



FREE

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Ex-Town Foreman, Business Owner Indicted in Illegal Dumping Scheme

By Rick Pezzullo

A former longtime Town of Cortlandt employee and owner of a prominent Peekskill-based landscaping company were indicted last week in federal court for an alleged illegal dumping and bribery scheme at a town facility on Arlo Lane.

The seven-count indictment against Robert Dyckman, 51, former Assistant General Foreman in Cortlandt's Department of Environmental Service Highway Division, and Glenn Griffin, 53, owner, president and principal of Griffin's Landscaping Corporation, was announced July 21 by Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and Michael Driscoll, the Assistant Director-in-Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"As alleged, Robert Dyckman, a former Town of Cortlandt employee, used his position of trust to enrich himself by

allowing Glenn Griffin to dump unauthorized materials at the town's facility, which will cost the town as much as \$1.5 million to clean up," Williams stated. "Griffin is also alleged to have defrauded the Village of Croton-on-Hudson and the hamlet of Verplanck in a separate bid rigging scheme. My office will continue to ensure that corrupt business leaders and public officials will be brought to justice."

As first reported by Examiner Media in January 2021, from 2018 until February 2020, Dyckman allegedly gave Griffin and his employees unauthorized access to land behind the town's salt dome at the end of Arlo Lane to dump hundreds of large truckloads of unauthorized materials such as thick concrete, cement with rebar, large rocks, and soil from projects outside Cortlandt.

The scheme also involved the submission of fraudulent invoices totaling more than \$100,000 for work not performed.

"The only way this worked is because there was someone on the inside," Cortlandt Town Attorney Thomas Wood told Examiner Media in 2021. "There was someone in management."

According to Wood, town officials first became suspicious of improprieties when another employee was sifting through material that had been unloaded on the site at the end of August in 2019 and it appeared to be more than was anticipated. Surveillance video allegedly showed trucks from Griffin's Landscaping Corporation, and other unmarked vehicles, entering the property and dumping building and other material from non-town contracted projects.

The video footage, according to Wood, also allegedly showed Dyckman being present when Griffin trucks were there. Wood said Dyckman would sometimes leave the gate to the site unlocked or arrive on weekends with his own vehicle to oversee the illegal activity.



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Illegally dumped material as seen in 2021.

Wood said town officials later discovered improperly billed invoices for repairs to approximately 100 catch basins throughout town that were submitted by Griffin's and signed off by Dyckman. Most of the repairs, according to Wood, were not done. Griffin has filed a lawsuit against the town seeking reimbursement, while the town has filed a counterclaim.

According to the indictment, in exchange
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Yorktown Welcomes Trader Joe's as Popular Grocery Store Opens

By Martin Wilbur

Enthusiastic shoppers finally experienced the long-awaited debut of Trader Joe's in Yorktown on last Thursday morning after years of rumors, planning and waiting yielded a sparking new supermarket.

Several hundred customers, some of whom had waited in a line that snaked around the building in stifling heat for more than an hour, were thrilled to see the highly sought-after grocery store finally arrive in town. When the doors sprang open at the stroke of 8 a.m., beaming shoppers were boisterously applauded by staff as they entered the store.

"I'm really excited. It's great," said Carl DePrado, a Cortlandt resident, one of many Trader Joe's supporters who had been

making trips to the Danbury or Hartsdale stores for years. "I'm really happy to have it. They have a lot of variety and not having to make the trip, it's going to save me like a couple of hours of gas a couple times a month."

Management at the roughly 12,000-square-foot store also seemed equally pumped about the opening. It is the 33rd location in New York State for Trader Joe's, which has its company headquarters in Monrovia, Calif.

"We're very excited to be in Yorktown," said store captain, Charles Renken, which is equivalent to a general manager. "We have a wonderful store; we have a great crew ready to serve our customers and I really think that everyone's going to enjoy the products that we sell."

Yorktown Supervisor Matt

Slater said bringing Trader Joe's to the space at 3240 Crompond Rd. to complement Lowe's, Starbuck's and other shops at the shopping center was a significant accomplishment for the town.

Yorktown will reap tangible benefits that many other communities in the northern part of the county had sought for years by bringing in the popular grocery chain. Hundreds of jobs have been created, not just during construction but now that the store has opened, Slater said.

"It was a town effort, and what it really does though, I think, it really shows what we're capable of doing," Slater said. "We're able to attract a national brand here to northern Westchester."

It is also likely to bring people to Yorktown who would



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Long lines of shoppers waited outside, some for more than an hour, waiting for Trader Joe's to open last Thursday morning.

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High-Voltage Cable Path for Clean Energy Plan Raises Cortlandt's Ire

By Abby Luby

A plan to run a high-voltage cable from upstate to New York City to help New York State drastically cut carbon emissions has Cortlandt officials deeply troubled about the safety of their community.

The \$11 billion clean energy initiative Clean Path NY project would construct 175 miles of underground and underwater high-voltage cable starting in Delaware County and may pass through Lents Cove in Buchanan on its way southward to its termination point in Queens.

"This is unacceptable," Cortlandt Supervisor Richard Becker said at the July 19 Town Board meeting. "We are going to fight this one."

Becker cited the close proximity of the planned cable to the underground Algonquin gas pipeline and the massive amounts of radioactive spent fuel rods at the decommissioned Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant. He warned of the combined risk of three major energy sources traversing the same territory.

Clean Path NY is a partnership with the New York Power Authority (NYPA), Invenergy, which develops, owns and operates power generation utilities, and energyRe. In a recent meeting with NYPA Director Anthony Hill and Matt Powers, director of community affairs at Invenergy, Becker said he objected to bringing the cable out of the Hudson River at Lents Cove.

"Clean Path was insistent that the cable had to come out at Lents Cove," he said. "They told me 'Too bad, we're big New York State with \$11 billion behind us. You're not going to stop it.'"

The exchange prompted Becker to write a letter to Powers and Hill detailing the town's safety concerns for communities that would be impacted if the cable surfaced at Lents Cove. He made it clear that the Town of Cortlandt was tired of "repeatedly being excessively identified as a site for projects involving energy."

Becker suggested an alternative site would be to land the cable at Roa Hook, just north of Peekskill and closer to Annsville Circle.

"Roa Hook is close by and provides better access to state roads under which the cable can travel," Becker wrote to NYPA and Invenergy. "I have no doubt that your highly skilled engineering team can come up with alternative sites."

Becker said he and Clean Path NY representatives plan to meet sometime this week.

The 1,300-megawatt line, which would carry electricity generated from solar and wind, would end at the southern converter station in the Astoria Energy Complex in Queens.

Amy Varghese, vice president, Clean Path NY External Affairs, said the project's team is currently conducting field investigations, environmental impact studies and agency

and stakeholder consultations to ensure that the cable line follows the most optimal route.

"We are very, very early in the process and we are seeking feedback from communities," she said.

The Clean Path NY Landfall 2 Study Area map includes Lents Cove. When asked about safety concerns of running a high-voltage cable line near Indian Point, Varghese said there were safety code requirements the project would have to meet to be approved by the state.

"All major transmission facilities in New York State must meet New York State Public Service Law requirements, including compliance with all safety codes, before constructing any such facility," Varghese said.

She didn't comment on alternative sites such as Roa Hook for the cable landing, which is not included on the Landfall 2 Study Area map.

Another concern is the long-term road construction to bury the landed cable underground in the state Department of Transportation (DOT) rights-of-way, including routes 9 and 9A running south to Ossining where it will re-enter the Hudson River.

"They haven't done their public outreach," Becker said. "And there's not a great awareness of this (project) yet."

Clean Path NY has scheduled public information open houses throughout the state, which started last month. The next

local open house is this Tuesday, July 26 at the Ossining Public Library, located at 53 Croton Ave. in Ossining. The first session is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. while the second session is from 5 to 7 p.m.

This is the state's first renewable energy and transmission project aimed at reducing dependency on electricity produced by fossil fuels by reducing the use of oil and gas-fired fossil fuel plants.

In April, the state Public Service Commission approved contracts with Clean Path New York LLC for the project to support to deliver several billions of dollars of statewide societal benefits, greenhouse gas reductions and air quality improvements.

Additional funds will be invested in economic development by creating more than 8,000 jobs and making investments in disadvantaged communities. The goal is to produce 70 percent of the state's electricity from renewable sources by 2030, then transitioning to zero carbon-emission electricity use by 2040.

Construction is expected to begin in 2024 if all required permits and approvals are met. The project could be completed as early as 2027, producing 7.5 million megawatt-hours of emissions-free energy.

Becker said the town isn't opposed to the project but against bringing the cable into a sensitive area.

To learn more about the project, visit www.cleanpathny.com.

Ex-Town Foreman, Business Owner Indicted in Illegal Dumping Scheme

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for access to Arlo Lane, Griffin allegedly gave Dyckman cash bribes, firewood, flowers and gardening materials and made extensive improvements to Dyckman's home in Verplanck at no cost. Griffin also allegedly gave Dyckman a backdated, false invoice for Dyckman to give to his insurance company in support of a false insurance claim.

Dyckman was employed for 28 years in Cortlandt before submitting a letter of resignation on January 12, 2021 that was accepted by the Town Board. His resignation as Assistant General Foreman, a position he held since July 2012, was effective as of October 22, 2019, which was about two months after town officials discovered the suspicious activity. In his resignation letter,

Dyckman waived and renounced any claim to retiree health care benefits that he may have been eligible to receive.

Dyckman, who is being represented in the indictment by a federal public defender, filed a lawsuit on April 30, 2021 against Cortlandt seeking to get his old job back. That legal action is still pending.

"We're glad justice is being sought," Wood remarked Monday. "Unfortunately, with the pandemic it (investigation by county and federal officials) took forever, but they were very diligent."

Based on estimates provided by third-party vendors, Cortlandt officials have estimated it will cost between \$600,000 to \$1.5 million to remove the materials dumped on the Arlo Lane site.

Meanwhile, as part of the indictment, Williams said between 2015 and 2018, Griffin also engaged in a bid-rigging scheme by defrauding the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, for work on its schools, and the hamlet of Verplanck, for work at its fire department.

Williams alleged Griffin made sham, non-competitive, and inflated bids on behalf of entities that Griffin did not work for or have authorization to submit bids on behalf of, so that he would be the low bidder in a pool of purportedly competitive bids and receive public money for work on the projects. Based on these sham, non-competitive, and inflated bids, Williams said Griffin was awarded contracts with a combined value exceeding \$133,000.

"Glenn Griffin is one of the most

professional and well-respected landscaping contractors and designers in Westchester County," Stephen G. McCarthy, Jr., an attorney for Griffin's Landscaping, said Monday. "We have absolute and complete faith in the fundamental fairness of the criminal justice system."

If convicted of the three counts he's facing, Dyckman could receive a maximum prison sentence of 20 years. Griffin is facing a maximum sentence of 62 years behind bars for the six counts filed against him.

Williams praised the investigative work of the FBI and the Westchester County Police Department in the probe, along with the assistance of the Westchester County District Attorney's Office and the New York City Department of Investigation.

Yorktown Welcomes Trader Joe's as Popular Grocery Store Opens

continued from page 1

otherwise not have visited, and perhaps some of those shoppers will see what else the town has to offer and support other types of businesses, he said.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere inside the store was electric during Trader Joe's opening hour, much more so than what you might find on a typical Thursday morning. Cortlandt Manor resident Corryn Fisco said the area needed what Trader Joe's offers.

"It's such a beautiful store," Fisco said. "It offers a lot of healthy options for vegans and vegetarians, so I'm thrilled."

Jessica Soto of Yorktown listed the reasons why she had made the trip to the Trader Joe's in Danbury before Thursday,

and why she'll be a regular at the new store.

"It's affordable, the quality, they have different things, which I love to try," Soto said. "They have seasonal things, which is amazing."

For Bob Rosenberg of Breslin Realty, the company that operates the shopping center, having an anchor such as Trader Joe's is a boon to the company. Trader Joe's was attracted to the location, which is right off the Route 202 exit of the Taconic Parkway.

"They are sought after and we are lucky we were able to convince them, and it didn't take much convincing," Rosenberg said. "They love the site, they loved the town and I think they're going to do very

well."

Town officials plan to monitor the traffic on that portion of Route 202, which often gets congested, particularly during peak hours. Slater said the town also learned from the experience when Popeyes fried chicken opened just down the road, which caused backups onto Route 202 for several months.

However, there was a different set of circumstances related to Popeyes, with many customers using the drive-through while there was still heightened concern over COVID-19, he said.

There were multiple meetings with Breslin Realty and their consultants and town staff to make the traffic flow effectively into and out of the center, Slater

said. Trader Joe's and Breslin are paying off-duty Yorktown police officers to help direct traffic, if needed, along with hiring its own private security staff for inside the parking lot.

