

Ken-Ton Bee

Founded 1982



LIFE AFTER 50
Local Navy submarine organization featured.

**LOOSE DENTURES?
MISSING TEETH?**

Aesthetic Associates Centre
Cosmetic & Implant Dentistry

TODD E. SHATKIN, DDS

CALL (716) 839-1700
for a Complimentary Consultation!

2000 Kensington Avenue • Amherst, NY 14226
toddshatkindds.com

NEWS Page 8

Kenmore East juniors celebrate prom.

Ken-Ton District reviews state accountability report

by **ELIJAH ROBINSON**
Reporter

After reviewing a recent assessment from the New York State Department of Education, the Ken-Ton Union Free School District has received good news with respect to the state's accountability program. Superintendent Sabatino Cirnato reported during the school board meeting on May 9 that the Ken-Ton District and all of its schools received the LSI – Local Support and Improvement – designation, formerly known as good standing, for the 2022-23 school year. The designation is based on student academic achievement, progress of English language learners, chronic absenteeism and graduation rates, which were measured in 10 different subgroups.

“Accountability isn’t just in generalities. It breaks down accountability. New York state has always [broken] that accountability into subgroups,” he said. “Sure, we’re all LSI, but we know that there are some areas that we need to be concerned about.”

(Continued on page 12)

Always a chance for healing in ‘Never been 16’

by **ELIJAH ROBINSON**
Reporter

For an emotional read, look no further than “Never been 16,” by Laura Shifflett of Tonawanda. This novel is a fictionalized chronicle of the life of its author going from being a baby in the '80s to being a teenager in the '90s. As we follow along with the main character, Stevie, we see her struggles and moments of loss and sorrow – borne through the fact that the main character never got a chance to be a kid.

“I was never actually ... able to be a child,” Shifflett

said. “I was never actually able to be a teenager. My life was always blown up.”

It is described as a book for warriors with wings, and the initial reviews reflect that view. Shifflett's story champions growth, living and learning in the face of life's trials, and the book served as a healing tool for her.

“It is a life journey about me being pregnant at 16,” she said. “It’s just [Stevie’s] journey through being a child and through family and friendships and hardships, and all the way up until she’s 16 years old.”

Shifflett said the novel has been in her head for a long time, inspired by her life's many turning points and her desire to remember those she loved who were part of it.

“I lost a best friend of mine many years ago, so this book is dedicated to him. ... My mother used to own a home day care and we had lost a child in the day care [from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome], so I want to dedicate the book to

(Continued on page eight)



PROUD SENIORS - With only a few weeks left until graduation, seniors at Cardinal O'Hara High School showed off their college choices at a recent special signing event. Each senior was given a triangular banner, “I’m College Bound!” on which they placed their name and the name of the college they will attend in the fall. Each senior pinned his or her banner on a large bulletin board in a main hallway so that underclassmen and visitors will see the many college choices. Among the seniors who took part are, from left, Dylan Ellman, Phoebe Francavilla and Kaeden Clarke.

Contributed photo

First tee shots reenacted at Sheridan Park Course's 90th anniversary

by **CHITRA SELVARAJ**
Editor

The Town of Tonawanda and the Sheridan Park Golf Club celebrated the 90th anniversary of the municipal Sheridan Park Golf Course on Friday, May 12. The ceremony began with the pledge of allegiance led by Town of Tonawanda resident and World War II veteran Dr. John Long, followed by reenactment of the ceremonial first tee shots of 1933.



Supervisor Joseph Emminger reenacted the ceremonial first tee shot at the 90th anniversary celebration of the golf course.

Photo by Chitra Selvaraj

Town Supervisor Joseph Emminger, Councilman

Carl Szarek, seven-time club champion Bill Linder, Jim Mohan of the Buffalo District Golf Association and current club champion John Haberman Jr. were among the participants who teed up on the club's legendary first hole. President of the Sheridan Park Women's Golf Club Jean Walter, Sheridan Park Golf Club President Mike Zimmer, club historian and former club President Jim Dugan, Emminger and Szarek spoke a few words in honor of the anniversary.

“The municipal course first

(Continued on page 12)

Memorial Day Parade

The Milton J. Brounshidle American Legion Post and the Town of Tonawanda will host one of Western New York's largest Memorial Day parades at 11 a.m. Monday, May 29.

