

# New Faces And Lessons Learned

Two years after an anything-but-normal educational environment, Gorton opened its doors to an incoming freshman class of 279 students. Mandatory mask requirements and remote learning are gone, hopefully forever.



## Principal Thoughts

We have seen the effects of COVID in student attendance and willingness to collaborate and participate. It is our task this year to continue to push our students to engage fully and become active learners. Our love for our students will help them meet our expectations; we will speak about the pandemic through the lens of us being “better from it.”

I believe we’re on the right track.

We had an amazing 2021-2022 school year where we saw an incredible 96% graduation rate in June and 97% in August (after summer school). That led ALL high schools in the district.

See *PRINCIPAL* on Page 4

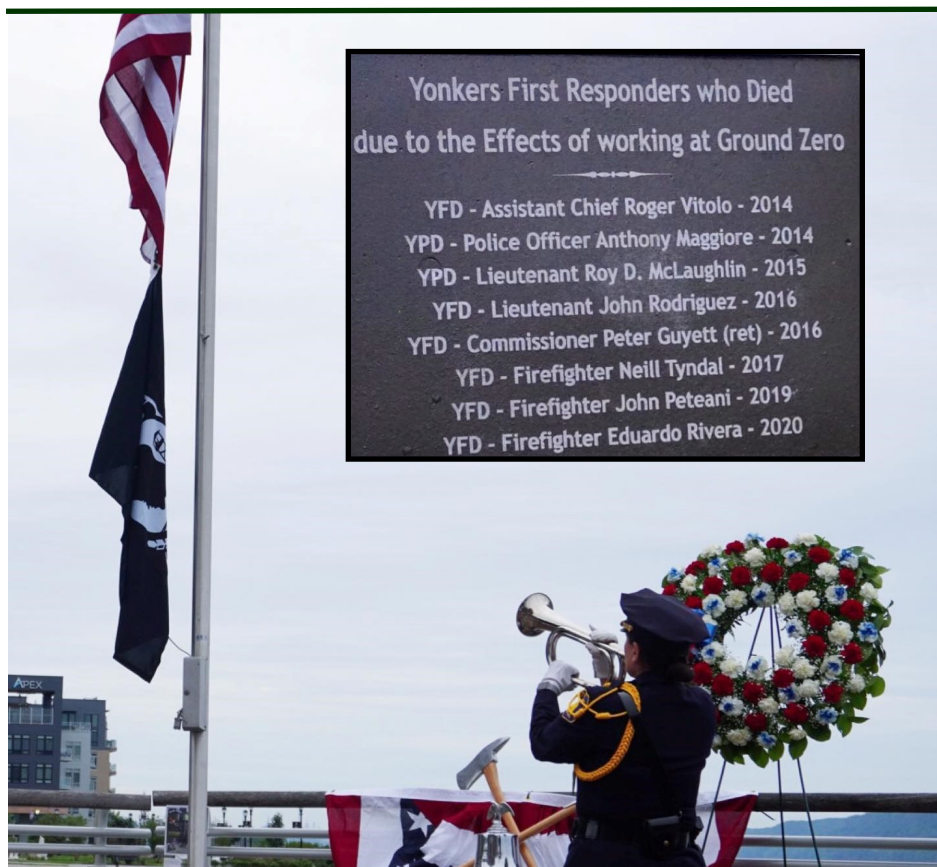
# Wolf Tales

*The Newsletter of  
Gorton’s Class of ‘65*

*‘The strength of the wolf is in the pack’*



September 2022, Vol. 75



**NEVER FORGET**—Yonkers remembers its own at 9/11 ceremonies held at the Waterfront Memorial Park. A newly adding plaque (inset) honors those who later died from the toxic effects during the rescue and recover operations. Twenty-six Yonkers residents died on that day. Gorton held its own televised remembrance. See Page 3 for details.

# Major Initiatives Taking Shape at Gorton



## Alumni News

Just like The Happenings when they sang *See You in September*, we’re back.

It’s September, summer break is over for you and Wolf Tales, Gorton is back in session and it’s time to bring everyone up to speed on our favorite high school.

I am happy to report new principal

Jamie Morales is up and running! Jamie is easy to communicate with and has a fierce sense of urgency. We have been in communication several times over the summer break, and I can’t be more impressed that Gorton is in good hands.

Three initiatives going in place immediately are installation of a physical Alumni Wall of Fame, the digital-

ization of all year books and the modernization of the front lobby trophy cases.

The location of the Wall of Fame will be in the main entry facing visitors as they enter the lobby. It will be adjacent to the security desk that sits in front of the auditorium. It will feature two sections, “Now” and “Then” to provide a full look at

See *ALUMS* on Page 3





**YOUR TABLE IS READY**—Ernie Levinson crashes the kiddie table and joins his grandchildren Crosby, Will and Quinn.



**YIPPEE KAYAK AWAY**—Prairie Sky, Yvonne Price's granddaughter sets sails, or paddles, on Candlewood Lake in Connecticut.

**MEET YOU AT THE FAIR**—Rides, games, exhibits and a smorgasbord of pizza, pineapple chicken, curly fries and ice cream delights for Kathleen Morrone Hanold who is joined by her daughter and son, Regan Beegle and Georgie Hanold (back row). They're with Regan's son, Peter (6) and Georgie's youngest, Hanold (3), along with Sawyer Beegle (9) who is holding one of Georgie's twins, Penny Hanold (6). Penny's twin, Izzy, didn't attend. There's always next year.



**MOTLEY CREW**—Alex Poletsky's grandchildren take the cake at 5-year-old Dimitri's birthday party. From left, Ryan and Alec Poletsky, Hudson, Maizie and Mickey James, and little ones Nella and Dimitri Poletsky.



**A SWINGER**—Looks like Kevin Henry is teaching his grandson, Conall, how to fly by the see of his pants. Look, Grandpa, no hands!



**MAKING WAVES**—Yvonne Sullivan Price's two youngest granddaughters, Aspen and Prairie Sky, make a splash at Block Island.



**CUTE COOKIE MONSTERS**—Susan Dratch Eaton hands out the cookies for her grandchildren, Camden and Kennedy Smith.



## NEVER FORGET

# Gorton Honors Victims, Heroes Of 9/11 Attack

In front of the Never Forget Garden, Gorton held a moving remembrance to mark the 21st anniversary of the attack on the Twin Towers and to honor the 2,996 souls lost that day.

With local TV filming the ceremony, guest speakers Vincent Keane, a social studies teacher; Principal Jamie Morales; and Schools Superintendent Dr. Edwin M. Quezada spoke of those moments when the planes struck lower Manhattan.

Keane and his wife lived in the area. "Because it was one of the most beautiful days I can remember in New York, not a cloud in the sky, my wife and I decided to walk to the World Trade Center.

"We were in the lobby, waiting to take the elevator. There was smoke and we were told to leave because there was a fire."



**Dr. Edwin Quezada, top, and Principal Jamie Morales address the assembled guests in front of the Never Forget Garden.**

"The one sound I remember hearing?" he said. "The sound of broken glass falling from the sky making the sound of chimes."

Dr. Quezada, pointing to a second-floor classroom window, noted, "I was observing a math teacher at the time. When I saw the second plane hit on TV, I said words I can't repeat at this podium

today." Principal Morales, speaking of that day, said "I came home after work and hugged my mother; I hugged my siblings. I wondered what would happen next."

The speakers' words held special meaning to the students who were not yet born on that infamous day.

**See 9/11 on Page 5**

## ALUMS (from Page One)

the history of our achievers, as well as recognize the current contributions of more recent graduates.

The digitalization of all yearbooks has long been priority of the Alumni Association and is about to come to fruition. Technology has continued to advance so much that this endeavor may be achievable at much lower cost than previously quoted.

Additionally, Jamie has a plan to involve current students in this effort. More to follow as we embark on this venture. Needless to say, The Alumni Association is excited about this initiative, and impressed to have the student body involved.

Let this also serve as a reminder, the Alumni Association is always actively seeking the donation of yearbooks to the

school. Gorton has done particularly well in collecting previous yearbooks all the way back to the very first book in 1925. We want that process to continue.

