

**Schools Closed;
Date Set for
Budget, Board
Votes...page 5**

The PUTNAM Examiner

**Putnam COVID-19
Cases Breakdown:**
Countywide: 1,144
(active 73)
Carmel: 371
Southeast: 218
Kent: 213
Putnam Valley: 145
Philipstown: 102
Patterson: 95
(As of May 1)

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May 5 - May 11, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 12, Issue 580



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

A Sign of Hope

An optimistic message was prominently placed on Route 311 in the Town of Patterson, across from the library.

County Executive Odell Opposes Changes to STAR that Could Punish Homeowners

By Rick Pezzullo

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell voiced her opposition this week to a state budget change that punishes homeowners who have fallen behind on their property taxes by taking away their Basic STAR tax exemption.

The Basic STAR program, which started in the 1990s, is an upfront exemption on school taxes that saves the average principal homeowner in New York State about \$800 year. As of this year, however, those who are more than a year late on their property taxes will no longer qualify for the exemption. The Enhanced STAR program, which gives senior citizens a larger property tax break, is not

affected by the change.

"This is not a time to penalize homeowners who have fallen behind in their property tax payments," Odell said. "Those who can't pay their taxes are being kicked out of STAR – the very program that is designed to ease the property tax burden. These kind of budget shenanigans may make state finances look better, but they amount to nothing more than hitting people when they are down."

Governor Andrew Cuomo has advocated to eliminate the upfront reduction in the school tax bill that STAR offers and replace it with a STAR credit check that is sent to homeowners in the fall. When the state pays STAR by a rebate check, it is considered a revenue

reduction rather than state spending, thus allowing the state to keep spending under the 2 % cap.

The NYS Department of Taxation and Finance announced that it plans to send letters on May 22 to those who will be kicked out of the Basic STAR program.

When homeowners lose their STAR exemption, it ultimately hurts the county, said William Carlin Jr., the Putnam County Commissioner of Finance.

"Without the STAR exemption, we expect there will be an increase in the number of homeowners who can't pay their taxes," Carlin said. "A lost STAR exemption ultimately hurts the county. The county is

Continued on page 2

42 Acres Preserved Adjacent to Wonder Lake Park in Kent

By Rick Pezzullo

More than 40 acres of land in Kent have been preserved as a place for the public to visit and enjoy the outdoors thanks to a visionary landowner and the work of a partnership between Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) and Westchester Land Trust (WLT).

The project protects woodlands (predominantly sugar maple and red oak) and wetlands with high biodiversity. The property contains a large New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulated wetland that provides habitat for native and migrating songbirds, waterfowl, and rap-

tors.

The land provides a buffer to adjoining Wonder Lake State Park and its 1,133 acres.

"The New York Highlands is a unique region with a wide array of natural areas and recreational opportunities," said Katrina Shindledecker, HHLT's Director of Conservation. "Westchester Land Trust's acquisition of this land protects its wetlands and woodlands, while expanding public open space next to a popular state park—a win-win for everyone."

This land is located in the Highlands region of New York, an environmentally significant corridor that stretches from Pennsylv-

nia to Connecticut. It is rich in biodiversity, has large tracts of unbroken forest cover, and is home to 250 endangered, threatened or species of special concern. The importance of the Highlands region was extensively documented in the U.S. Forest Service's Highlands Regional Study (HRS).

The property lies within one of the HRS Conservation Focal Areas that have been identified as having the highest conservation resource value, but which are most threatened by development.

HHLT and WLT worked directly with the landowner to purchase the property for

Continued on page 2



PHOTO BY JULIA ROGERS

A portion of the open space being preserved in Kent.

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42 Acres Preserved Adjacent to Wonder Lake Park in Kent

continued from page 1

preservation purposes. HHLT provided critical financial assistance, and WLT will own and manage the land, with the goal of ultimately transferring it to New York State Parks' ownership. The property will eventually be opened for public access with a trail system that links

to the neighboring trails on state-owned lands.

The landowner, John Armstrong, said, "I'm so happy that the Westchester Land Trust and Hudson Highlands Land Trust protected this land. My family has had a connection to the property for more than 60 years—I roamed its wetlands and uplands when I was

a boy. By protecting it, you have given us a great legacy. Thank you."

"Land protection projects can be complex and require more resources than any one group has individually," said Lori Ensinger, President of WLT. "A partnership like this one is a great model that we expect to continue in the future. We can get more done when we collaborate

and each bring our own strengths to a project—such as land management planning, financing, legal expertise—and work toward our shared goals. In this case, people, plants, and animals are the real winners."

The HHLT is a community-based, accredited, non-profit conservation organization with a mis-

sion to protect and preserve the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands. The WLT works with public and private partners to preserve land in perpetuity, and to enhance the natural resources in Westchester and eastern Putnam counties.

Odell Opposing Changes that Could Punish Homeowners

continued from page 1

responsible for guaranteeing taxes to the school districts. If delinquent property taxpayers aren't allowed the STAR exemption, it means the county will have to pay the school districts that much more."

In addition to the school taxes, the county also guarantees town and village taxes each year at a current amount of approximately \$25 million. Once property owners have been kicked out of the Basic Star Exemption program, they are removed forever. When they pay their taxes, they may qualify for the STAR rebate check.

Since 1995, Putnam County has offered a two-year payment plan for those who are unable to pay their entire property tax bill on time.

State Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R),

who represents Putnam County, could not be reached for comment.

Correction

In a front page photo published in the April 28 edition, it was incorrectly stated that Kristen Sheridan Neeson and Megan Booth displayed a banner showing their pride for the Putnam Valley Volunteer Ambulance Corps, where their Uncle Bill Sheridan is 2nd Lieutenant, in front of New York Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital. In fact, they were standing in front of the ambulance headquarters at 218 Oscawana Lake Road in Putnam Valley. Examiner Media regrets the error.

NYSEG Honors PH Workers

More than 50 NYSEG vehicles drove through the campus of the Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel last week to pay tribute to healthcare professionals.

