their cute and cuddly nature, the veterans' dogs provide a unique unspoken benefit for the campers at Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck.

"A lot of our campers—[about] 75 percent of our population here—are

autistic, and some of them don't have the ability to convey their feelings or emotions," Melissa Locrotondo, Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck's chief of programming and aquatics director, said. "And when they are around dogs, they don't have to speak or express their emotions because the dogs just feel it. And then our campers that are verbal and are able to speak and stand up for themselves, they just are able to express how much they love seeing them here on campus."

Prior to the Paws of War visits last summer, Locrotondo said the campers previously experienced interacting with dogs, or rather a dog: Spencer. Director Alyssa Pecorino's pup resides on the campgrounds with her, and the campers have enjoyed his company. Based on

those connections, the camp invited the service animals, who were met with the open arms of not only the campers, but the staff as well.

"They're pretty much a staple of the camp," Pecorino said of the Paws of War dogs. "They come every single week and the effect that they have on the campers and the staff has been tremendous, especially with our international staff here. After COVID, after everything that's happened... it's made them feel at home."

"I've seen so many campers who were terrified of dogs who are now interacting with them," she continued. "They're able to do it in a safe space. It's been amazing, the transformation."

All photos MT/Grasso



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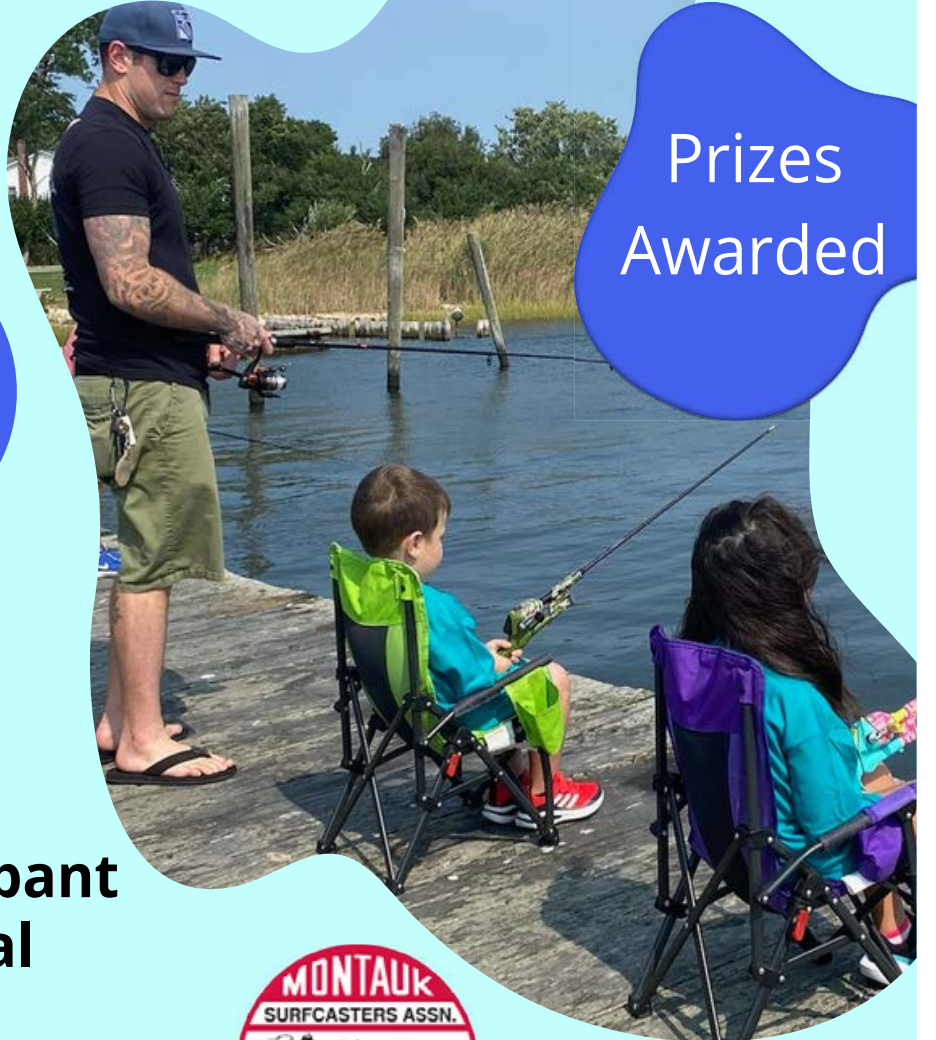
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Peconic Bay receives four-star CMS rating