If you, your siblings, other family members have no plans or need for your books, please do not throw them away. Please consider donating them to the Association or directly to Gorton High School. Please contact me or the school on this simple, but extremely important process. We should never miss a chance to preserve our history.

Regarding, the modernization of the trophy cases in the lobby, if ever antiques existed, these two beauties would be at the top of the list. While we have no record of when they were built, they were there in my days at Gorton. And from the design, they were most likely built in the early to mid-1950's ...maybe even earlier.

This has been another target of alumni interest for quite some time. Jamie has a plan for an upgrade and we'll let that play out accordingly.

Most encouraging about these three initiatives is they are all planned for well within this school year, and the school administration will take an active role in their achievement. We couldn't ask for more.

Meanwhile, our attention turns to the Never Forget Garden. As a result of weather stress and maintenance issues, we are in the process of replacing the vegetation with a new planting. Since we are between seasons, we will wait until the complete fall variety of plants become fully available before replacement begins.

**Bill Tolany is the president of the Charles E. Gorton High School Alumni Association and a member of the Class of 1964.**

## **PRINCIPAL** (from Page One)

For the record, our current enrollment is 1,079 students. We now have 77 teachers on staff. Along with four school counselors and a number of support staff, we total 125. We have a relatively high number of new teachers, 14, but that was due to retirements, promotions and reassignments.

To get everyone up to speed, a freshman orientation was held on Aug. 30. First-year teachers went through a districtwide orientation called VISIONS and we plan to initiate a school-based academy to support our new and non-tenured teaching staff.

Safety and the establishment of effective protocols are high on our list, especially in light of the recent attacks on Parkland, FL and Uvalde, TX. The statistics are staggering when it comes to violence in schools over the last two decades.

We are adding an additional safety officer to the GHS staff and training our staff in "active attacker" protocol that was developed by the Yonkers Police Department.

At Gorton, we believe that proactivity makes all the difference and that practice makes perfect. We are constantly reviewing safety protocols. This year we will establish an all-inclusive School Safety Committee consisting of administrators, teachers, parents, students, clerical staff, school psychologists, safety officers and custodial staff. This committee will review our emergency response plans and make suggestions on how to keep our school safe.

We continue to engage training for early warning signs (red flags) of possible violent offenders, which requires mandatory reporting. We do a fantastic job of identifying problems before they occur and I am very proud of how safe we continue to keep GHS.

However, our ultimate goal is to teach and help students excel both at Gorton and in their lives going forward. I, along with the administration and teacher leaders, have extensive plans for the expansion of our academic programs. We foresee five new



**DISCO NIGHTS--Gorton High School's Class of 1977 gathers at Casalleto Restaurant in Elmsford to celebrate its 45th anniversary and the Golden Era of disco.**

career and technical education (CTE) pathways over the next five years, including personal training, biotechnology, EMT and business marketing and entrepreneurship.

As the medical magnet, we also look to add rigorous course work with college level and college credit courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Adding advanced placement (AP) courses, as well as college-link courses, will further benefit our students and create a college-going culture within the walls of Gorton.

We also look to collaborate with our Alumni Association on building improvements. Stay tuned for plans in the near future.

If it's never too late to learn, it's also never too early to get smart. I'm proud to announce that Gorton has been chosen to house "Smart Start," a school district grant that will promote student-inquiry design-based projects among middle school students. This initiative focuses on the use of technology, such as drones, robots and 3D printers. They will all be housed in the media center of our library.

There are several reasons why this is a great program and why we are proud to host such the initiative:

- First, our students can benefit from the use of these technologies for 21st century skills and project designs;
- Second, we are also opening our doors to other schools, which could eventually lead to a pipeline for students who are eager to make Gorton their first choice for high school; and
- Third, collaboration with middle schools helps us to create a supportive environment for our current students, giving them opportunities to teach, mentor and tutor those in the district that need them, adding valuable community service and work-based learning experiences.

With COVID concerns lessened, Gorton will also re-open its doors to the community through our Community Wellness Center, a state-of-the-art medical facility under the direction of Dr. Michael Wszolek. Community members and students can receive CPR/First Aid certification and students get the additional bonus of gaining real world clinical experience. This is a huge step in sustainability for our newly NYS-certified Clinical Medical Assisting program.

***Jamie Morales is the principal of Gorton High School. Born in Mount Vernon, he was the assistant vice principal of Gorton for five years.***



# The Force Is With Us On the Gridiron

Yonkers Force quarterback Alvin Martinez told The Journal News that winning the opening season game of the 2022 campaign had a special meaning.

"We're doubted because we're a Yonkers team, and we know that, so it feels even better to do something people don't expect. We're not a (pushover) anymore."

The Force is 2-2 at the halfway point of the season. Its final game of the season will be against the Yonkers Brave.

Season summary:

Sept. 3

## **YONKERS FORCE 24, St. Dominic 13:**

At Roosevelt High School, Alvin Martinez ran for two touchdowns and threw a touchdown to Angel Acquino. Carl Samuels also rushed for a score. Ben Stevens and Justin White anchored the defense for the Force .

Sept. 9

## **YONKERS FORCE 32, Ketcham 6:**

At Ketcham, Angel Aquino scored on a pair of long touchdown runs and Alvin Martinez and Jayden Benique each added touchdowns for the Force ).



**Celebrating a TD against Ketcham.**

Sept. 16

## **Carmel 32, YONKERS FORCE 6:**

At Roosevelt High School, Alvin Martinez went 6 for 6 for 103 yards and threw a touchdown to Justin White for the Force . Atticus Oelkers went 6 for 10 for 70 yards and rushed for another 47. Angel Aquino caught six passes for 55 yards. Ben Stevens led the Force defense with a pair of sacks.

Sept. 24

## **Mount Vernon 32, YONKERS FORCE 24:**

The Knights started with a flourish and went on to beat the Yonkers Force 32-24 in Memorial Field's first game in 14 years. The Force received 145 yards and two touchdowns rushing from quarterback Alvin Martinez, who also threw a touchdown to Angel Aquino. The Force's final drive stalled when a fourth-down completion came up short of the marker near midfield.

\*\*\*\*

The Yonkers Force is made up by Gorton, Roosevelt, Yonkers Montessori Academy and Yonkers Middle High School students.

## **9/11 (from Page 3)**

One student told the Channel 12 News TV crew, "I'm glad they brought this into Gorton High School just to remember and to bring recognition to the brave people who helped during 9/11." Another student added, "It is something we should never forget and that we try our best to remember."

Marco Morales, Grade 11, read The Pledge of Allegiance; Nia Cruz and Tyler Walker, Grade 12, sang the National Anthem; Andelina Darcelin Caceres, Grade 11, recited the poem, "The Eleventh of September," by 9/11 survivor Roger J. Robicheau; Wreath Laying was performed by Thalia Patnelli and Alyssa Marie Torres; and 11th graders Wilson Herrera, Javairea Noor and James



**Gorton students volunteer to staff the refreshment table.**

Williams lit the ceremonial lanterns.

Special guests included Yonkers Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez and Second Deputy Mayor Anthony Landi.

# Keshon Bediako, 35, Force & YPIE Coach

Keshon Bediako, an assistant football coach for the Yonkers Force, died suddenly on Aug. 28 at the age of 35.



Keshon was a college readiness manager at Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) for Riverside and Roosevelt high schools. He had previously served as a science teacher and

counselor at New Visions for Public Schools for eight years.

"The Yonkers PBA is mourning the untimely loss of our friend and partner, Yonkers Force football coach Keshon Bediako. Coach Bediako was an amazing role model and leader for our young men and an all-around wonderful human being. He will be truly missed."

The Yonkers Force's season opening 26-15

win over St. Dominic was dedicated in Bediako's memory.

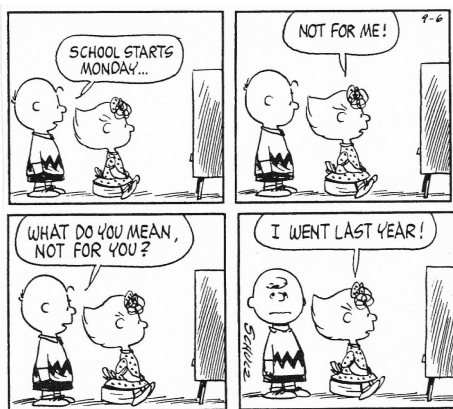


"Keshon was like a son to me," said Gorton teacher Dan DeMatteo. "He graduated from Gorton and was on my first team, then after graduation he started coaching with me.