Field crews from NYSEG, an AVANGRID company, coordinated this event to demonstrate their appreciation for those working in the healthcare field and working to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

"Everyone at NYSEG appreciates the hard work and commitment of those serving in our hospitals and the healthcare professions to aid our neighbors who are fighting COVID-19, and today's convoy of vehicles is a just one way we've been able to demonstrate that appreciation," said Carl A. Taylor, President and CEO of NYSEG.

The event on April 29 was preceded by a donation of 50 prepared meals by to staff at the hospital on April 27.

"We are so grateful for the support and

appreciation NYSEG showed the Putnam Hospital staff this morning," hospital President Peter Kelly said. "They themselves are essential, frontline workers, and still took the time to hold a drive-by salute to our staff. Thank you for such an uplifting and inspiring act of goodwill. It truly boosts everyone's spirits during this difficult time."

NYSEG crews continue their work as essential employees to ensure that energy service to our homes, hospitals and businesses is uninterrupted. As part of the company's coronavirus response efforts, personnel have been inspecting electrical circuits that provide power to hospitals and other critical facilities.

Last month, NYSEG, along with sister company RG&E, had donated 17,700 N95 and surgical masks to the state's COVID-19 response effort to assist health care workers on the front lines.

Information is healthy. Fear is not.

What is Social Distancing?

Social Distancing is one of the most effective ways to avoid coronavirus infection. It simply means avoiding crowded settings, mass gatherings and maintaining a 6-foot distance from others when possible.

We know that this may mean missing an event you've been looking forward to, or breaking your weekly routine, but it will also protect you and those around you.

Northwell Health is built for situations just like this and we'll continue to share facts and tips in the days to come. Because knowledge is contagious too.

Get the facts at
Northwell.edu/Prepared



Cuomo Unveils Methodical, Data-Driven Plan to Reopen State

By Martin Wilbur

Gov. Andrew Cuomo laid out a detailed plan Monday to allow portions of New York State to enter the first reopening phase if a region meets a series of benchmarks on a multistep data-driven metric.

Cuomo said under guidelines released from the Centers for Disease Control, the goal is to diminish the rate of new infections while increasing the rate of diagnostic testing and contact tracing to specific levels for a reopening to take place.

Cuomo said the factors will be driven by hard data, not based on whim or anecdotal reporting. Any reopening will not occur statewide, with upstate New York a virtual certainty to move forward before New York City, Long Island and other downstate areas, including Westchester, he said. The state has been divided into 10 regions.

"This is what local leaders, this is what a community has to deal with to reopen safely and intelligently in my opinion," Cuomo said. "This can't be we want to get out of the house, we're going."

New York PAUSE has shut down the state except for essential operations until May 15.

For a region to reach a Phase I reopening, it must have at least 14 days of declines in total hospitalizations and deaths on its three-day rolling average; it cannot exceed 15 new cases or five new deaths on a three-day average; there must be less than two new COVID patients per 100,000 residents; a region's hospitals must have at least a 30 percent vacancy in total hospital beds and ICU beds; and every hospital must have at least a 90-day supply of personal protection equipment (PPE), measured at the rate the equipment was being used during the height of the crisis.

Two other requirements revolve around testing. There must be 30 tests available for every 1,000 residents per month and a baseline of 30 contact tracers for every 100,000 residents. On Apr. 25, Cuomo tabbed former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg to help lead the recruitment of tracers statewide.

"May 15 regions can start to reopen and do their own analysis, but these are the facts that they have to have in place," Cuomo said. "Start now, don't wait to May 15."

If the infection rate at any time exceeds 1.1 transmissions per infected person in a region, the reopening processes would be stopped, he said.

As of Monday, five regions – Central New York, Finger Lakes, the North Country, the Southern Tier and the Mohawk Valley – meet five of the seven benchmarks to reopen. The Capital region and the Mid-Hudson Valley, which includes Westchester and Putnam counties, currently reach four of the seven. Meanwhile, New York City and Western New York, which includes Buffalo, meet three of the standards while Long Island meets only two.

Under the state's blueprint, any region that meets the benchmarks will be able to enter the first of a four-phase reopening that is designed to balance the most important services and products with risk. Phase I includes construction, manufacturing and select retail for curbside pickup only.

Phase II takes in professional services, finance and insurance, retail, administrative support and real estate and rental leasing.

The third phase would bring restaurants and

food services along with hotels on board while the fourth phase includes arts, entertainment, recreation and education.

Previously, Cuomo said there would have to be at least two weeks between the start of each phase in a region.

Along with all regions meeting these benchmarks, individual businesses would have to devise a safety plan before reopening, demonstrating how employees and the public are protected, Cuomo said.

The governor said the methodical approach is crucial to follow because he doesn't want to see a repeat of what the state has endured over



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

the past two months.

"Nobody wants to have gone through all of this and then start and have to stop again," Cuomo said.

On Sunday, New York and six other Northeast states announced it would establish a consortium to buy (PPE) and other medical supplies.

New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Delaware will join New York to leverage their collective purchasing power to get a more competitive price for gowns, masks, gloves, ventilators and other items along with keeping each state's hospitals properly outfitted with supplies,

Cuomo said.

It is the same seven-state partnership that was established last month to coordinate a regional reopening plan.

For much of the coronavirus crisis, governors have been left to their own devices, with some partnering with neighboring states because of the lack of basic medical equipment through the height of the crisis.

Last Saturday, the state released updated antibody testing figures, showing just over 15,000 tests had been administered. The latest statistics show that 12.3 percent of those tested statewide have the COVID-19 antibodies, meaning that they had been infected with the virus and have recovered, which means they likely have some level of immunity.

