

## A Halt on Some Docks

One-year residential moratorium as trustees take stock

BY CHRISTOPHER WALSH

The East Hampton Town Trustees voted unanimously on Monday to enact a one-year moratorium on construction of docks, catwalks, floating docks, floating structures, and floating platforms in trustee waters.

The moratorium, effective immediately, comes a month after the trustees voted 5-to-3 to approve construction of an 80-foot floating dock on Three Mile Harbor, the first such approval in more than three decades. That vote spurred the trustees' clerk to instruct his colleagues to form a committee to study the matter and issue a recommendation.

The pause on new docks applies to residential property, and not to commercial properties or to duck blinds.

John McGinn and Cary Davis had long sought the trustees' permission to construct a dock at their bulkheaded property at 275 Three Mile Harbor Road. The dock will require driving 13 pilings, each eight inches in diameter, into the bottomland.

In the debate over allowing that dock, some trustees had raised a concern that it would establish a precedent, leading to a flood of similar applications. Similarly, there was concern that exempting commercial properties would result in a torrent of applications from marinas.

On Monday, Christopher Carillo, the trustees' attorney, tried to assuage those concerns. Some trustees are "gun-shy"

in light of their approval, last month, of the residential dock, he said, but he reminded the trustees that they own the bottomland. "You guys have the absolute right to say no, or yes," he said. It was not necessary to "dilute" the resolution by adding language emphasizing that the commercial exemption should not be construed as an invitation to submit new dock applications.

During the moratorium, the trustees are to conduct an inventory of all docks in waterways under their jurisdiction. Just prior to Monday's vote, Francis Bock, the clerk, issued another charge to his colleagues. "What we're about to endeavor is a very big project," he said. "Probably the biggest thing to come out of this is an inventory of what's out there, what's permitted, what's not permitted." There are "quite a few" non-permitted structures, he said. "It will be up to the committee of each water body to work on their section to figure out what's in there, and bring it forward for the harbor management committee to review. You're making quite a commitment to this. I just want to make sure you're aware."

Susan McGraw Keber added that "I sincerely hope we will all divide this huge task evenly among ourselves."

Mr. Carillo told the trustees of a minor update to the terms of the permit granted last month to construct the dock at

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## Attorney Tries His Hand At a Book

The Ackerman you didn't know: newspaper columnist, author

BY CHRISTOPHER WALSH

Many residents of East Hampton Town know, or know of, Lenny Ackerman. A successful attorney and longtime principal of the Ackerman, Pachman, Brown, & Goldstein firm on Pantigo Road, he is often seen representing a client before one of the town or village planning or zoning boards.

But Mr. Ackerman is a man of many talents, and interests. These recently manifested in the publishing of "Here Back East," a collection of his columns for The Mountain Messenger, a weekly newspaper serving Sierra County, Calif. In it, he writes of varied topics, though tales of his fishing adventures in Maine and elsewhere are prominent. But so are family and friends, impromptu conversations with strangers, and the occasional political discussion with any of the above.

"Here Back East" is a breezy collection that follows Mr. Ackerman from May 2020, early in the Covid-19 pandemic, to late August of this year. Brief dispatches are regularly peppered with keen observations of matters large and small. "Offices are still empty and there are no evening lights on along Park Avenue and the lower Wall Street financial district," he writes of Manhattan in October 2020. "But there are glimmers of normalcy as so many of the restaurants have spilled out onto the sidewalks and bike lanes. . . . The empty stores are like pauses between the busy restaurants. Broadway and Times Square are abandoned as is the West Side around Lincoln Center. From above large areas of the city are dark. It is like a wartime blackout. Perhaps it is a war, but one that wasn't manmade, and in which the only weapon to ensure victory is a vaccine needle."

The hardcover book, featuring a watercolor painting by the author on its cover, is for sale at a bookstore in Florida, where Mr. Ackerman has a residence, but those seeking a copy locally have been asked to call Mr. Ackerman's office at 631-324-3942.