The parade will begin on Delaware Avenue, beginning in the Town of Tonawanda, continue south into the Village of Kenmore, and turn onto Lincoln Boulevard, ending at Elmwood Avenue and Mang Park.

Grand marshal for this year's parade will be Congressman John LaFalce, captain, U.S. Army.

BASEMENT WATERPROOFING

Drain Tile • Pumps • Wall Cracks • Mold Removal • Glass Block

PROPERTY DRAINAGE • FOUNDATIONS

716-838-3519 LICENSED & INSURED
6,000 Satisfied WNY Clients

P&G WOODS CONSTRUCTION
Solid Since 1957

BASEMENTS CLEANED, DISINFECTED & PAINTED

First tee shots (Continued from page one)

opened on May 13, 1933, and the Sheridan Park Golf Club was formed at the same time. The women's club was formed the following year in 1934," Zimmer said. When the course opened in 1933, the first group of players were Tonawanda Supervisor Roy Brockett, Town Clerk Roscoe Rossner and Town Highway Superintendent Henry DeWitt.

Originally opened as a 9-hole course, in the 1950s the club worked with the town to make improvements to the course and transformed it into an 18-hole course. "It's a very challenging course with a lot of water hazards and is very hilly in the back, especially on the last nine holes. It's very unique for a municipal course. Brighton course is a lot flatter, with a few elevation changes. Sheridan Park course is very challenging, so you know you have played well if you have a good score playing here,"



Teed up on the club's legendary first hole, from left in the front row are Jim Mohan of the Buffalo District Golf Association, Club Historian Jim Duggan, Women's Club President Jean Walter, Men's Club President Mike Zimmer, Councilmembers Carl Szarek and Gina Santa Maria, Travis Greco and Jake Crozier from St. Joseph's and Quinn Burgess from Sweet Home; second row, Ryan Kates, Coach Jim Badgley and Jacob Willard from Kenmore East, Club Champion John Haberman Jr., Town Supervisor Joe Emminger, St. Joseph's coach Cameron Rosenecker, Luke Rizzo and Kean Patel from St. Joseph's, Evan Tracy from Sweet Home, Kenmore West coach Shannon Greco, Mike Rende from Sweet Home and Landon Calvert and Nick Argenio from Kenmore West.

Photo by Chitra Selvaraj

added Zimmer.

Duggan, dressed in a vintage-style golf outfit typical of those worn in the 1930s, addressed the attendees. "I had a senior moment," he said. Talking about the

ninth hole he continued, "I used to be able to hit the driver with a 7 iron. Now I have to hit it with two 7 irons. Since they moved the tees up, I can now hit it with a 7 iron again. It

makes it more playable and enjoyable." Duggan then referred to the changes that the town made to move the tees forward, which reduced the length of the course by 1,000 yards, making it more

playable for those who find it difficult due to either age or other reasons.

"This course is one of the most challenging in Western New York, and shaving 1,000 yards off the standard white tees makes the course more enjoyable for a wider range of golfers," said Zimmer. He called the new tees "the Fountain of Youth" because they allow older players who have lost distance and golfers with slower swing speeds to enjoy the unique and challenging layout in a whole new way.

Also in attendance were teams from the Kenmore East Bulldogs, Kenmore West Blue Devils and St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute Marauders. At the ceremony, modern-day versions of the original black and white photos were recreated.

"With the forward tees, it's a whole new experience, and if you haven't played in a long time, come back and try it," said Zimmer.

History of the golf course

A few months after Franklin Delano Roosevelt was sworn in as president of the United States, the Sheridan Park 9-Hole Golf Course had its grand opening on May 13, 1933. The course was designed by William Harries, who was the only local person making a career out of golf course architecture between World War I and World War II. The Sheridan Park course cost \$1 million to build back in the early 1930s. Harries also designed sev-

eral other local golf course layouts, including the town's other 18-hole golf course, Brighton Park Golf Course, Byrnclyff, Brookfield and Audubon.

The opening ceremony was celebrated by a parade led by the Kenmore High School band and included Town of Tonawanda officials, American Legion Brounshidle Post, the Lions and Rotary clubs of Kenmore, and the Kenmore Merchants Association.

The first person to play the course was the first president of the Sheridan Park Golf Club, Louis M. Dietrichler, while Ganson Depew, president of the Buffalo District Golf Association, drove the first ball. In 1933, the cost to play the 9-hole course was 25 cents on a weekday, 50 cents on a weekend and \$5 for a season pass.