Happy Mother's Day from

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Clams Casino (6)
Fried Zucchini
Mozzarella Sticks
Stuffed Mushrooms (4)
Spedini alla Romana
Polenta Gorgonzola
Mozzarella Caprese
Mussels Marinara
Mussels Fra Diavolo
Bruschetta
Cold Antipasto
Caesar Salad
Insalatina Salad
Minestrone Soup – Quart
Pasta Fagioli Soup – Quart
Individual Margherita Pizza

Pasta (Choose 2)

Penne alla Vodka
Penne Silvio
Rigatoni Rustico
Rigatoni al Forno
Gnocchi Bolognese
Manicotti
Lasagana di Casa
Ravioli Marinara
Fussilli Giardino
Fussilli Bandiera

Sides (Choose 2)

Broccoli Sautee
String Beans Garlic & Oil
Escarole Sautee
Spinach Sautee
Roasted Potatoes
Fries
FRESH BREAD INCLUDED

Entrée (Choose 2)

Chicken Capriccioso
Chicken Francese
Chicken Marsala
Chicken Monte Carlo
Chicken Parmigiana
Eggplant Rollatini
Eggplant Parmigiana
Mussels Marinara
Mussels Fra Diavolo
Snapper Livornese
Salmon Salsa Verde

Choose 1

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Schools to Remain Closed Through Rest of Academic Year

By Martin Wilbur

Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced last Friday that all K-12 schools and colleges will be closed throughout New York State for the remainder of the academic year because of ongoing uncertainties created by the coronavirus emergency.

Cuomo said a decision on potential summer school sessions will be made at the end of May. He also called for districts to formulate a reopening plan.

The protections required for schools to socially distance their students and staff as well as arranging for transportation of the students makes it unrealistic to reopen in-classroom learning during May and June, Cuomo said.

"We don't think it's possible to do it in a way that would keep our children and students and educators safe," the governor said.

Cuomo said that in order to have on-site summer school sessions, a possibility that has been raised by some educators, there would need to be a drop or stabilization of the COVID-19 infection rate for a prolonged period of time. Schools can choose to continue remote learning through the summer, he said.

State Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers), chair of the Senate's Education Committee, applauded last week's decision.

"I commend the decision of Gov. Andrew Cuomo to continue to keep school buildings closed for the remainder of the academic year," Mayer said. "Parents, teachers, administrators and all other staff deserve the security of widespread testing, disinfecting and diminished contagion rates before our buildings reopen and traditional schooling resumes."

Cuomo said districts should start preparing reopening plans that include how officials would space students in classrooms, cafeterias and other areas of school grounds, a task that Cuomo acknowledged will be challenging.

However, he would not commit to whether schools may need to continue distance learning in September.

"There's no decision on the fall because the fall is a long time away," Cuomo said.

School Board Elections, Budget Votes Set

Late last Friday, Cuomo signed an executive order that scheduled the annual Board of Education elections and school budget votes for Tuesday, June 9.

However, the election will be by absentee ballot only. There will be no in-person voting on that date, according to the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA). School districts must send out an absentee ballot to all qualified voters.

Candidates may submit a petition to get



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

All school buildings throughout New York State will remain empty through at least June 30. A decision on summer school will be made before the end of May.

on the ballot by Monday, May 11. But there will be no requirement for a candidate to collect signatures if they have not submitted it already. All other eligibility requirements remain in effect.

Cuomo's executive order also rescheduled the village elections for Tuesday, Sept. 15. Originally scheduled for Mar. 18, they were pushed back to Apr. 28, then postponed again.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Family, Neighbors Pay Tribute to Shrub Oak Woman on Her 100th Birthday

By Martin Wilbur

The family of Rowena Jacque Lodes had been looking forward to celebrating her 100th birthday for several years.

Last Saturday, May 2, the big day finally arrived, but with social distancing protocols in effect, the celebration took on a much different look than planned.

Instead of going to a restaurant in Connecticut, Lodes, who is affectionately known as DeeDee, saw her family arrange to have the Lake Mohegan Fire Department lead a birthday procession with horns and sirens blaring around the parking lot at the Wynwood Oaks complex in Shrub Oak where she lives.

Close to 20 vehicles, including relatives' cars with balloons tied on, followed the fire trucks as family waved to Lodes. She had the best, and safest, view of anyone of the celebration – from her second-floor terrace.

"We have been talking about her 100th birthday since she was in her early nineties," said Deborah Arbucci, one of her granddaughters. "Then every time she got sick or any time she had to go to the hospital or anything happened, it was always 'You have to wait till your 100th birthday. You can't go now.'"

Lodes waved to all the well-wishers below with a sign draped over the side of the terrace saying "Happy 100th Birthday DeeDee."

Her neighbors at Wynwood Oaks cheered her from below. Rosemarie Toscano said that Lodes is an inspiration because she's



Rowena Jacque Lodes, known to her family and friends as DeeDee, takes in the celebration below her in the parking lot at Wynwood Oaks in Shrub Oak on her 100th birthday last Saturday.

full of life, a spry woman who before the coronavirus struck, would be regularly seen walking and driving her bright red Hynudai Elantra around town.

"It shows that actions speak louder than words," Toscano said. "What does that tell you? (She's) a very well-loved woman."

Arbucci said her grandmother was born in Buffalo and spent part of her childhood there, before her family moved to Ohio.

Lodes met her husband at the 1940 World's Fair in New York, which she was attending as a model for Dupont Industries,



Part of the procession of cars driven by family members that had followed trucks from the Lake Mohegan Fire Department.

and he was a scientist for the company. They had two children and five grandchildren. Lodes now has 10 great-grandchildren, Arbucci said.

She raised her children, and after her divorce, worked as an interior designer. In fact, she continues to knit, crochet and paint. "She's very artsy. She paints, she still does acrylic painting and stuff," Arbucci said. "She's very, very artsy, very creative."

Lodes also reads voraciously, making sure to keep her mind sharp, she said.