Peconic Bay Medical Center in Riverhead recently received a four-star CMS rating, a great accomplishment that puts the center in the upper echelons of care.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, based on July 2022 results, 28.67 percent of hospitals received a four-star rating. The highest rating is five stars, which Dr. Jeffrey Zilberstein, medical director at Peconic Bay, said the center is striving for.

"It's a tremendous success for this hospital to be made a four-star hospital," Dr. Zilberstein said.

"The first thing I said when I saw that is, 'It's wonderful that we are, but we're striving for five.'"

Dr. Zilberstein said that Peconic Bay is working on a much more concierge approach to health care.

"Hospitals 20 years ago really weren't thinking like this," Zilberstein said. "Hospitals were thinking, 'take care of the sick people and send them home and

best of luck.' But what we're really looking at is the 'care' part of health care and the 'health' part of health care. We see that the system generally is all about the sick, and we want to focus on wellness and on the person."

Working to get that five-star CMS rating Zilberstein said is a lot of work. The hospital has a readmissions committee that looks at every patient who was readmitted and what could have been done differently. In addition, the hospital is committed to patients even after leaving their facility.

"We are a community hospital through and through," Zilberstein said. "We are here to serve our community, and our community are our neighbors."

"Compassionate care is really what we're focusing on, and then everything else actually gets better. If I'm compassionate, I'm going to provide concierge care."

-Mariana Dominguez

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FROM PAGE 1

website states.

Today, Smiles Farms' campuses are located in Moriches, Manorville, Center Moriches, Yaphank, Brooklyn, Albertson, Oakdale, Riverhead, Staten Island, Wantagh and Middle Island. Each campus is a revenue-generating business that funds employment.

Smile Farms plants both flowers and fresh produce that are sold at venues throughout the communities.

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Hot sauces are being sold in pairs, either two reds, two greens or a mixed pack, for \$25. One hundred percent of the proceeds fund jobs and training for individuals with disabilities. All Heat with Heart hot sauce orders will be fulfilled by paid Smile Farms employees at their free at Skills Unlimited campus. To purchase visit: <https://smilefarms.org/heatwithheart>.



Their mission is to provide developmentally disabled adults with meaningful work opportunities at farms and urban gardens, greenhouses, and farm stands. Courtesy photos



Participate in the fourth annual Veterans Day parade

Save the date for the Moriches Chamber of Commerce's fourth annual Veterans Day parade, which has been scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. The chamber is currently seeking veterans, drivers, and vans to participate. Those interested should call Miriam Gillies at 631-878-1111.



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Moriches Bay	1:53 AM	2:28 PM	3:01 AM	3:36 PM	4:13 AM	4:45 PM	5:22 AM	5:49 PM	6:22 AM	6:45 PM	7:16 AM	7:36 PM	8:04 AM	8:23 PM
Moriches Inlet	1:14 AM	1:49 PM	2:22 AM	2:57 PM	3:34 AM	4:06 PM	4:43 AM	5:10 PM	5:43 AM	6:06 PM	6:37 AM	6:57 PM	7:25 AM	7:44 PM
Smith Pt. Bridge	4:09 AM	4:44 PM	5:17 AM	5:52 PM	6:29 AM	7:01 PM	7:38 AM	8:05 PM	8:38 AM	9:01 PM	9:32 AM	9:52 PM	10:20 AM	10:39 PM