"He was a huge powerful positive presence and loved the kids of Yonkers.

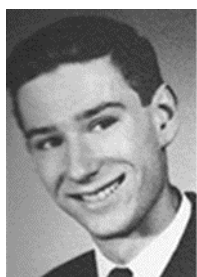
He was a gentle giant with a heart of gold," DeMatteo continued. "He found a way to connect with every student he interacted with. He is what EVERY Yonkers student should strive to be!"

Following chapel services at the Riverdale Funeral Home, he was buried at Kensico Cemetery.



## Just a Word To the Wise

We all know that one of the scariest phrases in the English language is, "I'm from the government, I'm here to help."



### Parry's Ponderings

However, those aren't the only words that should strike fear in your heart. Here are a few more: "New and Improved;" "In order to serve you better...;" "Your computer (or phone) has been automatically updated;" and, of course, nothing good ever follows, "We need to talk."

### Now I'm All Thumbs

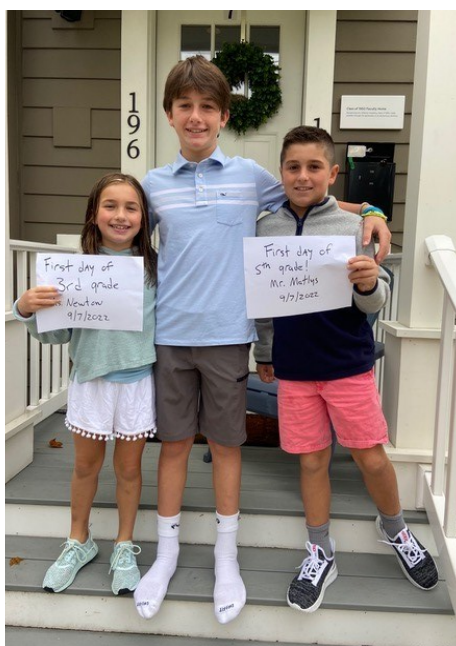
I wonder what Miss Fox (Gorton's typing teacher) would have thought if she were told that in the future most people would "type" using only their thumbs.

### It Doesn't 'Ad' Up

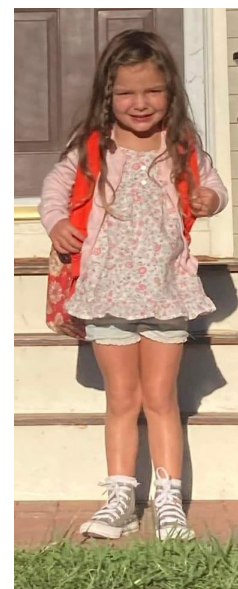
At least one web site that I visit constantly pesters me to download its app so that I won't get ads.

Funny thing is, the only ads I see on those websites are the ones pestering me to download their apps so that I won't get ads.

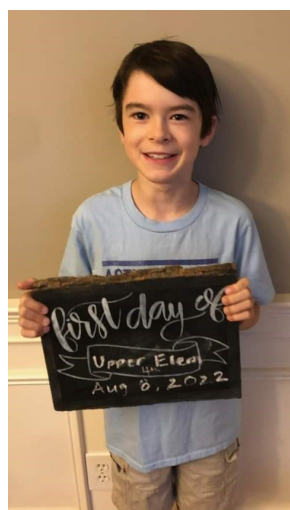
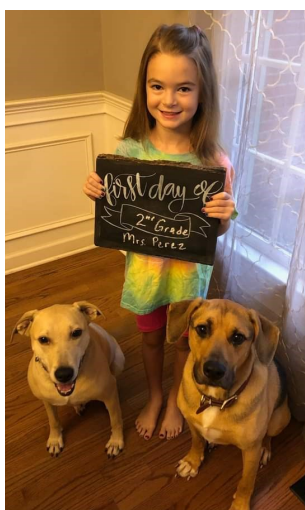
**Don Parry (C65) was awarded Westchester's Safest Teenage Driver Award and is a Vietnam War veteran.**



**THREE-PEAT**—Janet Guyon Hanford's grandchildren, Taylor, Ryan and Will, line up for another school year.



**YVONNE'S YOUNGINS'**—Aspen Carsia holds her pet panda, Sunny, before going to 1st Grade in New Jersey. Meanwhile, Prairie Sky Cintron is packed and ready for Kindergarten in Connecticut.



**TAG TEAM LEARNING**—Frank McGlinchey's grandchildren, Eleanore and Patrick, take turns starting the school year. Eleanore, the younger, got to first and is "guarded" by Belair and Charger (named after cars).



**MISS YOU, BRO**—Nella Poletsky gives her big brother, Dimitri, a hug after his first day of Kindergarten.



**RHODE TRIP**—Felicity (left) and Aiyla Cruz, Yvonne's oldest granddaughters, are off to Rhode Island where Felicity is a sophomore at the University of Rhode Island and Aiyla enters Salve Regina University as a frosh. Two Rhode (Island) scholars in the family.







**MIAMI NICE**—Alex Cohen, Phyllis Yatchie Benjamin's grandson, sets up shop as an incoming freshman at the University of Miami. Helping out are his dad Craig, mom Rachel and sister Sydney.



**SENIOR MOMENTS**—Meanwhile, Phyllis' granddaughters, Sydney and Leora, (L-R) enter the 12th Grade.



**2 x 2**—Danielle and Keira Policelli, granddaughters of Sarah Langley Policelli, enter 3rd and 4th grades, while grandsons Ryan and Peyton Shaw begin their senior and sophomore years.



**YES, VIRGINIA**—Jackson Kennedy, Joan Lawless Kennedy's grandson (second from left) follows a family tradition by entering the University of Virginia. Parents David and Angela, along with sisters Callie, Caraline and Caitlyn, join him in the long goodbye.



**THREE'S COMPANY**—Joan Lawless Kennedy's granddaughters, Laine and Liv, along with their dog, Lulu, wait for the school bus and the 6th and 4th grades.



**DOCTOR, DOCTOR**—Jared Benjamin (Phyllis' grandson) starts medical school at New Jersey Medical School at Rutgers University.



## Peace for The Ukraine



—Photo courtesy of Mark Vergari/The Journal News  
Colette Hebert and Shai Stephenson.

# City Teachers Aid Ukrainian War Refugees

**Editor's Note:** *This is a condensed version of a Journal News article written by Gary Stern.*

If they had to write an essay about what they did on their summer vacation, two Yonkers teachers would have an interesting story.

They were in Poland teaching refugee Ukrainian children.

Yonkers school teachers Colette Hebert and Shai Stephenson were among 15 American Federation of Teachers sent to Cieszanów, a small Polish town not far from the Ukraine border. They volunteered at a camp for 60 Ukrainian and Polish students, ages 10-16, designed to give the students a respite, a touch of normalcy, during a time of war.

While fire and school shooting safety drills are a norm at Yonkers schools, the anxiety felt by U.S. students is nothing compared to that of the Ukrainian students who fled the ravages of war. "When the fire alarm went off, the kids would get PTSD,"

See **TEACHERS** on Page 9

# 'Under Abraham's Tent'

## St. Michael's Opens Its Hearts To War Refugees

Six months after Russia launched its brutal and unprovoked assault against the Ukraine, Yonkers and surrounding communities continue to provide aid to the nation's displaced population and welcome refugees to our shores.

St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church on Shonard Place recently held its second Abraham's Tent for newly arrived Ukrainian refugees. More than 80 new arrivals and their sponsors were on hand that was co-sponsored by the Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration (WJCI).

"This is a very difficult time for our newly arrived Ukrainians, having separated from their families, uprooted from their homes

and all that is familiar, near and dear to them," said parishioner and Gorton grad Sonia Schur.

"Our gathering under the spirituality of Abraham's Tent, provides them with support on many levels as they adjust to their new reality."

At its first event in August, the parish did a needs assessment of the refugees.