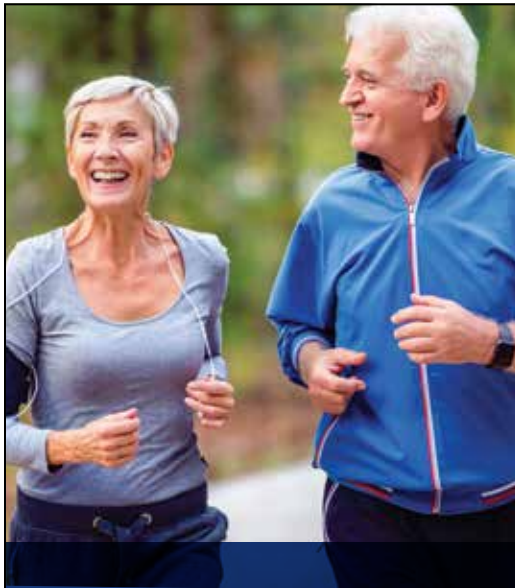
In the parking lot was Yorktown Town Clerk Diana Quast, who was representing the town for the unusual 100th birthday party. It was a dose of badly needed good

news.

"What a celebration," said Quast. "I'm glad we were able to participate and we're glad to be here."

The biggest disappointment for her grandmother, Arbucci said, was that DeeDee wanted a chance to show her appreciation to all the special people in her life, including extended family, friends and even the local postal workers and her doctors.

"She wanted to have everyone there, but she wanted to turn it around and thank everyone else, and thank everyone who's a part of her life instead," Arbucci said. "Instead of singing 'Happy Birthday,' she wanted to say thank you."



Briarcliff Manor

Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body Tips from the Latest Research

*Presented by Jessica Flores Community Engagement Manager & Diversity Specialist
Alzheimer's Association, Hudson Valley Chapter*

At any age, there are lifestyle habits we can adopt to help maintain or even potentially improve our health. These habits may also help to keep our brains healthy as we age and possibly delay the onset of cognitive decline. This webinar covers four areas of lifestyle habits associated with healthy aging: cognitive activity, exercise, diet/nutrition and social engagement. In each area, we will discuss what we know, drawing on current research, as well as what we can do now to improve or maintain overall health.

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Woman Seriously Injured in Wrong-Way Saw Mill Crash in Mount Pleasant

A wrong-way driver on the Saw Mill River Parkway in Mount Pleasant collided with another vehicle last Tuesday night seriously injuring the woman who was operating the other car.

Westchester County police reported that at about 10:30 p.m., Anthony Rodriguez, 42, of Yonkers, the driver of a 2019 Honda Pilot, turned left from Grant Street in Pleasantville onto the northbound lanes of the parkway and headed southbound.

Just north of Marble Avenue in Thornwood, Rodriguez's vehicle crashed into a 2008 Volkswagen GTI driven by Shanigwa Dickerson, 32, of Danbury, Conn. Dickerson's car was also struck by another vehicle that was traveling behind

hers in the northbound lanes.

Dickerson was transported to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla by the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps, police said. She was in critical but stable condition Wednesday morning. Rodriguez and three occupants in the third care were not seriously injured.

Police said that no charges have been filed against Rodriguez at this time, although the incident remains under investigation by members of the Westchester County Police Accident Investigation Unit and detectives from the General Investigations Unit.

--Martin Wilbur

Bedford Attorney Charged With Vehicular Homicide, DWI in Fatal Crash

By Martin Wilbur

A Bedford man who caused a fatal accident on Route 172 last December was arraigned last Thursday on multiple charges, including five felony counts, in the crash that claimed the life of a 22-year-old Pound Ridge man.

Robert Schuster, 51, was charged with two counts each of aggravated vehicular homicide, a Class B felony and first-degree vehicular manslaughter, a Class C felony and second-degree manslaughter, Town of Bedford police said.

Schuster, a defense attorney, was also charged with two counts of driving while intoxicated and one count of reckless driving, both misdemeanors.

A Westchester County grand jury indictment was unsealed Thursday following an extensive investigation. Schuster was arraigned before county Court Judge David Zuckerman.

On the evening of Dec. 16 at about 9:20 p.m., Diego Trejo, a former Mount Kisco resident and Fox Lane High School graduate, was on his way home while driving his 2004 Acura TSX near the Fox Lane campus. A 2018 BMW 750i driven by Schuster crossed over the double yellow lines causing a head-on collision with the Trejo's car, police said. Trejo was pronounced dead at the scene.

Schuster was transported to Westchester

Medical Center and treated for minor injuries.

Trejo was attending Westchester Community College and had been volunteering at the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester in Mount Kisco at the time of his death.

As required by the state bail legislation, Schuster was released on his own recognizance and was ordered to surrender his driver's license and passport. He is due to return to court on June 16.

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**The Peekskill Police Association's
Annual Concert at
Paramount Hudson Valley
Has Been Cancelled.**

This event will be rescheduled
for late Summer.

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Obituaries

Patricia Othmer

Patricia Helen Othmer, 92, a longtime Mahopac resident, passed away peacefully in her sleep on Apr. 25.

She was born in East Orange, N.J. on Mar. 8, 1928, to Hazel (née Eismann) and Patrick Conway.

As a child during the Great Depression, Othmer's family moved frequently around New York and New Jersey with her father's construction business. She would say, "We moved to where the work was in order to feed the family."

Othmer graduated from Bryant High School in Queens and began working as a professional model. She graced the covers of several fashion magazines and even worked with Lucille Ball. She loved reflecting upon the adventures she had as a young model in the 1940s, including the times she had dinner with Joe DiMaggio and boxing champ Billy "The Pittsburgh Kid" Conn.

She met the love of her life, Richard T. Othmer Sr., shortly after he returned from the Pacific theater, where he'd served in the U.S. Army during World War II. They quickly fell in love, and she agreed to quit modeling and marry him under the condition that they settle down in one area. The couple decided to "move up the line" to Putnam due to her deep family roots in the county. In the

1850s, her great-grandfather and his family were communicants at Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church in Cold Spring while he served in the U.S. Army at West Point.

On June 12, 1949, Pat and Richard were married at St. Rose of Lima Church in Manhattan. They subsequently moved to Lake Baldwin, into the first of several homes Richard would build in Mahopac over the years.

