



FREE

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Ex-Peekskill Cop Gets Seven Years for Sexually Abusing Woman



Michael Agovino

By Rick Pezzullo

A former Peekskill police officer was sentenced to seven years in state prison last week for sexually abusing a woman he threatened with arrest while he was on duty on multiple occasions between 2019 and 2020.

Michael Agovino, 36, of Orangetown, who resigned from the Peekskill Police Department in 2021 after being arrested by the Westchester District Attorney's Office on Feb. 15, 2020, following an investigation in collaboration with Peekskill Police, also had 15 years of post-release supervision imposed by Judge Susan Cacace in Westchester County Court on June 23 and must register as a sex offender.

The District Attorney's Office had sought a higher sentence of 15 years behind bars

after Agovino pled guilty on March 17 to all 20 counts contained in the indictment.

"Michael Agovino egregiously violated the trust of the Peekskill community, grossly abused his position of authority as a police officer, and violated his oath of office. While we are disappointed that the Court's sentence did not meet our recommendation, Michael Agovino is going to prison," District Attorney Mimi Rocah said. "We hope this case sends a message that no one is above the law."

On two occasions in July 2019, Agovino, while on duty as a police officer and under the guise of working on an investigation, unlawfully entered the victim's Peekskill

home. During the first visit, Agovino demanded the victim remove all of her clothing, and then sexually abused her. On the second visit, Agovino returned to the home, threatened the victim with arrest unless she removed her clothing or performed a sex act on him, and again sexually abused her.

Over the next five months, on three separate occasions, while on duty, Agovino unlawfully entered, or attempted to enter, the victim's home for his own sexual gratification at the expense of the victim, and in one instance sexually abused her. On the last date, in January 2020, unbeknownst to

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Residents Differ on Underhill Farm Project in Yorktown

By Rick Pezzullo

Residents spent more than four hours recently expressing their views on a proposed mixed-use development on Underhill Ave. in downtown Yorktown.

More than 30 speakers addressed the Yorktown Planning Board June 13 during a public informational meeting on Underhill Farm on the former Soundview Preparatory School 13.8-acre site. Unicorn Contracting is proposing 148 residential units (64 one, two and three-bedroom apartments, 52 three and four-bedroom townhouses and 32 one and two-bedroom condominiums), 11,000 square feet of commercial space and an adaptive reuse of the property's historic mansion.

As part of the \$60 million project, the historic Underhill House is slated to be transformed into a community resource and gathering spot. In addition, the pond will be completely restored with a \$150,000 investment and complemented by walking trails, sitting areas and a new pedestrian gateway at the estate's original entrance at the intersection of Rte. 118 and Underhill Ave.

Several speakers were members of the Protecting Yorktown's Quality of



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

Joseph Streany with a "Unicorn Hunter" shirt at recent Planning Board meeting.

Life Foundation, Inc., led by Director Trish Sullivan-Rothberg, who stated, in part, "the foundation supports reasoned, responsible development, but our members have significant concerns regarding the environmental impacts that may result from the incomplete, unclear and/or misleading

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They Did It!



Walter Panas High School graduates received their diplomas Saturday on their home turf for the first time in almost 30 years. It was also the inaugural event for the school's Upper Practice Field that was recently completed. For a list of all the high school graduates in the region, see Examiner Media's special Graduation Section inside.

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Lower South St. Development with Shelter Moves Forward

By Rick Pezzullo

The Peekskill Common Council has given the green light for a three-building proposed development at 1070 Lower South St. to move ahead to the Planning Commission for review.

Councilmembers informally advanced the project to the Commission's July 12 meeting following a June 21 work session during which developer Abraham Rosenberg and representatives of 1070 Park Estates LLC discussed a recent community meeting they sponsored to gather public input.

Besides constructing a two-story building to house the Jan Peek House homeless shelter on a vacant parcel opposite the BASF factory, Rosenberg is proposing to construct a three-story self-storage facility and a 10,000-square-foot building for a potential job training center or commercial venture.

Caring for the Hungry and Homeless of Peekskill (CCHOP), the non-profit organization that has run the only homeless shelter in northern Westchester since 1988 on North Water St., is looking to be part of the development, which would enable it to expand its current footprint from 7,500 square feet to 20,000 square feet.

Rosenberg reported the majority of the

60 people that turned out at their May 31 gathering were supportive of his plans, with only one nearby store owner expressing concerns about the shelter possibly affecting his business.

All the councilmembers who attended the community meeting were impressed with the presentation and the cross section of residents who expressed interest. They all agreed the property would be a good fit for the shelter.

"I think that would be a good spot for it," Councilwoman Patricia Riley said.

"I would definitely like to move forward with the shelter," said Councilman Dwight Douglas.

CCHOP served almost 61,000 individuals in 2021—a 300 percent increase from the pre-COVID-19 pandemic. Fred's Pantry, which started in 2010, serves more than 400 people each week, 95 percent of which reside in Peekskill or Cortlandt.

Rosenberg needs a zoning text amendment from the Planning Commission for 1070 Lower South St. and other nearby properties in the M-2B Zoning District for his project to even be considered.

Planning Director Jean Friedman said it's likely the Common Council will be able to hold a public hearing on July 18.

Residents Differ on Underhill Farm Project in Yorktown

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plans presented by Unicorn."

On April 28, the foundation filed an Article 78 petition in State Supreme Court against Unicorn and the Yorktown Town Board over the implementation of an Overlay Zoning District that allows a greater diversity of permitted uses, including residential, with the goal of revitalizing specific neighborhoods.

"Changing the zoning for the 13.8-acre parcel from one acre, single-family to high density, multi-family plus commercial development is not supported in the Comprehensive Plan," Sullivan-Rothberg said.

Other speakers, including members of the town's Heritage Preservation Committee and resident Jennie Sunshine, decried the destruction of the historic architecture and grounds.

"200 years of history will be gone forever. It is hallowed ground," Sunshine remarked. "One of the town's last anchors is about to be wiped out."

Increased traffic from the development was also a hot button issue. Unicorn has offered to contribute \$450,000 to make improvements to the intersection, which has been estimated to cost between \$750,000 and \$1.5 million depending on what changes

are made.

"My family's lives will change forever," said Joseph Streany, a resident of Underhill Ave. who donned a "Unicorn Hunter" t-shirt. "My dream of teaching my kids to ride a bike on Glenrock St. will be replaced with the constant fear of speeding vehicles."

Last week, the Town Board approved a resolution authorizing Transpo Group USA to perform a traffic review and analysis of the traffic study submitted for Underhill Farm at a cost not to exceed \$10,548, which will be reimbursed by Unicorn.

Others maintained the cost of the units at Underhill Farm will be out of range for most of the 6,000 senior citizens in Yorktown who may want to downsize from their homes.

However, several seniors who spoke said they welcomed the opportunity to have a development that could keep them close to their children and grandchildren.

"I think this will be a wonderful asset for all of us, especially senior citizens," said Serafina Mastro. "This is going to be a beautiful place. I don't want to wait five years for it to be built."

"Senior housing is something that will allow me to stay in the community," said 46-year resident Brian Wolfson. "I can't see how we can so small minded. Don't be selfish for the future."

Hall of Fame Honor



Former Village of Buchanan Trustee Duane Jackson, a decorated U.S. Navy veteran, was congratulated last week at Buchanan Village Hall by state and local officials for being inducted into the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame. Jackson, who is co-president of the Buchanan Historical Society, was nominated by State Senator Pete Harckham.

Ex-Peekskill Cop Gets Seven Years for Sexually Abusing Woman

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Agovino, the victim made an audio recording of their interaction, and provided that recording to the District Attorney's Office.

In a statement made to the court, the victim explained the impact of Agovino's actions: "I had to move out of my home and start over because it wasn't a home anymore. Your actions took me from my hometown where I came from after 49 years. I was even pulling out my own hair and at one point, I even thought about taking my own life. This is about what you did... You took advantage of my...fear of your position."

Rocah praised the "courage and bravery" of the victim to pursue justice against Agovino and the cooperation of the Peekskill Police Department to hold one of their own accountable.

"Several components came together in this case leading to justice for the victim and accountability for the defendant," Rocah said. "First and foremost, the extremely brave victim fought to hold her abuser accountable by coming forward after being abused. Second, from the outset of this investigation, the Peekskill Police Department worked in partnership with this office on behalf of the victim. And, as always, we had a remarkable team of prosecutors, investigators and victim aides who worked tirelessly during

the past two-and-a-half years to ensure that this victim was supported, and the defendant was held accountable."

Peekskill Police Chief Leo Dylewski said Agovino's actions were "not a representation of the men and women that work for the City of Peekskill Police Department."

"We were appalled and disgusted when we found out what happened," Dylewski remarked. "He got what he deserved."

Special Prosecutions Deputy Division Chief Michelle Lopez said Agovino indicated in court that "he had a lot of regrets."

"He never said sorry to her (the victim) for what he did and that had a tremendous impact on her," Lopez said.

Agovino pled guilty to three counts of Burglary in the Second Degree as a Sexually Motivated Felony, two counts of Burglary in the Second Degree, two counts of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, Attempted Burglary in the Second Degree as a Sexually Motivated Felony, Attempted Burglary in the Second Degree, Stalking in the First Degree as a Sexually Motivated Felony, and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, all felonies. He also pled guilty to four counts of Official Misconduct, three counts of Coercion in the Third Degree, and two counts of Forcible Touching, all misdemeanors.



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Roe v. Wade Decision Sparks Fiery White Plains Protest

By Martin Wilbur

About 500 pro-choice supporters fired up by Friday's Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade rallied in White Plains Sunday afternoon vowing to protect a woman's right to have access to an abortion.

For close to two hours a string of fiery speakers, including elected officials, implored the crowd that they must get out to vote in every election to combat right wing efforts that may not only doom the rights of women to make their own reproductive decisions but rights for other groups as well.

Elaine Summers, a district leader for the White Plains Democratic City Committee, which organized the rally outside of the county courthouse, was one of several women who told deeply personal stories about what might have happened if they were forced to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term. For Summers, the mother of a son, was pregnant in her 30s while divorced when she made the difficult decision to terminate.

The burdens of an unwanted pregnancy will have far more impact on those least able to afford it, she said.

"Make no mistake, this is a war against women, a war against women of color, a war against poor women," Summers said.

Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, executive director of Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion (WCLA-Choice Matters), said despite recent polls that show that more than eight in 10 Americans did not want Roe overturned, Republicans are going to try to make this year's election cycle about crime



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Congressman Jamaal Bowman was one of a series of speakers who exhorted the crowd angered by Friday's Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade to get out and vote in every election.

and inflation.

However, not every Democrat is pro-choice, and some of those who say they are, the issue is low on their priority list. Lederer-Plaskett urged the crowd to educate themselves on where the candidates stand. She said the only strong pro-choice candidates in Tuesday's gubernatorial primaries are Gov. Kathy Hochul and Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado.

"If you don't do your homework, if you don't find out who you're voting for, not shame on you, shame on your children, shame on all other people you're screwing,"

Lederer-Plaskett said.

Former congressional candidate and author Allison Fine said the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approved an abortion medication 22 years ago that she contended is 98 percent effective and is as safe as taking Tylenol, but the agency restricts it along with about 75 other "dangerous" pills. She urged the crowd to sign a change.org petition to pressure the FDA to let the public have greater access to them.

Fine also appealed to women to visit the website www.aidaccess.org, a European

nonprofit organization that offers mifepristone and misoprostol, the abortion medications. They are good for two years before they expire.

She also denounced Republican efforts to control women.

"Their job is to create chaos and to make us so afraid that we do nothing, right," Fine said. "We're not going to do that because every person here is fierce and fearless and focused."

When Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale) said she heard about Friday's decision, as someone who has fought for women's issues all her life "she felt and I still fear my entire life flashing before me."

She also said that her daughter and women of that younger generation had moved on to other issues, believing that the right to an abortion was safe. But Paulin said this latest chapter in the fight for women's reproductive freedom give her hope that people will focus on its importance.

One of the most animated speakers of the afternoon was Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-Yonkers). The freshman congressman said the nation favoring large corporations and the wealthy perpetuates the institution of White supremacy, where only the privileged few get to wield power and make decisions for people of color, women and the poor.

Bowman was one of several speakers to plead with the crowd to take every election seriously because while New Yorkers may feel safe for now, there are those who don't want abortion anywhere in the United States.

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Roe v. Wade Decision Sparks Fiery White Plains Protest

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"I think we all have to take a little bit of responsibility for this because I think we got too comfortable with Obama (as President) and thinking things were cool and we were chilling," Bowman said. "We thought we were going to transition from Obama to Hillary and be done with it."

"But we've got to do the hard work and go through the hard times to make sure we're protecting and saving civil rights and our basic rights."

Among those who think that the

unpopularity of overturning Roe v. Wade will change the dynamics of the mid-term elections is Lederer-Plaskett, particularly in swing districts where a candidate from one party is not a prohibitive favorite.

Assemblyman Chris Burdick (D-Bedford) said he was pleased that about two weeks ago Hochul signed one of the bills that he sponsored to protect women who come from out of state to seek an abortion. He also supported five other measures that strengthened abortions in New York State.

"This just goes to show that anything can happen, and so I strongly believe that we

need to have protections in New York by putting it in the New York State Constitution and I will strongly continue to advocate for that," Burdick said.

Burdick said he can't wait to return to Albany after the governor called the legislature back for a special session in hopes of doing more not only regarding abortion but the high court's ruling from Thursday that allows greater latitude in New York to carry weapons.

County Executive George Latimer said now that the Supreme Court has overturned Roe, contraception, LGBTQ issues and perhaps some others that most people now take for granted which could be in jeopardy. He said the Republicans and the justices they have appointed "intend to make this 1880 America."

"The big picture here is we have to stop the changing of America," Latimer said. "That's what's at hand. That's what we're up against. Roe v. Wade is one part of that, and so are the gun laws, so is marriage equality and so are all the other things that are subject to change."

