LONG ISLAND

Some of the Llers we recognize this Labor Day

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Deysi Valle, 40, owner of Quick Used Tires



Credit: Newsday/Alejandra Villa | Valle in her Hempstead shop with employees, from left, Rafael Moranchel, 45, Wilmer Bardales, 22, and Jean Carlos Maradiaga, 21.

WELCOME TO WORK

"I come in, get working, waiting for customers," said Valle, 40, of Hempstead. "I know what I have to do every day — the tires, and take care of the customers. Every day I always say you have to be better than yesterday because you never know what is going to happen."

WHAT I LOVE

"I was working with my ex and he was doing mechanics, and I loved it. I love what I'm doing, and I went to school to learn car mechanics because I wanted to do it. When you want to do something, you can do that; I'm always saying that. As a woman, it can make you stronger. Sometimes they say a woman can't do that, a woman can't do this. And I say: 'Oh, no, we can do a lot of things.' "

WORK, WORK & MORE WORK

"The hardest thing is working with the customers, because a lot of customers, Latino or American, they don't like it because I'm a Latina or because I'm a lady. They think I don't know how to work on their car but trust me, a lot of customers, they don't even know how to take the spare tire from the trunk."

SHE'S A FAN

"I think I always liked cars. And when I got this opportunity...then I got training, and then I had to train my workers, and they're men. I feel lucky I can do it, and I love it."