An employee parking area was carved out of the lot and another 50-plus spaces were freed up when areas of outdoor storage were removed from the site.

"I genuinely don't believe there's anything more we that could have done in a proactive manner, but I think it's important for our residents to know that we hear them and we weren't going to let what happened happen again," Slater said referring to the congestion at Popeyes. "So we will work with them and they've been very accommodating and very willing."



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Narcan Kits at County Shelters to Help Most Vulnerable People

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County has installed metal boxes that contain two doses of the lifesaving medication Naloxone at its three shelters in an attempt to prevent opioid overdoses for a vulnerable population.

Four county departments – health, public safety, social services and community mental health – are partnering on the initiative, which helps to address multiple issues that many people face who are addicted to opioids.

The “Naloxbox program” provides a wall-mounted unit in an easily accessible place in each shelter so almost anyone can provide a person with the medication if they are experiencing an overdose.

“By placing it in this facility and other similar facilities, it puts the lifesaving medicine immediately at the fingertips to save a life, to save a person’s life and from dying of an overdose of opioids,” County Executive George Latimer said.

Last Wednesday, Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler joined Latimer and other county officials and representatives from the Volunteers of America shelter on Operations Drive in Valhalla to announce the program. Amler also provided a demonstration on a mannequin on how to administer the medication.

The commissioner said Naloxone, or also known by its brand name of Narcan, is easy to give and is safe to use in the event a person may be experiencing a health episode but it



County officials join staff at the Volunteers of America shelter in Valhalla last week after it was announced that Westchester County has installed boxes containing the lifesaving drug Naloxone in each of its three shelters.

is unclear whether it’s an opioid overdose.

Amler said if someone has overdosed on opioids, providing the drug by spraying two puffs into the nostrils can almost magically prevent a death.

“It really does need to be a drug that’s within reach because when someone is overdosing, you literally have seconds, only a matter of one or two minutes, to get

their brain back functioning, to get them breathing again before the effects become, unfortunately, non-reversible and the person is dead,” Amler said.

If a person is in danger because of opioids, they will respond within moments and may not even know what happened, Amler mentioned.

She reminded the public that even if

someone is brought back by using Naloxone, emergency responders must still be called because the medication will wear off in 30 to 90 minutes and medical attention will be needed.

The urgency to place the Naloxboxes in shelters cannot be stressed strongly enough, said Lijin Thomas, sector director for the Volunteers of America of Greater New York, which operates the Valhalla shelter. Thomas said it is easy to draw conclusions and stigmatize those who are there, but many are suffering from mental health issues or substance abuse, made worse because of the pandemic.

It is also appropriate that the Naloxbox in the Operation Drive shelter is near the first aid box and defibrillator, she said.

“As a shelter provider, we assess the clients and connect them to the appropriate services,” Thomas said. “Even during the pandemic, we saw an increase of clients becoming more symptomatic, their anxieties increasing and the clients resorting to using more negative coping mechanisms.”

The Opioid Rescue Kit includes tearaway instruction sheets that include graphics on Narcan use as well as a mask to perform rescue breathing, if necessary. The Health Department also created signage with a QR code that links to a 50-second video clip on how to administer Narcan that is posted near each Naloxbox.

In 2020, about three-quarters of the nearly 92,000 drug overdoses that occurred in the United States involved an opioid.

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Westchester Med Center to Open Drive-Through Monkeypox Vaccine

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester Medical Center is opening a drive-through monkeypox vaccine clinic to supplement the output at the county Health Department clinic and a few other providers as the number of active cases inch higher locally.

The county has now received 4,540 doses of the vaccine from New York State as Westchester's count of monkeypox cases has reached 27, County Executive George Latimer said Monday.

Latimer said the medical center in Valhalla is in the process of setting up the vaccine tent that it used earlier on in the COVID-19 pandemic.

"If you can't come down to downtown White Plains, for instance, the drive-through may be a more convenient option for you," he said.

Two weeks ago, the county began to administer the monkeypox vaccine by appointment only at the Health Department clinic located at 134 Court St. in White Plains. Operating hours are Mondays from 12 to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. It is a two-shot regimen requiring a vaccine recipient to return 28 days later for the second shot.

White Plains Hospital, St. John's Riverside and Open Door Family Medical Centers also have had a limited supply of the vaccine.

No days and hours of operation have been released regarding the drive-through vaccination site at Westchester Medical

Center, but starting Tuesday people can call 914-326-2060 to make appointments. A person does not have to be a Westchester resident to set an appointment and receive a vaccine.

The measures being taken by health officials are largely precautionary since there have been no fatalities from monkeypox, although the rash and lesions that result from the virus can be painful, Latimer said.

"None of those (27) individuals are in a life-threatening situation and all of them are in some level of being treated and are recuperating with this disease," Latimer said.

Monkeypox is transmitted by skin-to-skin contact with an infected individual or touching an article of clothing or another object that was in contact with someone who has the rash or lesions.

Latimer said people who have been exposed to monkeypox or are in one of the high-risk categories such as having compromised immunity are among those who should consider the vaccine.

To make an appointment for the vaccine at the county clinic in White Plains, call 914-995-8900.

Officials Monitoring Polio

After last Friday's announcement by Rockland County that one of its residents tested positive for polio, Putnam and Westchester officials are keeping a close watch on whether any additional cases develop.

So far, the one case in Rockland remains the only known police case.

Putnam County Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat said the identification of the polio case has heightened the importance of adhering to the Centers for Disease Control childhood immunization scheduled.

"In this particular case, there is indication that transmission occurred from an individual who received the oral polio vaccine, which has not been available in this country since 2000," Nesheiwat said. "The only polio vaccine available in the U.S. is the inactivated polio vaccine, which cannot result in polio infection, as it does not contain live virus."

Because of widespread vaccination, the last naturally occurring polio infection in the United States was in 1979, according to the Putnam County Health Department.

Polio is a viral disease that may affect the neurologic system, causing muscle weakness and, in certain cases, may result in paralysis or death.

Anyone who has not completed the polio vaccination series or is at high risk for transmission is encouraged to contact their healthcare provider or the health department to schedule a polio vaccination, Nesheiwat said.

COVID-19 Persists

Meanwhile, on the COVID-19 front, active cases in Westchester continue to stay in a fairly narrow range over the last couple of months.

The county has settled into a range from the high 2000s to about 3,500 to 3,600. On Monday, there were 3,448 active cases in

Westchester, Latimer said.

Statewide, the positivity rate on Sunday was 9.9 percent, and 9.2 percent on the seven-day rolling average.

Closer to home, Westchester recorded a 10.9 percent positivity rate and 9.8 on the seven-day average while Putnam County's numbers were 11.3 and 10 percent, respectively.

Deputy Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said the Health Department clinic in White Plains is administering COVID-19 vaccines to children from six months to five years old on Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. Vaccinations for adults is from 1 to 3 p.m. on Friday, he said.



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Chappaqua Swim & Tennis Raises Over \$30G for Cancer Research

More than 70 swimmers made waves against cancer raising over \$30,000 at the 11th annual Swim Across America pool fundraiser at Chappaqua Swim & Tennis on July 17.

Since joining the SAA-Long Island Sound chapter swims, the swim and tennis club has now raised in excess of \$500,000 for Swim Across America research and support services. Proceeds from the swim will



Members of Team Immortal Fitness included, left to right, Pat Burns, Claire Osinoff, team captain Carrie Dillon and Kate Posner. The team raised over \$8,000 for cancer research.

Mount Kisco American Legion Post 136 Installs Officers



Ed Sordellini, left, has taken over as commander of American Legion Post 136 in Mount Kisco, succeeding John Graziano, right.

Commander John Graziano has completed his term as commander of the American Legion Mosese Taylor Post 136 in Mount Kisco. The World War II veteran was recently honored for his service to both the village and the Legion.

His successor, Ed Sordellini, a well-known community volunteer, is succeeding Graziano. Sordellini was sworn in by Howard Heyel, past Westchester County commander. Sordellini is a veteran of the wars in the Middle East.

Donna Sheehan and Pam Woodward were also tabbed to be co-presidents of the American Legion Auxiliary by Susan Heyel, president of the Westchester County Auxiliary. Mike Palumbo, current commander of the Sons of the American Legion, was sworn in to serve another term.

The Mount Kisco post is named after Moses Taylor, a young United States Army lieutenant killed in action during World War I. Taylor was a Mount Kisco resident who now rests in the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery in Romagne, France.

support the Swim Across America research lab, Dr. Luis Diaz and the MSK Kids Department of Pediatrics at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, pediatric oncology research at Morgan Stanley Columbia University Medical Center and patient services with Cancer Support Team.

The Chappaqua Swim & Tennis fundraiser is one of eight Swim Across America Long Island Sound pool and open water swims taking place in Westchester this summer.

Team Immortal Fitness, a newly-formed group of cross-fit athletes who are typically more comfortable lifting weights, biking, running and rowing at their favorite gym, Immortal Fitness in Pleasantville, were led

by Carrie Dillon, a 12-year Swim Across America participant. The team raised more than \$8,000 to combat cancer.

Among those who participated from Team Immortal Fitness were, left to right, Pat Burns, Claire Osinoff, Dillon, the team captain, and Kate Posner. Team members not shown are Tamara Leopold, Kathy Martin, Rose Martin and Ron Winnegar.

The 30th annual open water swim will take place in the Long Island Sound in Larchmont this Saturday, July 30, from 6 a.m. to noon. For more information on this Saturday's swim, visit www.swimacrossamerica.com/Long_Island.

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Local High School Students Experience Cybersecurity Camp at WCC

Westchester Community College hosted about 50 high school students for a free summer cybersecurity camp last week that exposed them to the fast-growing sector in information technology.

The camp, which ran from July 5-15 at the WCC's main campus in Valhalla, allowed students to learn about computer hacking, manipulation, viruses, metadata and what it is like to be an IT professional in the ever-changing landscape of cybersecurity.

Students in the college's cybersecurity program and faculty mentored and led students in the computer "villages," which were uniquely designed computer challenges with the purposed of engaging students in hands-on experiences that will inspire young people to consider future cybersecurity studies and careers.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer this exciting opportunity to those high schoolers interested in a field that is so vital

to our nation's security and economy," said Professor John Watkins, curriculum chair of the cybersecurity program at WCC.

"Our goal is to provide students with a broad skill set to further their education, if they wish. My hope is that they will continue to study cybersecurity at SUNY WCC, one of the few community colleges in the country to be given the Center for Academic Excellence designation in Cyber Defense Education by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency."

Students at this summer's GenCyber will attend a post-camp in the fall that builds on the skills learned during the summer. To learn more about GenCyber visit <https://www.gen-cyber.com/about/>

The GenCyber Camp was made possible through a grant from the National Security Agency.



WCC PHOTO

High school students from throughout Westchester participated in a recent cybersecurity camp at Westchester Community College in Valhalla. Cybersecurity is the fastest-growing information technology sector.

Mt. Kisco DPW Head Receives Probation from Court for Violating Order of Protection

By Martin Wilbur

The head of Mount Kisco's DPW is receiving six months of interim probation stemming from his arrest in December for violating an order of protection that had been in place to protect his wife.

Giuseppe (Joe) Luppino, pleaded guilty in May to the misdemeanor charge of second-degree criminal contempt and

second-degree harassment, a violation, the Westchester County District Attorney's office said last week.

He returned for a scheduled court appearance last Thursday.

"Upon successful completion of that probation, including compliance with all probationary conditions and no new arrests, he can withdraw his misdemeanor charge and he will then be sentenced to

the harassment charge," a statement last week from the district attorney's office read.

He is scheduled to be sentenced on Nov. 17, at the end of the six-month probation period.

Last Dec. 20, Westchester County police arrested Luppino after he twice drove past the residence of his wife, Sharon. According to the complaint, he

yelled and screamed at her. The couple is separated.

It had been the second time that Luppino was arrested for an incident connected to his wife. In April 2021, he was arrested on a misdemeanor charge. At that time, he was placed on a paid leave of absence by village officials before being reinstated to his post as the head of DPW.



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County Police/Mount Kisco

July 17: Rolando Abzun-Sanabria, 48, of Spring Street was arrested at 5:32 p.m. and accused of taking another man's cell phone after slashing him in the leg with a knife at Leonard Park. The victim called police at 4:52 p.m. to report that he had been in an argument with a man he knows over damage to that man's cell phone. During the argument, the victim was slashed on one of his knees and his iPhone was taken from him. Abzun-Sanabria was charged with first-degree robbery, a felony. Two phones, including an iPhone, were found in his possession. A knife was recovered nearby. The Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance Corps responded and transported the 31-year-old victim to Northern Westchester Hospital for treatment.