Over the course of 70 years in Mahopac, Othmer built a life worth celebrating, with Richard by her side until he passed in 2005. They raised four children, all of whom settled down to raise their own families in Mahopac and Carmel. For decades, she managed the books and office for the family construction business. She also opened the Patti-Jean Shoppe in downtown Mahopac, a women's clothing store, which she owned and operated with her daughters in the 1970s.

Pat and Richard loved Putnam County and were extremely involved in their community, with Richard serving as the Town of Carmel supervisor from 1983 to 1995. The Othmers were parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Church, where Pat was president of the Altar-Rosary Society. Additionally, she served as treasurer of the Lake Mahopac Beach Association and as president of the Putnam County Democratic Club. She was also a member of the Lake Mahopac Garden Club and the Daughters of the Union Veterans of



Patricia Othmer

the Civil War.

She was an avid bridge player and met weekly to play with her good friends, Mary Kellogg, Inez Veschi, Bea Fenninger, Mary Lou O'Connor, Pat Carr, Diana Dwyer, Regina Morini and Eleanor Challou.

On Mar. 8, immediately following the Mahopac St. Patrick's Day Parade, Pat and her large, extended family gathered at her son Jimmy's house to celebrate her 92nd birthday. As she had throughout her life, she held true to

her deep sense of patriotism by insisting she was "100 percent American" and refusing to acquiesce to her Irish heritage. (Nonetheless, her children were always dressed in green on St. Paddy's Day.)

Othmer was predeceased by her husband, Richard; daughter Karen Spallina in 2017; son-in-law Paul Wollman (U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam) last month; brother and sister-in-law Jack and Doris Conway of Miller Place, N.Y.; and sister-in-law Nancy Conway of Tucson, Ariz. She is survived by daughter Patti-Jean Wollman of Poughkeepsie; son-in-law Joseph Spallina of Mahopac; son Richard Jr. (Irene) of Kent; son James (Judy) of Mahopac; brother Eugene Conway of Tucson, Ariz.; 14 grandchildren, Jason (Jackie), Lori, Jesse (Jaime-Lynn), Joey (Trishia), Matt (Laura), Susie (Oliver), James, Jaclyn, Jayne, Thomas (Melissa), Jillian, Alex, Isabel and Jamie; 11 great-grandchildren, Rachel, Sophia, Casey, Paul, Brody, Lily, Ellie, Carly, Annie, Savannah and Lorraine; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Cremation services were held privately. A memorial Mass to celebrate Othmer's life will be announced once we can resume safely gathering.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Patricia's memory to St. John the Evangelist Food Pantry, 221 East Lake Blvd., Mahopac, N.Y. 10541 (www.regionalfoodbank.net).

Harvey Chambers

Harvey Chambers, a White Plains resident, died on Apr. 22. He was 91.

Chambers is survived by daughter, Adrienne Chambers Jones, son Brian Chambers as well as grandchildren Deanna Jones, Ashley Ramirez and Melody Chambers. He was a longtime member of Grace Episcopal Church in White Plains.

He was born in Statesville, N.C. and grew up in New York City. He was a 47-year resident of White Plains, where he lived with his wife Lorraine until her passing in November 2007.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, a social worker by trade and retired as an administrator from Harlem Valley State Hospital. Post-retirement, Chambers was a professor at Westchester Community College. He was a dedicated family man and very proud to have sent both children to his alma matter, New York University, for

undergraduate or graduate studies.

Chambers was a fairly quiet man who spent countless hours listening to jazz music, reading and working on his home. Although quiet, he loved a good debate and had an infectious laugh. With his wife Lorraine, Chambers traveled the world – China, South Africa and numerous countries throughout Europe and South America.

Upon returning from their trips, he memorialized their adventures through beautiful photography. He was a loving father, always present at his children's events and consistently providing opportunities for them to learn and grow. He was also a proud and loving grandfather and found exceptional joy when his grandchildren came to visit.

Arrangements were handled by Ballard-Durand Funeral Home in White Plains.

Margaret Sabatino

Margaret R. Sabatino, a Cortlandt resident, died peacefully at home on Apr. 16. She was 90.

Sabatino was born on Mar. 25, 1930, in Peekskill to Kenneth and Ruth Lancaster Croft. On Sept. 2, 1951, she married John S. Sabatino Sr. at Assumption Church in Peekskill, who predeceased her in 2008.

Margaret (Margie) was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. She loved being surrounded by her family, especially during holidays where she would wrangle everyone into playing cards. In earlier years, she was an avid bowler. Everyone knew her love of scratch-off Lotto tickets and taking trips to Empire City Casino in Yonkers. She was an active member of the Town of Cortlandt Senior Center where she enjoyed playing Pokeno with her

friends.

Sabatino is survived by her four children, Linda Hibbs (David Johnson) of Menlo Park, Calif., John S. Sabatino Jr. and his wife, Donna, of Riverview, Fla., Donna Sabatino of Fishkill and Lisa Presutti and her husband, Robert, of Poughkeepsie; two grandchildren, Michael and Jenna Presutti; a brother, Edwin Croft; and sister Barbara Paonessa. She was predeceased by two brothers, Kenneth Croft Jr. and James Croft.

Donations may be made to Hospice of Westchester, 1025 Westchester Ave., Suite 200, White Plains, N.Y. 10604 or at www.hospiceofwestchester.org. Joseph Nardone Funeral Home handled the arrangements.





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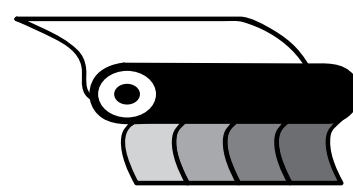
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Chappaqua Names L.I. Educator New Bell Middle School Principal

The Chappaqua Central School District announced last week that a Long Island educator will be the new principal at Robert E. Bell Middle School.

Joseph Wiener, the principal at Lynbrook South Middle School for the last two years, will take over his new position starting July 1.

"I'm excited to join the wonderful team of educators at Bell Middle School and meet the talented students and families in Chappaqua," Wiener said.