"Through the resources of the WJCI, our newly arrived families are able to get English language tutoring, furniture, health care services, small appliances, legal services, and employment leads," Sonia said.

"We also provided needed food, clothing, medications, diapers and baby food."

The WJCI provided legal services/advice and healthcare resources.



Ukrainian family and sponsors.



Parishioners and refugees at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church.



## **TEACHERS** (from Page 8)

Hebert said. Stephenson added, "Every alarm creates panic."

"The first few days, the staff talked to us about trauma, what to be aware of with these kids," said Hebert, a music teacher at Yonkers' Ella Fitzgerald Academy on Park Hill Avenue. "We wanted to find ways to have them open up to us instead of us asking questions. They were open to talking about their lives."

Most of the Ukrainian students were from western Ukraine, away from the worst of Russia's attacks. But the students had relatives and friends across the war-torn country and some had fathers, brothers and uncles fighting in the Ukraine Army.

And Russian missile strikes had increased in western Ukraine since June.

Polish students, too, were impacted, as their communities and schools were continuing to take in refugees.

As of early August, more than 6 million refugees had fled Ukraine since Russia launched its assault on Feb. 24. There have been more than 5.2 million border crossings from Ukraine into Poland, with more than 1.2 million Ukrainian refugees registered for protection in Poland.

Stephenson, who teaches autistic students at PEARLS Hawthorne School, said the English lessons would take place in the morning before R&R sessions in the afternoon that included hikes, bee-keeping and kickboxing and more.



**A CONCERT FOR THE UKRAINE**—A star-studded evening was held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Somers for a benefit performance to support the displaced women and children in the Ukraine. From left to right: Jeffrey Charles Palmer, Svetlana Gorkhovich, Stefan Szkafarowsky, Fr. Mike Watson, Dn. Norman Fulton, Irena Portenko and Gocha Abuladze. St. Luke's collected 53 cases of clothing and medical supplies for the people of Ukraine.

"It was a good break for them from not thinking about the war constantly," Stephenson said. "They know their country is under attack. A 16-year-old (in the U.S.) should be thinking about the SAT and college. But these 16-year-olds were thinking that the army could soon be their life."

The camps were a joint collaboration run by the AFT, Ukrainian (Folkowisko) and Polish (Kosciusko) and the Israeli nonprofit NATAN Worldwide Disaster Relief.

Stephenson served in the Peace Corps, in Haiti, from 2001-03 and returned there after the devastating 2010 earthquake. A graduate of PEARLS Hawthorne, she joined her alma mater last year after teaching at a Bronx charter school.

Hebert has traveled every summer since she became a music teacher in 2007, teaching in Thailand, Nepal, Turkey, Egypt and Tanzania. She founded a nonprofit, the DAR Project, that supports the education of orphans in Tanzania.

Hebert began teaching in Yonkers three years ago but was laid off for 15 months due to budget cuts. She was rehired last fall and taught pre-K to 8th-grade students at two schools.

"We had some funny, silly times (in Poland)," Hebert said. "By the end, everyone was loving on each other. There were hugs, pictures. It was great hanging out together like there wasn't a problem in the world."



**UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY**—The Yonkers Ukrainian community along with Mayor Mike Spano and city hall workers join to celebrate the nation's 31st anniversary on Aug. 24th. "This year's celebration is more poignant than ever before, given the ongoing war and threats with Russia," Spano said. "But, this gives even more of a reason to acknowledge and celebrate Ukraine's perseverance and grit to uphold its independence."



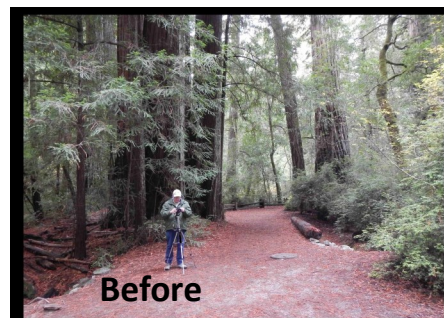
## 2 Years Later, a Forest Treasure Begins to Heal



Before



Before



Before



After



After



After

Bottom row of photos shows how new growth has sprung to life in California's oldest state park.

## Wildfire Left A Trail of Destruction

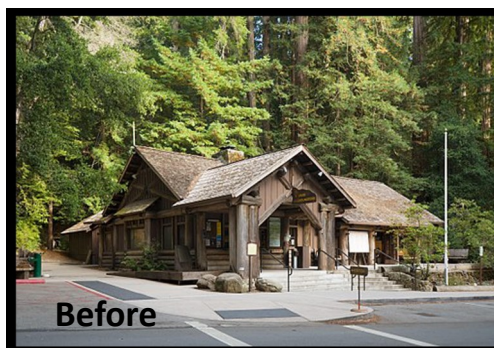
By Joe Mikulsky

On Aug. 16, 2020, a very rare lightning storm struck California's Santa Cruz County, pounding the county with almost 11,000 bolts of lightning. The onslaught ignited the CZU Complex Fire, causing Annie and me to evacuate for 11 days.

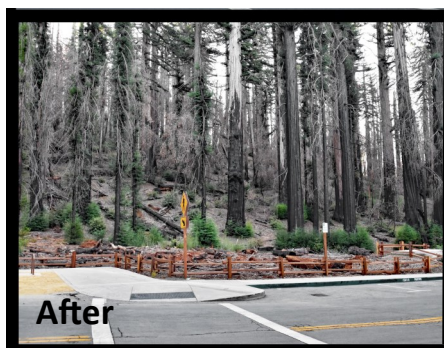
As we left, large burning embers were falling from the sky and we thought for sure we'd come home to nothing more than a cement foundation. Fortunately, our house was spared; the fire line was about 1/2 mile from our home. We were lucky, but more than 900 homes were destroyed by the fire.

On Sept. 22, Cal Fire reported that the complex, which had covered 86,509 acres, had been fully contained. By Dec. 23, it announced that the fire was controlled, stating that the fire was fully extinguished

See **WILDFIRE** on Page 11



Before



After

The visitors center, lodge, staff homes and other buildings were reduced to ash.



Saplings and young trees take root as sunlight now reaches the forest bed.



**WILDFIRE** (from Page 10)

and had no risk of reignition. It was later discovered that the fire was not completely extinguished; redwoods continued to smolder well into 2021 and even today.

The Big Basin Redwoods State Park, the state's oldest which had been closed since the fire, re-opened on July 22. We went there three weeks later. More than 97% of the park had burned and almost all of the park's historical buildings were lost. Many of the old-growth redwoods, and almost all of the Douglas firs, were lost. Much of the wildlife habitat was gone (including the old-growth nesting areas for the endangered marbled murrelet.)

Reservations are now required to access the confined section of the park and daily attendance is limited to 45 vehicles. On our visit, I tried to replicate some photos I've taken over the years to show how the environment had changed.

Where the almost cathedral-like, dark and canopy-covered land once stood, there was now bright sunshine. Plants that could not survive before were now flourishing in the sun. It will take many years for the redwood forest to return to its former state. The fire burned so hot that the inferno reached to the tops of the redwoods, almost 300 hundred feet tall.

Fortunately, the redwoods that survived are sprouting new foliage between burned out limbs and at the bases of the trees. The healing and regrowth are signs of hope.