July 20: Officers responded to Spring Street at 10 p.m. on a complaint about loud music coming from a neighboring home. A resident agreed to turn the music down.

July 20: Officers responded to South Moger Avenue at 10:22 a.m. on a report of smoke coming from a manhole. Officers closed the street to traffic. The Mount

Kisco Fire Department and Con Edison responded to deal with the fire in the manhole.

July 22: At 3 p.m., an officer served a notice of hearing to a dog owner who lives on Grove Street. The order requires the woman to appear in Mount Kisco Justice Court at a future date.

Croton-on-Hudson Police Department

July 13: A 19-year-old Ossining resident was arrested at 4:22 p.m. and charged with third-degree burglary and second-degree criminal mischief relating to broken windows and a burglary investigation at Gouveia Park.

July 13: The ice machine at the Mobil gas station on South Riverside Avenue was reported to be on fire at 4:41 p.m. Patrol responded and turned the scene over to the Croton Fire Department.

July 13: The Detective Division arrested a juvenile for third-degree burglary regarding broken windows and a burglary investigation at Gouveia Park.

July 15: Multiple callers reported at 1:22 p.m. that several bags of sand were

spilled onto Route 9. Patrols responded and located about 15 bags of sand spilled out on the road. The state Department of Transportation was contacted. Patrols set flares out and directed traffic. Patrols were able to move the sand off the roadway and onto the shoulder with tools from MTA.

July 16: A woman reported at headquarters at 3:50 p.m. that the catalytic converter was stolen off her vehicle while parked on Munson Street. An investigation will follow.

July 17: An employee of a South Riverside Avenue business called at 1:09 p.m. to report that someone stole merchandise. Patrols responded and arrested a 38-year-old Ossining man for petty larceny. The subject was released on his own recognizance.

July 18: A Brook Street resident reported at 3:47 a.m. that someone entered his residence and stole a large amount of cash and numerous jewelry items valued at about \$6,000. After an investigation, detectives arrested a 53-year-old Peekskill woman and charged her with second-degree burglary and third-degree grand larceny. The subject was released after posting \$600 cash bail.

North Castle Police Department

July 15: A Nethermont Avenue resident arrived at headquarters at 4:10 p.m. to report that an unknown party stole checks from her mailbox. The party then fraudulently altered the checks and attempted to cash one of them at Wells Fargo today.

July 15: A Nick's Corner Market employee reported at 8:14 p.m. that a male subject stole money out of a donation jar that was on the front counter and was attempting to leave on a moped. Officers responded and canvassed the area for the subject with negative results. The subject, who apparently fled toward Greenwich, was described as a Black male with multicolored dreadlocks and operating a white moped without a helmet. Officers canvassed the area with negative results. The complainant declined to pursue criminal charges. The Greenwich Police Department was advised of the incident.

July 16: An anonymous complainant reported at 7:20 a.m. that construction work was being performed at 94 Business Park Drive. The responding officer reported speaking with the project manager on site and work was stopped. The project manager was advised that work can begin after 9 a.m.

July 16: A caller reported at 5:51 p.m. that there was damage to her vehicle caused by the car wash on North Broadway. The caller stated that she is in an olive-green BMW sedan waiting in the parking lot. The responding officers reporting securing photos; a report will follow.

July 17: Report of a car window that was broken while it was parked in a driveway on Upland Lane at 12:50 p.m. The responding officer reported securing photos of the vehicle. The complainant wished to make the incident a matter of record.

Putnam County Sheriff's Department

July 15: Report of an accident on routes 9 and 301 in Phillipstown at 9:20 a.m. A tractor-trailer traveling southbound collided with a Subaru after failing to stop for a red light and then struck a Honda. After it struck the two vehicles, the truck overturned spilling gravel across both lanes on Route 9. The truck driver, a 22-year-old Garrison man, suffered no injuries while the 47-year-old man operating the Subaru was treated at the scene. A 52-year-old Cold Spring woman, who drove the Honda, was transported to Westchester Medical Center with arm injuries. The state Department of Transportation closed the road until 1:45 p.m. to clear the roadway of gravel. The truck driver was ticketed for passing through a red signal.

July 17: A 23-year-old Ossining man was arrested twice for DWI within 18 hours. Deputies arrested the man at 3:05 a.m. for failing to maintain his lane while traveling northbound on the Taconic Parkway in Putnam Valley. He was arrested again at 9:20 p.m. on Peekskill Hollow Road near Bryant Pond Road for failing to signal during a lane change.

Yorktown Police Department

July 21: Rayed Hamed, 37, of Cortlandt, was arrested at 5:15 p.m. and charged with grand larceny and falsifying business records in connection with a May 3 report of a vehicle being purchased with a forged check. After an investigation, it was revealed a victim made an agreement with Hamed to sell a vehicle on his behalf. It is alleged Hamed sold the vehicle to a third party but told the victim the price of the sale was \$6,000 less than the actual price and created a forged invoice for the sale from his business to conceal the discrepancy. Hamed voluntarily surrendered to police.

July 21: John Leisher, 74, of Yorktown, was charged with aggravated harassment at 5:40 p.m. Police reported receiving a call from Leisher on July 20, who stated he was upset about traffic issues and speeding cars near his residence. During the conversation with a dispatcher, he allegedly threatened to go to Yorktown Police headquarters and shoot someone if the traffic condition was not addressed.

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

Police Apprehend Driver Involved in Mt. Kisco Hit-and-Run Accident

A 28-year-old Poughquag, N.Y. man was taken into custody Friday morning on I-684 after hitting a pedestrian with his van while she was attempting to cross the street in front of Norther Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco.

Nicholas Dilello was charged with leaving the scene of a personal injury accident and tampering with physical evidence, both felonies.

Officers responded to Main Street and South Bedford Road at about 8:15 a.m. after a 49-year-old woman who was crossing the street was struck by the van. The vehicle immediately turned onto South Bedford Road and fled eastbound into Bedford.

As the woman was being helped, additional county police officers

responded to I-684 to look for the suspected vehicle. An officer assigned to the Westchester County Airport precinct located the van traveling southbound at Exit 2 in North Castle and took the driver into custody.

The pedestrian suffered a head injury and was helped at the scene by county police officers, hospital staff and EMS personnel. The woman was taken by ambulance to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla with a non-life-threatening head injury.

Dilello was booked at county police headquarters in Hawthorne and released pending an Aug. 18 appearance in Mount Kisco Justice Court.

--Martin Wilbur





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Mom Creates Networking Site for Parents With Special Needs Kids

By Martin Wilbur

Being the parents of a child with special needs can sometimes feel like a lonely place.

Despite many schools doing their best to serve their students and plenty of resources available inside and outside of the traditional school setting, it can seem as though a family must navigate through challenges that many of their friends and relatives don't have to tackle.

Caroline Bilal, the mother of four children, including a son who is disabled, saw a need for parents throughout Westchester County to connect and support one another, network and learn about resources that they may not have known existed.

After close to a year of planning, Bilal and co-founder Faradjine Laurore launched MyConnect in March.

"So our main feature, it's a private social network," explained Bilal, a Chappaqua resident who has worked for more than a decade for nonprofit organizations. "It is like other social networking sites in the sense that people are able to interact with one another, ask questions, seek advice, seek agencies, seek referrals."

So far, about two hundred



MyConnect co-founder Caroline Bilal, with her 10-year-old son Yonas.

people have signed up to be part of MyConnect. Currently, there's a free trial run that has been going on indefinitely.

There is also the opportunity for parents to find other families who face a situation similar to theirs. While most parents have children in grades K-12, Bilal said, perhaps there are some families may have seen their child age out of the public school system, for example, and want to connect with others regarding adult disabilities. They would have the ability to do that.

"I can see where a mother may



The home page of MyConnect, a networking site for parents with children with disabilities and special needs. Its members can interact and learn about different resources to help their child.

want to connect with other parents around adult-level Tourette Syndrome," Bilal said. "We don't want to be exclusive; we want to be inclusive of these parents so it's really any age."

Disabilities can also run the gamut, and someone with an autistic child, for example, may require very different support than a parent who has a child with Down syndrome.

Bilal's motivation came from her own experience as a parent of a special needs child. Early last year, she decided to move forward with the service, but knew she her lack of tech experience would be a hindrance. She went to cofounderslab.com and Laurore connected with her. Laurore is

an IT specialist, and their skills complement each other well.

"Obviously, it was inspired by my own situation, as a parent with a kid with special needs," Bilal said of wanting to start the service. "I don't have a tech background, so I knew I couldn't do it alone. I knew I needed a co-founder that had some technology, some tech background."

Nearly all the parents who have signed up are from Westchester, although there are a few who live in Putnam County. Bilal said it is best to have some geographical boundaries because if members are too far afield, referrals to professionals, for instance, would be difficult to accomplish.

She has heard from parents



Faradjine Laurore, who co-founded MyConnect with Caroline Bilal.

in Manhattan and also in the Rochester area and she will be starting a MyConnect for those locations as well. Bilal said the goal is to steadily grow the community but not to be hasty about it. For now, to sign up to be a member is free.

"This is a pilot, we're testing this, we're trying to get a better sense of what the market is, who is our market, who is our people, how can we make this financially stable as well," Bilal said.

To learn more about MyConnect, visit its website at www.myconnectusa.com.

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Letters to the Editor

Explaining My Opposition to Additional Tax Diversion Proposals

County government tax diversion mandates and proposals have been debated many times over the years and I have been consistent in my opposition to the overall concept, which can be viewed on my campaign website's taxes and spending page.

That notwithstanding, given the increased interest expressed by some individuals I believe it would be helpful to share with you a more comprehensive justification which is provided below.

I do not support additional tax diversion proposals that would simply redirect county tax revenue from the county's budget to other governments. If the county government has more money than it needs, then it should work to keep more of it in the pockets of our hardworking taxpayers. Giving more of our tax dollars away to other government entities will not ensure it will be used to improve services or reduce or better control the tax burden.

If we as a county government can do more to control taxes on the county level, then we should.

We also have several serious financial challenges before us. Decades-high inflation and the rising cost of energy is affecting every Putnam County resident directly, but it is also impacting them indirectly by increasing the cost of government as I explained during the recent Putnam County Legislature's Physical Services Committee meeting.

Another consideration is that Putnam County has a number of contracts with public employee labor unions that will need to be negotiated in the future while simultaneously addressing these other rising costs. Furthermore, as interest rate increases limit our county government's ability to borrow, the importance of a strong general fund and access to cash will be extremely important if we are to remain prepared for the challenges that

lie ahead. Those challenges include a potential recession, which continues to be discussed by economists nationwide.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, it is also worth noting that New York State, not Putnam County, imposes many unfunded mandates on county and local governments, including school districts. Therefore, it is the state that should work to provide financial resources to cover the costs of those mandates.

Of course, it's always important to have collaborative relationships with our partners in local government and those relationships will remain important for the next Putnam County Executive. In the Assembly, I successfully fought for various forms of mandate relief as well

as bringing back financial support to local governments through programs like Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM), the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), Extreme Winter Recovery (EWR), State Aid to Municipalities (SAM) grants and more.

The county government should absolutely continue to work with our partners at the local level to enhance services, but not if it undermines its own long-term financial health.

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne
Mahopac
Kevin Byrne is running for Putnam County Executive in November.

Name Cuomo Bridge Bike Path, Pedestrian Walkway for Pete Seeger

Last week the United States Postal Service issued a new stamp honoring Pete Seeger, the folk singer whose greatest achievement was working to save the Hudson River.

Seeger was the first leader who highlighted the need to address environmental problems on the river – raging sewer in the 1950s, a liquid dump for industries that grew along its banks, PCBs from the electrical industry, sewage discharges, pesticides and other contaminants. Seeger built the Clearwater and reached out to fishermen to bring the river back.

I am pleased that the Postal Service is honoring Seeger who died in 2014. I would like to renew a suggestion that the bicycle/pedestrian path on the Mario Cuomo Bridge be named in Pete Seeger's honor and in his memory. Along the path historical markers could be placed highlighting the tremendous work Pete Seeger did – and encouraging pedestrians and cyclists to continue this worthy cause.

Paul Feiner
Greenburgh Town Supervisor

Hochul Should Ditch the Planes, Helicopters and Use Mass Transit

The apple, Gov. Kathy Hochul, didn't fall far from the tree, former governor Andrew Cuomo. Both enjoy the perks of office at taxpayers' expense. Why does Hochul always have to travel via private state planes or helicopters for trips around the state? Hochul could complete her trips downstate via Amtrak with connections to the New York City subway, Long Island Rail road or Metro-North to reach her final destination in metro New York.