9/11 to 9/17	SUN A.M.	SUN P.M.	MON A.M.	MON P.M.	TUES A.M.	TUES P.M.	WED A.M.	WED P.M.	THURS A.M.	THURS P.M.	FRI A.M.	FRI P.M.	SAT A.M.	SAT P.M.
Moriches Bay	8:51 AM	9:09 PM	9:36 AM	9:55 PM	10:22 AM	10:43 PM	11:09 AM	11:32 PM	11:56 AM	-----PM	12:23 AM	12:43 PM	1:15 AM	1:32 PM
Moriches Inlet	8:12 AM	8:30 PM	8:57 AM	9:16 PM	9:43 AM	10:04 PM	10:30 AM	10:53 PM	11:17 AM	11:44 PM	-----AM	12:04 PM	12:36 AM	12:53 PM
Smith Pt. Bridge	11:07 AM	11:25 PM	11:52 AM	-----PM	12:11 AM	12:38 PM	12:59 AM	1:25 PM	1:48 AM	2:12 PM	2:39 AM	2:59 PM	3:31 AM	3:48 PM

9/18 to 9/24	SUN A.M.	SUN P.M.	MON A.M.	MON P.M.	TUES A.M.	TUES P.M.	WED A.M.	WED P.M.	THURS A.M.	THURS P.M.	FRI A.M.	FRI P.M.	SAT A.M.	SAT P.M.
Moriches Bay	2:09 AM	2:23 PM	3:05 AM	3:18 PM	4:03 AM	4:17 PM	5:01 AM	5:13 PM	5:52 AM	6:02 PM	6:36 AM	6:44 PM	7:15 AM	7:22 PM
Moriches Inlet	1:30 AM	1:44 PM	2:26 AM	2:39 PM	3:24 AM	3:38 PM	4:22 AM	4:34 PM	5:13 AM	5:23 PM	5:57 AM	6:05 PM	6:36 AM	6:43 PM
Smith Pt. Bridge	4:25 AM	4:39 PM	5:21 AM	5:34 PM	6:19 AM	6:33 PM	7:17 AM	7:29 PM	8:08 AM	8:18 PM	8:52 AM	9:00 PM	9:31 AM	9:38 PM

9/25 to 10/1	SUN A.M.	SUN P.M.	MON A.M.	MON P.M.	TUES A.M.	TUES P.M.	WED A.M.	WED P.M.	THURS A.M.	THURS P.M.	FRI A.M.	FRI P.M.	SAT A.M.	SAT P.M.
Moriches Bay	7:51 AM	7:58 PM	8:26 AM	8:34 PM	9:01 AM	9:11 PM	9:39 AM	9:53 PM	10:22 AM	10:42 PM	11:12 AM	11:40 PM	-----AM	12:10 PM
Moriches Inlet	7:12 AM	7:19 PM	7:47 AM	7:55 PM	8:22 AM	8:32 PM	9:00 AM	9:14 PM	9:43 AM	10:03 PM	10:33 AM	11:01 PM	11:31 AM	-----PM
Smith Pt. Bridge	10:07 AM	10:14 PM	10:42 AM	10:50 PM	11:17 AM	11:27 PM	11:55 AM	-----PM	12:09 AM	12:38 PM	12:58 AM	1:28 PM	1:56 AM	2:26 PM