Several attendees said that despite the warnings, it seemed improbable that Roe would be overturned. MaryAnne Goodman of Valhalla said she couldn't believe it happened.

"I definitely did not think this day would come," Goodman said. "We're going so backwards in many ways that it just boggles my mind."

Maya Carvalho-Evans of Sleepy Hollow, who was at the rally with her sister Alicia, was saddened by the decision.



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins speaks to pro-choice supporters at Sunday's rally in White Plains.

"Just the fact that it was up for questions was really heartbreaking for me and was really, really difficult to come to terms with, and then the day it was actually overturned I was like in so much shock," Carvalho-Evans said. "I didn't know we'd be living in a country in 2022 where as women we wouldn't have rights."

Sunday's White Plains rally followed three local rallies Friday evening in Yorktown, Pleasantville and Irvington.

Board of Legislators Approves Clinic Access Legislation

The Westchester County Board of Legislators voted to approve a law ensuring safe access to reproductive health care facilities Monday evening.

The Reproductive Healthcare Facilities Access Act was approved 15-2. Westchester County Executive George Latimer signed the measure into law immediately after its approval by the board.

The new law, which takes effect immediately, will protect healthcare workers and patients seeking medical treatment from being obstructed from entering or exiting a reproductive healthcare facility and from harassing behavior from persons within specific distances of the premises. It enacts a 25-foot no-harassment zone around the facility's perimeter and establishes the

designation of an eight-foot personal space bubble surrounding the person within 100 feet of the facility.

While the legislation was initially introduced about a decade ago, there wasn't the support or the urgency to get it approved. It was sponsored by Board of Legislators Chair Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) and Legislator MaryJane Shimsky (D-Dobbs Ferry), reactivated following the invasion of a clinic last November.

"The stakes could not be higher," Shimsky said. "We saw extremists invade All Women's Health Clinic in White Plains and shut it down for hours, only to get off with a trespassing conviction. Under our clinic access law, such terroristic behavior will be punishable by up to six months in jail."



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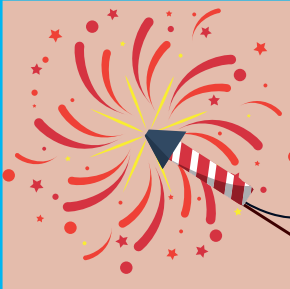
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Candidate, Organizations Hail Supreme Court Decision

By Martin Wilbur

While pro-choice advocates were infuriated by the Supreme Court's decision last week to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, there were plenty of others who were ecstatic that abortion has been or soon will be severely curtailed in about half the states.

Moments after the decision came down on Friday morning, Republican

gubernatorial candidate and Long Island Congressman Lee Zeldin was among the first of many who applauded the decision in a statement.

He said that when his twin daughters were born more than 14 weeks early, he had the chance "to witness life in the second trimester."

"In a state that has legalized late term partial birth abortion and non-doctors

performing abortion, in a state that refuses to advance informed consent and parental consent, and where not enough is being done to promote adoption and support mothers, today is yet another reminder that New York clearly needs to do a much better job to promote, respect and defend life."

The organization Feminists Choosing Life for New York (FCLNY) issued statements stating that New York "is hostile to pregnant women" because it has the highest abortion of any state in the nation, with 20.3 abortions per 1,000 people. There were 78,587 abortions in 2019, with 8.9 percent of those obtained by out-of-state residents.

"We are grateful the High Court recognized abortion rights do not exist within our Constitution," the FCLNY statement read. "Abortion rights are now a matter of state policy. We support science which clearly demonstrates that unborn children are human beings. FCLNY believes all unborn children deserve protection under the 14th Amendment and that more must be done to end the violence of abortion and empower women. Abortion oppresses women and kills children."

The organization also questioned the legality of New York's Reproductive Health Act and noted challenges to parts of the law that are either on appeal or are awaiting resolution in the state's Northern District Court.

FCLNY disputes an array of points with

the Reproductive Health Act, including allowing for later-term abortions and who is allowed to perform abortions.

Because an increase in out-of-state women coming to New York for abortions is expected, FCLNY intends to bolster its that would include advocating for legislation to support pregnant women and families, conducting resource fairs, facilitating peer support groups for women victimized by trauma, including abortion and hosting symposiums and community conversation circles that address issues faced by women and children.

The Women's Alliance Against Violence is the plaintiff for most of the litigation against New York's Reproductive Health Act. In the lawsuit *Smith v. Hochul*, the organization asserts that the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantees of life, liberty and equal protection under the law are broad enough to include all human beings, including near-term, or viable, unborn children.

Portions of the litigation, which was initiated in January 2021 on behalf of plaintiff-victims of New York's Reproductive Health Act, are currently before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, or are in the federal trial court. It is designed to fight against "state laws that increase violence against women and children, including unborn children," according to a statement from the organization.

White Plains to Turn Into Fair Street on Wednesday

This Wednesday, June 29 at 5:30 p.m., the White Plains Library Plaza will be transformed into Fair Street USA – a 3D interactive art exhibit and block party celebrating fair housing.

Visitors can browse through a collection of small houses, each designed by a community organization and artist to convey messages about fair housing. Amidst music, food and fun, visitors to Fair Street will be immersed in an interactive display at the intersection of art and education.

Housing discrimination derails dreams; Fair Street USA aims to change that course. Ten community organizations have joined forces with artists to envision a community with fair housing. Visitors to Fair Street USA will

learn about fair housing choice, impact of housing discrimination on communities and how to recognize and report fair housing concerns

The participating community organizations are The Thomas H. Slater Center; El Centro Hispano, Inc.; White Plains Interfaith Committee; The Loft LGBTQ+ Community Center; Lifting Up Westchester; White Plains Mayor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities & Mental Health Association of Westchester; Westchester Residential Opportunities; Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors, Fair Housing Committee; Westchester County Human Rights Commission; and White Plains Mayor's Youth Council.



(From L-R) • Michael Bergstein, MD • Craig Zalvan, MD
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State Awards Millions for Environmentally-Friendly Transit Projects

By Martin Wilbur

New York State is awarding \$178.8 million in federal funds to 75 communities across the state that promote environmentally-friendly carbon-neutral transportation projects, including six in Westchester.

Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado and state Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez visited the Hartsdale Fire Department along with local, county and state officials to make the announcement last Thursday afternoon. The money is derived from the \$1.2 trillion Build Back Better Act approved by Congress last year and doles out money to states for infrastructure improvements.

Dominguez said the projects focus on making walking, biking and hiking more accessible for New Yorkers, representing Gov. Kathy Hochul's commitment to the environment and to emphasize modes of transportation other than cars.

"She's not only leveraging state dollars at record level amounts for transportation infrastructure, but she's leveraging the federal dollars in a way that literally, truly invests in every community across the state of New York, and also allows us to put our forces, DOT forces, out in every community," Dominguez said, "making sure that not only our infrastructure is safe and resilient and smart investments are being made, but we're truly connecting communities in the best way possible to increase mobility, increase safety and really make the transportation

network of the future work for everyone."

The six Westchester projects, totaling about \$17.4 million, is part of the \$38.8 million assigned to the Mid-Hudson Region. Work includes \$5 million in Greenburgh to construct sidewalks and pedestrian crossings along the East and West Hartsdale Avenue corridor; \$3,045,266 to Briarcliff Manor for sidewalks, traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossings along Pleasantville Road, North State Road and Delton Lane; and \$3,617,424 to the Town of Cortlandt to construct sidewalks, bike lanes and streetscape improvements along Westbrook Drive.

The county's other projects are nearly \$4 million for the Village of Mamaroneck to install sidewalks, curbs, traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossings along Halstead Avenue, \$958,000 for New Rochelle to build ADA-compliant sidewalk ramps, pedestrian signals and push buttons at various locations and \$785,000 to Hastings-on-Hudson for a sidewalk, curbs and a pedestrian bridge adjacent to Route 9.

Lance MacMillan, the DOT's Region 8 Director, which includes the Mid-Hudson Region, said the money is provided in the form of a grant to the municipalities and represents 80 percent funding for the projects. Each city, town or village is responsible to come up with the remaining 20 percent and bid the project.

The DOT will provide support and guidance as needed, he said.

Delgado said the money is part of the



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez announced last Thursday in Hartsdale that \$178.8 million in federal funds will be used for carbon-neutral transportation-related upgrades across New York, including more than \$17 million for projects in six Westchester communities. Also on hand, from left, were Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, Lt. Gov. Antonio Delgado, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner and County Executive George Latimer.

administration's pledge to make meaningful investments that will help the state and its residents.

"This funding is available for all regions across New York State and another example of our commitment to making smart investments today that will benefit New Yorkers for generations to come," Delgado said.

For the Town of Greenburgh, the work is crucial considering that there are residential streets off of East and West Hartsdale Avenue where commuters live, many of whom would like to get to the train station without a car, said Supervisor Paul Feiner. Equally important, the thoroughfare has three high schools, Maria Regina, Solomon Schechter and Woodlands, and the sidewalks will make conditions safer for students, he said.

"This will be the most significant health and safety initiative in town history where you have so many neighborhoods where people will want to walk to the train station, where people would want to go shop on Central Avenue, where people would want to go on (Route) 119," Feiner said. "Now people will be able to walk."

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers), Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) and County Executive George Latimer all lauded how different levels of government worked together to coordinate major initiatives that will improve quality of life.

Latimer said that sometimes obtaining money for Westchester for key projects is difficult because there's the perception around the state that all of its communities are affluent.

"From a county perspective, we were appreciative to have the state as a partner to be able to do projects all across the county and to see it over a wide scope," he said.

Lead Quality Assurance Engineer for Consumer Reports in Yonkers, NY. Responsible for designing, developing and implementing information technology (IT) testing solutions, and partnering with software development teams to troubleshoot system defects: Design and develop automated testing scripts, and analyze and troubleshoot system defects, applying advanced IT knowledge across multiple technical areas and business segments; Work with the development, testing and production teams to develop, publish and implement software quality assurance plans. Monitor, evaluate, manage and execute audit processes to ensure compliance. Conduct audits and analyze findings to develop appropriate corrective action recommendations. Work with IT leaders to develop and implement an overall quality maturity roadmap, and establish internal IT service quality control standards, policies and procedures; Regularly review progress toward the plan with IT leaders, technical teams and customers to make modifications as necessary; Establish and implement quality assurance and compliance processes for the IT organization. Document non-compliance to policies, process and standards and assist in their resolution; Coordinate and facilitate quality assurance activities across projects with project managers; Provide strategic direction, guidance and integrated solutions to enterprise-wide quality engineering initiatives; Provide guidance and subject matter expertise to IT teams on quality assurance (QA) methodologies and processes, educating them on their responsibilities and accountabilities for the purpose of achieving on-time and quality deliverables; Analyze and identify trends in IT performance metrics; Make recommendations and direct improvements to the software development lifecycle process; Design, monitor and analyze performance metrics program for quality improvement initiatives; Work on projects as a technical lead as needed, provide training on established processes and policies, and coach and mentor (without supervisory authority) junior technical staff. Tools used include: SQL, Oracle SQL developer, Python, PyTest, JIRA, AWS, Pandas, Athena, S3, and PyCharm. Required: Bachelor's degree in Computer science, Engineering or a related field with an information technology (IT) focus and 5 years of Post baccalaureate, progressively responsible experience in IT quality assurance. Experience must include: 5 years of experience in/with: designing, developing and maintaining automated and manual test plans and test scripts/cases in IT projects, as well as reporting and tracking defects; testing and validating ETL and data extraction scripts; automated testing tools such as Mercury, Segue, HPQC and/or Selenium; SQL scripting for analysis and testing using oracle SQL developer; and bug tracking and reporting using JIRA. 3 years of experience in/with: validating data presented in customer-facing reporting against the data source using Pandas and/or similar libraries offered via other tools for data analysis, such as SAS, Microstrategy and/or Tableau; and developing automated test suites using programming languages Python (PyCharm) and/or Java (IntelliJ). 1 year of experience in/with: working in AWS Cloud (such as S3, Athena and/or Redshift). Must have demonstrated knowledge of the IT software development lifecycle and QA methodologies in the areas of manual and automated functional, regression and systems integration testing. Must have demonstrated analytical and problem-solving skills, and the ability to work in a fast-paced environment and with minimal direction. **Apply online at www.consumerreports.org.**

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Guest Column

New York State Needs to Help Working Families Reeling From Inflation

By Matt Slater

The grim reality of the worst inflation in 40 years and a broken supply chain that is causing the rising cost of living is on the minds of every American. We are breaking records for the cost of gasoline at the pumps and the price of everyday staples, like meat, milk and diapers, continue to skyrocket.

According to new Labor Department data, the cost of groceries was up 12 percent in May compared to one year ago. This is the biggest jump since 1979. Inflation is projected to cost hardworking families thousands of dollars more this year.

I hear it in our communities every day from scared families, worried seniors and concerned small business owners. Restaurant prices alone climbed 7.4 percent in the past year, which is the sharpest 12-month gain since 1981. The cost of ordinary necessities is pushing us all to the brink, and we are not seeing any meaningful action from Washington or Albany.

We know the Biden Administration’s energy policies are failing, and they can’t fix the broken supply chain – just ask parents with newborns struggling to find formula. Unfortunately, Gov. Hochul and the New York

City Democrats who control both chambers of the state legislature have exacerbated the pressures on our economy and its crushing impact on household budgets.

It is hard to believe that not long ago there was in fact a time when we had a two-party system with checks and balances in the state capitol. While New York City Democrats in the Assembly prevented a state spending cap from becoming law, the budgets that were agreed upon did adhere to the basic principles of limiting the growth of the state’s operational spending.

That said, in the four years since Democrats captured supermajority control over the Senate and Assembly, the state budget has increased by more than \$40 billion and, according to a report released by Albany watchdog the Empire Center, “state operating funds spending is set to rise this year by \$14 billion or 12 percent, after adjusting for accounting maneuvers. That’s a near-record increase in state-sourced spending, even discounting inflation.”