Wiener began his career as a high school biology teacher in New York City, then continued in that capacity at Jericho High School in Jericho. In 2007, he was named assistant principal of Jericho Middle School, serving for 10 years before transitioning to his current role in Lynbrook.

During his time at Jericho Middle School, Wiener developed the master schedule, oversaw the integration of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program and led the transition to a standards-based grading system. He helped expedite the team at Jericho Middle School that led to the school being named a national School to Watch by The National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.

He is an active member of the New York State



Joseph Wiener, who was named the new principal at Robert E. Bell Middle School in Chappaqua last week. He will lead the school starting July 1.

Middle School Principal Association and is on the planning committee for EdCamp Long Island, an annual "unconference" where educators from across the region engage in meaningful dialogue about pedagogy, practice and learning.

Wiener has also presented at local and state educational conferences on topics from successfully leading Next Generation Science Standards

integration at the middle school level to unlocking the power of social media

for educators.

"Joseph has been described by colleagues as a brilliant, passionate and enthusiastic middle school educator and leader," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christine Ackerman. "He has a strong track record of developing deep relationships with faculty, students and families based on listening to the needs of the school community. We know Joseph will make a positive impact and we're thrilled to welcome him to Chappaqua."

Wiener received his bachelor's degree from Tufts University, where he was a double major in biology and English. He also has masters' degrees in education in literacy from Long Island University and school leadership and supervision from Touro College.

He lives on Long Island with his family.

W'chester Begins Antibody Testing of First Responders, Law Enforcement

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester County began antibody testing on Monday in White Plains, prioritizing first responders before members of the general public will have the opportunity.

About 400 people will be tested each day at the County Center by personnel from Westchester Medical Center, County Executive George Latimer said last Friday. County police officers along with members of Westchester's health, corrections and probation departments will be

tested first.

That will be followed by police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel from the county's cities, towns and villages, Latimer said. Volunteer firefighters and EMTs will also be included. The testing is voluntary, he said.

"These are people we need to have on the job, our police, our firefighters, our EMS people, healthy and on the job," Latimer said. "When we have a significant number of vacancies where too many people are home sick, we can't

provide the level of service we need to provide."

He expected that it would take a few weeks to complete antibody testing for all of the frontline workers. Then the general public could be scheduled for testing. No process has been established to determine a priority for the public at large, Latimer noted.

Local first responders can schedule the tests through the municipality they serve, whether it be a department chief, an administrator or manager or the

chief elected officer, Latimer said.

Antibody tests determine who has had the virus and is likely to have some level of immunity from COVID-19. It can also identify which people can donate blood, and the plasma can be given to patients battling the virus as a treatment, Latimer said.

Westchester's death toll reached 1,101 through Sunday. However, active cases in the county have continued to drop, and stood at 5,791 on Monday, nearly half of its peak, Latimer said. Hospitalizations from

COVID-19 have also fallen to 664, down from a high of nearly 1,200 during the height of the crisis.

Also, 85 percent of the deaths in Westchester have been people 60 years old and up, while those who are 70 and older account for nearly two-thirds of the victims.

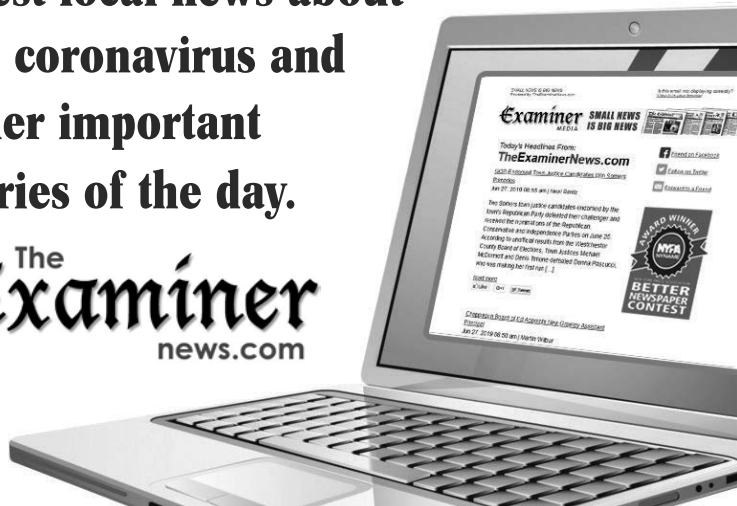
In Putnam County, there have been 1,144 confirmed cases, 73 of which are active, through Friday. There have been 45 deaths in Putnam.

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Obituaries

Shirley Jean Owens

Shirley Jean Owens was born on Apr. 4, 1933, in Yonkers and entered into eternal life on Apr. 23. She passed peacefully at her home in Monticello, Minn. surrounded by loved ones.

After raising her family in Yorktown Heights, she and her husband, Doug, retired to Palm Coast, Fla. Last June, she relocated to Minnesota to live with family.

Owens was known for her ability to light up a room with just a smile, making everyone she met feel special. She loved going to plays, dinner shows, concerts and any other type of adventure with those she befriended along the way. She was a wonderful and loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend.

On Mar. 27, 2020, Shirley expressed her desire to become a member of the Catholic Church. The following day, Fr. Peter Richards, from St. Michael Catholic Church, gave Shirley her first communion and confirmation as she beamed with joy the entire time.

Owens was predeceased by her true love, Douglas. She was also predeceased by her parents, Myrtle and Norman Lent; her daughters, Linda Garrett and Karen Yiambilis; and son Douglas Owens Jr. She is survived by her son, Keith Martin; daughters Jean (Dave) Klaus and Sue Van Nooy; daughter-in-law Donna Owens and son-in-law Michael Garrett; 15 grandchildren, Danielle and Brian Dehmer, Tara Peat, Andrea Martin, Raquel



Shirley Jean Owens

Gordon, Douglas and Amy Owens, Daina Owens, Daniel and Allison Owens, Johnathan Klaus, Billy Van Nooy, Kayleigh Van Nooy, Gus Yiambilis and Eleni Yiambilis; and 18 great-grandchildren, Kaylei, Eric, Rylee, Kenneth, Joseph, Elizabeth, Nicole, Dougie, Lucy, Davey, Georgie, Emma, Abby, William, Austin, Zoe, Angelo and Kalista.