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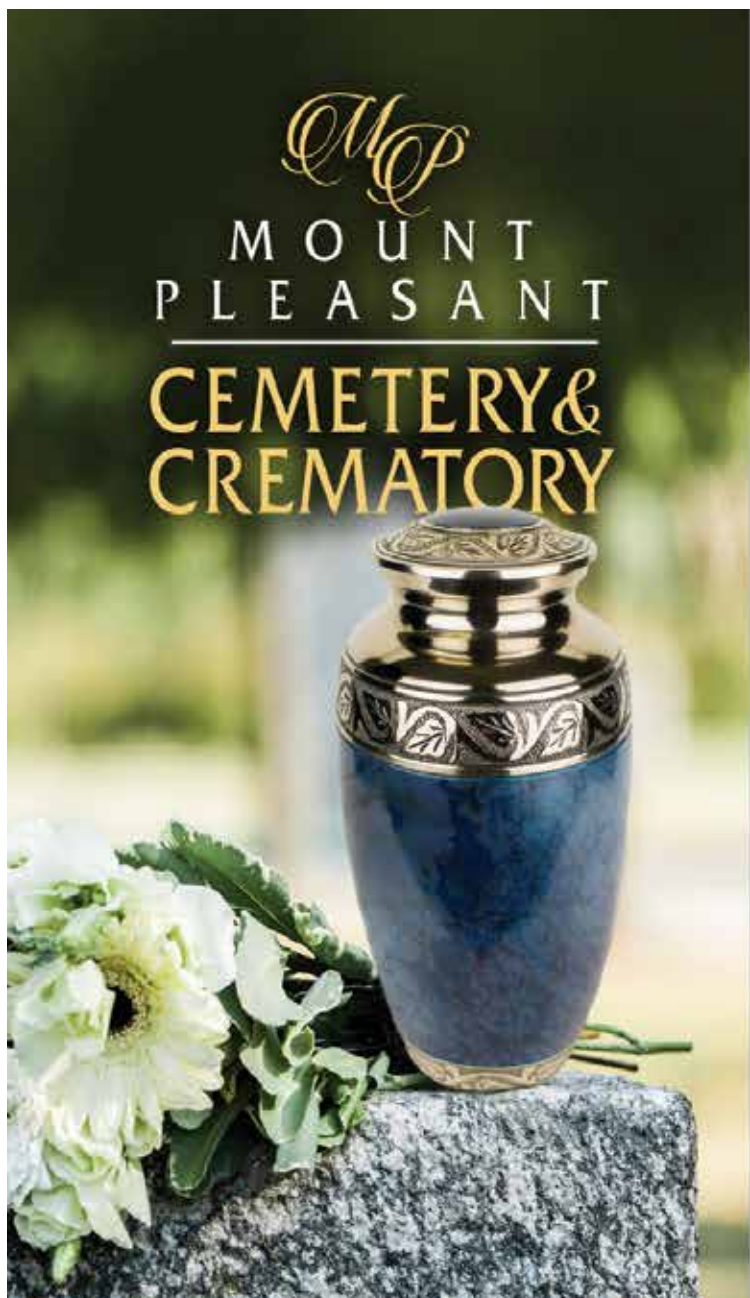
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The Mega Auction is coming, the Mega Auction is coming!



We've been waiting three long years to be able to bring back our very popular basket auction, and this year it's finally happening! Keith's Mega Auction for Helping Makes U Happy will be held on Oct. 22 at the Center Moriches High School gym, 311 Frowein Road, Center Moriches. Doors open at 4 p.m.; winners chosen at 6:30 p.m.

Pictured with Keith are two of our best helpers getting baskets and prizes ready. This is our biggest fundraiser and enables us to do so much of the helping we do in our local communities throughout the year. We hope you'll come down and support us, or support us by donating a prize or becoming a sponsor. For more information, call us at 631-848-9008.

We'll start out September happily giving out new backpacks filled with school supplies to all 66 students in the

families we fed all summer, and helping some out who are in need of back-to-school clothing.

We'll also be showing our support for the annual Jim Cantwell Memorial Golf Outing at Rock Hill on Sept. 20, and are so honored to be one of the recipients of 50 percent of the proceeds. Please reach out to Buckley's Irish Pub in Center Moriches for more information about the outing.