Upstate, there is Amtrak service to Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo. Just like ordinary New Yorkers who travel with a laptop or other communication devices, she can still be working and staying in touch with her office while riding Amtrak or mass

transit or sitting in the back seat of her official state vehicle.

As senator, President Joe Biden was known as Amtrak Joe. He commuted from his Delaware home to the Capital via Amtrak on a regular basis for decades. Why can't Hochul emulate Biden.

Forget the helicopter and private airplane trips around the Empire State. Set an example for others. Show your support for transit just like Biden and become Amtrak Kathy.

Sincerely,
Larry Penner
Great Neck, N.Y.

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Laura Markowski
Associate Publisher
lmarkowski@theexaminernews.com

Peter Stone
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pstone@theexaminernews.com

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Print Team:

Martin Wilbur
Editor-in-Chief
mwilbur@theexaminernews.com

Rick Pezzullo
Editor
rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com

Ray Gallagher
Sports Editor
rgallagher@theexaminernews.com

Andy Jacobs
Sports Editor
ajacobs@theexaminernews.com

Annette Van Ommeren
Designer

Paul Cardi
Senior Account Executive
pcardi@theexaminernews.com

Jeff Ohlbaum
Senior Account Executive
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com

Ken Gulmi
Senior Account Executive
kgulmi@theexaminernews.com

Nick Antonaccio
Wine columnist

Bill Primavera
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Morris Gut
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Digital Team:

Robert Schork
Digital Editorial Director
rschork@theexaminernews.com

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dpacchiana@theexaminernews.com

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Column

They Love the Game, So the Weather Doesn't Matter

The July air was heavy with soup-like humidity, the infield filled with crumbly dirt that had not felt a drop of water in weeks. The needed moisture was up above, contained in thick storm clouds looming to the north and west, like exceptionally cranky neighbors, angry that you accidentally stepped on their lawn.

The conditions were not the most favorable for a game of softball, yet two teams got themselves out there, ready to battle against each other and whatever nature had to throw at them, in the form of the damp atmosphere and bad infield hops.

The two teams, Foley's Club Lounge, and the Moonlight Grahams, have an intense rivalry. They've played each other seven times for the Pleasantville Men's Softball League Championship. Foley's has won six league titles against the Grahams, who snatched one in 2016. Foley's has won four championships since then.

The winner in 2020 was COVID-19, according to the league's website records. The COVID team was microscopic, played with no gloves and never batted once, yet demonstrated overwhelming power.

The Grahams and Foley's were virtually tied for second in the standings at game time, with Captain Lawrence in first place,



By Michael Gold

in an 18-game season. The Grahams' record was 12-2. Foley's was 13-3.

"Foley's is typically a feared team," said Jon Lieb, the founder, manager and captain of the Grahams.

Both Foley's and the Grahams were without their usual starting pitchers. Foley's guy was out because of a dental procedure that day. The Grahams' pitcher had a foot injury.

The replacement pitcher for Foley's, Jack Bramswig, looked like somebody out of a Captain America comic book. Bramswig, six foot, five inches tall, with shoulders as wide as an oak tree, played football, baseball and basketball for Pleasantville High School. He played basketball for Manhattanville College and was a wide receiver for the Green Bay Blizzard indoor football team and the Montreal Alouettes in the Canadian Football League.

Bramswig and his brother, Dan, the usual shortstop for Foley's, who starred in three sports for Pleasantville High School, also play with Lieb on a fall Mount Pleasant softball team.

The Grahams had their own stars. Outfielder Brian Bernarducci was on the Pleasantville football team and played in college for a Rhode Island Catholic school.

Brian's father, Bob, who played catcher, is Pleasantville's wrestling coach, with more than 400 career wins. Steve Pinto, another outfielder for the Grahams, played baseball for Manhattanville. Lieb played baseball for his high school on Long Island.

Foley's hitters lit up the Grahams for three runs in the bottom of the first, and I wondered if we were looking at a blowout.

But the Grahams settled down and the Foley's bats cooled off. In the top of the third inning, the Grahams scored four runs to take the lead. Foley's tied it up with a run in the bottom of the third.

The Grahams took over the game in the middle three innings. They scored two runs in the fourth, one run in the fifth and five in the sixth, for a 12-4 lead. It seemed like the Grahams would cruise to victory as Parkway Field's lights blazed over the field, the sun retreating to the west.

During the bottom of the seventh, Foley's first batter flied out. Their second batter hit a single. The third batter flied out.

But Foley's would not go quietly. Bramswig hit a hot ground ball to the Grahams' shortstop and got on base. The next batter hit a double to center, scoring a run. Another batter hit an infield single, scoring another run. After him, a Foley's man hit a single to center field, scoring a

run. Foley's had scored three runs in a matter of minutes.

Next, a single to center loaded the bases. "We've seen those comebacks before from them," Lieb told me after the game.

The Foley's batter came to the plate, both teams as tense as the atmosphere. He hit the ball solidly. It zipped through the heavy air like a blazing rocket. But the Grahams' shortstop, Jon Carlo Angiolillo, got his glove on the ball and stopped it in its tracks, ending the threat.

Angiolillo was one of the standouts for the Grahams. He went 3-for-3 with a walk. Pinto hit a thundering, long fly ball a Foley's player caught over his shoulder, but that scored two runs. Pat Bathon went 2-for-2,

with two walks and scored three runs.

Final score: 12-7.

The players smiled at each other and shook hands after the game. They know each other well. A few of the Grahams asked if

anyone wanted to go out for a beer. Lieb had other plans. He was going to Hawthorne to play in a second game that night, in a different league.

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

Superbugs Are Getting Stronger, Our Defenses Are Getting Weaker

By David Thomas and Emily Wheeler

Drug-resistant infections pose a growing threat to public health. We're not prepared to meet it.

That's because the pipeline of new antibiotics to fend off superbugs has fallen off. Superbugs are strains of bacteria and fungi that have developed immunity to the medicines used to kill them. Antimicrobials are critical tools in our fight against these pathogens.

The problem is that we're not developing nearly enough of them and many of the medicines we have are no longer effective. It's imperative that we act now to bolster our defenses against these serious and life-threatening infections.

There are only 64 antibacterial therapeutics currently in clinical development. That's compared to 1,300 treatments in development for various cancers.

The antibacterial pipeline is shrinking. In the last 35 years, just one antibacterial with a novel way to target bacteria has been approved.

Meanwhile, superbugs continue to grow stronger. New research estimates they claimed 1.27 million lives in 2019 – more than twice the estimated number of annual deaths just five years prior.

Why is our development of new antibacterials declining while new pathogens are on the rise?

The problem is not the lack of success

in developing new treatments. In the past decade, antibacterial drugs in clinical trials were twice as likely to move from early human testing to FDA approval versus drugs for all other diseases.

Instead, the problem is a misaligned market for antimicrobials.

Take the experience of the biotech firm Achaogen, which secured FDA approval in 2018 for its novel antibiotic plazomicin after 15 years of development.

While important for the overall armamentarium, novel antimicrobials are used sparingly to prevent pathogens from developing resistance to our strongest medications. As a result, clinicians hold novel antibiotics in reserve, using them judiciously to preserve effectiveness. That means companies like Achaogen don't sell large quantities of the drugs they develop – or earn back the capital they invested in research and development.

Achaogen filed for bankruptcy in 2019. In the three years since, several other small biotech companies have seen a similar fate.

The market conditions are so discouraging that most large biopharmaceutical companies have pulled out of the sector entirely. These dynamics are causing investors to vacate the antimicrobial sector, too.

If nothing changes, 10 million people worldwide could die of drug-resistant infections annually by 2050 – surpassing cancer as a leading cause of death.

Government intervention and incentives can help change the game for private companies to develop these medications.

One solution is the bipartisan, bicameral Pioneering Antimicrobial Subscriptions To End Upsurging Resistance (PASTEUR) Act, which would change the current dose-based payment model for certain antimicrobials. Under PASTEUR, the government would offer developers of critically needed antimicrobials between \$750 million and \$3 billion up front in exchange for access to their medications once they hit the market. This approach provides developers with the predictable return on investment needed to fuel much-needed antimicrobial innovation.

Another bill under consideration is the

Developing an Innovative Strategy for Antimicrobial Resistant Microorganisms (DISARM) Act. The legislation would increase Medicare reimbursements for certain antimicrobials, ensuring patients have access to the best novel antibiotics for their individual needs.

Superbugs are here to stay. We have policy solutions on the table that can help prevent them from taking a growing number of lives. It's long past time to take action.

David Thomas, MS, is vice president of industry research at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization. Emily Wheeler is director of infectious disease policy at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization.

Live Virtual Forums for 17th Congressional District Candidates

The League of Women Voters of Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Dutchess counties will host virtual candidate forums via Zoom on this Thursday, July 28 for the Republican candidates in the upcoming primary 17th Congressional District primary.

On Monday, Aug. 1, the Democratic candidates will take part in a forum. Both events start at 7 p.m.

The public must pre-register in order

to watch the live forums at www.lwv.org. Questions for the candidates may be submitted ahead of time.

Forum replays will be accessible on www.lwv.org and other local League websites and social media. Local cable groups are invited to replay the entire forum according to the League Video Recording Policy through Primary Day on Aug. 23. Early voting runs from August 13-21.

State Lawmakers Secure \$350G to Expand Latino Student Support

By Em Stangarone

State representatives secured \$350,000 for Latino U College Access (LUCA), a nonprofit organization which helps Latino youth in Westchester realize their dreams by becoming the first in their families to graduate college.

With the financial support, LUCA will be able to continue its programs in Ossining, White Plains, Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown and Elmsford, and expand to reach students in Port Chester, Peekskill, New Rochelle, Bedford and Mount Kisco.

Last Wednesday state Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) and Assemblyman Chris Burdick (D-Bedford) announced the acquisition of the money at an event at White Plains High School.

"The support of a group like LUCA is the difference in getting students into college, surviving and succeeding in college, ending up with a degree and moving on with the American dream," Mayer said.

Latino Americans are more likely than other racial ethnic groups to be first-generation students, Mayer pointed out. Nearly half are the first in their families to attend college.

"At LUCA, we challenge the expectation of low expectations that are placed upon low-income Latino students and empower them to reach higher than they ever thought possible," said Cosette Gutierrez, LUCA's executive director.

Gutierrez added that the state funding

will allow LUCA to reach 1,200 students and families this upcoming school year.

LUCA's flagship program, Latino U Scholars, launched 10 years ago and guides students from their junior year of high school to college graduation. Scholars are assigned a volunteer college coach, who helps them and their families navigate every step of the college process. This includes filling out applications, help with writing college essays, filing the necessary financial aid paperwork and preparing students for the transition to college life.

To participate, students are nominated by their school guidance counselor. Qualifying students must identify as Latino and be a first-generation college student, demonstrate financial need and have a minimum 3.5 grade-point average with a course load that includes AP and honors classes.

Once in college, LUCA continues its support, ensuring that students have everything they need to succeed and graduate. The Scholars program is expected to expand to 100 students for the coming school year, up from 74 last year.

In addition to individual coaching, LUCA has a robust year-round offering of college success and career readiness workshops, as well as culturally-relevant bilingual parent workshops to keep families involved and supported throughout the college process.

"We recognize that while talent is universal, opportunity is not," said LUCA



EM STANGARONE PHOTO

Some of the students who have been helped by Latino U College Access, which assists first-generation youths navigate the college process. Joining them were Assemblyman Chris Burdick and state Sen. Shelley Mayer. The state funds will expand the program to Peekskill, Mount Kisco and other communities.

founder Shirley Acevedo Buontempo, herself a first-generation college graduate. "For low-income students of color, access to educational opportunities is filled with numerous pitfalls and barriers."

Buontempo explained that a college degree is not just a step toward employment, but a critical part of breaking cycles of poverty, improving health and increasing earning potential and civic

continued on next page

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We know times are tough with high inflation, rising costs, and soaring gas prices.

The economic challenges that everyone is facing now, affect us too.

In addition to the current economic struggles, the pandemic severely affected our ability to fundraise over the past two years. As a not-for-profit charity, we rely on donations to survive.

We have limited access to weekend fundraising tables placed in front of stores due to new store policies and we have not held our annual fundraising dinner since 2019.

Purchasing gas has become a tremendous burden at close to \$100 per tank. If gas prices continues to rise, we face the possibility of cutting back our proactive summer patrols of shopping centers.

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State Lawmakers Secure \$350G to Expand Latino Student Support

continued from previous page

engagement.

"In other words, education changes everything," Buontempo said.

Since LUCA's founding in 2012, about 6,370 students and families have received support.