How an East Hampton attorney came to write a column for a newspaper serving a rural county in California is itself an interesting story. "This all started because of

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## Capt. Harvey Bennett

End of an era: colorful Tackle Shop

BY JON M. DIAT

The page will be turned in another chapter in old-time Bonacker history soon, when Capt. Harvey Bennett, who has spent a good part of the past 70 years on the water catching fish and shellfish and in the field pursuing deer, turkey, ducks, and other fowl, closes his popular bait and tackle store in Amagansett.

But don't say the word "retirement" when you see him. After more than 40 years of operating the Tackle Shop, he is altering course to serve customers in a different way, he said. Over the winter, Bennett plans to update his website to offer various tackle and wares, and he will continue to fix and repair rods and reels, as well as build custom rods from his house in Amagansett. And next year he will be ready to provide guide services for those interested in fishing from his boat or the beach or hunting game and fowl.

"I'm not walking away from my customers, who have been very loyal to me for such a long time," he said from behind his counter last Thursday morning. "I kind of look at it as morphing into a remote tackle and guiding shop now."

"I get a lot of inquiries from folks who want to learn how to read a beach for fish, how to drive properly and safely on an ocean beach, or just spend a morning fly fishing on Gardiner's Bay. I also want to take customers to locations that are not just local state parks, but to areas that few have a chance to see and fish."

Bennett added that "we also have some tremendous freshwater fishing here, which many completely overlook.



Harvey Bennett may be closing his Tackle Shop, but he'll still be in and guiding people

Over all, I want to stay with others."

Still, the closing of the shop is a sad passing of a era. Numerous bait and tackle stations adorned the shorefront.

"It's been a wild ride for sure," reflected Bennett. "The Bonacker generation played a significant role here going back

## HEALTH

### Boosting Vaccine Access

Big push as infections tick up with cold weather onset

BY CHRISTINE SAMPSON

From pediatric vaccine clinics to booster shots for everyone 18 and up to information sessions held in people's homes, efforts are ongoing on the East End to increase vaccination rates locally and across the state.

More than 200 local children between the ages of 5 and 11 received first doses of the Pfizer vaccine over the weekend, thanks to clinics facilitated by the Springs School District on Saturday and the Sag Harbor School District on Sunday, in partnership with Stony Brook Southampton Hospital. The districts each provided the hospital with four classrooms for nurses to administer the shots, and students each spent 15 minutes in the gym for observation. Sag Harbor even played movies to help keep the kids entertained.

"The goal is to do everything we can to keep our students and our school community safe from Covid, and so the more people who are vaccinated, the safer we are. I think this was an impor-

state, infection rates have ticked steadily upward since late October, with 5.17 percent (459) of the 8,875 tests coming back positive on Sunday.

Vaccination rates for children ages 12 and up in Sag Harbor are at 65 to 85 percent, depending on the grade level, Mr. Nichols said. "I'd like those numbers to be even higher, but vaccination is a personal choice at this point, so all we can do is put the facts out there about the vaccine and people have to make their decision."

Debra Winter, the Springs superintendent, said she spoke with parents as they came in with their kids. "They were there for different reasons — some to protect their parents or grandparents, others because they think it's going to be a requirement for extracurricular activities outside of school," she said.

She is hopeful that as student vaccination rates increase, mask requirements in schools will be lifted. Either way, she said, "we get frustrated if things stay the same. I think we need

## CONSPIRACY

### Guilty Pleas in F

Montauk men bought, altered records

BY CHRISTOPHER WALSH

Two cousins who are members of the Gosman family of Montauk pleaded guilty in federal court in Central Islip last Thursday to one felony count of criminal conspiracy for their role in a scheme to purchase illegal fluke and black sea bass from a Montauk fisherman, the federal Department of Justice announced last Thursday.

Bob Gosman Co. Inc., of which Bryan Gosman and Asa Gosman are part owners, also pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts under the Lacey Act, which prohibits the sale, purchase, or acquisition of fish taken in violation of United States law.

Last Thursday's guilty pleas came seven months after a federal grand jury indicted the cousins and Christopher Winkler, owner of the commercial fish-

mail and wire fraud a fully frustrate the National Atmospheric Administration regulating federal fishing.