Next, we will be preparing for our annual Halloween Costume Giveaway, which will be held on Oct. 16 at the Center Moriches Street Fair. Please contact us if you have any gently used costumes you'd like to donate, or if you have children needing community service hours who'd like to volunteer for this event.

Summer sure flew by—wishing all a happy and successful school year!

MORICHES BAY GARDEN CLUB

Here comes autumn!



Soak up all the sunshine you can; signs of autumn are in the air.

Astors, chrysanthemums, beauty bush, figs, and a second crop of raspberries are here. If you have faithfully deadheaded, you probably have plenty of zinnia, marigold, and phlox that add to the cornucopia of autumn color. While you are enjoying your fall flowers, it is time to start thinking about next years' garden: new flowerbeds, trees, shrubs, and bulbs you may want to add. Local nurseries have lots of everything you need for your gardening needs.

The Long Island Horticultural Research Center (LongIslandHort.cornell.edu), in Riverhead, is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a Plant Science Day and barbecue on Sept. 15, from 4 to 8 p.m. Tours and information on vegetables, grapes, greenhouse floriculture,

and nursery ornamentals are being offered between 4 and 6 p.m. The barbecue starts at 6 p.m. Pre-registration is required for both events; tours are free and the barbecue is \$45. The Cornell site is located on 68 acres and is a wonderful place to walk around.

Our next meeting is Oct. 20, 11 a.m., at Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in Shirley. As always, we invite interested and like-minded people to join us and perhaps become a member of the MBGC. Bring lunch; we'll have a brief meeting and then have a nice walk through the woods and along the Carmens River.

I couldn't resist this picture of the Smith twins, Tayler and Ethan, enjoying some of our local watermelon. It is another sign that summer is almost over and pumpkins will soon arrive.

-Maureen Pollack

Increase for retired volunteers; taxpayers expect relief

Town passes eight ambulance district referendums

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Town of Brookhaven residents voted to pass eight referendums on Aug. 9 for the special-use districts that fund the not-for-profit ambulance companies in the Town of Brookhaven to modify the existing Volunteer Benefit program known, as LOSAP that has not been changed since 1995.

The modification will now increase the amount of credit a volunteer receives for a year of service from \$20 to \$30, while dropping the eligibility age from 65 to 60. The program is also now being coupled with the recently adopted Revenue Recovery program, agreed to between the eight volunteer ambulance companies



and the Town of Brookhaven.

The amendment is applicable to only those who earn at least one year of service credit for calendar years beginning on Jan. 1, 2023. The monthly payment increases will be effective as of Jan. 1 the following year in the additional service credit was earned.

Local amendments include the South Country Ambulance District, Medford Ambulance District, Mastic Ambulance District, Mastic Beach Ambulance District, and the Shirley Ambulance District.

The current annual cost of funding the South Country's volunteer service award program is \$29,000. The new cost of the program, according to the town, will increase in 2023 to \$118,500 for current volunteers. The current annual cost of funding the Medford Ambulance District Volunteer Service Award Program is \$54,000. The increase will be as much as \$134,000 for current volunteers. The Mastic Beach Ambulance District Volunteer Service Award Program is \$26,500 to \$87,000; Shirley is \$29,000 to \$90,000; and Mastic is \$5,000 to \$43,000. However, the cost per town taxpayer depends on the individual district.

According to South Country Ambulance chief and district manager Greg Miglino, the vote is to modernize the volunteer retirement system known as LOSAP in the Town of Brookhaven ambulance districts. The current system, he said, has not been modified in 27 years and lags behind that of other volunteer

fire and EMS agencies a New York State.

"The program will now be totally funded out of money that would be generated by the implementation of the EMS Cost Recovery Act, passed in New York last year," he explained, noting it will also result in taxpayer savings. In the South Country Ambulance District, if approved, the increased cost for the modified program (if there was no Revenue Recovery Program) would be less the .2 cents a day or about \$6.27 increase for an entire year for the average taxpayer. Currently, South Country Ambulance volunteers are the busiest EMS agency in the Town of Brookhaven, handling almost 4,000 9-11 calls a year.