Two LUCA Scholars shared their stories at last Wednesday's event. One of them was Jocelyn Nieto, a White Plains alum and first-generation Mexican American college graduate.

"It was my parents' dream that my sister and I obtain the education they were unable to obtain themselves," Nieto said.

She thanked her parents for supporting her dreams to go to college, attending American University and pursuing a career in international development.

At first, Nieto explained, she was overwhelmed by the college application process, but LUCA helped her. She was accepted to American University with a generous financial aid package.

"If you had told my 17-year-old self that I would go on to accomplish all of these amazing things, she would have shrugged you off," said Nieto, who now works as a performance analyst at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. "I am now living my best life, living and working in my favorite city, Washington D.C."

Kate Hidalgo, an Alexander Hamilton High School graduate and current LUCA

student, said she worked since she was 10 years old to help her parents, who immigrated to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic.

"I made a vow that I would do everything in my power to help lift my family out of poverty and make sure that my brothers had even more opportunities than I had," said Hidalgo, who knew almost nothing about the college admissions process before participating in LUCA.

With guidance from the program, Hidalgo received a full scholarship to the University of Rochester, where she currently studies political science with the dream of giving a voice to marginalized communities.

"There are so many hopeful and determined first-gen Latino youth like me who just need that extra support and someone to believe in them to accomplish their dreams," Hidalgo said.

Buontempo said that while LUCA's work may be on the local level, the impact is vast.

"As the youngest and fastest-growing demographic in our county and in our nation, the future of education will be dependent on the progress and success of Latino youth," she said. "When we invest in Latino students, we are investing in a brighter future for them, for our communities and for our nation."

Mount Kisco Photo Call for Entries for Annual Exhibit

The Mount Kisco Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is now accepting entries for the village's fifth annual Photography Exhibition.

A new category, Experimental photos, has been added to the traditional "The Nature, Culture and People of Mount Kisco" categories. There will be, once again, special recognition for young photographers.

There is no entry fee. The deadline for submitting photos is Aug. 15.

"Our new 'Experimental' category includes photos that are innovative, unusual or represent a creative process or techniques beyond the conventional," said CAC Chairman John Rhodes. "These images can be abstract, impressionistic, surrealistic or just plain weird – whatever appeals to the artist's creative sensibilities."

This category may include highly processed images, strange viewpoints, collages and constructs or anything else that started out as a photo shot in the village.

Anyone, from anywhere, of any age and of any level of photography experience who



Lois Fermann's photo "Three Monarchs" was one of many breathtaking images at a previous Mount Kisco photography exhibit. Anyone from anywhere can submit photos for entry to www.kiscophoto.org as long as they were taken in the village. The deadline for submission is Aug. 15.

has taken a photograph in Mount Kisco is encouraged to participate.

"Last year, we had wonderful submissions from a seven-year-old taken with an iPhone, and from a professional photographer – shot and processed with the most advanced gear," said Rhodes.

Selected photos will be on view in the Mount Kisco Library for the entire month of October, and all submissions will be shown on the exhibit's website at www.kiscophoto.org.

Digital files should be sent to KiscoPhoto@gmail.com.

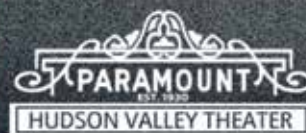
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Music Conservatory of Westchester to Soon Unveil Five New Studios

By Mia Levine

The Music Conservatory of Westchester has been working hard putting the finishing touches on the addition of five new teaching studios in their building in White Plains.

Known as the Legacy Project, the initiative expands its facilities for technology-based music programs, allowing the conservatory to bridge traditional music education with 21st century technology-based innovation.

The nonprofit community music school, founded 93 years ago, is open to students of all ages and levels. The youngest students are about four years old; the oldest are over 80. The mission is access, said Executive Director Jean Newton.

"As a community music school, our mission is to provide access to our programs for everyone in the community," Newton said.

Having moved into its current building at 216 Central Ave. 21 years ago, the initial renovation was completed through fundraising. However, the school left 3,500 square feet of space unfinished because they were not certain of future needs.

The conservatory's plan to now build out the 3,500 square feet was created by collaborating with Rockland-based architect

Hans Knutzen in 2016. It included additional space for group instruction, music therapy and new programs that would reflect where modern music and instruction is currently headed.

With the new plan in mind, the Music Conservatory of Westchester began to fundraise. As a nonprofit, it relies on donations and a Board of Trustees to help raise money. In addition to private donations, the conservatory received \$500,000 through one of the first New York State Regional Economic Development Grants for arts facilities improvement.

Due to COVID-19, construction did not begin until late last year, and supply chain delays extended the project into the summer. The plan focused on converting the empty space on the building's lower level to create five new teaching studios: a professional audio-video recording studio, a digital piano lab, a multiuse rehearsal studio, an additional music therapy studio and an upgraded percussion studio.

Sentinel Builders was the contractor for the project. The recording studio is being outfitted by Sound Associates, a group of Yonkers-based professional recording engineers. The project is expected to be completed early next month



MUSIC CONSERVATORY OF WESTCHESTER PHOTOS

The more than 90-year-old Music Conservatory of Westchester is putting the finishing touches on five new studios at its school in White Plains, bringing modern technology and opportunities for educational innovation to its students.

The recording studio's large performance space has both video and audio capability, and is networked to the digital piano lab and the school's recital hall. The studio will be used to record students and will also be open to outside groups for recording, master classes, vlogging and more.

The digital piano lab will be equipped with Yamaha Clavinovas, iMac computers and music technology software. The multiuse rehearsal studio will be suitable for music, theater and dance instruction. The new music therapy studio will accommodate the conservatory's growing enrollment

of students with disabilities.

Jake Robinson, the Music Conservatory of Westchester's drum instructor and assistant dean, said he is excited about the new percussion studio, calling it a "game changer" that he anticipates will encourage new students to enroll. The studio will inspire students interested in contemporary pop, rock and jazz, Robinson said.

Since most students are listening to recorded music, the recording studio will allow them to see the creative process and help those who want to learn more, he said.

The 21st-century technology-based innovation is led by the

Legacy Program, a new pre-college training program in engineering and music production. This two-year certificate program is for high school students, but additional classes will be offered for middle school students as well.

A major advantage for the conservatory is that people in Westchester are willing to support the arts.

"All thanks to the support of the community, music is alive," Robinson said.

The completed Legacy Project will be revealed to the public at a preview event on Sunday, Sept. 18.



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Grant Helps Local Organization in Mission to Assist Refugee Families

By Martin Wilbur

A local organization that formed late last year to help effectively transition new refugees into the local area has exceeded all expectations.

For the founders of Ossining for Refugees, it had been their hope that by the close of the first full year, the group would have been able to assist three new refugee families and see them become independent.

But the organization, which now goes by the name Open Arms for Refugees, accomplished its initial goal in roughly half that time. After six months, working in partnership with about a half-dozen other groups, its volunteers have settled three households, a single woman and a family from Afghanistan and another family from Colombia.

A further boost to the volunteers' efforts was learning late this spring that their work had caught the attention of the trustee in charge of the David Swope Trust, named after a prominent local environmentalist and philanthropist who died in early 2018. The trust bestowed \$250,000, to be accessed through a 2-to-1 matching grant to buoy its strong fundraising efforts.

While Open Arms for Refugees has been doing an impressive job of fundraising, to have that extra level of support makes all the difference, said Peter Russell, one of the organization's key volunteers.

"It gave us the momentum to take on additional refugees, asylees, and it gives us a lot of confidence on the funding side that we can keep going this year," Russell said.

It is estimated by the group that it costs



Pictured, from right, are Open Arms for Refugees co-founder Ted Buerger and his wife, Helen, and volunteer Cathy Dreilinger.

about \$30,000 to help a family make the transition to the United States in Westchester. In many cases, that is made more difficult because of a very different culture than what they are accustomed to, said Cathy Dreilinger, who has been involved with Open Arms since the start. That includes finding them an apartment for them to get acclimated, if they need help learning English and identifying job and career opportunities.

It is Open Arms for Refugees' goal to have the new arrivals achieve self-sufficiency as quickly as possible, realistically within six to 12 months, and the extra money now allows them to respond more quickly as additional refugees arrive, Dreilinger said.

She described the grant as "a vote of confidence."

"If you have the money ready to go, you're

in better position, you're more likely to have a chance to resettle them than somebody who is struggling and scrounging over the money," Dreilinger said. "So having the money in the bank is a very important thing."

The group's first refugee, an Afghan woman identified as F, became independent within six months, she said. She got a good job in White Plains and moved into a permanent apartment in Mount Kisco, being able to commute to work.

Other life skills that are sometimes taken for granted by Americans are equally important to get the families up to speed so they can become independent sooner. Driving and interviewing skill, putting together an effective resume and financial literacy are just some of the things that need to be taught, said Ossining Supervisor Dana Levenberg, a co-founder of

the group.

It is also fitting that important funding came from the Swope Trust, because he lived in Ossining and many in the group knew him, she said. It will enable Open Arms for Refugees to spring into action quickly, when necessary.

"We can jump when we need to and there are enough people who are invested in the organization in a meaningful way that we can pull together very quickly," she said.

An important element for Open Arms for Refugees is the name change. Dreilinger said they initially wanted to have Ossining as its unofficial base because the cost of housing there is relatively reasonable compared to much of Westchester. Also, most of the volunteers and support was coming from that community, along with Croton, Briarcliff Manor and Pleasantville.

But in some ways the hyperlocal focus was limiting. Russell said the husband and father of one of the families found work in Putnam County and they have settled in Cold Spring.

"We've had some other communities that said come and talk to us, we might be able to put together a team as well," Russell said.

Among the other organizations that Open Arms has partnered with is Hearts & Homes for Refugees, Neighbors for Refugees, Rivertowns for Refugees, ReSET Westchester, Congregation Sons of Israel and the Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration (WJCI).

For more information about Open Arms for Refugees, visit www.openarmsforrefugees.org.



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Why Do We Stoop Over a Coffee Table to Drink Coffee?

As The Home Guru, I am a fan of the history of all things associated with the home, especially their origins. The things we use every day, mostly without thinking about how they got to be what they are, can be fascinating and sometimes surprising.

For instance, the story of the coffee table has a long history, if you consider first the tea table. History would show that tea tables have a longer history than coffee tables, but this was modified, starting in 1652, when the first coffeehouse opened in London. It was so popular that more coffeehouses soon opened all over Europe, and more coffee was being consumed at home.

The idea of a coffee table came from the need to put down a hot beverage between sips. These tables, or rather the original tea tables, were tall at 27 inches high, compared to today's coffee tables which are 18 to 19 inches high. In my home, I have both a tea table at the 27-inch height, which I use as a side table for my living room sofa, and a large circular coffee table, in front of the sofa that measures 18 inches high.

Now here's a question to ponder: Why is the tea table, which requires drinkers to sit erect, higher than a coffee table, which requires that the drinker stoops a bit? Could it be that tea consumption is considered



By Bill Primavera

more "proper" in society and demands a more upright position rather than the "rowdier" act of consuming coffee?

One theory, and I'm not sure if I came up with it, is that the coffee table, being lower, invites more social interaction because imbibers can more easily see over the table and its accessories in order to converse with others? And, if that's the case, would it mean that tea drinkers who might have their vision somewhat blocked by a higher table are more standoffish? Are such musings fun?

There are no documents from the 17th or 18th century mentioning coffee tables, although there are hundreds of references about coffeehouses during the time period. It is speculated that the name tea table was changed to coffee table when coffee became more popular than tea.

It wasn't until 1938 that a coffee table was defined in a home magazine as a "low wide table used before a sofa or couch."

Today, coffee tables still share the same location in the living room in front of the sofa. Yet, the shape, size and functionality have changed vastly. Now it can be used for décor accessories like books and figurines.

In my case, I use the coffee table in front of the sofa as the venue for some of my collected antiques that tend to serve



as conversation starters among guests: a brass tea strainer, a candle wax snipper (is that the name of it?), a traveling perfume bottle with a brass top, a pipe stuffer (again is that what it's called?) a brass traveling quill and ink device, a bowl of antique playing marbles and, more practically, a trivet for resting hot items like coffee and tea pots.

Full disclosure: I don't think I ever once used my coffee table for coffee! Maybe I

just don't like stooping over when I drink my coffee.

Bill Primavera is a realtor 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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An Unnecessary Cut?

With the 12th highest c-section rate in the country, advocates in New York look at ways to reduce the prevalence of the procedure — especially for first-time, low-risk births



By Bailey Hosfelt

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.

There's no question that a cesarean section (c-section) is a lifesaving, medically necessary procedure in high-risk situations where the health of the mother, baby, or both is in danger.