The indictment all May 2014 and July 2015 as captain of the N some 70 fishing trips fluke or black sea bass applicable quotas. Bryan admitted that this fish Greater New York Fish company in which the ship interest, in the Market in the Bronx. York Fish ceased operation contend that Mr. Winkler smaller quantity of fish directly to Bob Gosman documents, they admitted illegal fish to both corporations \$240,000 wholesale



DAVID E. RATTRAY  
631-324-7827

The Star's Jack Graves speaks in person on Saturday at 4 p.m. about his collection of columns, "Essays From Eden." Selections date to his start at the newspaper in 1968 to the present day. Mr. Graves began working at The Star as a general assignment reporter. His "Point of View" column on everything from classical literature to his dogs gave him the opportunity to write outside of his sports beat, which he took on some 42 years ago after many years covering town board meetings and other news. Copies will be available to buy and have signed. Mr. Graves's book, which is self-published, can be bought at BookHampton, at East Hampton Indoor Tennis, or in The Star's Main Street office for \$20. Registration for library programs is with the reference desk staff or on its website.

A look-back of a different sort comes to the library on Wednesday at 6 p.m. Genie Chipps Henderson and Brooke Kroeger will sit down in the Baldwin lecture room to talk about the LTV film and video archive. Ms. Henderson is an

author and videographer at LTV and manages the nearly 25,000-item archive. Ms. Kroeger is a journalist, author, professor emerita of journalism at New York University, and an East Hampton Library board member. The program will be also streamed live on Zoom and will include several short clips from the archive including, "A Sense of Place" featuring stories of community elders, "Hurricane of '38," and "Artists at Work," a then-and-now view of the local art community. The one-hour event will include a question-and-answer period, with questions taken from both the in-person and online audiences.

Joyce Raimondo will lead a virtual tour of the Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center in Springs next Thursday at 4 p.m. She is the museum's education coordinator.

Joam Baum will be in person at the library on Friday, Dec. 3, at 6 p.m. to talk about George Orwell's "1984." Ms. Baum has described the novel as a "disturbing cautionary tale about Orwell's own time — and ours — with 2050 looming as the apocalyptic date in the novel, '1984' in mind, heart, and soul explores

perform holiday music via the library's YouTube channel. This is one for the classic Christmas hits fans, with "White Christmas," "Santa Baby," "Winter Wonderland," "Please Come Home for Christmas," and "Merry Christmas Baby," among others.

Beatriz Williams pops onto the BookHampton Zoom stream on Monday to talk about her new novel, "The Wicked Widow: A Wicked City Novel," at 7 p.m. The transgenerational novel examines the ugly secrets lurking in the "opulent enclaves and bank accounts of America's richest families," the publisher said. Registration is via the BookHampton website calendar page. The charge for this and most of its Zoom talks is \$5.

Lily King steps away from the novel in her short-fiction collection "Five Tuesdays in Winter." Ms. King is The New York Times best-selling author of five novels, including most recently "Writers & Lovers" and "Euphoria." She will be joined in conversation on Tuesday at 7 p.m. by Madeline Miller, whose novel "The Song of Achilles" won the Orange Prize for Fiction and has been translated into 25 languages.

## Attorney Tries His Hand at a Book

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owner, Mr. Ackerman said, "wants it to be more like The Atlantic, with a lot of people writing different, diverse columns, and make it more interesting. How much news comes out of Downieville, Calif.?" he asked of the town and its 282 residents, according to the 2010 United States census.

Prior to his column in The Messenger, Mr. Ackerman's writing was in the form of letters to his late wife. "Out of that came these columns that reflected where I was, what I was doing, and what I thought other people might be interested in," he said. But "I've always had an interest in newspapers." With the late Zig Schmitt, a onetime law partner and former East Hampton Town attorney, he once tried to acquire The Sag Harbor Express. Along with varied interests, including classic cars and watercolor painting, "I've always been interested in writing. It's just an outlet for me to get a couple hundred words done."