**Burned out trees and areas no longer open to public access.**



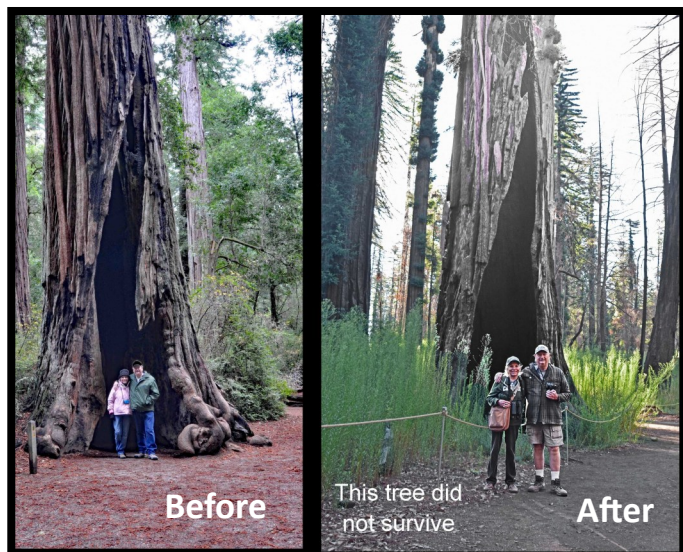
**New growths sprout.**



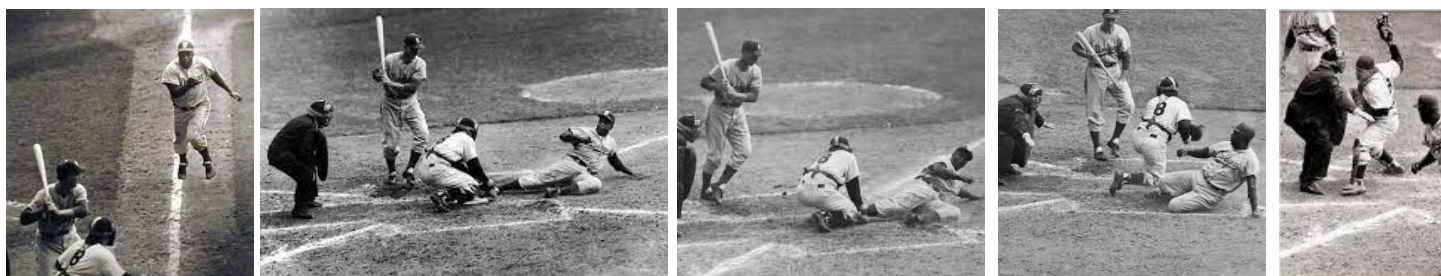
**Douglas firs destroyed.**



**Notice how much the hole has widened.**







**THE STEAL**—Down 6-3 to the Yanks in the eighth inning of the 1955 World Series opener, Jackie Robinson took off to home with Frank Kellert at bat. Pitcher Whitey Ford continued his over-the-head motion before delivering the throw to Yogi Berra. Robinson slid into the plate and was immediately called safe by umpire Bill Summers. Yogi thought otherwise and did so until his death. The Yanks won the game 6-5 but lost the series to the Dodgers—Brooklyn's first and last World Series championship.

**Tuers  
De-Force**



## ***Now Batting, No. 42, Jackie Robinson***

It's been a long time coming but the Jackie Robinson Museum finally swung its doors open to the public on Labor Day and I was thrilled to be there on opening day.

The museum focuses on the total picture of the man, from one of the "Boys of Summer" at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn to that of a civil rights champion. Let's first start by getting some numbers to put the museum into perspective. There are 4,500 artifacts and 40,000 historical images! It features more than 8,000-square feet of permanent exhibition space and a 3,500-square foot of classroom space and a gallery. Unique to New York, its prime location on the border of Tribeca should draw more than 100,000 visitors a year.

A short film greets you when you enter the museum. It depicts his early family life and the foundations of his values and beliefs that led to his courageous path as an



**HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE**—Steve with a replica of the old Ebbets Field.

athlete, activist and humanitarian. Through narratives, memorabilia and media accounts, I learned of his roles as a soldier, activist, entrepreneur and family man.

I paid special interest to Robinson's contracts, letters and photographs with Brooklyn Dodger owner Branch Rickey,

who signed Robinson to a major contract in 1947. A very emotional aspect of the museum is how it captures the racial environment that Jackie and his wife Rachel endured beyond the baseball field. The museum is more than a showcase of Robinson's life; it's a place that brings people together and continues the

**See JACKIE on Page 13**



**JACKIE** (from Page 12)

dialogue around one of the most difficult issues of our society.

It's important to mention his wife, Rachel, who stood side-by-side with him throughout all his challenges and achievements. Rachael turned 100 this past July. She was on hand at the recent MLB All-star game that honored her late husband and she cut the ceremonial ribbon to the museum of her dreams. Rachael started the Jackie Robinson foundation to continue her husband's legacy through education and the awarding of 242 college scholarships a year.

One of the special features that caught my eye was the 1/64 model of Ebbets Field with LED lighting, 3D printing technology and a replica scoreboard. Of the 32 major league parks that I have visited, Ebbets was the one I never saw up close and personal.

After visiting this one-of-a-kind museum, I came away knowing that Jackie Robinson was more than a player who broke baseball's color barrier but a man who was



also a committed campaigner for civil rights and who helped change this nation forever.

**Steve Tuers was a member of Gorton's championship basketball team and is a lifelong resident of Yonkers.**

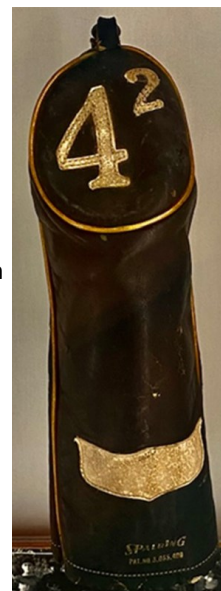
**Jackie's Fore-tee Two**

Robinson was an avid amateur golfer.

With a deft short game and long shot, he consistently hit in the high 70s. He was also a champion in early efforts to integrate the game of golf, using his syndicated column to challenge the exclusion of African Americans from PGA tournaments and private golf clubs. Even his celebrity status did not offer him the freedom to play wherever he wished.

In 1968, he attempted to start his own integrated club: "Ever since I learned how to hit the golf ball...I have wanted to belong to a country club bought or built by my own people."

**Jackie Robinson's 4-wood headcover, courtesy of the USGA Golf Museum.**

**At 79, Yonkers' Born Pitcher is Still Amazin'**

Once you're an Amazin', you're always amazing.

And so it was when 79-year-old Yonkers-born Steve Dillon took the mound during the second inning at the Mets' Old Timers Day game. Back in 1964, Dillon delivered a home-run pitch to the Cincinnati Red's Vida Pinson that crashed into the right-centerfield scoreboard at Shea Stadium.

When Dillon reached the dug-out, Mets' manager Casey Stengel told him, "Listen, if another player hits a home run off that scoreboard and breaks it, you're paying for it."

It was Dillon's last big league game after compiling a 0-0 record over 4 2/3 innings with an ERA of 9.46. The Baldwin, NY, resi-

dent went on to be a New York City police officer.

Dillon, who played high school ball for Cardinal Hayes and was drafted by the Yanks, was more than excited to be asked in the Mets' first Old Timers Day game since the early '90s.



"Since this began in March, it's taken over my mind," Dillon told Newsday before the big day. "Waiting for it to happen, finding out more about it, it's totally taken me over. I'm really looking forward to going there. ... It's going to be an honor to meet all these guys and say hello."

Now Dillon can say he was on the field when the Mets finally retired Willie Mays' No. 24 and that he pitched at Shea and Citi Field.

Another Miracle Met!





If you look carefully, a twosome ahead of Sam and Gale are lining up a 'gimme.'

# It's a Long Way From Dunwoodie

## Shooting 500 Has Never Been So Much Fun

By Sam Fried

**1963.** A very, very long time ago.

We were sophomores at Gorton. I was playing on the tennis team. One big serve and a muscle in my back took a leave of absence from the bone it had formerly called home. Tennis, no mas.

My old man had just started playing golf, so I thought, "Why not?" A subway adventure to Herman's Sporting Goods in Manhattan got me a cheap set of sticks. I bought a Tommy Armour ("The Silver Scot") paperback, an early version of *Golf for Idiots*, and started endlessly hitting wiffle balls on the aqueduct, book propped open with a rock, honing my embryonic skills. Where else but Dunwoodie Golf Course for my rite of passage into the kingdom?

I got good, very good, fast, then developed an equally bad attitude. I quit the game for 30 years. Birding replaced golf as one of the many obsessions that has ruled my life.

1993. A golfing friend showed me how



**Ladies first. Gale tees off.**

much golf clubs had improved. I started playing again and actually enjoyed it. I quit practicing law and started running birding tours, including the only combined birding and golfing tours in the world!

One participant told me he had played 450 different courses. All my competitive, numbers-listing juices got jazzed and I immediately went off to the races (another obsession) trying to recall every course I had played, only about 50 at that time.