However, doctors, midwives, doulas, and politicians agree that an overreliance on this procedure — especially for primary, low-risk pregnancies — can cause more harm than good.

In New York State, the c-section rate sits at 33.6 percent, making it the 12th

highest in the nation. While the procedure is the most commonly performed surgery in the United States, it is not risk- or complication-free.

Because New York's c-section rate is well over ideal targets set by both Healthy People 2020 and the World Health Organization — 23.9 percent and 10 to 15 percent, respectively — advocates say bringing these numbers down is critical for the health and safety of birthing parents and babies as well as to improving hospitals' obstetric culture.

How c-section rates skyrocketed

Across the United States, c-section rates have skyrocketed in the past five decades. Today, one in three babies are born via c-section, a 500 percent increase since the mid-1970s. Many factors have led to these rising numbers, and the answers depend on the vantage point of the person you ask.

Experts believe that technological advantages, particularly fetal monitoring, can raise more alarms during labor. Continuous monitoring, which tracks a baby's vitals as soon as a pregnant person enters a hospital, has become a standard of care despite extensive research on interpreting these readings.

For example, if a baby's heart rate goes up or down, it can trigger a c-section



GETTY IMAGES

(despite not knowing if the baby is actually in distress).

Often, pregnant individuals are told they're carrying babies deemed too large to be delivered vaginally, which leads to c-sections. However, fetal weight measurements are frequently inaccurate, sometimes with an error of more than 10 percent compared to the actual weight.

Different hospitals and obstetricians also have different opinions on how long a pregnant person should spend pushing before they get a c-section, as well as how long after the water breaks they should be allowed to try for a vaginal birth. Often, the cutoff time is completely arbitrary.

Joyce Havinga-Droop, a

holistic doula who runs Birth Ambassador, has attended hundreds of births throughout Westchester, Rockland County, Connecticut, and New York City.

With over a decade as a doula, she believes an over-medicalization of childbirth in the United States is an overarching symptom that has led to higher c-section rates, particularly for low-risk pregnancies. Rather than viewing birth as a physiological event, Havinga-Droop says the majority of obstetricians see it as a medical event where interventions are necessary.

"Most of pregnant people's care in our area is being handled by obstetricians," Havinga-Droop says, explaining that much of their surgical training is about handling high-risk pregnancies and maternal or infant emergencies ...

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Our Family Adventure in Tuscany, Part One: My Wine Epiphany



By Nick Antonaccio

It was an idyllic setting – Tuscany.

A few weeks ago, my family and I finally ventured on our COVID-delayed multi-generational vacation. My wife and I, our married children and their five children, headed to a villa we rented in

the heart of Chianti Classico country.

The genesis of the trip was to introduce the grandchildren to a new cultural and dining experience, a trip I believed would open their eyes and minds to create impressions and memories they would embrace for the rest of their lives. Combining the culture and history of the area with the local gastronomy would provide a backdrop for the lifestyles of people in another part of the world, both the ancients and their 21st century descendants.

Our villa was in the heart of the Chianti Classico region, close to Greve in Chianti, one of the principal towns in the region. From this vantage point we traveled to nearby Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, Monteriggioni, Barberino Val d'Elsa and several other medieval villages, where we literally walked in the footsteps of history.

Next week I'll delve into the particulars of the local culture, cuisine and wines of Tuscany that our family encountered and enjoyed.

In this week's column, I focus on my

personal experience as I immersed myself in the wines produced in this area, which are primarily from the Sangiovese (red) and Vernaccia (white) grapes. Next week I'll introduce these wines.

My sunrise jog each morning was like no other before it in my lifetime. A typical 5K run opened my eyes and mind to a) the rolling hills along my route deep in the vineyards and olive groves that proliferated at every turn and hillcrest; b) the ubiquitous cypress trees, standing like sentinels hovering over the prized crops; c) the brilliant orange ball of the sun looming on the horizon; d) the vibrant blue sky, dotted with fluffy bleached-white clouds for emphasis; and e) the multicolored hot air balloons dotting the countryside that punctuated the brilliance of the sun and sky.

I felt the same adrenalin rush in my mind as in my cardio system.

Now that I've set the tone of our trip, allow me to focus on my new perspective of the wines we consumed. The enjoyment of wine is so much more than the contents of a glass, more than an organoleptic experience. The true understanding of a glass of wine is to appreciate the essence of the history of the wine, the ethereal elements that are beyond our senses of taste and smell.

I'll never gaze upon a bottle of Tuscan wine the same way again. Yes, I'll still appreciate the grapes, the vineyard, the terroir and the winemaking tradition. But now, as I pop the cork on a bottle, what wafts from the glass into my senses is the essence of centuries-old

You Heard It Through the Grapevine



traditions, influenced by the Romans 2,500 years ago:

1. The grower, who toils with dirt-embedded hands to plant the vines with just the right sun exposure.
2. The vineyard manager, whose sweaty hands leave drops of moisture on the vines as he or she labors during the hot Tuscan summers.
3. The winemaker, whose grape-stained hands craft a wine that has been passed down from multiple generations, even centuries.

In Tuscany, each of these roles may be carried on within the same family, including a grandparent, parent, children, even grandchildren. These winemaking families are rooted in the land and the terroir, but overwhelmingly in the history of those who produced wine before them.

My heightened senses now detect a second set of components wafting from my glass. It

is the very essence of Tuscany itself – the indelible memory of the rosemary-scented morning air, the glorious heat of the orange sun beating down on vines, the sense and scent in my nostrils of the dusty, dry soil the vines must adapt to for survival.

Rising above all of these is the millennia of history of the Tuscan hills and valleys, all captured in the bottle and glass sitting on my dining table, enabling me to relive, over and over and over again, what I've dubbed my "Ethereal Tuscan Experience."

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.

New Telescope Helps Us Imagine Another World Like Ours

On July 11, NASA released the first photos from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), which launched at the end of last year and now studies the universe from a point in space about a million miles from Earth.

While this telescope works quite differently, many people see this observatory as an upgrade. It fills the very big shoes of the Hubble Space Telescope, which has fundamentally changed our understanding of our universe since its launch in the early 1990s.

One photo is of a corner of the sky about the size of a single grain of sand would appear to us if we held it at arm's length. It highlights a cluster of galaxies about four billion light years away called SMACS 0723. A light year is the distance light travels in a year: about six trillion miles (or about 9.5 trillion kilometers). Scattered across that photo, we see galaxy upon galaxy, some like our Milky Way, as we look deeper and deeper into space.

Each of SMACS 0723's galaxies have countless stars, some like our sun.

Even though light is the fastest thing there is, it's frustratingly slow

at the scale of the universe. It takes incredible amounts of time for those stars' and galaxies' light to reach us. As the line from the telescope stretches off, perfectly straight, across millions and billions of light years of unimaginable emptiness, we're looking farther and farther back in time. The SMACS 0723 we see in the photo today is the

SMACS 0723 of four billion years ago.

But we've learned how light works, and how to use that frustration to our advantage. We can tell what direction those galaxies are moving relative to us and each other and figure out how far away they are. We can learn how long ago those objects formed.

Some of the light we see in that photo is behind the cluster and is so far away that it's been traveling to us, from our

point of view, for about 13 billion years. That's 98 percent of the time since the big bang.

We've learned enough about the nature of the light to know that if there's nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen or even water on those worlds. It's here, why not there?

We've learned.

The beauty JWST has shown us so far is undeniable, but so is the voyage it can send us on. As I stare at that photo, I wonder not just what's out there, but who. There must be at least one world hidden in that photo, orbiting a star and bathed, like we are, in warmth and light. For me it's harder to imagine that there isn't. Could there be at least



By Scott Levine

one world where critters, creatures or people live and die, love and struggle, but somehow find their way through?

Even when things are bleak, I remember all we've learned, all we've taught each other, all we've discovered and the path we've all followed so we can see photos like that one. These, and all the photos that come next, show us where we've

been and where we're going.

Tonight, let's head outside, pick out any grain-of-sand-sized patch of sky, look up and imagine what we'll learn tomorrow – or imagine who might be staring back at us with hope.

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.

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The phases of the moon for August.

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Rehabilitation of the West Staircase at Village Hall. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Village of Pleasantville will receive sealed bids for the Rehabilitation of the West Staircase at Village Hall. Sealed bids will be received in the office of the Village Clerk, Pleasantville, New York, until 12:00PM on August 19, 2022, and immediately thereafter the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the said office. Specifications and contract documents may be obtained on the third floor of Village Hall, located at 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570. These documents will also be made available on the BidNet Direct website (www.bidnetdirect.com). Bids shall be made on the proposal forms furnished with the specifications.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Replacement of Emergency and Exit Lighting in Village Hall. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Pleasantville will receive sealed bids for the Replacement of Emergency and Exit Lighting in Village Hall. Sealed bids will be received in the office of the Village Clerk, Pleasantville, New York, until 12:00PM on August 12, 2022, and immediately thereafter the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the said office. Specifications and contract documents may be obtained on the third floor of Village Hall, located at 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570. These documents will also be made available on the BidNet Direct website (www.bidnetdirect.com). Bids shall be made on the proposal forms furnished with the specifications.

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Daybase Opens First Hybrid Work Location in Westchester

Daybase, the hybrid work company, launched its first Westchester location in Harrison on Monday, bringing a new neighborhood-based work experience to local residents and businesses.

The 5,000-square-foot street-level retail space offers members a variety of space types, both bookable and unassigned, designed for individual and group work activities. The spaces are available completely on demand, with bookable spaces that can be reserved by the hour through the Daybase mobile app.

The founders of Daybase were joined by Harrison Mayor Richard Dioniso, along with other Harrison and county officials, for a ribbon-cutting and tour of the new space. It is located at 326 Halstead Ave, on the ground level of the AvalonBay apartment complex.

The company, launched by a team of former WeWork executives, is developing a network of its on-demand workspots in neighborhoods and communities across the country, to create a purpose-built third space, between home and the office, for the post-pandemic hybrid or remote worker.

"We created Daybase for the times when your office is too far, but home is too close," said Daybase CEO Joel Steinhaus. "Employees are rejecting a return to the five-day commute. However, they need a place that offers the functionality of the office, with the convenience of being down the street and available when they need it."

"In Harrison, we are excited to serve



Representatives from Daybase, a hybrid work company, join local officials to celebrate the launch of the company's first Westchester location on Monday.

residents and local businesses," he added. "The opening of our first Westchester location represents step one in our long-term plan to build a national network of close-to-home work spots."

"To have Daybase, a hybrid working facility, available in Harrison will be a great opportunity for our residents and those who work remotely to connect and network with their neighbors, colleagues, local business

people and entrepreneurs, Dioniso said. "We are thrilled to have a designated co-working space in Town and this will be a great addition to downtown Harrison and local businesses alike."

Daybase offers members unlimited access to the Daylounge, with additional credits available for bookable spaces. The Daylounge has open, unassigned seating for quick tasks and casual conversations, while

bookable spaces serve a set of activities that have proliferated during the pandemic – quiet study space for focus work, private space for video conferencing and larger configurations for group collaborations. Non-members can also book time at Daybase through the app.

Partnering with AvalonBay Communities on the new location, Daybase is responding to the growing demand for flexible work space within multifamily, mixed-use and retail developments across Westchester and the country.

"We are excited to welcome Daybase to Avalon Harrison," said Jeff Topchik, vice president of retail for AvalonBay Communities. "Daybase's model of creating a localized option of high-quality, professional-grade coworking space aligns with our vision of providing an amenity-rich environment for our residents to work, live, and experience. Daybase is a fantastic addition to our community."

Founded in 2020 in New York City, Daybase is a new model designed to create a seamless hybrid work experience. Created by a team of seasoned executives with experience in enterprise workplace solutions, design, architecture, technology, construction, finance and real estate, it offers a network of professional-grade, on-demand work spots, located close to home in neighborhoods and communities across the country.

For more information, visit www.daybase.co.