"They deserve what they are asking for, between the pandemic and the service they give," added vice chair of the Long Island Fire Fighters Legislative Committee, Bill Theis.

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AROUND TOWN

Friday, September 9

BINGO – Join the Knights of Columbus, Council 4126, every Friday at St. John the Evangelist RC Church, 2 St. John's Place, Center Moriches. Doors open at 6. Games start at 7:30 p.m. \$2,000+ in prizes. Refreshments and snacks available.

Thursday, September 15

Book Sale – Center Moriches Friends of the Library Book Sale, Thursday, 1-8 p.m.; Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Browse wide selections in the Community Room.

Thursday, September 22

Fraternal Benefits Night – Join Knights of Columbus, Council 4126, Queen of Hearts at the Council Building, 313 Frowein Rd., Center Moriches to learn about protecting families with FREE insurance benefits for members of the K of C. Cake and coffee.

Of Note ...

Send Us Your Events – The Moriches Tide prints community events for Moriches, Center Moriches, East Moriches, and Manorville in our "AROUND TOWN" section, free of charge. For inclusion, please submit event via email to: LIAprduction@optonline.net by the 15th of the month prior to event.

Pet Supplies Needed – RSVP Inc. Animal Welfare & Rescue Group is in the need of wet and dry dog and cat food, chews, blankets/towels, pens and crates, and flea/tick preventatives. Please call 631-533-2PET (2738) or email info@rsvpinc.org to arrange a pickup.

Gamblers Anonymous – Are you or someone you know living with a gambling problem? Call 631-297-6166 for help. Covering all areas of Long Island, Sunday-Friday.

Flag Disposal – Have a torn or faded United States flag? Boy Scout Troop 800 will dispose of it properly with flag disposal protocol. Email the troop at TroopPack800@aol.com or call Pat at 631-874-0531.

Are You In Debt? – Debt Counseling Corporation will have personal finance counselors at Brookhaven Town Hall in Farmingville by appointment. Call 631-698-2074 for information.

War on Want Project – Help fight global poverty by getting involved with a project aimed to raise funds and awareness of poor families in northeast Brazil. To learn more about the project, visit www.waronwant.org.

Food Pantry – The Presbyterian Church of the Moriches serves the community each Monday night, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Volunteers welcome. Call 631-878-1993 or visit www.pcusacm.org.

Free Counseling – The Brookhaven Youth Sanctuary Program Bureau offers individual or family counseling for town residents ages 12-21. Call 631-451-8011 to speak with a licensed social worker.

BiasHELP – Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. BiasHELP proudly supports the LGBT community year round. For more information on BiasHELP's anti-bias programming and efforts visit www.lincs.org/biashelp.php or call 877-END-Bias.

Girl Scout Birthday Box – Help local Girl Scouts support children in need by contributing items to their Kids Birthday Box community service project. Visit <https://girlscoutsilver251.wixsite.com/ml251>.

Reporting Power Outages – Call PSE&G at 1-800-490-0075, text "OUT" to PSEGLI (773454) or visit www.psegliny.com/stormcenter. For more storm related news, visit www.brookhaven.org.

Homebound Library Services – Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Library patrons who are unable to visit the library due to a temporary or permanent illness or disability, or for individuals who are frail and

elderly and don't have transportation may apply for the library's Homebound/Books by Mail Program. With this free service, homebound patrons can receive library materials delivered free of charge. Apply by calling Ellen at 631-399-1511 ext. 249.

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

Dress for Success Brookhaven – The organization is pleased to offer appointments for Virtual Suitings with curbside pickups at their Farmingville location. They also provide one-to-one career coaching, resume reviews, practice interviews, and more. They can work with clients via email, phone, or virtual sessions to make every effort to meet each individual's needs. Anyone in need is invited to call 631-451-9127 and leave a clear message with who you are; what you need; and the best way for us to reach you. You can also email Brookhaven@dressforsuccess.org. Access a wide range of information about what is available by viewing United Way information at www.211.org.