Now, 30 years and having just played my 500th different course later, it's time to reflect. The big question is, "Why?"

There are some definite similarities

**See SAM on Page 15**



**Sam marks the spot of his 500th course.**



## SAM (from Page 14)

between bird listing (the number of species you've seen) and golf-course listing. There is the joy of seeing and "collecting" something new, the wonderful travel that is essential to both quests, meeting great people who share your passions along the way, learning and accumulating knowledge as you journey on your path.

I've always been fascinated by the mental and physical requirements that are necessary for both golf AND birding. Neither is a "game of perfect" and constant improvement has always been my goal.

I've got two personal requirements for what makes a great golf course—was it fun and would I like to play it many times? No matter how hard the course, if it doesn't get a resounding "Yes!" for both questions, it fails my tests no matter the course's reputation or national ranking.

For example, Augusta National is a brute of a course, but would be fun to play over and over again (not that I'll ever have a chance). Chambers Bay, in Oregon, site of a U.S. Open, is a brute of a course that I hated playing and would never go back.

My favorite course for fun? West Berwick, in Scotland. Most challenging and yet great fun. It's a tie between Royal Dornoch in Scotland and Cabot Cliffs in Nova Scotia. A brand-new course that I played in August might top them all: Landmand in Homer, NE, for fun golf on an epic scale.

Worst course? A dog track in East Nowhere, GA, where the owner, smoking a stogie and bulging out of his coveralls, tried to sell me the course when I stopped in to play. Parallel fairways on consecutive holes, but both in the same direction? I respectfully declined.

Back to "Why"? It's because of all the places golf takes me that I would otherwise never see. Because it's so much fun to take a big swing at a little ball with a stick designed by the devil to cause extremes of pain and pleasure. Something about the agony and the ecstasy. Works for me!

Look out, 600.



Rocky the squirrel cools his jets by splooting.

## Look THAT Up In Your Funk and Wagnalls

Dear Janet,

*Am I too old to learn new words?*

Ma Thoozala

Dear Ma,

You're never too old, so keep reading.

Did you sploot this hot summer of 2022?

Sploot? What's that?

It's simply laying on your belly, legs stretched out, in an effort to cool down. Dogs and cats and bears (oh my!) sploot to get cool or to stretch their back legs. It's especially characteristic of Welsh corgi's. Do you suppose the Queen Mum splooted alongside her precious Muick (pronounced Mick) and Sandy?

Sploot, possibly derived from splat, is apparently a 21st century word for something we might have called frog-leg. Same position, same results, and should not be confused with the "pancake sploot" when all four limbs are extended so you're flat



## Ask Janet

as a pancake, of course.

On extremely hot days, our "resident squirrel" was often seen splooting on the limb of the tree outside our kitchen window.

I wrote about this to go along with the September return to school for so many children and young adults, eager to learn but perhaps more interested to be back with their friends. While most of us may not be returning to school, we're still not such "old dogs" that we can't learn "new tricks." Or new words. Or new faces. Or new anything.

Or are we?

My 50-year-old neighbor spent three weeks volunteering at a summer girl scout camp. Four of the teenage girls told her that they prefer to be identified as "they." As a college professor, my friend encour-

See ASK JANET on Page 16



## 'Boy Gives Birth to His Baby Brother'

Now that I have your attention, let me tell you about the importance of headlines.

Daily newspapers have been a staple in my life since I was a child in Yonkers. It was The Herald Statesman back then and on Sundays, The Daily News, because of the comics, of course.

Later in life, I worked at the Plattsburgh Press Republican, starting as a proofreader and ending my newspaper career as a reporter for local events. It was there that I learned the importance of headlines. Unfortunately, some of that learning came after discovering an error in the morning issue, my error, something I had missed. It didn't happen too often, but when it did, I understood how the expression "glaring headline" came about.

Maybe, like me, you scan the headlines first and are drawn immediately into a



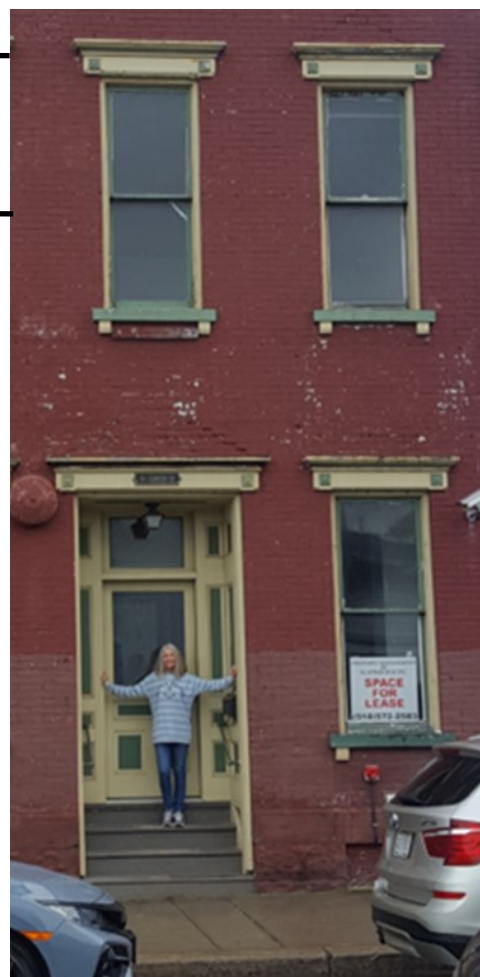
## Priceless Memories

story or article based solely on what those big, black words convey. Or, you realize you can entirely skip it. If you're like me, you may omit an entire section of the paper. I seldom read sports headlines, because I don't follow sports, unless it's the World Series or the Super Bowl and usually I'm attracted to those games, because of the potential party food and beer.

Let me tell you why I recently started to muse about headlines.

It's not because I still look for errors, although I do, nor because I always feel some empathy for the proofreader who may have screwed up, because I did. It was simply because one headline was so intriguing, it would have been impossible to skip the article, even though it was rather lengthy and I was short on time.

That's the power of the genius headline. You become the moth drawn to its flame, See **PRICELESS** on Page 17



Yvonne at the old Plattsburgh Press Republican. Apparently from the sign, she missed the last deadline.

## ASK JANET (from Page 15)

-ters this more and more every year.

In an effort to try to understand what she was talking about, I read about it on the National Center for Transgender Equality website. In a nutshell, this is what I learned:

As I understand it, in a gender-binary society such as ours, basically two genders, male and female, are recognized. That includes transgender people who choose to change genders. However, not all people fit into a clear-cut identity and "some people have a gender that blends elements of being a man or a woman, or a gender that is different than either male or female. Some people don't identify with any gender. Some people's gender changes over time."

*"Non-binary people aren't confused about their gender identity or following a new fad. Non-binary identities have been recognized for millennia by cultures and societies around the world."*

Along with the gender changes outside the gender-binary category come new pronouns associated with them that aren't gender specific. "These include they/them/their used in the singular, ze (pronounced "zee") in place of she/he, and hir (pronounced "here") in place of his/him/her." There's also xe/xem or ze/zim. Confusing? Yes, but "in this ever-changing world in which we're living," I should give it a try. (And I thought it was hard to try to adapt to the high-tech world of flip phones!)

What I did learn is this. Bottom line, if you're not sure what pronouns to use, just

ask, and don't make overly repetitive apologies if you make a mistake.

There's still so much we can learn, from our Golden Books to our Golden Years. Do you know why hummingbirds may stop to look right at you? Can you bake a cherry pie? Do you know how to play the card game "Garbage"?

"So much time and so little to do." (Willie Wonka)

Now please excuse me as I sign-off somewhat abruptly. It's an uncomfortably hot September afternoon. Gonna scoot to sploot!

**Janet Guyon Hanford is a former cheerleader and was voted Most Versatile by her '65 senior class.**



**PRICELESS** (from Page 16)

or whatever idiom you wish to insert here. If it's clever, intriguing, shocking, funny, satirical or bizarre, chances are you will be captured by it and purchase the paper, (which, after all is the whole idea behind all that well thought-out cleverness.)

You will feel compelled to read the column or article and consequently miss the bus, be late for your dentist appointment, take your eyes off your grandkid or let your coffee grow cold. There lies the true power and obvious potential peril of the headline and don't even get me started on banners.