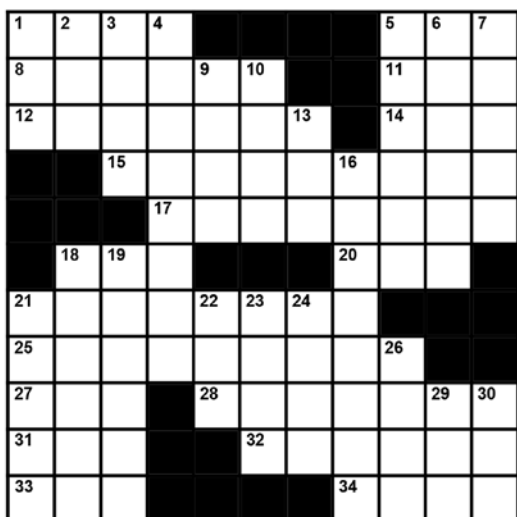
Crossword

Across

1. Wise men
5. "Fiddlesticks!"
8. Wagnerian heroine
11. "All Over the World" band
12. "It takes a ____" or Pleasantville tome shop ____ Book Store
14. Old Olds
15. Riding resort
17. Circus Hall of Fame site
18. Large pond fish
20. Bachelor's last words
21. Exhausted
25. "One day at a time" handyman or Mahopac accountant
27. Article in constant use
28. Cherishes
31. Mountain's end?
32. The way things stand now
33. Iron-____ (T-shirt transfer patterns)
34. Adhesive

Down

1. Caesar's 1004
2. "____ was saying . . ."
3. Ring material
4. Mirage
5. Anise flavored liquor
6. One of the Furies
7. Chortle



9. One of baby's first words
10. Elbe tributary
13. Victorian ____
16. "If you ask me ..."
18. German coffee cake
19. Everyone else
21. Prefix meaning "bone"
22. Invoice amount
23. Dennis the Menace girl
24. Contributes more
26. Pro ____ (proportionately)
29. ____ van Winkle
30. Compass point

Answers on page 26

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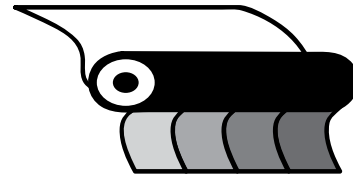
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Extreme Heat Poses Risk for People With Dementia

As the temperatures rise, extreme heat can have a significant impact on everyone's safety, but they can be especially stressful and confusing for individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Alzheimer's disease causes a number of changes in the brain and body that may affect the person's safety, including changes in sensitivity to temperatures.

Today, there are more than six million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease, including about 40,000 people in the Hudson Valley. Taking measures to plan ahead for weather changes, like extreme heat, can prevent injuries and help a person with dementia feel more relaxed and less overwhelmed.

"People living with Alzheimer's and other dementia can be vulnerable during extreme weather because their judgment may be impaired and they may be unable to communicate discomfort," said Meg Boyce, vice president of programs and services for the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter. "It's really important to take extra precautions with these individuals when there is extreme heat or other excessive weather conditions."

The Alzheimer's Association is offering important safety tips for caregivers and families facing Alzheimer's and other dementias to prepare for the hot summer weather.

- **Make a plan.** Family and friends should prepare accordingly and make

plans to regularly check in on a person living with dementia during extreme heat. Arrange alternative plans for cooler spaces, if air conditioning is unavailable, and dress in loose, light clothing.

- **Pay attention at night.** Keep people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias cool by using fans and keeping the air conditioning on. At night, low temperatures can still exceed 75 degrees with little fluctuation in humidity levels, making for difficult and exacerbating sleeping conditions, heightened anxiety and increased agitation.
- **Prepare for behavioral challenges.** Research shows that heat can increase agitation and confusion in people. Try to remove behavioral triggers by addressing the person's physical needs related to the heat, then tending to their emotional needs.
- **Stay hydrated.** Increased water intake is essential to maintaining good hydration and health during extreme heat. Know the signs of heat exhaustion to avoid heat stroke. Dehydration may be difficult to notice in a person living with Alzheimer's, as signs like increased fatigue, dry mouth and headache may be difficult to detect. People taking diuretics, sedatives or certain heart medication may not sweat as much as others, but this does not mean that they are not hot.



- **Stay indoors and out of the sun.** Heat stroke and heat exhaustion may occur in extreme heat conditions but symptoms may be difficult to detect in people living with Alzheimer's. Keep individuals cool by using air conditioning at home or move to a public place, such as a senior center or shopping mall. If you must go outside, be sure to dress appropriately. Remember to dress in loose, light clothing, wear a hat and apply sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30.
- **Stay informed.** Keep an eye on local weather forecasts. High temperatures

are not the only cause for concern. Humidity and air pollution indices can cause breathing difficulties. The person should be monitored regularly and seek medical attention if symptoms arise of dehydration, heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

The Alzheimer's Association is here to help families take measures to prepare for and cope with such extraordinary circumstances. For more information, visit alz.org or call the 24/7 helpline at 800-272-3900.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please Take Notice that in accordance with Chapters 94-7, 107-7, and 110-33.1 of the Village of Mount Kisco Village Code, a public hearing has been scheduled

in connection with a proposed Subdivision, Wetland Permit and Steep Slope Permit submitted by the applicant, Rosemar Development, LLC. The subject property is known as 40 and 42 Kisona Road, is comprised of

approximately 1.696 acres of land, and is located within the Service Commercial Zoning District (SC). The applicant is proposing to merge the two (2) lots, demolish the existing structures, and construct a warehouse building. The Planning Board of the Village of Mount Kisco will hold a public hearing Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 7:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the Frank J. Dimicco, Sr. Room located within Village Hall, 104 Main Street, Mount Kisco, New York to receive public comment. All interested parties are invited to attend and be heard.

REAL ESTATE

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Hell-Bent!



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Bentivenga Ends Red Storm Skid in 15-5 Win vs. Mahopac Wolves

Somers P Matt Bentivenga fires pitch in Red Storm's 15-5 win over visiting Mahopac Wolves last Saturday at Reis Park where "Benti" whiffed six batters over 3.1 innings pitched to end a five-game losing streak for the 14U Storm (8-8) in Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League action... see Focus on GHVBL

Examiner Sports

Sweet Caroline!



DONNA MUELLER PHOTO

McCarthy Takes 2nd for Pleasantville Swim Club

Pleasantville's Caroline McCarthy pops up and catches a quick breath as she placed second in the 14U butterfly race against the undefeated Birchwood Swim Club Saturday when first-place Birchwood (5-0) swam off with a convincing 271-221 Northern Westchester Swimming Conference victory over host P'Ville (2-2).

Sports

focus on **Somers Red Storm 14U Club Snaps Skid in 15-5 Win over Mahopac Wolves; East Coast Mavs Pouring it on**



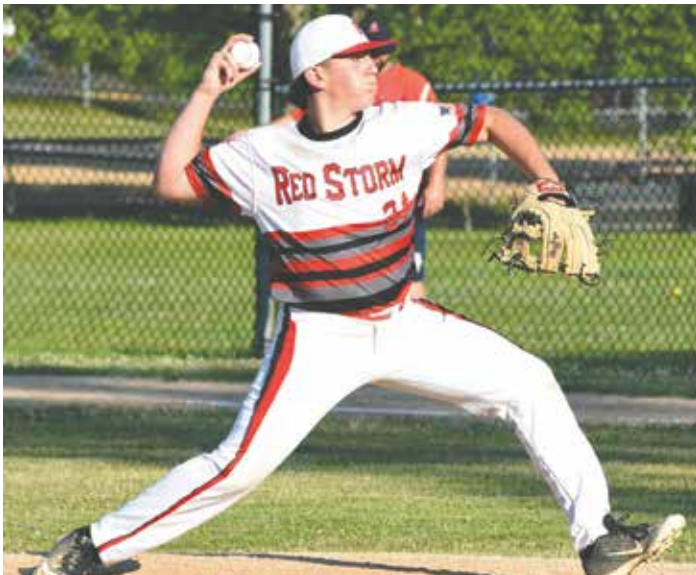
East Coast Mavs' Jayden Carter chugs home with run as Somers C Dean Palazzolo awaits throw in Mavs' 9-3 GHVBL win over host Storm last Thursday at Reis Park.



Mahopac's Jake Sorrentino homes in during Wolves' 15-5 loss to host Somers in 14U GHVBL action Saturday at Reis Park.



Mahopac's Louis Girau fires pitch in Wolves' 14U GHVBL loss to Somers Saturday at Reis Park.



Somers P Dillon Kuchinsky fires pitch in the 9-8 Red Storm's 9-3 loss to mighty East Coast Mavs (14-3) last Thursday at Reis Park.



Somers' Matt Mignardi strokes run-scoring single in Red Storm's 15-5 win over visiting Mahopac Wolves in 14U GHVBL action Saturday.



Jeremy O'Keefe of the surging East Coast Mavs (14-3) takes a cut in 9-3 win over host Somers Red Storm in 14U GHVBL action last Thursday at Reis Park.



Somers' Joey Fink readies to score run in Red Storm's 15-5 GHVBL 14U win over visiting Mahopac Wolves Saturday at Reis Park.



Somers Red Storm's John Barbagalla heads for 3B in Storm's 15-5 win over visiting Mahopac Wolves in 14U GHVBL action Saturday at Reis Park.

Sports

CALL-Stars Fall in Sectional Finals



BETH LUFT PHOTO

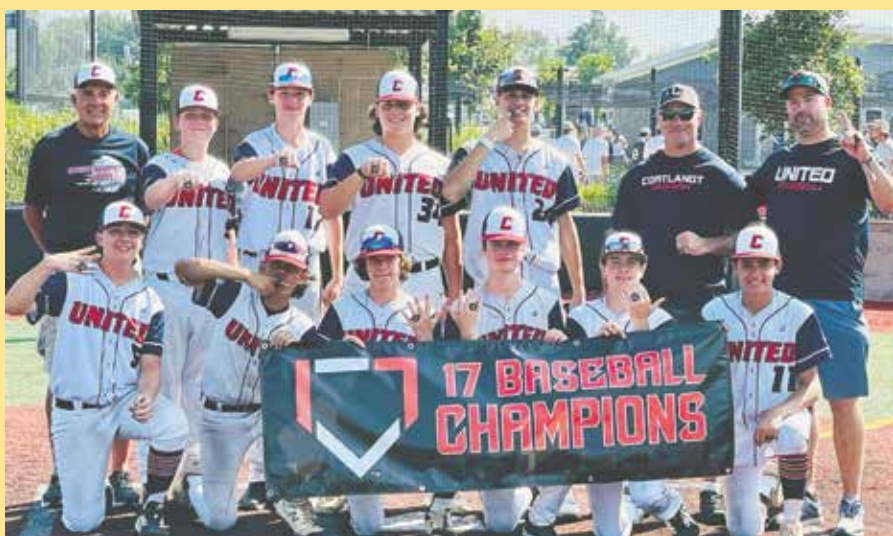
After winning the District 33 tournament and advancing to the sectional round of the Williamsport Little League Tournament, the Cortlandt American Little League all-stars defeated Stony Point, 10-0, in the opening round of the NYS Little League sectional tournament last week. But the 10U Cortlandt All-Stars had their terrific summer run end last Wednesday when a strong Harrison club upended the CALL-stars, 15-5, to win the sectional championship at Gedney Park in White Plains. The unit had plenty to be proud of this season, including Coach Jeremy Luft and assistants Dan Lindenbaum and Eric Vogel, plus Fabian Coello, Luke Fialkovic, Zach Lindenbaum, Jake Luft, Noah Malfant, Joey Mayes, Christian Pichardo, Steven Puente, Nicholas Stazzzone, Andrew Steele, Ottavio Tomao, Callen Vogel, Trevor Vogel and Joseph Walsh.

12U SOAC Team Reps Strong at Cooperstown



Members of the Shrub Oak Athletic Club 12U Cooperstown baseball team take a minute from a busy week of successful action to pose after the unit made the area proud with a solid three-win week. Members include Luke Aurigemma, Ryan Battista, JJ Allewa, Joey Rocco, Luke Numme, Charlie Cappo, Nick Cerrato, Max Visconti, Anthony Porco, Mike Porco, GianFranco Bastone and James Choolfaian, plus Coach Rich Battista and assistants Gary Aurigemm and Jason Alewa. Jay Tomasulo, Director of SOAC baseball, said, "We are extremely proud of this team. Coaches and players both represented our town and organization the right way with hard work and sportsmanship. We haven't won three games up there in few years, so congratulations to Coach Batista and his 12u team."