The family would like to give a special thank you to Jolene Stang for all her care, compassion and love she provided to Shirley.

Mom, Grandma, Nanny, Shirley: You touched so many lives over the years. We will hold you in our hearts forever.

Funeral services will be held at St. Michael Catholic Church on Friday, May 8 at noon (EDT). The mass can be viewed live at www.stmccatholicchurch.org. She will be buried in Amawalk Hill Cemetery in Yorktown Heights.

Patrick Hartnett

Patrick (Pat) Hartnett, a Yorktown resident, died peacefully on Apr. 26. He was 89.

Hartnett had earned the nickname "Fightin' Pat" due to his ability to persevere through any circumstance. Born in County Limerick, Ireland, he was one of seven children: Michael, Mary, Sadie, Joan, John; he is survived by his brother, Mossie.

As a child he resided in the townland of Ballybrown and was raised by his single father, John Hartnett, with whom he worked and raised horses. In 1948, Hartnett arrived in the U.S. and took up residence on Alexander Avenue in Yonkers. In 1951, while serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he was seriously wounded and awarded the Purple Heart for his valor while spending a year in the hospital recovering from his injuries.

In 1956, he became the loving husband to his late wife, Trudy Hartnett. He and his wife were Yonkers residents for 47 years, raising five children. He was a self-educated entrepreneur, owning his own Wise Potato Chip business in

New York City. He frequently worked 12- to 16-hour days to support his family and provide them the life he never knew growing up.

Hartnett was extremely personable and loved speaking with a variety of people. He didn't look to command a room's attention. His gift was his ability to connect on a one-to-one level with everyone. His overall faith and positive disposition made for a truly happy life. He genuinely loved the U.S. and spent the majority of his well-earned retirement as an active member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

He is survived by his five children, Patricia, John, Kathleen, Michael and James. Also, he was especially grateful to be a part of his eight grandchildren's lives: John Michael, Flynn, Haley, Kayleigh, Jillian, Chip, Patrick and Hannah.

A wake was held at Yorktown Funeral Home in Shrub Oak on May 2. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the viewing was private but streamed live across the internet.

who knew him. He retired from IBM in 1999 after working there for 32 years. He then took his managerial skills to AT&T until 2008.

Lapolla is survived by his wife, Judie; his children, Scott and Kenny (wife Lee); five grandchildren, Brendan, Emily, Mia, Jack and Alex; and his sister, Elizabeth Doherty. He was predeceased by his parents and two brothers, Kenny and Nick.

William Lapolla

William E. Lapolla, a Somers resident, died on Apr. 26. He was 71.

Lapolla was born to Olga and Mario Lapolla on Dec. 11, 1948, in New Rochelle. He graduated from Iona Preparatory in New Rochelle and completed his formal education at Mercy College in White Plains after serving his country in the United States Army.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. He was loved by all

Robert Sullivan

Robert David Sullivan (Bob) of Chappaqua and Ridgefield, Conn. passed away on Apr. 29 with family by his side.

Sullivan was a longtime Chappaqua resident, volunteering at Saint John and St. Mary Church and coaching numerous sports teams for his children. He was a member of Willowbrook Swim & Tennis Club for over 50 years, and above all, was a role model in the community. He was strongly seeded in his work ethic and faith and his family were paramount in the way he lived his life. For those fortunate enough to cross paths with Bob, he was forever a friend.

Sullivan was born Sept. 6, 1929, in Roselle Park, N.J. and moved to Brooklyn, where he spent his childhood and attended schools until he enlisted in the Army. He served in Bavaria, Germany as an athletic director for the troops. He spent 26 years in the New York City Fire Department, starting his career at Engine Co. 217 in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn and ending his career as a lieutenant at Ladder 36 on Fordham Road in the Bronx.

He was the son of Joseph and Cecilia Sullivan. He is preceded in death by his brother, Joseph, sister Sheila, daughter Karen Anne and son Robert David. He is survived by the love of his life, his wife Dolores of 62 years; children Bob Sullivan (Cathy) of Darien Conn., Marianne Sipple (Greg) of Great Falls, Va., Kerri Glass of Ridgefield, Conn., Chris (Katherine) of New Canaan, Conn.;



Robert Sullivan

and his brother, Donald (Marie) of Portland, Maine. He was loved and adored by his 11 grandchildren, Bobby Sullivan, Kate Sullivan, Kevin Sullivan, Sara Sullivan, Annie Sullivan, Charlie Sipple, Kimberly Sipple, Stephanie Sipple, Madison Glass, Avery Glass and Alex Glass.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to either the Chappaqua Public Library or the Ridgefield Library for programs for the visually impaired.

Gilda Ferrara

Gilda Ferrara, a longtime resident of Heritage Hills in Somers and formerly of Yonkers, passed away on Apr. 25 at the age of 93.

Ferrara was born in Yonkers to Nicholas and Filomina Sarubbi and attended Yonkers public schools. She married Alfred (Fred) Ferrara in 1950, and they were the very first residents to move into Heritage Hills in January 1975. Ferrara worked as an electronic component tester at Curtis Electronics in Mount Kisco before retiring in 1985.

She attended St. Joseph's Church and was

a member of the Somers Senior's Club.

Ferrara is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Nicholas Dator, and a son and daughter-in-law, Fred and Clara Ferrara. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Jill Ruhs (née Ferrara), Nicole Petre (née Dator), Kathryn Wettje (née Ferrara), Michael Dator and John Ferrara, as well as four great-grandchildren, Lucas and Ella Ruhs, Emily Wettje and Douglas Petre. She was predeceased by her husband in 2008.

A memorial mass in her honor will be held at a later date.

Man Killed in Croton-on-Hudson After Stealing Motorcycle

By Rick Pezzullo

A Brooklyn man was killed in Croton-on-Hudson Sunday during a police chase stemming from a stolen motorcycle.