This recklessness on the state level is further fueling the inflation tax that has imposed a devastating new burden on families and, when coupled with Albany’s reliance on some of the nation’s highest

taxes on gasoline, the ongoing exodus of New Yorkers to lower tax states like Florida has been supercharged.

From 2019 to 2020, New York State lost 248,387 residents—costing the state more than \$19 billion in income. Independent nonprofit research firm Wirepoints calculated that this was the worst net income loss of any state in the country.

As supervisor of the Town of Yorktown, I experienced firsthand the importance of the state property tax cap in controlling local taxes and spending. During my tenure I am proud to report that we responsibly reduced Yorktown’s budgeted spending by more than \$7 million, reduced the tax levy and cut town property taxes for the first time in 25 years.

Now that I am a candidate for the state Assembly, I am focused on imposing that same fiscal discipline on the politicians in Albany by finally enacting the state spending cap into law. With state spending increases more than doubling the rate of inflation over the last five years and no end to the inflation crisis in sight, this has never been more important.

Make no mistake, New York is in a deep financial hole, and the first step to getting out is to stop digging. We need to elect the right leaders who will have the common sense to put down the shovel.

Matt Slater is supervisor of the Town of Yorktown and the Republican candidate for the 94th Assembly District.

Letter to the Editor

When it Comes to Yorktown Development Proposals, Follow the Money

The owner of the Wild Fusion restaurant in Mohegan Lake and the Flame Asian Bistro at the Jefferson Valley Mall, would like his project, Hotel Gardena, built in the center of Yorktown. Our Town Board’s approval of the Overlay District would help greenlight the hotel’s construction. In 2019, he made two \$1,000 campaign contributions. One was to the Friends

of Matt Slater and the other was to the Friends of Sergio Esposito.

That may not sound like a lot of money but in smaller town elections that’s a windfall.

Steven Feinstein
Yorktown Heights

Music Fest and Fireworks Return to Kensico Dam Plaza July 3

Once again fireworks will light up the night sky during the Westchester County Music Fest and Fireworks at the Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla on Sunday, July 3.

Pre-concert entertainment begins at 5 p.m. with a guest DJ followed by the FDR Drive Band at 7 p.m. Spectacular fireworks, with the historic Kensico Dam as the backdrop, will follow at about 9:15 p.m.

Admission and parking are free. Carpooling is suggested. Concert-goers

should bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating as well as a picnic supper.

Music Fest is presented by Westchester County Parks and sponsored by Captain Lawrence Brewing Company and the Westchester Parks Foundation with support from radio station 100.7 WHUD.

Kensico Dam Plaza is located at the north end of the Bronx River Parkway in Valhalla. For more information, call 914-864-PARK or visit parks.westchestergov.com.

Calendar Submissions

We’re happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words “Calendar Submission” in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Abby Luby at aluby@theexaminernews.com.

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Column

Peekskill Taking Steps to Ensure Future Drinking Water Safety

Peekskill is working to secure the future safety of its drinking water supply using a state program for municipalities to protect the sources of their water, including brooks, creeks and rivers.

One of the big reasons for the initiative is climate change, which is making water pollution worse in Westchester and around the state and country. More frequent storms that dump much higher amounts of rainwater over short periods of time are flooding streams and other water sources, potentially bringing more sediment, pavement run-off, oil from vehicles, pesticides, fertilizers and debris right up to filtration plants that are charged with making sure we have clean, drinkable water.

"Climate change affects water quality, the amount of erosion, turbidity (how cloudy the water is with sediment and possible pollutants) and flooding," said Dan Shapley, co-director of the science and patrol program at Riverkeeper, a nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping the Hudson River, its tributaries and watershed clean and healthy for people and animals alike.

"More rain is falling harder and faster, in bigger pulses," Shapley explained. "We'll see more and more of these storms with climate change. This is a broad issue that



By Michael Gold

is going to affect all the counties in the state. We're going to be ever more challenged to keep water safe for drinking, recreation and wildlife. The drinking water source protection program will map our supplies, so we understand what the risks of potential contamination are, what are the threats and develop strategies to reduce and eliminate those threats."

Peekskill is utilizing the Drinking Water Source Protection

Program (DWSP2), created by the state's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Department of Health. The program was developed to help the state's towns and cities protect their drinking water sources, by helping them work with neighboring municipalities upstream of their watersheds and water sources.

Riverkeeper, with funding from the Westchester Community Foundation, worked with Ossining and Peekskill to get them into the state program.

Between 70 and 80 percent of the Peekskill Hollow Brook, which carries Peekskill's water to the city's water filtration plant, sits in the Town of Putnam Valley, said David Rambo, the water and sewer superintendent in Peekskill. The Peekskill watershed originates in the Town of Kent and is comprised of areas of

Yorktown, Shrub Oak, Mohegan Lake and Putnam Valley.

"If you ask Peekskill residents where their drinking water comes from, many probably wouldn't know," Shapley said. "Or they'll say it comes from the Wicopee Reservoir in the Hudson Highlands. In reality, the water flows from there into the Peekskill Hollow Brook and it then streams into the Peekskill drinking water treatment plant."

Ossining is also working to protect its future drinking water supplies at the Indian Brook Reservoir, Shapley said, but Peekskill's task is more difficult because more municipalities and more development are located within the Peekskill watershed.

Peekskill officials have been meeting with officials from Putnam Valley, Cortlandt and Yorktown since last December to take an inventory of the challenges to Peekskill's water supply and agree on strategies to reduce stormwater runoff and other pollutants and ensure the quality of its drinking water far into the future.

"We're grateful to Putnam Valley and Yorktown for their cooperation with us. It's good to have partners at the municipal level," Rambo stated.

Possible projects that officials might agree to implement include building green infrastructure, such as creating bioswales, areas of vegetation that allow water to pool and slowly seep into the ground, filter into

the soil and slow the flow of water into the brook; reducing the use and impact of rock salt in a way that keeps drivers safe but also reduces salt run-off; maintaining a natural filter around Peekskill Hollow Brook by purchasing nearby land to soak up water; and planting trees and shrubs to restore stream buffers, which are vegetated areas on both banks of a stream or river, which slows run-off, filters pollution and prevents soil erosion.

The impact on water supplies of rock salt sprinkled on roadways during winter snowstorms can be diminished by immersing the salt in water first, making it into a brine solution. The brine can be spread on the road, cutting the concentration of salt in the run-off, which reduces salt waste and pollution and costs less.

Peekskill is also working with Sustainable Westchester on improving its own water infrastructure, said Matt Alexander, city manager for Peekskill, to maintain the current safety levels of residents' drinking water.

On a related note, Peekskill is working with Sustainable Westchester on a solar array project, to build a 250-kilowatt

hour installation on the roof of its water treatment facility.

Pleasantville resident Michael Gold has had articles published in the New York Daily News, the Albany Times Union, The Virginian-Pilot, The Palm Beach Post and The Hardy Society Journal, a British literary journal.

On the Street

Will More Housing Overwhelm Your School District? Check the Math

By Timothy Foley

Even though Westchester County is struggling with an acute housing shortage, any time a proposal to build multifamily housing above a certain size is considered in a town or village, you hear the exact same well-worn concerns. Won't this overwhelm the school district? How are we going to pay for all the new schoolchildren? How will this affect my own child's education?

The concerns are very real and completely understandable. They're also, ironically, bad math.

We formed the Welcome Home Westchester campaign with our partners to drive a new conversation around housing. The Housing Needs Assessment put out by the county Planning Department found that we needed 11,703 new units of housing just to meet present-day demand.

This housing shortage affects the vibrancy and economy of our region. It particularly impacts employers who might want to relocate but worry that their employees can't afford to live in our communities, those who commute into Westchester for work, seniors on a fixed income, millennials who want to move back to the area they grew up in, people of color, middle-class families and so many others.

But this housing shortage isn't an accident. It's the result of decades of inefficient and

short-sighted local land use decisions, many of which weigh unsubstantiated fears over what may happen over the facts of what actually did happen.

When it comes to the far-from-unique ghost stories about school impact, we get it. For most parents, there's no more important investment than their child's education, and it's no wonder that so often this becomes the lens through which residents look at the question of housing needs in their community.

But as with so many other ghost stories and fearful predictions, there's very little true analysis behind the assumption. Even worse, there's almost never an attempt by neighborhood defenders to run an after-action analysis to learn which public hearing predictions were true and which were false.

So, we checked the math for them. The BRI and the Welcome Home Westchester campaign retained the firm 4ward Planning Inc. to conduct an analysis of what had happened – past tense—within Westchester County suburban school districts both in terms of enrollment and school taxes and school budgets when large multifamily developments opened.

The study looked at multifamily developments of 100 units or more that were built in Westchester County towns and villages within the past 10 years. Bottom line, there is no data from recent large

multifamily developments to substantiate the fears of a surge in student enrollment. Indeed, not only have these projects been harmless to the districts, but they have also brought with them eye-popping financial surpluses which have been to the benefit of existing students and residents.

In none of the multifamily residential projects with at least 100 units in a town or village did the children associated with the project and enrolled in the local school district equal or exceed 1 percent of the school's total enrollment.

It's no secret that many of our school districts have seen years of declining enrollment, fueled by the fact that the 30-to-44 age demographic has been the most consistently declining cohort over the last two censuses. In many of these communities, total enrollment continued to decline overall, even with the children who moved into these new homes.

But even in the communities where school enrollment went up, new neighborhood children associated with the multifamily projects analyzed represented only a small percentage of the school districts' enrollment increase. In fact, the ratio of school children to units across these new developments was less than 1 child for every 10 homes.

With a ratio like that, it's no surprise to see a positive fiscal benefit for the school districts. With the overwhelming number

of units paying new taxes but contributing no new children, the projects naturally generated a net positive in school taxes, even after taking into account the costs of educating enrolled school children living in the new housing. The estimated one-year financial benefits ranged from a low of \$333,000 to a high of \$1.2 million per district. The median financial benefit for one year for these Westchester school districts where 100 units of new multifamily housing were built was \$465,544.

In all cases, the percentage of school tax revenue from each housing project going to surplus instead of the estimated costs of educating the children associated with that new housing was sky high, with the median surplus as a percentage of school tax revenue at 85.4 percent.

So, it turns out the dire predictions about negative impacts to schools, like most ghost stories, fade away in the light of day.

If we're going to have a new conversation about building housing, we need to start by realizing that the benefits don't just accrue to children moving into the community, but to the existing students, residents and taxpayers.

Timothy Foley is executive vice president and CEO of The Building and Realty Institute (BRI), the largest trade organization serving the industry in Westchester County.

Obituaries

Stanley Tociłowski

Stanley F. Tociłowski, 89, died peacefully in his sleep on June 16.

Stanley was born on Nov. 7, 1932 in Archibald, Pa., one of 10 surviving children of John and Anna (Dembroski) Tociłowski. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mary (Bertrand), and his children Maryanne Tociłowski, Steven and Debbie (Touhey) Tociłowski, Diane (Tociłowski) and Patrick Casey and Joseph and Karina (Gutierrez) Tociłowski, as well as four grandsons, Shawn and Michael Tociłowski and Daniel and Bryan Casey. He was predeceased by two children, Stanley and Suzanne.

Stanley left home at an early age to join the Army during the Korean conflict. He was stationed in France and was honorably discharged as a corporal. He lived with his sister in New York while he worked as a mechanic until he started driving a city bus.



Stanley Tociłowski

He met Mary, the love of his life, on his bus route and they moved to White Plains to start their family. Eventually they moved to Mahopac, where Stanley enjoyed driving a school bus for the Mahopac School District. Everyone knew "Stanley the bus driver." He

loved the children and was friendly to everyone, always willing to lend a hand to any friends or family.

After retiring, Stanley and Mary moved to Wilmington, N.C. where friends from Mahopac had relocated. They were parishioners at Immaculate Conception RC Church. Stanley enjoyed bowling, volunteering with the American Legion, gardening, cooking, fishing and taking care of his home and family. He was loved by many and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

There was a visitation for family and friends in Wilmington, and there will be a funeral Mass at St. John's Church in Mahopac on July 22 at 10 a.m. Interment will follow on July 23 at 10 a.m. at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Valhalla.

Jordan Schuessler

Jordan Hamilton Schuessler passed away peacefully on June 21 at the age of 96.

He was a lifelong resident of Pleasantville and a great source of local historical knowledge that he gladly shared for a book entitled "Images of America: Pleasantville."

Mr. Jordan "Moose" Schuessler, as his friends knew him, wore many hats in his lifetime.

He was quite passionate about sports, including Yankees baseball. He enjoyed years of coaching youths in Dad's Club Baseball. As an athlete, he boxed as a young man, was a lifeguard and an excellent swimmer (and loved ocean swimming). He played varsity football for the Pleasantville Panthers as well as semiprofessionally. He also played in a competitive softball league into his 70s.

He was extremely proud of his military service as a World War II combat veteran in the U.S. Army, serving in the 31st Infantry Division in the Philippines. Jordan was a Bronze Star recipient and was honorably

discharged at the rank of technical corporal in November 1946.

He was also very proud to serve as a volunteer firefighter, ex-captain and member of the Pioneer Hook & Ladder Company of the Pleasantville Volunteer Fire Department for nearly 60 years. He served the ladder company as secretary for many years and was well-respected for his work ethic and jovial sense of humor.

Professionally, Jordan worked as an aerospace engineer starting at General Precision Laboratories (GPL) in Pleasantville, and through many mergers, retired from Lockheed Martin. He was involved in many technical projects with NASA and the Department of Defense.

Jordan leaves a longtime loving wife, Martha; three sons, Glenn (Loretta), Stuart and Scott; and a granddaughter, Kimberly.

Interment was private. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Wounded Warrior Project would be appreciated.

Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

June 23: An officer responded to Barker Street at 12:41 a.m. to assist a man who was in his car and having difficulty breathing. Westchester EMS transported the man to Northern Westchester Hospital.

June 23: A woman who was shopping at TJ Maxx on East Main Street received a call from her credit card company to inquire about suspicious purchases on her credit card. The woman then discovered that her wallet was missing from her purse. An officer responded at 3:06 p.m. to take a report. The matter was turned over to detectives for additional investigation.

June 24: Officers responded to Carpenter Avenue at 11:36 a.m. on a report of a larceny that occurred in the past. A resident reported that a mattress topper and gold chain were removed from his room while he was away.

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

June 16: Amtrak police requested assistance at 1:42 p.m. at the Croton-Harmon train station for an unruly passenger on board. Patrols responded and the passenger was removed.

June 21: Police responded to the Gouveia House, a village-owned building located inside the grounds of Gouveia Park, where two windows and a sliding glass door were broken on different occasions. Three suspects were arrested. Charged with one count of third-degree burglary, a felony, were Noelle Keenan, 19, and Medea Pepper-Jones, 18, of both Croton-on-Hudson, and Tashi Burke-Tomaeno, 18, of El Cerrito, Calif.

Kent Police Department

June 22: Police received a 911 open line call from Nimham Road at 6:05 p.m. with an active dispute going on in the background. Upon the officers' arrival, two females were engaged in a verbal argument. The caller, Andrea Ramos, 46, of Carmel, reported that she was in the bathroom when Christine Calderon, 52, also a Carmel resident, came in and began yelling at her and would not allow her to leave the bathroom. Patrols were advised that a refrain from Order of Protection was issued by state Supreme Court in Putnam County. Calderon was taken into custody for second-degree criminal contempt and second-degree unlawful imprisonment. She was arraigned and will return to Kent Justice Court at a future date.

North Castle Police Department

June 17: Report of a 31-year-old man sustaining an ankle injury from his foot being run over by a car on MacDonald Avenue at 11:03 a.m. The responding officers report being at the scene in the nurse's office with the injured party. The call was transferred to 60 Control and the subject was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

June 17: A caller reported being involved in a motor vehicle accident with air bag deployment on Route 433 at 11:36 p.m. One party involved was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital. An officer

responded to the hospital to investigate for a possible DWI. The party was released from the hospital and transported to police headquarters for processing.

June 20: Report of a female party, described as wearing a black dress and purple Victoria Secret hoodie and carrying a brown purse, stealing groceries from the Stop & Shop on North Broadway at 4:59 p.m. Officers responded and reported that the party was still in the store and had not committed the larceny upon their arrival. Store security interviewed the stopped party and she was issued a trespass letter advising her that she would be arrested if she returned to the store.

Pleasantville Police Department

June 24: A traffic infraction on Bedford Road at 7:54 p.m. resulted in an arrest when police discovered over a pound of marijuana in the vehicle, a Class A misdemeanor. The driver was charged and released pending a court date.

June 25: A driver was arrested on Marble Avenue at 2:42 a.m. because of a suspicious driver's license. The driver made a desk appearance at the police station, was given a ticket and released pending a future court date.

June 26: Report of criminal mischief at 2:06 a.m. after a caller heard a group of youths congregating near Pleasantville High School. The youths were gone when police arrived. A basketball hoop was pulled out of the ground and destroyed. Detectives will review surveillance video with the school district in hopes of identifying who was involved.

Putnam County Sheriff's Department

June 21: Report of an accident at Route 9 and Fishkill Road in Philipstown at 2:22 p.m. A vehicle being operated by a 53-year-old Poughkeepsie woman was traveling northbound on Route 9 passing through a green light when another vehicle being operated by a 71-year-old Cold Spring woman, who was exiting from a gas station and heading west to Fishkill Road, pulled into her path. The driver of the second vehicle stated that when the vehicle in front of her proceeded, she assumed that the intersection was clear and did not see the other car approaching. Police said there is no traffic signal facing the gas station and traffic must proceed only when the intersection is clear. The driver of the first vehicle was transported by Garrison Ambulance Squad to Vassar Brothers Hospital and the driver of the other vehicle was transported to Hudson Valley Hospital by Philipstown EMS.

Yorktown Police Department

June 15: Klever Guartatanga-Leon, 40, of Mount Kisco, was charged with aggravated driving while intoxicated after being pulled over on Route 202 at midnight for following the vehicle ahead of him too closely and failing to maintain his lane.

Editor's note: The policy of providing names for people who have been arrested varies between each department.



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Coffee and Coffins: Local Business Owners Launch Death Café Meetings

By Em Stangarone

Beatrice Kern and Jessica Sheridan want to help people live fuller lives by talking about death over coffee, tea and cookies.

Their new monthly meetup is called Death Café, where local residents can have casual conversations about all issues related to the end of life in a safe, supportive environment while enjoying refreshments from Peekskill Coffee House.

“This group is for any and all people who want to talk about death to any capacity,” said Kern, who leads the group with Sheridan. “Whether they want to express fears of the unknown relating to death, talk to others who may have a terminally ill loved one or be terminally ill themselves, or perhaps are just having a lot of anxiety and want some existential questions answered.”

The Death Cafe is held at The Little Wolf Tattoo Collective’s new studio space in The Hat Factory in downtown Peekskill. The next meeting will be on Friday, July 8 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Death Cafe meetups are confidential, respectful and free of charge, with no agendas or judgments. It is not a support



EM STANGARONE PHOTO

Jessica Sheridan, left, and Beatrice Kern recently started a monthly meetup of Death Café in Peekskill, a group that discusses the often-difficult issues related to end of life, all over coffee and refreshments.

group or grief counseling, Kern and Sheridan noted, but rather a group that gives people, often strangers, the space they need to open up about one of life’s most difficult topics.

Death Cafe is a “social franchise” and nonprofit founded in London in 2011. Since then, over 14,000 Death Cafe groups have sprung up in more than 80 countries around the world.

Kern and Sheridan were inspired to start a local Death Cafe after seeing a lack of options

practitioner working out of Little Wolf. She began training as an end-of-life doula after working locally with hospice patients.

As death doulas, Kern and Sheridan said their work is to empower people to die with dignity.

“Many people do not know how to properly advocate for themselves at the end of life,” Sheridan said. “We believe that normalizing conversation around death helps people to speak up for themselves when it really matters the most.”

Their hope is that participants will leave a Death Cafe meetup more prepared to have these difficult conversations with family and friends, alleviating some of the pain and fear that come with death as a result of not talking about it.

“Deathcare is community care,” Sheridan explained. “Showing up for each other is really so much of what this work is about.”

The duo’s first Death Cafe meetup earlier in June was a trial run, a small gathering of about five participants, they said. By the end of the meeting the room felt lighter.

“Once we all sat down and grabbed some coffee, the conversation became effortless,” Kern said. “It turned out everyone had quite a lot on their minds.”

“It was interesting and made

me really think,” said participant who wishes to remain anonymous. “(Death is) not a subject that you just talk about with your family. A lot of people don’t ever talk about it with their families.”

Kern and Sheridan are hoping for about five to 15 participants for each meetup going forward.

The Little Wolf Collective started two years ago as a private tattoo studio and has grown to include a variety of health and wellness offerings. This includes an in-house healer, yoga instructor, reiki and aromatherapy as well as regular gatherings and workshops such as basketry weaving.

The collective hopes to continue expanding its services to the community in its new Peekskill location.

Those wishing to learn more about the Death Cafe and upcoming meetups may visit www.thelittlewolfcollective.com. The Little Wolf Tattoo Collective is located at 1000 N. Division St., Suite 2A, in Peekskill. Participants are encouraged to reach out through the website or on Instagram (@deathcafe.littlewolf) before attending meetings. Based on demand, Kern and Sheridan plan to also offer virtual Death Cafe meetups in the future.

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Westlake Graduate Finishes K-12 Schooling Without an Absence

By Martin Wilbur

Think of how many times as a kid that got you sick or had the sniffles that required you to miss a day or two from school.

That never happened to new Westlake High School graduate Kathleen Bennett.

Bennett graduated with a perfect attendance record from the day she entered kindergarten until she walked across the stage last Friday to receive her high school diploma.

"I don't really get sick," Bennett said. "I might get a little cough but that isn't like a sickness really."

While that may seem incredible, think about this for a moment: Bennett isn't even the first member of her family to complete the feat. Her older brother, Brian, also went through 13 years at the Mount Pleasant School District without missing a single day. On top of that, their mother, Margaret, had perfect attendance in high school.

Margaret Bennett said to her the secret is making sure she and her family live healthfully – eating well with organic foods, getting proper rest, plenty of fresh air and exercise and taking multivitamins every day.

There also wasn't a time when her children begged to stay home for one reason or another.

"They were very into going to school,"



Kathleen Bennett, with diploma in hand, completed her schooling in the Mount Pleasant School District without missing one day over 13 years.

she said. "They always wanted to go to school and thank God they never got sick during school time."

While Kathleen Bennett has received accolades for her perfect attendance, that certainly isn't her only key accomplishment during her years at Mount Pleasant schools. She graduated Magna Cum Laude,

and was on the honor roll all four years in high school. Kathleen was also a member of the National Honor Society, National Social Studies Society, National Math Society and was on the Westlake Service Club Committee and Westlake Spanish Club Committee.

On June 21, she was honored by

County Legislator Margaret Cunzio with a proclamation and got her name on the County Center's electronic message board.

Kathleen said she wasn't particularly motivated by having her brother finish his school career without missing a day of class, but rather it was something that just happened. She also couldn't remember a day where she felt as though her streak might be in jeopardy.

But by the time she got to high school, there was another type of motivation to make sure she always went to class.

"Especially in high school, if I would miss (time) in high school you miss a lot, so I would just make myself go in," Kathleen said.

Her mother said it's a significant accomplishment and represents more than just showing up every day.

"The commitment and perseverance shown by a student are qualities that will serve them well throughout their lives," Margaret Bennett said. "It is not an easy goal, but nice to be recognized for doing well in school."

Kathleen will be going to Iona in the fall where she plans to study education and is thinking about a career as an elementary school teacher. If she decides that's what she would like to do, whatever school district might hire her probably won't need a substitute for her classroom.

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Thursday, September 8
Lakeland H.S., 6:30 PM

Public forums will also be streamed on LocalLive.tv

Chappaqua Library Director Resigns After 20 Months on Job

By Martin Wilbur

The Chappaqua Library Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Director Andrew Farber last Tuesday, the latest upheaval for the library in the past three months.

Farber is scheduled to leave his post this Friday and will be heading to take a librarian's position at the Greenburgh Public Library, he

told The Examiner last week. He has served in Chappaqua since October 2020.

"It was not the right fit for me," said Farber, who declined to comment further regarding his decision.

He arrived in Chappaqua after serving for the five previous years as the director of the Somers Library.

Library Board President Elizabeth

Haymson said the board is working with Farber in his remaining time to get the library on the county's Civil Service list to begin the process of finding a permanent replacement.

"We're just in the beginning stages of figuring out our plan and getting our paperwork in order," Haymson said last week.

It was unclear who the board might tap to serve as an interim director.

It appeared that Farber is leaving on good terms, as Haymson thanked him for his time in Chappaqua.

"We did want to as a board thank you and acknowledge that you came in during a time when we were mid-pandemic and we had an outgoing director who had had a very long tenure and you came in and really worked hard here and we appreciate that," she said.

Adult Services Librarian Amy Berger said everyone at the library is sad to bid Farber farewell.

"His impact for such a short time was substantial and he created an open and kind atmosphere and let everyone help work together to improve the services that we provide and this is a great loss for us," Berger said.

In April, two library trustees, Lane Shea and Nishat Hydari, abruptly resigned from the board without explanation, sparking speculation about the changes in the community. They have been replaced by Jennifer Fahey and Pam Moskowitz, who won as write-in candidates after no one submitted petitions for the May 17 elections.

While the circumstances around those

resignations remain somewhat unclear, Shea's Apr. 3 letter, obtained by The Examiner, stating that she would be stepping down sheds some clues.

"I am resigning as I believe this Board continues to try and exceed its mandate," Shea's letter stated. "There appears to be a voting majority block that is willing to pursue matter that are inconsistent with my principals (sic). I believe certain actions and communications from Board members have created potential liability for the Board and the Library, and I am unwilling to be a participant."

Shortly after her resignation she had declined to answer questions about her decision.

Hydari's letter offers no explanation, but on Apr. 28 the library board responded to both former trustees with identical letters expressing disappointment that they chose to resign before some upcoming projects and before a special Apr. 12 meeting.

"We believe that during the course of the April 12th Special Session counsel would have reassured you that their ongoing advice and our concurrent oversight are in keeping with the highest Library Board standards," the twin letters stated. "Furthermore, as you know from your tenure, much of the board's oversight is limited and scripted by Civil Service rules and NY State laws. Never did the Board nor would we have done anything to impugn our high standards as fiduciaries of the Chappaqua Library."

Quite a Moment

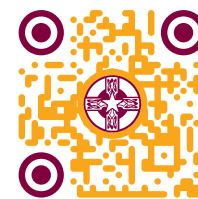


Chappaqua Troop 1 celebrated seven new Eagle Scouts last week, with each scout earning a state Assembly citation from Assemblyman Chris Burdick, left. Honored on June 23 at Gedney Park, a celebration that also featured a barbecue, were Luke Chrzanowski, Jeremy Damon, Scott Renza, John Jeffrey, Thomas Macchetto, Nicholas Andreshak and Nicholas Higgins. There have now been 124 Eagle Scouts in the troop's nearly 100-year history.



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Harckham Secures Grant for New Croton-on-Hudson Fireboat

State Sen. Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) announced last week that he secured a \$100,000 state grant to help the Croton-on-Hudson Fire Department purchase a new fireboat to replace an existing vessel in its marine operations.

The previous vessel was retired last summer after 30 years of service.