YEARS AGO

75 Years Ago

SEPTEMBER 1947

Walter C. Freeman, who served as a commander in the U.S. Navy during World War II, has been appointed assistant publisher of *The Moriches Tribune*, according to an announcement by publisher, Capt. **John T. Tuthill Jr.**

Mrs. Bonnie Brown, of Mastic, brought an angora rabbit with her to the meeting of the Rotary Club of the Moriches to demonstrate the proper way of handling a rabbit and also giving a yarn-spinning demonstration, spinning right from the angora's fur.

Edward G. Kanas of Bay Avenue, East Moriches, escaped serious injury when he was forced to crash-land his plane on Cedar Beach, due to engine trouble. Due to his quick thinking, he was able to avoid the more populated mainland and landed on the beach about 150 yards south of Ocean Boulevard.

Mrs. Nan Murray, owner of Murray's Department Store, demonstrated how to use the recently installed night safe depository in the Center Moriches Bank.

Patricia Tuttle, of East Moriches, completed her work in the assessor's office in Patchogue and will enter the Washington Business School in New York later this month.

John Rogola, Wilbur Layman and **Victor Byczkiewicz** competed in the final contest of the Center Moriches Teen Town Ping-Pong tournament.

Mrs. Ida Smith celebrated her 90th birthday at her home on Main Street, Center Moriches, with a surprise birthday party tendered to her and a beautiful birthday cake. Among the guests were **Gilbert Loper, Mrs. John Mechna, Mrs. Nellie Ketcham** and **Mr. and Mrs. J. Zippell**.

The following books have been added to the Eastport School library, according to librarian **Mary T. Hagen**: "The Modern Wonder Book of Ships," "The 21 Balloons," "The Hand in the Picture," and "Big Bright Land."

After a spirited and lively contest,

coaches **Edward McHugh** and **Katherine Hansen**, of the Eastport School faculty, put together the positions for the cheerleading squad, consisting of **Hazel Pye, Arlette Rafuse, Marianne Lomaga, Patricia Tuttle, Shirley Powell** and **Anna Marie Foster**.

Playing in September at **The Center Moriches Theatre**: Clark Gable and Deborah Kerr in "Hucksters"; Joel McCrea and Veronica Lake in "Ramrod"; and Burt Lancaster and Yvonne DeCarlo in "Brute Force."

50 Years Ago

SEPTEMBER 1972

For the first time in its nine-year history, the trophy will be shared in the Moriches Bay Fluke Fishing Championship. The two winners are **Bob Passando** of Mastic Beach, who caught a 19-pound fluke, and **Donald Hulsen** of Brooklyn, who reeled in a fluke at 15 pounds and 12 ounces.

The Chorus of the Peconic, Riverhead Chapter became an affiliate of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America Inc., of which a good portion of Moriches men are members. Moriches Bay area members include **Robert Tillinghast** of Eastport, vice president, and **Andy Alberti** of Mastic Beach, co-chairman of the charter show to be presented in the fall.

Center Moriches Queen of Hearts Knights of Columbus Council 4126 held a dinner-dance for personnel of Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck at the K of C Hall. Among the members who made the night possible were deputy grand knight **Michael Mulligan, Joe Natista, Dennis Matthews, Adam Drowzd**, and grand knight **Richard Marczyk**.

Center Moriches High School coach **Howard Heckman** was elated to announce to his school's soccer squad the good news that, thanks to donations by some anonymous members of the community, Center Moriches will be able to field a varsity soccer team this fall.