The copy editor normally writes the headline, which makes sense, since he/she is the last one to read the article, knows the page layout and how much room is available for the headline. It's important to have someone with special skills to accomplish the headline part, especially for those front-page stories. Those are the grabbers, the ones that stop you in your tracks and get you to buy the paper on your way out of the gas station, supermarket, or fast-food store, or read the article, not skip it, in your newspaper nook at home. It requires thorough knowledge and understanding of the content, great editing ability, excellent vocabulary and a thick skin.

You can sometimes get a pretty good sense of the caliber of newspaper from those front-page headlines. The difference between is quite telling:

**"TOM CRUISE TRACES  
GENEALOGY TO JESUS"**

**"EUROPE IS SACRIFICING  
ITS ANCIENT FORESTS FOR FUEL"**

It also makes choosing your reading material less complicated.

I will now disclose the headline that got my musing in motion. I was drawn to this like a bee to honey and I was not disappointed. In fact, I feel like a whole new world may have opened up to me. You decide if you're a moth or someone who is NOT going to miss the bus:

**"HIS EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL  
IS AN ALLIGATOR"**

*Yvonne Sullivan Price was queen of the '65 senior prom and is a retired school administrator.*



**WHERE'S THE FIRE?—The Tappan Zee Bridge was lit up in red in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Firefighter Association of the State of New York. A huge parade was held in Tarrytown.**

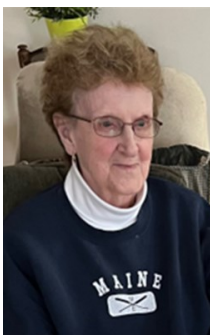
## Joan Wilson Pitches, 87; Mom & Gold Star Widow

Joan Wilson Pitches, a 1953 Gorton graduate, died Sept. 17, 2022, after a brief illness. She was 87.

Born Feb. 15, 1935, to Harry and Ebba Wilson of Yonkers, she attended Berkeley Secretarial School and Southern Seminary College following her 1953 graduation from Gorton.

Joan worked as a preschool teacher prior to meeting and marrying James Sutherland Pitches (GHS 55). The couple were married at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on July 30, 1960.

Joan was a stay-at-home mom raising four children, Laurie, David, Jill and Scott (all Gorton graduates), while Jim served as an Air Force Reserve navigator. In 1969, Maj. Pitches died in a



crash along with his AC-47 crew after being hit by anti-aircraft fire in Vietnam.

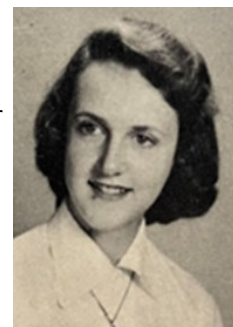
After her children were grown, Joan worked as a hostess at the Light-house Restaurant

in Yonkers (perfect for her gift of gab) and as a secretary for the NYS Department of Disabilities.

Joan was predeceased by her parents, Harry and Ebba, her husband, James, and her sister-in-law Marjorie Pitches McShane (GHS 59). She is survived by her children, Laurie Pash (Mike), David Pitches, Jill Grimes and Scott Pitches (Meghan) as well as her grandchildren, James, Allison, Jessica, Emma, Daisy and Violet.

Also surviving are brothers-in-law David Pitches (GHS 63, Dan Elliott), Donald Pitches (GHS 67, Sally) and Gerry McShane as well as nieces and nephews Sarah Nittoli (Tom), Arthur Whitten (Kathy), and Kate Zwillman (Ari) and their families.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to a veterans' group or an animal rescue organization.







Deep into a woodlands setting, Sprain Ridge Hospital awaited its patients.

## Did You Know?



## *In Seclusion, A Hospital Battled TB*

St. John's, St. Joseph's and Yonkers General are all well-known hospitals in Yonkers. But what about the Sprain Ridge Hospital?

How many of us have ever heard of this hospital?

The hospital, a treatment center for tuberculosis patients, was a gift from Alexander Smith Cochran, along with 110 acres of land. The cornerstone for the Sprain Ridge Hospital was laid on June 22, 1907, by Mrs. Alexander Smith.

The grandson of Alexander Smith, who founded the carpet mill, was also very involved in Yonkers civic affairs. He donated \$50,000 to the YWCA for a new building, \$25,000 to the YMCA and \$25,000 for enlarging St. Joseph's

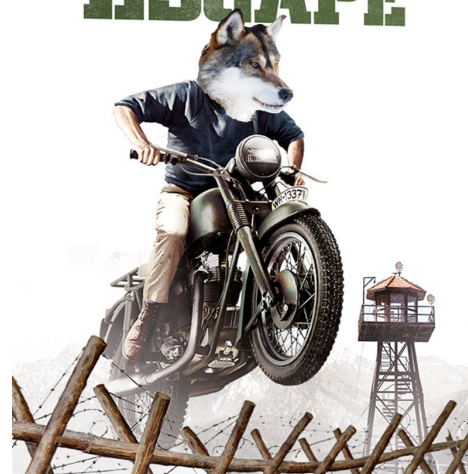
See TB on Page 19



An aerial view of the grounds (above)



## GRAY ~~THE GREAT~~ ESCAPE



## Editor's Note



## *The Dog Days Of August Go To the Wolves*

It looks like wolves are finally taking matters into their own paws, judging by what happened last month.

Tired of being shot at from helicopters and cramped up, they're mad as yelp and not going to take it anymore.

First of all, a special thanks to Joan Kennedy who spotted a news item out of Canada. Faster than you can cry timber, or wolf, another news item popped up and then another. It was a Miss Braslow moment on steroids.

I call it *The Gray Escape* thanks to a movie poster that Joe Mikulsky created. If you're

See EDITOR on Page 20



## **TB** (from Page 18)

Hospital. He also built the Sherman Memorial Dispensary of St. John's Riverside Hospital.

Meanwhile, Woodbury Gersdorf Langdon had purchased 27 acres of land at the northern most point of Manhattan Island for a tuberculosis sanatorium available to any needy patient regardless of religion or race. This new sanatorium was needed to replace the older and smaller facility that had closed a year before.

The need for sanitoriums was acute, especially in urban and family situations where prolonged exposure to the disease hastened its spread. Its known origins date back to our Neolithic ancestors; scientific studies on 5,000-year-old Egyptian mummies have shown evidence of spinal tubercular decay. Even today, when left untreated, there is a 50% morbidity rate.

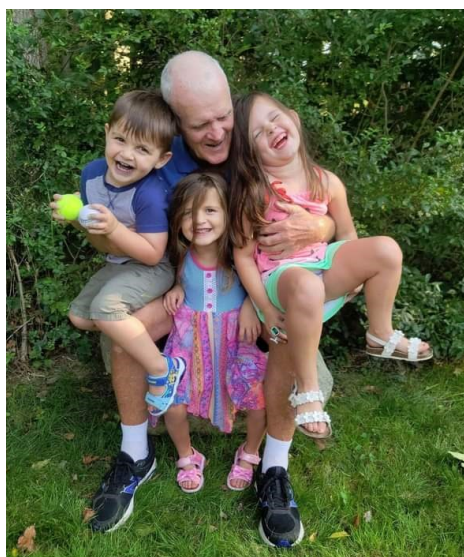
For that reason, many municipalities enacted laws that allowed tuberculosis patients to be removed from their homes and sequestered in sanitoriums and hospitals. Naturally, people living near these institutions were not happy to have these new neighbors.

During its years of operation, the House of Rest in Inwood was beset by lawsuits, financial problems and water problems.

The demise of The House of Rest occurred in the 1930's when the NYC Department of Parks decided that the sanatorium's land was needed for a new city park. For this reason, The House of Rest then merged with the Sprain Ridge Hospital for Tuberculosis.

For 20 more years, the hospital offered care for TB patients. By the 1950's, new treatments and early interventions caused the decline of the disease and sanitoriums were no longer needed. Sprain Ridge Hospital closed in the 1950's.

**Joan Lawless Kennedy (C65) is a member of the Yonkers Historical Society.**



**MADE IN THE SHADE**—Kevin Henry enjoys his grandchildren and it shows. "I get to play with them every day and it's the best part of my whole life. Lyla started kindergarten last week and she loves it. No nuns!" From left, Conall, Mara and Lyla.