In 1955, the club encouraged the town to redesign the course, transforming it into an 18-hole

course, among other improvements, with the aim of hosting the United States Golf Association National Public Links Tourney, which the town hosted in 1961. In July 1962, the USGA staged the U.S. Amateur Public Links at Sheridan. Richard Horace Sikes joined the PGA Tour in 1964, winning the Sahara Invitational that year, which earned him Golf Digest's Rookie of the Year Award.

Ken-Ton District (Continued from page one)

In the report, there were several school- and district-level subgroups – including members of racial and ethnic groups, low-income students, students with disabilities and English language learners — that were identified as Local Support and Improvement, and Potential Targeted Support and Intervention (LSI-PTSI), indicating that certain benchmarks will need to be met in the coming year. "There's the work; then there's the targeted work. Every year, we should be revisiting not only the work, but [also] be very specific about the targeted work, either in our department, in our schools, in our subgroup, that we really think will yield the highest results," he said.

Cimato further explained that improvement in these areas will be a priority to ensure that the district and its schools maintain their LSI designations.

"Our suspension [rates] need to be lower," he said. "We don't do the work just because of the accountability. We do the work to make sure we're achieving the best work for children."

Cimato also provided updates on the transportation sign-up process. To address the problem of the school bus driver shortage, which has caused a number of otherwise-eligible students to not ride the bus, starting in September, families will need to complete a form to indicate whether morning/afternoon bus transportation will be needed for the coming school year. The sign-up form will be available in the parent portal. Bus routes will be consolidated on the basis of actual use after the first few weeks of school. It is expected that families will receive new bus numbers and pick-up/drop-off times in the beginning of October. Students will be removed from bus routes if they consistently do not ride the bus; however, families will be able to request bus transporta-

tion to resume. Additionally, a new training program through the Adult Education Department will create a flexible "pipeline" for new drivers of all ages. Cimato stated that parents can request a morning pickup, an afternoon pickup or both. "We're going to figure all those procedures out," he said. Cimato added that the district cannot continue to run buses that are not full. "We can no longer accept that we have buses of 10, buses of 15, just like we can't accept classes of 10, classes of 12," he said. Cimato added that even though the district is using the bus tracking app Here Comes the Bus so families will know when the school bus will arrive, use of the app is meaningless without resolving the driver shortage first. "That app will only be as good as the transportation that we're able to provide. If all of a sudden we're combining runs ... because you're short [on] drivers, then that app is going to be worthless, because your kid is supposed to be on a different run that we've got to combine for," he said. Cimato said that with this new procedure, if families want their school children to resume taking the bus, it will take seven to 10 days to reroute the student. "You didn't take a bus, and all of a sudden, in November, will you be able to take a bus? Yes, but there will be a little bit of a transition, so we need families to prepare for that," he said.

In other news, School Culture Director Dina Ferraraccio did a presentation on the district code of conduct. She noted that the language of the code was modified to be more inclusive and to comply with the law. Ferraraccio said that the revised code of conduct makes a move toward restorative practice instead of traditional discipline. Inclusive language edits include a change from use of the word "parent" to "parent or guardian," and instead of referring to people as "he/she," "his/hers,"

the wording has been changed to "they," "their" or "the student." A classroom teacher may remove a disruptive student from the classroom for up to two days instead of three. "It really does align to what other districts do and also aligns to law," she said. On a slide showing the revisions to the approach to discipline, she outlined the difference between traditional justice and restorative justice. "Traditional justice or traditional punitive discipline that we're used to talk a lot about what school rules were broken," Ferraraccio said "And it's very much limited to the offender; it doesn't really take into account the victim, and it really doesn't take into account the relationships that were harmed in the penalty or in the offense." She also said that shifting to a restorative justice approach will focus on the people involved in the incident and the relationships that were harmed.

"In making that clear, and also focusing on how do we repair the harm that was done to the victim, and often how do we help the offender understand their role in the harm," Ferraraccio said. "Oftentimes you see this epiphany in offenders, where they understand their harm and they want to repair the harm, and often the victim and offender work together to do that." She said the goal was to reduce repeat offenders and added there are ways to have fewer incidents to respond to. "If we focus on the preventative, you will see less need for the responsive restorative work," Ferraraccio said. "As a district, we're trying to focus on the proactive piece, but also responding at the same time in restorative practice."

The next board of education meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 13, in the Community Room at Kenmore Middle School at 155 Delaware Road.