September 1972: A Grandma's Bathing Suit beauty contest was held at the Town of Brookhaven's Senior Citizens Recreation Center in Mastic, judged by Legis. H. Beecher Halsey (second from left) and Brookhaven Town clerk Kurt K. Behme (second from right). Contest winners were (left to right): Bella Colvin and Mary Spence, funniest outfits; Soledad Reantillo, most gorgeous grandma; and Marie Staiger, most original costume.

The **Jack Fingerhut** family of East Moriches are playing host to Rotary Club of the Moriches' exchange student from Japan, **Kazuyo Yamauchi**, while Kassy, as she likes to be called, attends classes at Center Moriches High School.

Chester G. Osborne, author and composer of Center Moriches, presented the score of his latest composition, "Silver Anchor," to Lt. Cmdr. **William L. Broadwell**, director of the United States Coast Guard Band, which played the piece at the final concert of the band's summer season.

Gerry Muench, of Center Moriches, was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Moriches Rotary Club president **Herb Guthrie**, who traveled the farthest distance—110 miles round trip—to participate in the Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck ben-

efit.

Lee W. Sinnickson of Moriches Boulevard, East Moriches, received his license to practice as a funeral director in the State of New York. He is now associated with his father at Sinnickson's Moriches Funeral Home on Main Street, Center Moriches.

Nine-year-old **Chuck Lunati**, of East Moriches, and **Hank Schlanger**, of Mastic Beach, caught a combined total of 33 kingfish, 36 flounders, and 16 sea bass off Skidmore's Fishing Station in East Moriches.

Playing in September at local United Artists Theatres: "Love Story," "Sunday Bloody Sunday," and "The War Between Two Women."

- Compiled by Vanessa Graniello

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the Tide SPORTS

CM golfer wins NYC PGA championship

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Congratulations are in order for Center Moriches High School student Jack Bruetsch, who recently won the Metropolitan PGA New York City Championship on July 11 and 12.

Bruetsch, 16, shot 69 and 71 at the summer tournament. The young and impressive golfer now flaunts nine tournament wins, 2020 Metropolitan PGA players tour, and player of the year. He also has a low tournament score of 67 at Bethpage in the United States Challenge Cup. He has played competitive golf through the Met PGA, MGA, AJGA and other tours in the Northeast. After his big win this summer, he played at an invitation-only tournament at the famed Baltusrol course in New Jersey.

"I play golf because I love the chal-

lenge of an individual sport, where it is all on you during competition," he said, also noting he has been playing since he was 6 years old. "I began to truly appreciate the amount of work required to play golf at a high level when I was 11, and it was at that point that I fell in love with it."

He attributes his recent successes to hard work and the support from his coaches and community.

"I have big dreams of playing golf at the highest level, but I am taking it one step at a time and focusing on playing college golf and continuing my education, most importantly," he added.

During his high school career, he was awarded 2021 and 2022 consecutive 1st Team Newsday All Long Island Player, one of only eight to be chosen, and was the only player to make 2022 All New

York State in Suffolk County. He is also a three-time consecutive Conference 4 champion, three-time all-county, three time all-league, and the all-time Center Moriches Golf record holder.

"Jack is an incredible athlete," said CM athletic director Jeremy Thode. "His skill and ability is only outdone by his focus and ability to handle immense pressure. It is an absolute pleasure to watch at his craft."

His coach, Brad Howland, has been the golf coach at Center Moriches for the past 25 years. During that time, he said he has never seen an athlete more dedicated than Bruetsch.

"He's literally a range rat, up at the golf course every day. But he's not just beating balls around; he's very smart and takes his swing very seriously," Howland said of his student. "I think he



goes as far as he wants. He will be playing in college and if he keeps trending better, year after year like he has been, then the sky is the limit."

As a student, he is a National Honor Society member involved with the local youth group in the community. Bruetsch also has the support of his community, with Rock Hill Golf and Country Club in Manorville being his home course, and is sponsored by Rico's Clothing in Center Moriches. At this time, Bruetsch has not yet decided on where he will be playing and continuing his education. He said, he is keeping his options open. Courtesy photo

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