"As more residents take to area waterways for recreation, the need for greater protection capabilities grows as well," Harckham said. "The Croton Fire Department responds to emergencies both inland and on the Hudson River all year long, and so I was pleased to

be able to help them attain state funding for the new fireboat, which will protect the public while easing the burden on the local taxpayers as well."

The Croton-on-Hudson Fire Department operates three marine units: a fireboat and two inflatable rafts, one of which operates with an outboard motor. The rafts patrol and respond to emergencies on the Croton River and in the Croton Reservoir.

The larger fireboat, equipped with a powerful water cannon to fight onboard boat fires and blazes along the shoreline, is used on the Hudson River, where the department

will respond to incidents stretching from the Bear Mountain Bridge to the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge.

"With more than four miles of a river to protect at its widest point, and incidents involving motorboats, sailboats and personal watercrafts on the rise, we need a vessel that can handle every emergency imaginable," said John M. Munson, chief of the Croton-on-Hudson Fire Department.

Munson noted that the Croton fireboat normally responds to about 20 serious incidents on the Hudson each year, and regularly joins fire departments

in communities along the river and the Westchester County Public Safety Department on mutual aid calls.

The expected cost for the new fireboat is expected to be \$550,000, with the village covering the total excluding the state grant.

The awarded grant funding was secured within the State and Municipal Facilities Program (SAM), which is among the grant programs administered by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) to support community and economic development.

Fire Safety Tips to Adhere to During Fourth of July Celebrations

As New Yorkers gather with their friends and families in the summer weather, many will be hosting barbecues and parties for this upcoming Fourth of July. These holiday celebrations can pose serious safety hazards due to a large increase in firework use.

The Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) offers some key safety tips for your friends and family to follow this upcoming Fourth of July.

"The warmer weather will certainly encourage New Yorkers to engage in various Independence Day activities to kick off summer," said FASNY President John P. Farrell. "Home fire safety doesn't stop at the door – there are still many fire risks outside the home to keep in mind. We want all residents and their families to stay safe as

they celebrate this upcoming Fourth of July."

July 4 celebrations can cause a great number of emergencies; most fireworks-related injuries (about 66 percent) occurred in the month surrounding the July 4 holiday (from June 21, 2020 to July 21, 2020). According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), brush, grass or forest fires accounted for three of every five reported fires started by fireworks from 2014 to 2018.

In all, nine of every 10 of the fireworks fires in that time frame were outdoor fires. The average amount of fires caused by fireworks amounts to \$43 million worth of property damage annually.

Additionally, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) 2020 reported that fireworks caused an estimated 10,000

injuries and 19,500 fires annually. Between June and July 2019, 7,300 firework-related injuries were treated in hospital emergency rooms with sparklers accounting for almost one-quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries. It is important to remember that in many cases, the individual injured was not always the individual using the fireworks.

"Rather than take the risk of having you or a loved one get hurt, FASNY is urging New Yorkers to either attend a fireworks display in their town or county—or to watch a professional show that will be televised or live-streamed," said President John P. Farrell.

Keep everyone safe by following the important tips below:

- Attend a local, professional fireworks show

- Livestream a virtual fireworks show
- Use glow sticks instead of sparklers
- Resist the temptation to get close to the firing site. The best view of a professional fireworks display is from a quarter-mile or more away
- Do not possess or shoot off fireworks on your own. Besides risking injury to yourself and the crowd watching the demonstration, you will be breaking the law.
- Fireworks, with the exception of handheld and ground-based sparklers, are illegal in New York State
- Do not pick up or attempt to re-light used or "dud" fireworks; they may still cause serious burns or injury.



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1# Mac Salad
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The Whole Nine

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5-4 oz 80/20 Burgers
15 Brioche Rolls
Lettuce, Tomato, Pickle
Caramelized Onions
Choice of Cheese
½ Tray House Salad
Dressing
1 ½ # Macaroni Salad
1 ½ # Potato Salad
1 ½ # Betty's Baked Beans
1 Full Rack St. Louis Ribs
Cherry Pepsi BBQ Sauce
½ Tray Street Corn
\$200

A La Carte

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4-Steak Burgers **\$18**
1-80/20 Burger **\$3**
4-80/20 Burgers **\$8**
1-Turkey Burger **\$3**
4-Turkey Burgers **\$8**
1 St. Louis Rack Ribs **\$40**
1 ½ # Mac Salad **\$12**
1 ½ # Potato Salad **\$12**
1 ½# Betty's Beans **\$18**
¼ Tray Street Corn **\$12**
½ Tray Street Corn **\$20**
½ Tray House Salad **\$18**
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1 Lettuce, Tomato, Onion & Pickle **\$1.25**
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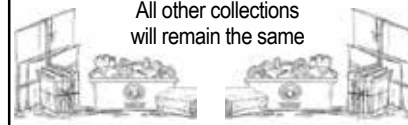
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Tuesday, July 5th

Tuesday collections will be picked up on

Wednesday, July 6th

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Monday

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Tuesday, July 5th

Tuesday

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Wednesday, July 6th

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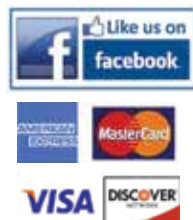
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Exterior House Colors: The Traditional and the Wild

One way that I really enjoy serving my community is as a member of my town's Advisory Board on Architecture and Community Appearance (ABACA).

All sorts of projects come to our attention for review and recommendations, from solar roof panels to exterior colors for housing developments. More than seeking to be highly restrictive, we aim to help and advise homeowners and their suppliers to better implement their projects.

One of my favorite assignments is to advise builders on their exterior house colors. We seek variety of color and appropriateness, trying to avoid next-door duplication. That sometimes involves problems when more than one buyer wants the same color as their next-door neighbors. Usually, it works out.

My own experience with choosing exterior colors has been, well, colorful. My first home was in the historic, landmarked neighborhood of Brooklyn Heights. I loved living there, although I could never afford it today. My home there that I sold for \$90,000 in 1972, when I moved to Westchester, is now valued at \$5 million. I sometimes kick myself for not holding on to that property.



By Bill Primavera

Certainly, appreciation of the first home I bought in Westchester has not been as spectacular over that time. (Stop it, I say to myself! I'm exactly where I was meant to be and have thoroughly enjoyed suburban living as a lifestyle choice.)

At any rate, when I bought that four-story city home, it was painted a dull pale grey. When it was time to repaint the place, I looked at the color charts and selected a color called bark, which was a mauve. It was the most colorful building in the neighborhood and created some comment among neighbors, all positive.

When it was time to move to Westchester, we picked a house that was painted a chocolate brown. After our purchase, we noticed, driving around town, that there were a number of other homes painted the same color. We considered that odd. Later we learned that a woman who had served for many years on that same advisory committee on which I now serve was greatly enamored with brown and recommended it whenever she could. It was a movement of some kind.

As soon as I could afford it, however, I had the house repainted in a beautiful color we called "griege," a shade somewhere



between grey and beige. Combined with black shutters, it served us well for a number of years until the color began to oxidize without my even realizing it. I caught on, however, when I started receiving compliments on the lovely green shade of my home.

While my house was changing colors without my consent, there was a large house in a development one block from me that suddenly was brought to the attention of the neighborhood when its owner painted it a very vibrant color of marigold yellow. It was so bright that it made me want to shield my eyes. Rumors in the neighborhood surmised that it was painted that color as a spite job toward neighbors who would have to look at it.

When I met those neighbors when I was doing a prior article on house colors, I asked them if indeed it was done as a spite job. "Oh, no," exclaimed the woman owner,

"I just love the color!"

Another house that attracted attention in my neighborhood was known as the "purple house." Its siding was painted lavender and its shutters bright purple. What really blew me away was the owners' achievement of locating lavender gravel for their driveway. When I was introduced to the owner of that house in our local diner, I found that she was completely attired in lavender, down to the color of her eyeglass frames.

When I bought an antique house built in 1797, I very much wanted to know its original house color so I could return to it. I was afforded that opportunity when I was restoring the house and found under its asbestos siding that the original color was red, no doubt achieved in the 18th century by mixing milk with oxblood. But I then decided that I didn't want to live in a red house, so there went that aspiration.

Today, trends for house colors veer more toward neutral warm tones, but surprisingly, white is still the most popular choice. I guess if it's always been good enough for the President, it should serve the rest of us well.

Bill Primavera is associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest-running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com). To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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Breaking the Stained-Glass Ceiling

When will women be seen as equal in the eyes of the Catholic Church? A case to give nuns parity with priests.



By Erin Maher

You are reading this week's print excerpt of an article from our Examiner+ newsmagazine-style email newsletter. To read the entire article and others like it, subscribe at www.examiner-plus.com to receive all of our bonus content.

A few years ago, on Ash Wednesday, I found myself sitting in Church, just like millions of other Catholics worldwide, waiting to receive ashes. Before mass began, the priest officiating the service called for volunteers from the congregation to help with collections and dispensing the Eucharist, which is a common ask at most masses.

After service, the priest thanked those that helped during mass; "I'd like to thank

the women that volunteered today," said the priest. "Women get things done."

The priest's remark made me laugh and wonder if women get things done, then why isn't that reflected in the eyes and structure of the Catholic Church?

For the non-Catholics, and the lapsed who may need a refresher: nuns and priests do not have equality in responsibility or power in the Church. Most notably, nuns cannot celebrate mass, read the gospel at Church (except in the absence of a priest), nor can they administer sacraments. But even greater than that, they are not part of the church hierarchy, with bishops, cardinals, and of course, the Pope making major church-wide decisions without input from a nun or female. Frankly, as a female Catholic, I'm tired of the disparity.

As a cradle Catholic, I attended parochial school from kindergarten through eighth grade. My time in school was overwhelmingly positive despite the hackneyed jokes like being called a "Catholic School Survivor." I think back on my time there fondly. Except for the time in seventh grade when I was accused of blasphemy. Hey, it happens to the best of us.

The greatest lesson instilled in me during my time there was the importance

of altruism and helping others when possible. I learned this through the examples set forth by my teachers, most of whom were women, strong women with great convictions who lived this every day of their lives.

"We women may not be able to read the gospel from the pulpit, but we can certainly read between the lines"

My parish wasn't alone in having a primarily women-dominant workforce. Most of these roles are filled by women, from rectory administrators to religious education teachers, to choir directors and beyond. Though we may not be saying mass on the altar, women are the stalwart partisans that keep congregations running. We are already doing much of the work behind the scenes. Why not promote and make us more visible leaders, fulfilling duties we've already been doing?

Historically, the imbalance of genders is nothing new; it's a long-established precedent set and followed for centuries. But that doesn't mean there haven't been those who have challenged this precedent.



GETTY IMAGES

The Pontifical Biblical Commission, a body established by Pope Leo XIII, voted in 1976 in favor that there is nothing in scripture alone that prevents the ordination of women. Further, the commission noted that it would not necessarily violate Christ's intentions if the Church decided ...

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Memorial Service for French Soldiers Sunday at Old Saint Peter's Church

This Sunday, July 3 at 3 p.m., the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society will hold its annual memorial service for the eight French soldiers who died at the site in Van Cortlandtville during the Revolutionary War. The event will take place at Old Saint Peter's Church on Oregon Road and Locust Avenue in Cortlandt.

Continuing a tradition that began in 2001, the society's Past President Jeff Canning will lead the 20-minute service, which will include a background talk, a musket salute by uniformed re-enactors, a bilingual prayer and a mourn arms ceremony.

French forces used Old Saint Peter's as a military hospital in 1781 and 1782 when they

were in the area before and after the victory of Generals Washington and Rochambeau over the British in Yorktown, Va. in October 1781. Eight of the French soldiers died of undetermined causes and seven are buried in unmarked graves near the church in the Old Cemetery. The body of the eighth, an officer who was a member of the provincial French nobility, was eventually returned to France for burial.

The service will be followed by light refreshments and early supper hosted by Old Saint Peter's Committee at the neighboring Little Red Schoolhouse at 297 Locust Ave. in Cortlandt Manor, the headquarters of the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society. Off-



CAROL A. REIF PHOTO

Uniformed re-enactors fire a musket salute during the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society's 2021 Memorial Service for the French soldiers next to Old Saint Peter's Church. The soldiers died during the Revolutionary War.

Fourth of July Festivities Planned for Peekskill, Ossining

Residents looking to celebrate the Fourth of July locally have several events to chose from in Peekskill and Ossining.

On Friday, July 1, the Peekskill Volunteer Firefighters Association will be hosting a parade, starting at 7 p.m., followed by an award-winning Laser Light Show at the Riverfront Green.

The parade starts at Broad Street and Park Street at the Central Fire House and ends on Water Street in the area of Central Avenue.

In Ossining, also on July 1, the

summer RiverJam kicks off at Louis Engel Waterfront Park with an opening concert featuring Pablito Y Su Latin Show, along with fireworks. There will also be food trucks and craft beer.

On Sunday, July 3, the City of Peekskill and Volunteer Firefighters Association will be hosting a fireworks display at nightfall at the Riverfront Green.

On Monday, July 4, the city's Recreation Department will be hosting a free concert at Riverfront Green from 7 to 9 p.m., featuring Gentlemen of Soul.

street parking is available in the cemetery, or atop the driveway of the schoolhouse on the north end of Locust Avenue, within short walking distance through the grounds.

For information about the Van Cortlandtville Society, visit www.vancort.net. For more information about the role of the French forces in the struggle for American independence, visit www.w3r-us.com.

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Your Favorite Wine During the Summer: Can it Be a Red?



By Nick Antonaccio

I run into a personal wine dilemma every summer. As a general rule, I prefer red wine for my outdoor adventures, but wilting summer temperatures preclude me from enjoying my favorites from home

or wine shop shelves.

Most red wines at these "room temperatures" are invariably off-putting. The alcohol is exaggerated and any minor sweetness comes to the forefront. To my palate, the wine tastes cooked. It is incompatible with most light summer foods, which pair so well with chilled white wine and the increasingly popular rosés. But chilling red wines is looked upon with disdain by most wine lovers.