**BABY REVEAL**—One-year-old Pace lets Joan Lawless Kennedy know that she's going to be a grandmother for the ninth time come February. It will be Ethan Kennedy and his wife Caren's second child.



**NO LABOR, JUST FUN**—Ursula Belle Healy's granddaughter Ava Belle and her friend enjoy Labor Day festivities at a barbecue with face painting and a fireworks display.

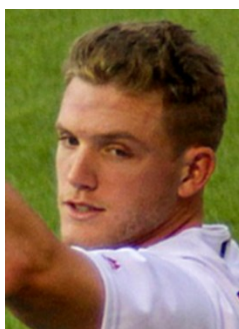


## **Bronxville Native Joins the Yankees**

Harrison Bader, a Bronxville native who played ball for Horace Mann before making it to "the Bigs" in 2017 as a St. Louis Cardinal, joined the Yankees in time to see Aaron Judge hit his 60th homer.

At the time of the July trade, he was on the injured reserve list due to a foot injury. The right-handed center fielder has a lifetime .246 batting average. He recently

signed for a two-year \$10.4 million contract with the Cards. In May, Bader hit an inside-the-park home run, the first by a Cardinal since Vince Coleman in 1985 and the only one hit by a Cardinal in the new Busch Stadium.



## **College-bound Frosh Get Their Grad Bags**

There's more to college than knowledge—there are dorm supplies and for the fifth straight year, Yonkers Partners in Education handed out "grad bags" to Yonkers students heading off to their freshman year at colleges.

"Before this was happening, we saw students show up with not much and their roommates would have sheets and comforters, hangers, and shower totes, and our students wouldn't, and that sends a message to kids that, 'You don't belong here,'" said Sam Wallis, of Yonkers Partners in Education.

Lalaine Castellon, an incoming Penn State University freshman, said, "It really lifted the weight off my family's shoulders... besides tuition, this put a big dent in the funding aspect in college."





Site of the new media and production magnet school.

## Bd of Ed OKs Lease For Media High School

The Board of Education signed a 20-year lease to rent the Frank T. Biondi and the Ames School Buildings on Hawthorne Avenue to create a new media and production magnet school for Yonkers Public School Students.

The 10,000-square foot property will hold about 500 grade 6-12 students and focus primarily on media and performing arts. The school, in partnership with Great Point Studios (owner and operator of Lionsgate Yonkers), is expected to open in 2024. The S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University will assist in curriculum development.

## Firefighters Saved By Budget Alarm

The City Council hit the brakes and reversed its decision to revise a proposed budget, a move that would have meant the fire department could only buy one new fire truck as opposed to five.

The city was originally looking to move money around and add \$48 million to the capital budget to bond several projects, including a waterfront park, a new soccer field and the Cacace Center parking garage project.

"We don't want to end up in a situation where we don't have the equipment to address such an emergency," said Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, Yonkers City Council president.

"I'd rather see the fire trucks operate before the parking lot gets built," said Mike Breen, Yonkers City Council minority leader.

## EDITOR (from Page 18)

not a Steve McQueen fan, *Wolves Gone Wild* will do.

Let's start in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, arguably one of the prettiest places on the planet Earth that speaks English, eh? You can only image what it's like being inside of the Greater Vancouver Zoo, behind bars, looking out. It's like being in Alcatraz overlooking San Francisco. But this time it's majestic mountains and the sounds of moose in the distance.

And this time it's not Clint Eastwood, it's BC (Butch Cassidy) and the Hole in the Fence gang.

Sometime during off hours and in the inky shadows of night, the pack made its move—someone cut a hole in the fence freeing the captives. Authorities later ruled out an inside job since wolves don't carry wire cutters ever since their Amazon account was canceled.

After the escape, the park was closed while Dudley Do-Right put out an APB (All

Pups Baying). The final escapee, a one-year-old female named Tempest, was found but not in a teapot. The pack of nine adults and six pups were all back in the slammer three days later.

Sadly, one escapee was found dead by a road, apparently killed by a migrating Winnebago.

They had tasted freedom but not Bullwinkle. Like the escape artist Steve McQueen, there's always a next time.

Swinging our attention to the "Mistake on the Lake," a lone wolf (there's always a lone wolf somewhere), decided to leave its confines at the Cleveland Metropark Zoo and take a stroll down the promenade toward the concession stand.

Can you imagine the parent's expression when little Johnny said, "Look, mommy, a doggie."

According to news reports, a 4-year-old female Mexican gray named Sarra climbed a nylon-coated, chain link mesh fence and chewed its way through the mesh lid roof.

Sarra's freedom only lasted five minutes, not enough time to grab a Polish Boy (a kielbasa sausage on a bun, topped with coleslaw, French fries and barbecue sauce) from the concession stand. For a meal like that, it was worth the try.

Finally, I bring you to the Northeast. Apparently unbeknownst to everyone except those who live there, eastern wolves have been slip-sliding their way across the frozen St. Lawrence River in the off-season for a taste of something American.

Their coyote cover was blown recently when a DNA analysis of a canine shot by an upstate New York hunter suggested it may actually have been a wolf, not Wile E. Coyote. The remains of a roadrunner in the wolf's tummy were also a tip off.

I have a sneaking feeling that wolves, rather than relying on federal protections, are trying to blend into the scenery. If a wolf can morph into a coyote, what's next—a Wolfdoodle?

**Alex Poletsky (C65) is a retired journalist and managing editor of Wolf Tales.**





Mayor Spano gets the cold shoulder.

## City, Casino Host Ice Bucket Challenge

For those who wanted to show politicians that they're all wet, you missed your chance.

State and local officials, from Mayor Mike Spano to U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand were on hand to celebrate the annual 2022 ALS Ice Bucket Challenge in honor of the late Yonkers native and Ice Bucket Challenge co-founder Pat Quinn.

More than 350 people doused themselves with 5-gallon buckets filled with ice and water to promote global awareness of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (also known as Lou Gehrig's disease) and raise money to find a cure for ALS.

## City Native Out With Gridiron Injury

Yonkers' Trill Williams, a 6-1, 205-pound defensive back for the Miami Dolphins, will miss the entire 2022 NFL season after suffering a torn ACL in a pre-season game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.



The 22-year-old played for Stepinac High School and Syracuse University. An undrafted free agent he signed with the New Orleans Saints. The Dolphins claimed him on waivers this year.

## Yonkers Marathon Finally Up & Running

After a two-year absence due to the pandemic, the 95th Yonkers Marathon returned to the streets of Yonkers.

Juan Fernanda De Cordova was the male winner with a time of 2:48:03. Rebecca Payne was the first female marathoner to cross the finish line at a time of 3:51:42.

## Groundbreaking For Hudson Hi-Rise

Ground-breaking ceremonies were held in August for a 25-story residential building on the vacant property of 44 Hudson St. Miroza on the Hudson will include 250 apartments, a fitness center, library and a rooftop garden.

## Rep. Bowman Wins Democratic Primary

Incumbent Jamaal Bowman won the Democratic primary for the 16th Congressional District and will face Republican challenger Dr. Miriam Levitt Flisser in the November general election.

## Big Heart Donates Laptops for Students

For the third consecutive year, 100 Yonkers students are receiving free refurbished Chromebook laptops.

The Loyalty Foundation-Pamela's Big Heart Foundation partnership has provided 250 laptops and 10 tablets to date.

## Sensory Garden Blooms in Yonkers

The city opened its first sensory garden designed to heighten visitors' awareness to nature.

Located at Grant Park at the corner of High Street and Park Avenue, the garden features an array of plants, flowers, herbs, trees and other sensory heightening amenities that are accessible for touch, sight, taste, smell and sound. The garden is wheelchair accessible.



**FRIED FISH**—Sam Fried holds up his catch-and-release pike he caught while fly-fishing northeast of Ignace, Ontario, Canada. The 14-pound, 36-inch fish was no piker: "It was like my fly got hit by a freight train," Sam said. Below, a slightly chilly and very happy Gale Donnelly holds up her catch of the day, a whopper of a walleye.