"I never write political," Mr. Ackerman said, and he tends to shy from disagreement with those depicted in "Here Back East." One minor exception is "Inauguration," in which he writes moving-

ly about the poet Amanda Gorman's recitation at President Biden's inauguration. "Beyond the who, where and how," he wrote, "her delivery and the substance of what she said rose to an oratorical level not witnessed in our country for the last four years. It was as if all the windows and doors had been flung open allowing fresh air and sunlight into stale and fetid rooms." The poet's reading, he

added, returned him to the experience of hearing Robert Frost deliver "The Road Not Taken" more than 60 years prior. Reflecting the antiquated infrastructure of The Messenger — its publishing software is from the mid-1990s, according to The Times — Mr. Ackerman writes "on very old Olympia typewriters." Alison Stone, who works in the Ackerman, Pachman, Brown, & Goldstein offices, "cleans them up and sends them to Carl," he said.

"They all reflect where I am, what I'm doing," Mr. Ackerman said. "Just what I did that day, that moment, and what I take away from it. Everyone thinks of me as this hard-driving lawyer in front of the Z.B.A., planning the village board. There's another side to me."



Lenny Ackerman, *Geige Silver*

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# SAUNDERS

A HIGHER FORM OF REALTY

**IN CONTRACT**



11 Talmage Lane  
East Hampton  
Last Listed - \$4,495,000

**SOLD AND IN CONTRACT  
BY THE WILSON TEAM  
2021**

Contact the Wilson Team  
& List Your Home for Sale Today

**IN CONTRACT**



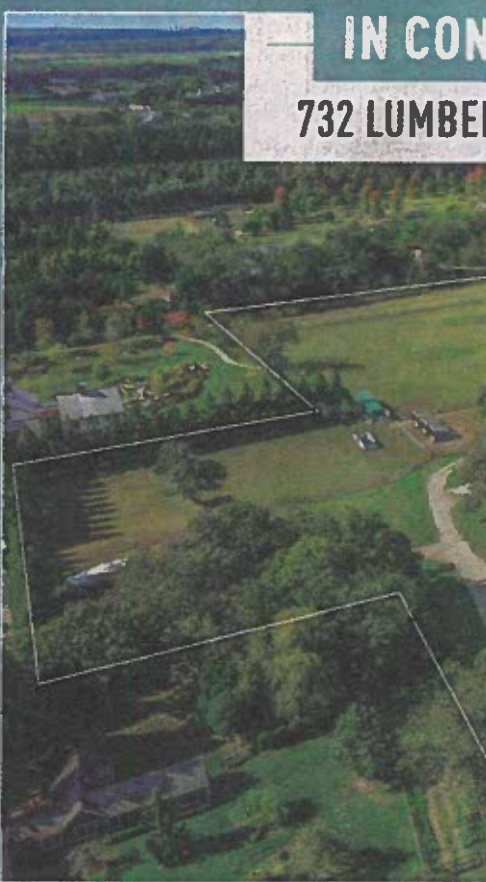
1 Wildflower Lane  
East Hampton  
Last Listed - \$1,795,000

 20 Borden Lane East Hampton Sold - \$3,850,000	 5 Catalpa Place Amagansett Sold - \$2,950,000	 32 East Gate Road Wainscott Sold - \$2,075,000	 11 Birdie Lane East Hampton Sold - \$1,850,000
 40 The Circle East Hampton Sold - \$1,551,000	 49 Norfolk Drive East Hampton Sold - \$1,500,000	 13 Wood Lot Lane East Hampton Sold - \$1,200,000	 141 Middle Highway East Hampton Sold - \$1,150,000
 24 Bonac Woods Lane East Hampton Sold - \$1,050,000	 326 Kings Point Road East Hampton Sold - \$930,000	 12 Underwood Drive East Hampton Sold - \$925,000	 49 Sherwood Lane East Hampton Sold - \$876,050

# SAUNDERS

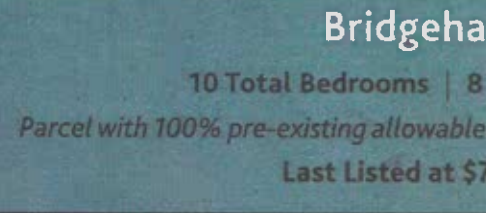
A HIGHER FORM OF REALTY

**IN CONTRACT**



732 Lumber Lane  
East Hampton  
Last Listed at \$7,000,000

**IN CONTRACT**



10 Total Bedrooms | 8100 sq ft  
Parcel with 100% pre-existing allowable  
Last Listed at \$7,000,000

**LIST YOUR HOME**