What's a fellow to do? I really like red wine in the summer.

Of course, I can be coaxed to drink chilled whites and rosés (and the occasional microbrew). I've endeavored to drink red wines at weekend barbecues, beach parties and other outdoor gatherings. Invariably the wines are served at the ambient outdoor temperature and I quickly switch to chilled whites and rosés.

I enjoy these wines, but I really like red wine in the summer.

Rosé is becoming the go-to wine for me in the summertime. Just as white shoes, pants and dresses become acceptable attire after Memorial Day, rosés emerge on wine shop shelves in late May. Provence has been the epicenter of all things rosé for centuries, but Italy, Spain and nearly every other wine region are becoming worthy contenders. Excellent choices abound.

But I really like red wine in the summer.

I also enjoy thirst-quenching, chilled white wines on hot summer days, especially with light summer food. A Sauvignon Blanc from the Loire Valley is the front-line of summer thirst quenchers: bright, crisp, refreshing minerality, with just enough acidity to chill-out. Add bubbles to a white or rosé wine and you have a versatile summer selection to quaff, especially Spanish Cavas and a number of the smaller Champagne producers.

I enjoy these wines also, but I really like red wine in the summer.

Not that I haven't tried to solve my dilemma. I've followed the traditional wine chilling advice: place a bottle of wine in the fridge for 20 minutes and voila, the ideal temperature is achieved. I've tried a few other tricks I've discovered in my travels, including adding frozen grapes or plastic enclosed ice cubes to



a glass of wine for a quick chill without diluting the wine.

The problem with these failed solutions is simple. My favorite red wines don't maintain their aromas and flavors when chilled to white wine temperatures. Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Barolo and Bordeaux blends lose their bouquet and complexity, and worse, tend to intensify their tannin levels while subduing their fruit. Not very enticing.

What's a fellow to do? I really like red wine in the summer.

After abstaining from red wines in the summertime for a number of years, I finally had an epiphany. Not all red wines resist chilling. The aroma and flavor profile of wines produced from select grapes present their best expression when slightly chilled. Why try to change an immutable law of science when nature has solved the dilemma for me?

Wines that are light-bodied, dry with a slight touch of fruit, a healthy level of

acidity and minor, if any, tannins are prime candidates for chilling

With these guidelines burnished in my memory, I chill select wines with impunity. At the top of the leaderboard is Beaujolais. More acidic than fruity, with a relatively low alcohol level, its bouquet is enhanced at 50 degrees. Pair it with summer greens or pasta salads or sip it with turkey or tuna burgers, even a cheeseburger with caramelized onions.

Other adaptable red wines are very location specific, including Central Coast Pinot Noir, French and Spanish Grenache, French Cabernet Franc, Italian Dolcetto, even a few Chianti Classicos. Looking to experiment with new wines? Try Austrian red wines; Zweiglet and Blaufränkisch fit the born-to-be-chilled profile.

Ah, I enjoy these wines. I really like red wine in the summer.

Speaking of summer, I'll be away the next two weeks for a COVID-delayed family vacation during these pandemic-lite times. This column will resume when I return.

Nick Antonaccio is a 45-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years, he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member and program director of the Wine Media Guild of wine journalists. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.

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White Plains' Serious Fun Arts Fest Names Headliner, Street Artists

The Serious Fun Arts Fest will welcome New York City-based band Sammy Rae & The Friends as its headliner for an outdoor concert on Oct. 16.

The five-day festival in downtown White Plains will brighten the city with activities ranging from concerts to live mural painting, a public art walking tour and dancing in the streets. There will be sculpture, performance art, massive public art unveilings by renowned artists, fun family artmaking and more throughout downtown.

"Sammy Rae is an electrifying artist who is selling out concert venues in New York City and throughout the East Coast. Her band channels a kaleidoscope of influences ranging from classic rock to soul in high-energy performances," said ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam. "We are excited to bring one of New York City's hottest up-and-coming bands to White Plains."

The Serious Fun Arts Fest celebrates monumental new works of public art, including:

- A two-story reflective stainless-steel tear drop sculpture by Bulgarian artist Georgi Minchev.
- A nine-story vibrant fabric installation by internationally renowned artist Amanda Browder.



Sammy Rae & The Friends, a New York City band, will be the headline performers for the five-day Serious Fun Arts Fest in October.

- A skyscraper-high landmark mural by a celebrity of the street art scene.
- Three sculpture installations by Hudson Valley artists.
- Two major art installations by Barbara Takanaga at the White Plains Station.
- A block-long mural at the construction

site of the future Hamilton Green.

"This festival combines public art projects that have been completed and many new ones in a five-day event that will attract new visitors and position White Plains as a creative force in the county well into the future," said White Plains Mayor

Tom Roach.

The timing of the festival capitalizes on the fall foliage period when consumers seek accessible, exciting destinations for long weekends. The event will be a perfect outing for locals and visitors coming to White Plains by bus, train or car and traveling up the Hudson Valley.

Successful "mural fests" in urban settings like Jersey City, Miami and Brooklyn inspired the strategy behind the Serious Fun Arts Fest.

The festival marks ArtsWestchester's latest investment in a public art program that since 2020 has provided artists with more than \$700,000 in grants and commissions and delivered two dozen new works throughout Westchester County.

The Serious Fun Arts Fest is funded in part by a Market New York grant from I LOVE NY/New York State's Division of Tourism through the state's Regional Economic Development Council initiative. Major support is also provided by Montefiore Einstein, the festival's presenting sponsor.

For early bird tickets for Sammy Rae & The Friends' Oct. 16 concert, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sammy-rae-the-friends-at-serious-fun-arts-fest-white-plains-ny-tickets-366024337647>.

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Exploring the Sky During the Carefree Days of Summer

The summer solstice – the first day of summer – was about a week ago. This means the first lunar cycle of summer is about to start with today's new moon (June 28).

There's an incredible amount we can learn and enjoy by watching the moon's comings and goings, and this time of year is one of the best times to start.

Here's a fun project. Fortunately, we're still close enough to the solstice for this to work, so let's get to it.

We think of the summer solstice as the day that has the most daylight of the year, but there's always the same amount of time in a day, a full rotation of Earth. No matter what time of year it is, it's always about 24 hours. For the summer solstice to have the most daylight, the sun needs to be above the horizon longer than, say, in December, near the shortest day.

To account for these changes from longest to shortest, we see the sun take longer and shorter paths across the sky.

The solstice also marks the highest – and longest – path across the sky that we see the sun take. At noon (or actually 1 p.m., thanks to daylight

savings time), when the sun is due south and at its highest point, we'll see it almost at the very top of the dome.

Since the days are at their longest, the nights must be at their shortest. This means the moon has less time to make it across the sky during its nighttime phases. The full moons of June and July, near the summer solstice, are when its path is its shortest for the year.

As July starts, let's head out to find the moon. Anytime is fine, but my vote is to start around July 4. That's when the moon is just before first quarter and starts to be up late enough to see deep into the evening. As we move toward the full moon on July 13, notice how close to the

horizon it is when it reaches due south.

Then, as day comes, find the noontime sun and see how high it crosses the sky.

If you need any more proof that summer is fleeting, here it is – the solstice isn't just the start of summer, but it's also the end of the part of the year when the days get longer. From that moment on, there's less and less daylight, almost imperceptibly at first, but then it accelerates as we move through July and into August. Every cannonball we do at the pool, every s'more we eat while camping leaves us with a little less daylight than the day before.



By Scott Levine

Little by little as the weeks and months go on and the days begin to shorten, we'll see that gap between the sun and moon close. By September and the start of fall, they'll be almost exactly the same. Come December, they'll have switched; the moon will cross high overhead, while the sun mopes across the southern

horizon.

It's easy to say nothing happens in the sky, but there's magic every day and night of the year, and we get to watch it happen together.

I hope you'll look up this month. Clear skies, everyone!

Scott Levine (astroscott@yahoo.com) is an astronomy writer and speaker from Croton-on-Hudson. He is also a member of the Westchester Amateur Astronomers, who are dedicated to astronomy outreach in our area. For information about the club including membership, newsletters, upcoming meetings and lectures at Pace University and star parties at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, visit westchesterastronomers.org.



First Quarter
July 6



Full Moon
July 13



Last Quarter
July 20



New Moon
July 28

The phases of the moon for July.

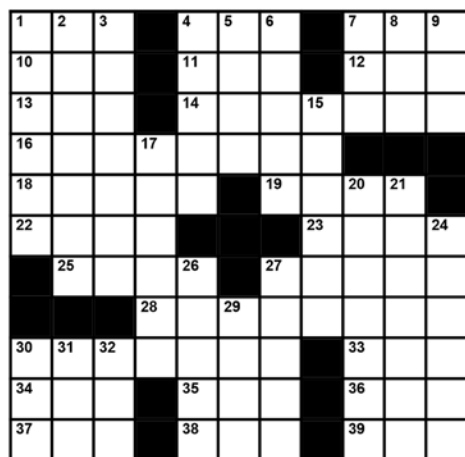
Crossword

Across

1. D.J.'s stack
4. Pledge
7. Jazzman Montgomery
10. Sleep phase, for short
11. Former record label
12. Bumble ____
13. Copy
14. Notre Dame's state
16. Belonging to "The Nanny" star or Chappaqua frozen yogurt parlor ____ Goodie Shop
18. Poi ingredients
19. Vermin
22. Cinematographer Nykvist
23. Camera part
25. Dutch cheese
27. Egyptian city
28. ____ Dillon or Yorktown alarm specialists
30. Stretch of turbulent water, 2 words
33. Jeer
34. Compass direction, abbr.
35. South of Tenn., abbr.
36. Civil Rights Memorial designer
37. Dentist qualification, abbr.
38. Judge's highest rating, on "Dancing with the Stars"
39. U.S. lang., abbr.

Down

1. Arts and ____
2. Corrupt



3. Attacked politically
4. Blood vessels
5. All, prefix
6. Dentist's request
7. Ring org., abbr.
8. Bard's nightfall, abbr.
9. Vacation locale, with "the"
15. Bible book with the line "For unto us a child is born"
17. A Horse With ____, 2 words
20. Subject to judicial examination
21. Porterhouse's cousin
24. "Toodles!" - 2 words
26. French Revolution leader
27. House shower, 2 words
29. Antagonize
30. One of the Kennedys
31. Neither Rep. nor Dem.
32. ____ Plaines, Ill.

Answers on page 25

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Mahopac's Troop 371 Celebrates Seven New Eagle Scouts

Boy Scouts Zack Couzens, Matthew Cropsey, Matthew DePaso, Michael Horan, David Kaprielian, Stephen Nealon and Bryant Pappas of Troop 371 in Mahopac were honored and awarded the rank of Eagle Scout – scouting's highest honor – at a Court of Honor held on June 9 at Four Brother's Restaurant in Mahopac.

The scouts, along with scouts Ryan Kick and Liam Mulholland, who were unable to attend, all earned their Eagle rank in 2021, but because of COVID-19, their official ceremony was delayed until this year.

In order to achieve the rank of Eagle, scouts must earn at least 21 merit badges, including 13 in required areas; hold positions of responsibility in the troop while participating in troop meetings and activities; and plan and lead service projects in their community. Only about 6 percent of scouts reach Eagle rank nationwide.

The troop's scouts proposed, organized and executed service projects for Northern Westchester Hospital, Sycamore Park, the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Saint John's RC Church and Mahopac VFW Post 5491. They worked with these organizations, researched their projects and prepared proposals for presentation to the Scout District Committee. Once approved, they planned all aspects of their

projects, including meetings, budgeting and fundraising, drawings and sketches, obtaining materials, recruiting helpers and organizing work sessions.

Zack Couzens

Couzens built and filled 27 raised flower beds to grow produce for Northern Westchester Hospital. The hospital planted and grew produce in them to provide fresh food for food-insecure patients and organizations that help the food-insecure in the local area. Couzens dedicated his project to Northern Westchester Hospital because they took care of both of his parents when they were hospitalized there with COVID-19 in March 2020.

He graduated from the Hackley School in 2021 and is attending Boston College, where he is majoring in political science.

Matthew Cropsey

Cropsey's project consisted of demolition, designing, building and installing a new ramp for the Icehouse at Sycamore Park, and re-mulching the trail to the Icehouse. The existing ramp was rotted and dangerous. Replacing it allows the park to use the space for storage or as a place to teach children during day camp.

Cropsey graduated from Mahopac High School last year and is currently a student at Dutchess Community College. He is also pursuing career options at



Carmel Supervisor Michael Cazzari and Councilman Frank Lombardi congratulate new Eagle Scouts at a Court of Honor on June 9. Pictured, from left, are Lombardi, Bryant Pappas, Matthew Cropsey, Zack Couzens, Michael Horan, David Kaprielian, Stephen Nealon, Matthew DePaso and Cazzari.

Architectural Visions in Mahopac, where he is advancing his hands-on learning. He hopes to transfer to a larger university soon to pursue a degree in architecture.

Matthew DePaso

DePaso designed and built a tree bench for Sycamore Park, where he attended day camp and later worked as a counselor. His bench has six sides to evenly wrap it around the tree. The bench is located by the beach and playground and is a fun and useful addition to a park that played a major role in his childhood.

DePaso is a Mahopac High School graduate and is attending Manhattanville College, where he is studying finance.

Michael Horan

Horan's project was the restoration of the 25-year-old bocce ball court at Sycamore Park. The court had become unusable, and he and his volunteers rebuilt the framing, resurfaced the court and replaced the scoreboard, enabling visitors to enjoy playing bocce once again.

Also a Mahopac graduate, Horan is studying chemical engineering at the University of Delaware.

David Kaprielian

Kaprielian made improvements to the memorial garden and garden prayer path at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Granite Springs, which he

has attended all his life. He constructed hand-made signs for the prayer stations, designed and had built a large sign for the memorial garden and he and his team built boxes for prayer leaflets, and leveled and re-mulched the garden and path.