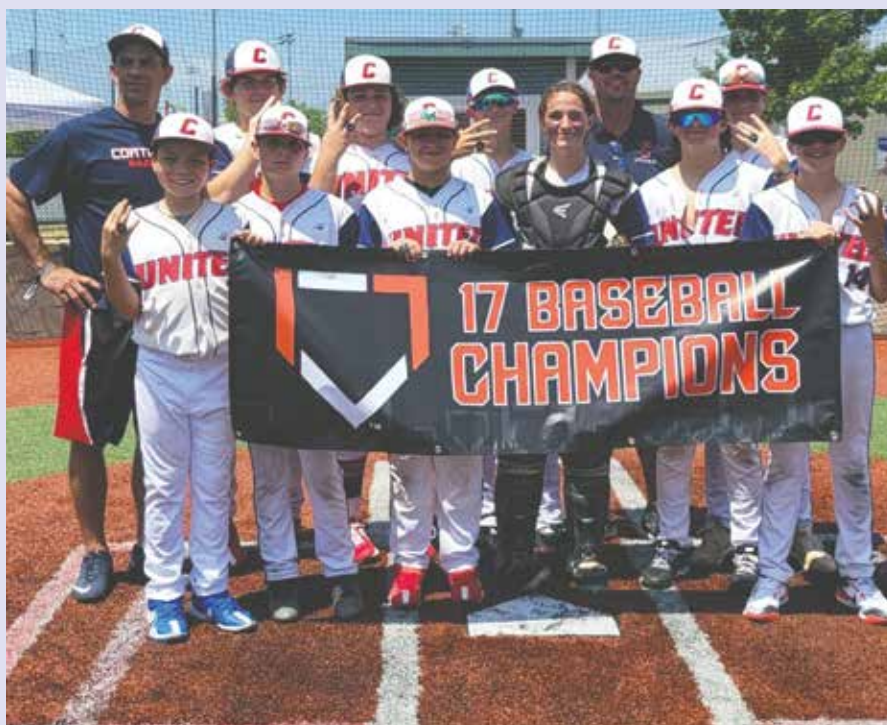
Bring on the Rings!



Cortlandt United Crowned 14U Champs

The 14U Cortlandt United baseball club display their championship rings after they defeated Prime Baseball of Detroit twice after the Invaders came out of the losers bracket to face Cortlandt United, which defeated the Invaders for the title, including an 11-1 win in the championship of the Golden Spikes Classic baseball tournament in Sandusky, Ohio last Sunday. Members of the Cortlandt United 14U team include; Back Row Left: John Pelaccio-Coach, Duncan Siller, Thomas Nunziatta, Matt Garcia, Andrew Gabari, Mark Hiltley-Coach, Matt Garcia-Manager; Front Row Left: Aidan Harkin, Corey DeJesus, Rext Kohan, Jack Hiltley, Aidan Lawless, Jake Malfant, missing (Jackson Lubbers)

Cortlandt United Wins 13U Diamond Title



The 13U Cortlandt United club played in the Sports Force Baseball Tournament in Sandusky, Ohio, on July 18th-19th. Todd Lange, the manager of the 13U team, organized the entire trip and was rewarded with a championship when the United went the distance in a 10-3 win over the Michigan Knights. Back Row Left: Mike Santoemma-Coach, Christian Martin, Maxx Minichino, Aiden Mazzola, Todd Lange-Manager, Sam Lange; Front Row Left: Doug Wallace, Matthew Strom, Matt Quinn, Angelina Carbone, Mike Santoemma, Lucas Tangredi.

Sports

focus on
SWIMMING

Birchwood, P'Ville Swim
Teams Beat the Heat



Pleasantville's Alexandra Callahan challenges in the 10U freestyle race against Birchwood Saturday.



Pleasantville's Claire O'Neill in the 8U 25-meter freestyle race Saturday.



Pleasantville's Kylie Paltz took 3rd in the 10U freestyle race against Birchwood Saturday.



Pleasantville 14U relay team of Maeve Byrnes, Kelly Coyle, Lily Dillane and Nehla Southoff are all smiles as they wait to get back into the pool Saturday against Birchwood.



Leila Shouery of Pleasantville eagerly awaiting her turn in the next heat during Saturday's race against mighty Birchwood.



First-place winner Grayson Dixon of Birchwood Swim checks his time after beating the field.

SMALL NEWS
IS BIG NEWS



Chris Hayson of the Birchwood Pool in Chappaqua takes 1st place 25 meters 8U race Saturday in Pleasantville.



Pleasantville's Nehla Southoff competes in butterfly against undefeated Birchwood Saturday.

Crossword Answers

1	M	2	A	3	G	4	I					5	P	6	A	7	H
8	I	S	O	L	9	D	10	E				11	E	L	O		
12	V	I	L	L	A	G	13	E				14	R	E	O		
					15	D	U	D	E	R	16	A	N	C	H		
							17	S	A	R	A	S	O	T	A		
					18	K	O	I				20	I	D	O		
21	O	U	T	O	F	G	A	S									
25	S	C	H	N	E	I	D	E	R	26							
27	T	H	E				28	E	N	D	E	A	29		30	S	
31	E	E	R							32	A	S	I	T	I	S	
33	O	N	S									34	T	A	P	E	

Sports

Coaching Carousel Spins at Mahopac, Yorktown, Somers

Dini Tabbed Husker Girls' Hoop Coach; Hynes, Nappi Land Hoops, Hardball Gigs at 'Pac



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor @Directrays

We told you a couple of weeks ago to keep a watchful eye on @Directrays Twitter feed, as some coaches would be on the move and others would be stepping up to take on new coaching assignments. And lo and behold the intel we kept under wraps began to emerge at places like Mahopac, Somers and Yorktown,

which is where we'll start since it's pretty big news that Yorktown A.D. Rob Barrett tabbed Kristi Dini as the new Cornhusker varsity girls' basketball coach, replacing Brian Mundy.

The Dini hire came out of nowhere after she was unceremoniously released by Putnam Valley after winning a Section 1 Class B title in 2020 and a COVID-shortened title in 2021. Dini was released and then replaced just weeks before the start of the 2021 season by venerable Don Hamlin, and the Tigers roared to a third-straight crown in March of 2022, reaching the NYS Final 4 for the first time ever. That was tough for Dini to stomach, though she pulled and prayed for the Tigers, many of whom she still trains in her AAU Extreme Hoops program, which runs out of Solaris, which is a hop, skip and a jump from Yorktown High.

That, along with a risk-reward mentality, were just two of the reasons Barrett had the gumption to dust off Dini, who gets another

crack at building yet another winner; this time in Class A.

"We have a way of doing things here, the Yorktown way," Barrett said, "and we believe Kristi can conform to that and be a great coach here at Yorktown the next 15 years or so. We think she can be our Gina Maher (the longtime Irvington coach and Dini inspirer). We're very excited by the hire and think the possibilities are limitless for our program. She's a great coach, that's never been in question."

If Dini, who played professionally overseas in 2009-10 after a brilliant career at B.U., has learned anything from her brief stays at places like Briarcliff, Somers and Put Valley, Class A basketball should be on alert for Yorktown. Dini turned around what was a rag-tag Somers program in a hurry and won a Coach of the Year honor, and then did likewise with Putnam Valley while blazing trails to County Center. Now, Dini will set her sights on another sectional title against bigger programs like Mahopac, which just replaced Coach Chuck Scozzafava with true rookie Coach Mairead Hynes. Mahopac A.D. Stephen Luciana opted for the in-house hire for his girls' hoops coach, just as he did with his new baseball coach, Anthony Nappi (pending BOE approval), who's fresh off winning the 2022 Section 1 Class A title with 12th-seeded Somers (he replaced Myk Lugbauer). The Hynes family is Mahopac royalty when it comes to inspired student

Direct Rays

athletes, and Mairead was a multi-sport athlete at Mahopac back in 2012-14 and now teaches in the district, as does Nappi, who inherits a baseball program that has struggled of late but has a freshman class that inspires hope.

Luciana had some quality choices to hire from but is big on hiring union employees in his district, something that sits well with MTA President Tom McMahon and his teacher's union.

"We are excited to have Mairied Hynes take over as the next head coach of our girls basketball program," Luciana admitted. "Mairead was a star player at Mahopac, and now she comes home to help take our program to the next level. She showed through the interview process she is a leader and is committed to building a strong program from the youth programs to the varsity."

In the meantime, Somers is now exploring options for its new baseball coach, and the Tuskers have some interesting possibilities once the job is posted, including Teddy Lawrence, the former longtime Rye Country Day School coach and former MLB draftee of the Detroit Tigers via Mahopac High. Lawrence currently runs 9er Baseball Academy and has an impressive résumé.

The Tuskers can also promote from within their own staff and tab Paul Mayer, who was Nappi's right-hand man last season, but it's more likely Somers is looking for



Former Put Valley Coach Kristi Dini will now patrol the Yorktown girls' hoops sidelines.

an educator, which leaves them with **AT LEAST** two solid prospects to take over a Tusker club that is pitching rich and poised to repeat if the pipeline can replace pivotal seniors like SS Matt Kapika...

#JuanSoto! If I'm the NY Mets brass, I'll give up several highly-touted prospects, including SS Ronny Mauricio, 3B Brett Baty, versatile IF/OF Mark Vientos and anyone not named C Francisco Alvarez, plus JD Davis and Dom Smith to get this still-budding, once-in-a-generation talent like the 23-year-old Soto. Make it happen, captain! With two-time Cy Young winning P Jacon deGrom's future in doubt and P Max Scherzer on the back nine of a Hall of Fame career, the Mets are built for now, so go ahead and ransom the future for a 2022-23 World Series run.

Lakeland Summer Soccer League Playoffs Begin with Bang

By Sam Federman

After a regular season filled with drama, the hot Westchester sun provided a toasty backdrop for the first round of the Lakeland Summer League Playoffs. Here's a look at the regular season standings with a refresher on the playoff format.

Leading Scorer of the Regular Season: Michael Rodriguez, Lakeland, 9 Goals

The playoff format is pretty simple, every team makes the playoffs, single elimination, and teams are matched with the inverse finisher in the other league. (1st place in A plays 8th place in B, 3rd place in B plays 6th place in A, etc...)

On Sunday, the playoffs began, and in the night cap, Rye and Byram Hills played a thriller. Neither team scored through regulation, with Will Harrison of Byram Hills and Kyan Cox of Rye trading saves. After a long 50 minutes in the late night, the Garnets were able to advance past Byram Hills on penalties, 3-1. They will play the winner of JJEF and Westlake on Friday at 5:00 PM.

Somers had a dominant regular season, finishing with 6 wins of 8 games, and scoring a League A-leading 18 goals. Their playoff matchup with Panas yielded a similar result, an assault of shots on goal, and a victory. Liam Healy, Chris Goncalves, and Edmond Cleary all beat Johan Essau for goals. Essau

did hold up his end of the stick, stopping seven shots, but his offense couldn't pick him up. A goal from Alex Guevara was the only scoring they'd muster, and Somers would win 3-1. Somers will face the winner of Briarcliff/Harrison on Friday at 7:00 PM

After finishing 6th in League B, Carmel had something to prove, and they went out and did just that. Eastchester didn't have enough answers for Carmel's attack, as they pounded in three goals. Kevin Hernandez, Neil Walia, and Kyle Klammer did the job for the Rams as they defeated the 3rd-seeded Eagles 3-1. Carmel faces the winner of Yorktown/JJCR on Friday at 6:00 PM.

The early game was perhaps the most captivating of the day. Lakeland, the dominant force that had allowed just one goal all summer, was facing Putnam Valley, a team that had mustered just one goal as they suffered eight defeats in League B. It was a stereotypical David vs Goliath matchup, and it started out just that way, with David Rodriguez scoring an early goal for Lakeland that put them ahead.

Lakeland consistently applied pressure to the thin Putnam Valley squad. Not only were the Tigers overmatched physically and technically, but they had just one sub, and had eighth graders playing, while Lakeland had more than enough subs to keep their players at least marginally fresh in the 90+ degree heat.

Putnam Valley didn't need fresh legs to be motivated however, even when Silvio Ahmataj put the Hornets up 2-0 by finishing a rebound after an impressive save, PV kept the chip on their shoulder. Shot after shot poured in on net, but Putnam Valley's Miguel Hernandez was equal to the task 10 times, and it felt like significantly more. Hernandez is, according to Putnam Valley's coaching staff, "the one player that we cannot live without," and he proved it today.

Esuar Ordonez was able to get one back for Putnam Valley, just the second goal they'd scored all summer, and the second goal Lakeland surrendered. In the end, it wouldn't be enough, as a free kick to tie the game at the death steered just wide of the net, and Lakeland came away with the victory, 2-1.

The better team did win this game, and while Putnam Valley fought hard, Lakeland was fighting too. The Hornets always seemed to be in good positioning, which limited chances off of clearances for Putnam Valley.

Lakeland will play the winner of White Plains/RCK on Friday night at 8:00 PM

SCHEDULE: 7/26

5:00 PM: 4B White Plains vs 5A RCK (Winner plays Lakeland)

6:00 PM: 3B Briarcliff vs 6A Harrison (Winner plays Somers)



SAM FEDERMAN PHOTO

Lakeland's Anthony Villa pushes upfield in 2-1 Hornet playoff win over Putnam Valley and Josh Leal Sunday in Lakeland Summer Soccer League action.

7:00 PM: 2B Yorktown vs 7A JJCR (Winner plays Carmel)

8:00 PM: 1B JJEF vs 8A Westlake (Winner plays Rye)



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