Kaprielian, another Mahopac High School graduate, is a mechanical engineering student at Cornell University.

Stephen Nealon

Nealon wanted to help the community by increasing awareness of the food pantry at St. John's Catholic Church in Mahopac, so he had a sign designed and made and they installed it and revitalized the garden around it, re-mulching and replacing plants. The Mahopac High School graduate is a history major at the University at Albany.

Bryant Pappas

The project undertaken by Pappas consisted of designing, building, and installing a custom wood and rope fence on the waterfront of Mahopac VFW Post 5491, as well as the implementation of a sandpit cover. The fence improves safety by preventing accidental falls, and the sandpit cover keeps visiting waterfowl out of the sandpit so it stays clean.

Pappas graduated from Fordham Preparatory School last year and will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

Rock n' Rescue Saves Over 100 Animals From Kentucky Shelter

Rock n' Rescue announced Monday that it saved 101 animals over the past weekend, including 83 cats, four dogs, three rabbits and 11 rats. The animals ranged in age from less than two months up to 13 years old.

According to industry statistics, more than 3.1 million dogs and 3.2 million cats are admitted to shelters each year. About 1.5 million of these animals end up being euthanized. Rock n' Rescue, a South Salem-based animal rescue, works to ensure they can save as many animals as possible.

The driver from the shelter left Kentucky on Friday. Veterinarians at the shelter microchip, vaccinate and fix most of the animals before they are placed in transport. Some are too small and will be spayed or neutered here.

In order to save the animals, Rock n' Rescue sent a driver to Allentown, Pa. on Saturday. The driver transported all 101 animals to South Salem. Between Saturday and Sunday, 34 of the rescued animals were adopted. Of the remaining 67, 61 of them went to foster homes throughout the area for socialization and care. The other six have adoptions scheduled over the next few days.

The animals in foster care will be adopted over the next four to six weeks.

"We see firsthand how quickly a shelter can fill up and it's heartbreaking," said

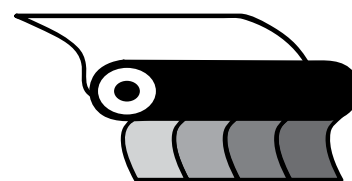
Juli Cialone, Rock n' Rescue's executive director. "They are sweet and innocent little animals that no one gave a chance for life. We are just doing our part to rescue as many as we can, so we can rescue more people. We work tirelessly to care for pets while they're awaiting their forever home. We believe these animals help save their adopters as much as the adopters are saving them. There's nothing more rewarding than helping families find their pets that will bring them happiness, comfort and joy for years to come."

To learn more about Rock n' Rescue, visit <https://rnrpets.org>. You can also find Rock n' Rescue on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Crossword Answers



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continued from page 24

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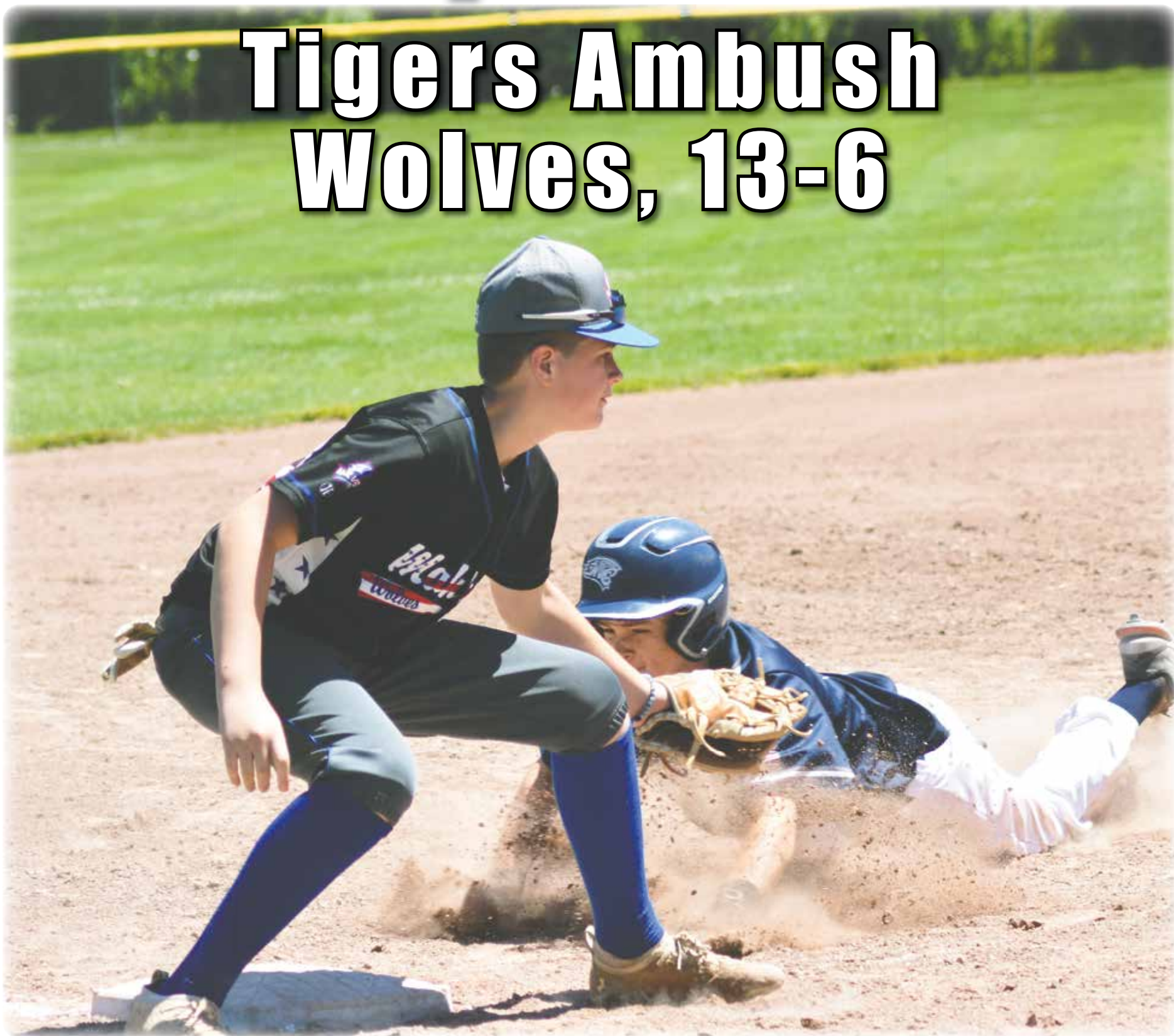
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Examiner Sports

Tigers Ambush Wolves, 13-6



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Putnam Valley Solves Mahopac Jinx in 13U GHVBL Action

Despite being called out on this close play at third, Putnam Valley 1B Evan Smyth's 13U Tigers rallied to erase an early deficit against Mahopac 3B Johnny Keeney's Wolves in host PV's 13-6 win on a steamy Saturday at Union Field where the Tigers (3-2) beat the Wolves (2-2) for the second-straight time after years of struggling against them in Greater Hudson Valley baseball League action... see Baseball Notebook

Sports

focus on
GHVBL

**Putnam Valley
13U Tigers Stalk
Mahopac Wolves**



Mahopac Wolves P Lorenzo Enchandy delivers in 13-6 loss to host Putnam Valley Tigers in Saturday's 13U GHVBL action.



Putnam Valley IF Cameron Tagliamonte Akram rips shot that led to one of three runs he would score in Tigers' 13-6 win over visiting Mahopac in 13U GHVBL.



Putnam Valley slugger Christian Martin readies to score run in Tigers' 13-6 win over visiting Mahopac Wolves in 13U GHVBL action Saturday.



Putnam Valley's Dylan Morales looks every bit the part of a catcher (eye-blacked & covered in clay) in Tigers' 13-6 win over Mahopac Wolves in 13U GHVBL action..



Mahopac's Anthony Blanc slides in safely to 2B as Putnam Valley SS Eli Pierce awaits throw in Wolves' 13-6 loss to host Tigers in 13U GHVBL action Saturday.



Putnam Valley P Ryan Tagliamonte Akram fires good pitch in complete game 13-6 win over Mahopac Wolves Saturday at Union Field.



Putnam Valley C Dylan Morales strokes one of two hits he would get with a run and an RBI in Tigers' 13-6 win over Mahopac Wolves in 13U GHVBL action Saturday.

Sports

Congrats to Class of 2022, Much Respect for Y'all



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor @Directrays

We saw what you went through, Class of 2022. We saw what it did to you. We witnessed the hell COVID put you through during your sophomore and junior years; sitting alone in your bedroom for hours on end, crying because you couldn't see your friends, your teachers, your grandparents, et al. Confined to your homes,

with everything on hold, your siblings became your closest allies in many cases.

It was rough for all of us to watch you go through it, but it was worse for the Class of 2020 and 2021, who lost out on graduation and prom in many cases. Thanks to the hard work of school administrators, teachers, administrative assistants, school monitors, bus drivers and many more, we trudged through a 2021-22 high school sports year and managed to crown sectional and state champions in all sports. Thanks to our student athletes in the Northern Westchester/Putnam region for staying fit and sharp as we "got back to normal."

When the bell rang, the Class of 2022 answered. We saw a dedicated senior class at Carmel High School – one of its best ever – provide the first NYSPHSAA Class AA football championship in school history behind the ideology of legendary Coach Todd Cayea. After being forced to play their 2021

fall grid season in the spring of 2022, Cayea's Rams (11-0) were hell-bent on delivering one of the greatest runs in Section 1 history, outscoring their opponents 514-81 on the season, and 256-53 in the postseason.

The senior class of Somers High was also ready and willing to answer the bell. These Tuskers showed tremendous balance throughout the year, delivering the school's second NYSPHSAA soccer title (2016) behind NYS Gatorade Player of the Year Daniel D'Ippolito and senior sidekick Bennett Leitner; their 22-1 season among the finest in Section 1 history.

First-year Coach Anthony DeMatteo's Tuskers were up to the task on the gridiron as well, falling one win short of Somers' second NYSPHSAA title since 2016. The Section 1 Football Coaches Association deservedly named Somers senior Trey Mancuso its Player of the Year.

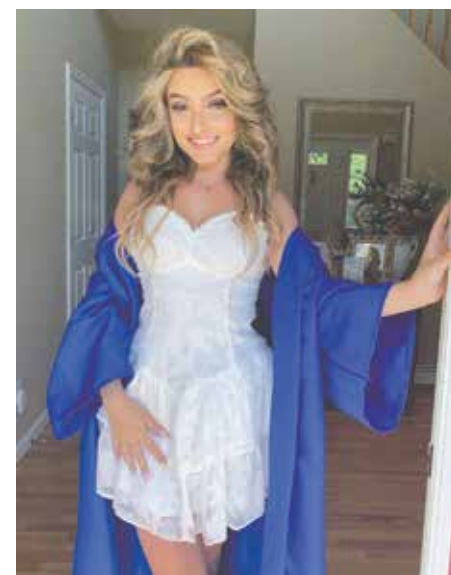
Somers followed that up with Class A sectional titles in baseball and track and field. So, #BravoSeniors, including Putnam Valley's Amanda Orlando, who's hard-nosed

grit helped get her Tigers to the NYSPHSAA Class B Final 4, and Lakeland seniors Meaghan Casey, Jaden Ray and two-time all-state midfielder Mia Smith for continuing Coach Sharon Sarsen's unmatched field hockey tradition of 13 straight sectional titles #Incredible.

We could go on and on about our senior's achievements this school year, including Mahopac's three-sport senior Anthony DeMatteo, who was named the Indians' Justin Wagner Memorial Scholarship Award



Carmel three-sport senior Kevin Dall and gridiron teammates will be proud to forever sport their NYS championship rings.



Congratulations to the Class of 2022, including my sweetie, Mahopac grad Megan Gallagher.

winner after bringing home a Con Ed scholar athlete award during the football season, just as his grandfather, Coach Tony D, and father/coach, Dominick, did in their heyday.

Heck, Hen Hud continued its stranglehold on Con Ed Award winners, taking home three more this year, including seniors Mackenzie Calhoun (volleyball), John Sterner (track and field) and Taeghan Dopson (softball).

Our seniors showed great resilience in the face of adversity, despite being cheated by a pandemic that stole nearly two years of high school experiences, which have left many

behind the eight ball.

It's imperative they jump that proverbial eight ball and get back out in front of the field. Choose your course of life wisely and own it, whether it be school or trades. Take advice from people you trust but think for yourself and avoid the indoctrination of all. When one door closes, another opens. The door to high school has closed, but the door to being is wide open, so make sure you walk through – heads held high – with passion, confidence and conviction soaring. Congrats to all on your recent commencement!

Yorktown, Somers, Lakeland Come out Strong in Summer Soccer League

By Sam Federman

The first week of the 15th annual Lakeland Summer Soccer League is in the books as high school teams from all over the area come to stay sharp and play as a team over the summer months. While there's no official mandate for players to play, many high school players do descend on Lakeland High School multiple times a week to play these games.

On June 19th, the season opened with 6 games, which are played 50 minutes, running clock at Lakeland. The first game was between Putnam Valley and Panas, which was won by Panas 2-0 thanks to goals from Alex Guevara.

Following the game, John Jay-East Fishkill faced off with Carmel, and both goalies put up strong performances. JJEF's Bradley Quie and Carmel's Patrick Schoelig each had three saves, but Jack Sauer put one past Schoelig for the only

goal of the game, which gave JJEF the win.

Then, in the third game of the day, Briarcliff outlasted White Plains by a score of 2-1 with goals from Nathaniel Rohde and Will Southern. Rhaymani Alexander did crack Oliver Elsworth once for White Plains, but Elsworth stopped 4 other shots to seal the win for Briarcliff.

A penalty kick by Byram Hills' Aiden Hefner canceled out Ketcham's goal, which came from Ali Ahmed, in a 1-1 draw. RCK's Dillons Spanga and Byram's Will Harrison each provided three saves to salvage the point for their team.

Yorktown was able to squeak past Rye 1-0 with a goal from Matthew Pozzo and three saves from JP Fruco. Kian Cox saved the four other shots that came in from Yorktown, but Pozzo's goal was the only one that was needed.

In the final game of the day, Lakeland destroyed Westlake 5-0, and it could've been more, as they put 11 shots on Westlake's goalie Thomas Sherman while only conceding one shot. Michael Rodriguez scored a brace, and goals from Bryan Jaramillo, Silvio Ahmataj, and Arjun Parambath complimented that effort.

In round two of pool play, on Tuesday June 21st, Eastchester started the day with a 2-0 win over John Jay Cross River thanks to goals from Declan McLaughlin

and Jack Pinochio. Aidan Ruwane made 3 saves for Eastchester, and Jared Weitmann stopped four of the six shots he faced for JJCR.

JJEF improved to 2-0 with a dominant performance against Putnam Valley. While the scoresheet shows a 1-0 win thanks to a Lorenzo Bueti goal, there were another seven shots on goal saved by PV's Miguel Diaz, while JJEF didn't concede a single shot on goal.

Noah Scmalz and Ryan Zindler picked up goals for RCK in a 2-0 win over Westlake. Thomas Sherman saved 4 shots, but Westlake could only muster one attempt at goal, which was stopped by Dillon Spanga, on the way to RCK's first win of the summer.

Reigning NYS champion Somers took out Harrison 3-0 with goals from Alex Aguilar, Linden Ulaj and Brady Leitner, in a performance in which Somers outshot Harrison 7-3. Both teams were playing their first game of the summer in round 2.

In the final game of Tuesday's set, Lakeland and Byram Hills dueled to a 0-0 draw with three saves from Lakeland's Aidan Hunt, and five from Byram Hills' Will Harrison keeping the match knotted at zero.

On Sunday, the first game was between White Plains and Rye. Rye got on the board

first, but in the 15th minute, White Plains did an incredible feat, a throw in from nearly midfield reached the goalie on the fly and made him jump to knock it away, and when the rebound fell right to a White Plains player, they tied the game for good at 1-1.

Somers got a very early goal from Liam Healy after a brilliant pass from Alex Aguilar just two minutes into the game, and that's all that they needed to defeat JJCR by a score of 1-0 in a game largely devoid of scoring chances.

Putnam Valley fell to 0-3 when goals from Alex Cozl and Kevin Hernandez thrust Carmel to their first win of the summer season. Joseph Galeano also grabbed a save for Carmel.

Panas was saved by the goalkeeping effort of Johan Easaw, stopping five shots to save a 1-1 draw against JJEF. Alex Guevara once again scored for Panas, and Olie Broun picked up the goal for JJEF.

In the final game of the night, Yorktown got a 3-0 victory over Briarcliff thanks to Nick Varela, Antonio Frucco and Matthew Pozzo. They improved to 2-0 as they handed Briarcliff their first loss.

The next set of games is Tuesday June 28th, so stop by Lakeland High School during these games if you want to see some quality soccer being played.



Sports



Fox Lane standout Michael Lombardi delivers a pitch in the Foxes' Class AA playoff game at Ketcham.

Baseball 2022 *A Look Back*



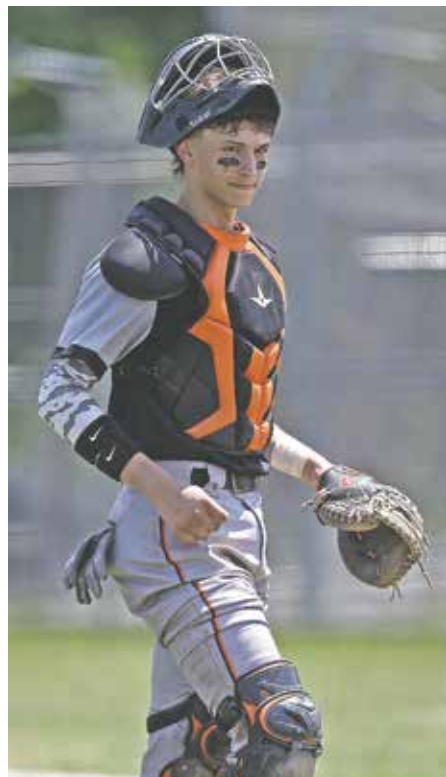
JJ Jackette of Westlake fires a pitch in the Wildcats' game at Dutchess Stadium in early April.



Valhalla infielder Kori Prosperino throws to first for an out vs. visiting Croton.



Briarcliff's James Mulligan fires to first trying to complete a double play as teammate Luke Diamond looks on in the win over Edgemont at Dutchess Stadium.



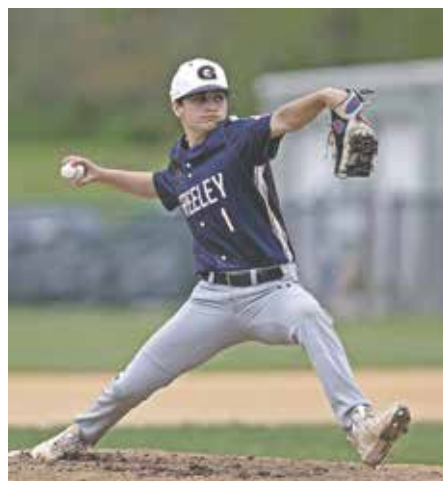
White Plains catcher Leon Marrano returns to the backstop after a meeting on the mound during the Tigers' playoff game at Arlington.



Westlake first baseman Tommy Giaccone tracks a pop fly in the finals of the sectional playoffs vs. Rye Neck.



Horace Greeley shortstop Benjamin Falk tries to complete a double play during a late-season road game.



Mason Schwartz of Greeley delivers a pitch against Yorktown back in mid-May.



Bobby Chicoine of Byram Hills belts a pitch into the left-field bleachers for a home run at Rockland's Clover Stadium early in the season.



Pleasantville southpaw Michael LaCapria delivers a pitch during a home game vs. Hastings at Parkway Field.



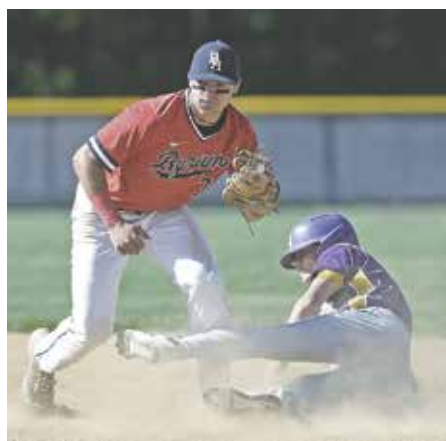
Briarcliff catcher Jayden Amador blasts the ball to left field in the Bears' victory over Edgemont at Dutchess Stadium.



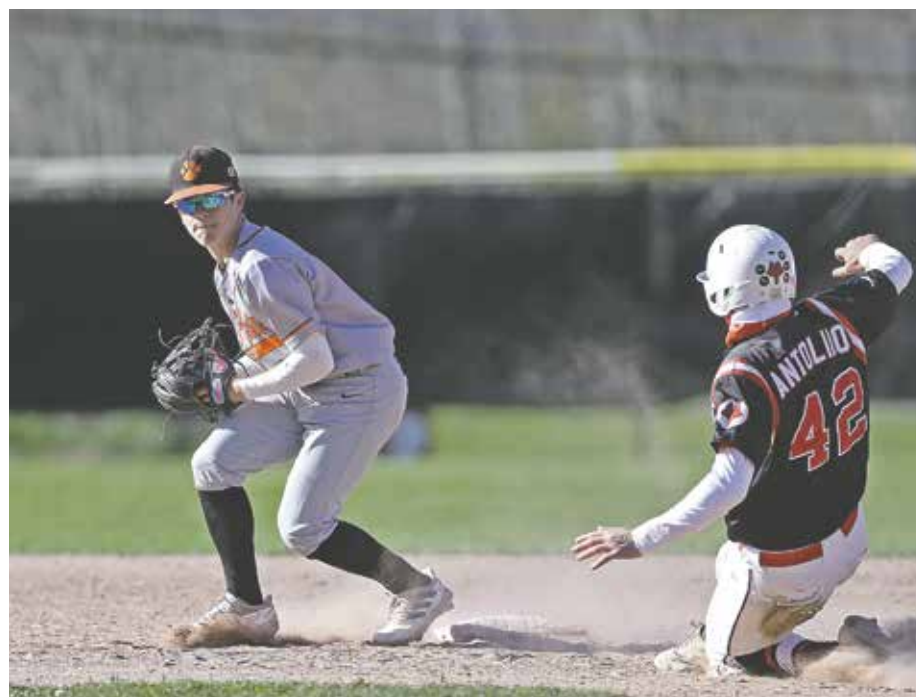
Panos Sinis of Fox Lane runs the bases in a home victory over White Plains.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

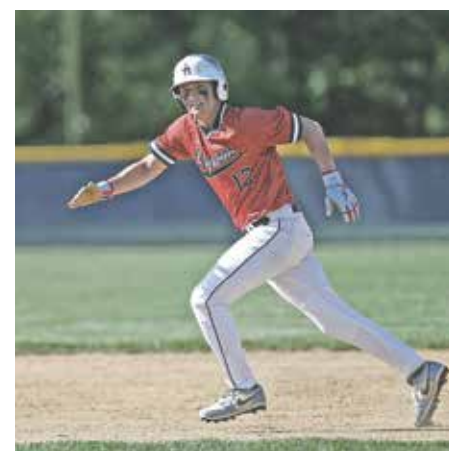
Sports



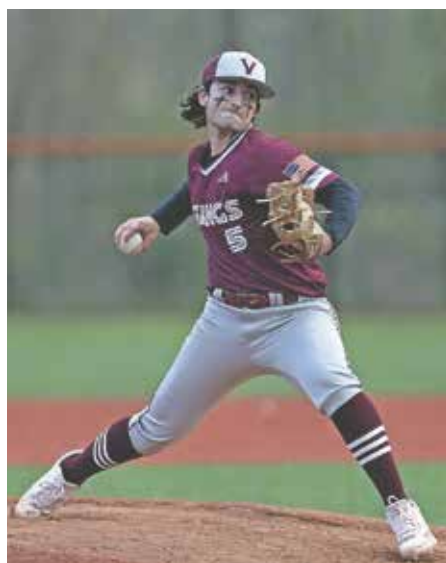
Byram Hills shortstop Jared Cohen makes a tag at second base in the Bobcats' playoff win over visiting Clarkstown North.



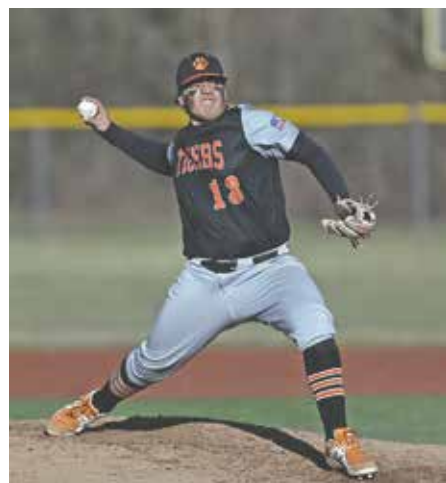
Jose Alfalla of White Plains gets a force out of Fox Lane's Matt Antolino at second base and looks to complete a double play.



Byram Hills' Jordan Baskind heads toward third base during a Bobcat home game in the sectional playoffs.



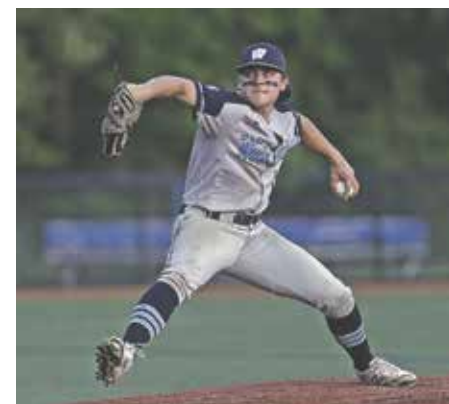
Valhalla's Jake Sekinski pitches in the seventh inning of the Vikings' game at Briarcliff.



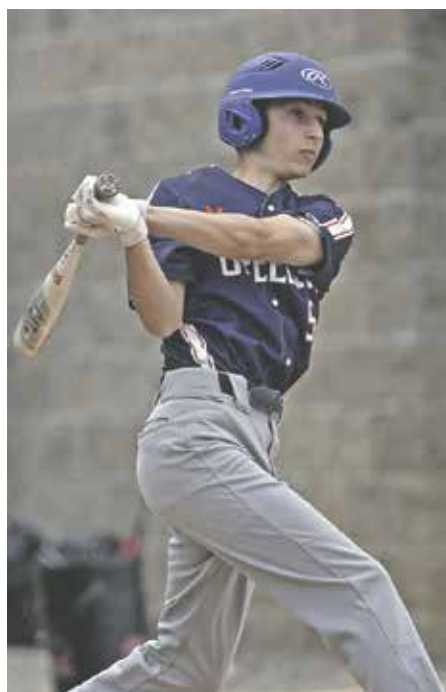
Sammy Mendez of White Plains pitches during a road game in early April.



First baseman Michael Dawson of Valhalla stays ready in the Vikings' extra-inning win over Croton.



Westlake's Anthony Arrichiello pitches in the Class B championship game against Rye Neck on the campus of SUNY Purchase.



Greeley's Cole Stein lines a pitch to right field in the Quakers' game vs. host Yorktown.



Tom Poggi of Briarcliff races to third base early in the season.



Fox Lane's Matt Antolino swings the bat during his six-RBI game against Scarsdale back in late April.



Pleasantville's Will Lent heads to third base during a midseason game at Parkway Field.



Jacob Carozza of Pleasantville takes a big swing in the Panthers' home game against North Salem.



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