At about 4:15 p.m., state police from the Cortlandt barracks initiated a traffic stop of a stolen 2019 Kawasaki motorcycle at Annsville Circle in Cortlandt. The operator of the motorcycle, Damian Simmons, 38, immediately fled southbound on Route 9 at a high rate of speed toward the City of Peekskill.

The pursuit ended when the motorcycle collided with a Nissan Altima

traveling in the same direction. Simmons was ejected from the motorcycle north of the Croton Point Avenue exit in the Village of Croton-on-Hudson.

Life-saving measures were initiated at the scene by troopers, and then taken over by responding EMS personnel. Simmons was transported to Westchester Medical Center, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

State police were assisted by the Westchester County Police Department, Croton Police Department, Croton Fire Department, as well as the Croton and Ossining EMS.

Longtime White Plains Firefighter Dies From COVID-19

By Martin Wilbur

A longtime White Plains firefighter who was on the verge of retiring from the department later this year lost his battle to COVID-19 late last week.

Deputy Chief Edward Ciocca, a nearly 35-year veteran and a third-generation firefighter of the department, died on May 1 due to complications from the disease at White Plains Hospital, said the city's Public Safety Commissioner David Chong. Ciocca's obituary that was posted on the McMahon, Lyon & Hartnett Funeral Home website said he was 62 years old.

"My heart as a commissioner is broken and the department's heart is broken," said Chong, who counted Ciocca as a friend. "We lost him way too soon. He was going to retire. He was talking about retiring after this summer, and it's just an awful tragedy."

Ciocca was a lifelong White Plains resident and followed his father and grandfather into the department, Chong said. He worked his way up to deputy chief, which put him in charge of the entire shift and required him to visit all of the city's five firehouses, he said.

Earlier in the coronavirus crisis Ciocca had been initially hospitalized, but was

released and given oxygen to use at home. He had to return to the hospital where he died last Friday.

Chong said that when Ciocca was in charge of a fire scene, it was a huge relief to him as commissioner because he knew the situation would be handled properly.

"He had proven that to me for over 10 years as the commissioner of White Plains and also a couple of years as deputy commissioner of White Plains," Chong said. "An absolute, absolute superman of a person."

Ciocca was born Apr. 28, 1958, in White Plains to JoAnn MacDonald Ryan and the late Adelmo Ciocca. He was a beloved father and son who enjoyed going to Oakland Raiders and Chicago Blackhawks games with his family.

In a tribute posted on the White Plains Professional Firefighters Facebook page, the union called Ciocca "a devoted fireman, a stalwart leader and a caring friend." His passing creates a significant void for the department and the city.

"A consummate professional, he was always calm, cool and collected whether inside a burning building or in command of operations from the outside," the posting stated. "He cared for his men deeply as if they were his sons, and always put first

the well-being of not only them but their families as well."

County Executive George Latimer said Monday that Ciocca was one of three firefighters around the county that were lost since late last week. Andrew DiMaggio, a captain and a 31-year veteran of the New Rochelle Fire Department and a fire instructor, died from COVID-19 while Mount Vernon firefighter also died last weekend. The cause of Le Selva's death wasn't released.

Latimer said flags on county property will continue to fly at half-mast to honor the first responders and all 1,101 county residents who have died since the start of the pandemic.

"These are people whose lives matter," Latimer said of the firefighters. "They gave their service in each of their professional lives to the rest of us fighting fires and now they have been lost to us through COVID."

Besides his mother JoAnn, Ciocca is survived by his daughter, Brianna Ciocca, of Elmsford; two sisters, Kim Treacy of Fishkill and Tracey Bonaro of Clifton Park, N.Y.; and his girlfriend, Maureen Nestor Brown.

A fire department funeral was scheduled for Tuesday at 1 p.m. at McMahon, Lyon & Hartnett Funeral Home in White Plains.



Edward Ciocca, a third-generation White Plains firefighter, died last Friday from the coronavirus.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Nurses Foundation at www.nursingworld.org would be appreciated.

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We've Earned It!

Music Conservatory of Westchester to Present Virtual Concert This Friday

While everyone is social distancing, music is more important than ever to bring hope, calm and joy to the community. The Music Conservatory of Westchester will present *Keep the Music Playing: A Virtual Concert for the Community* to be streamed online this Friday, May 8 at noon.

More than plan 100 students, faculty, alumni and special friends plan to participate with musical performances from their homes. Audiences can expect a variety of genres and instruments with some fun surprise guests.

It is the first of three consecutive Friday virtual concerts, all of which begin at noon. "Music has always been a source of

inspiration, joy and comfort in all types of circumstances," Executive Director Jean Newton said. "It is especially important in times of crisis. Music brings people together, and in today's world we're so lucky to have the capacity to do this even if we can't all be in the same room."

Tony Award-winning composer and lyricist Marc Shaiman ("Hairspray," "Mary Poppins Returns"), WQXR radio broadcaster Elliott Forrest, Tony Award-nominated singer-actress Melissa Errico and more special guests will be featured in the virtual concert.

As a nonprofit music school, the conservatory is dedicated to providing the extraordinary benefits of music to all in our community. The school's signature mission-based programs include a scholarship program for financially-deserving students to pursue their musical dreams, Music Therapy Program for children and adults with disabilities and the Healing Our Heroes music therapy program for U.S. military veterans.

More than 3,000 students from Westchester and surrounding areas are served by the Music Conservatory of

Westchester each year.

"Our entire conservatory community is getting involved," said Marketing and Communications Manager Adriana Rivera. "We are thrilled to share the light of music during such uncertain times."

The Virtual Concert for the Community can be viewed on the Music Conservatory of Westchester's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/MusicConservatory>. The free, shareable video will be posted for the public to enjoy.

Police Blotter

North Castle Police Department

Apr. 24: A White Plains police officer reported at 6:25 a.m. receiving a call about a stolen vehicle from Washington Place East. No further details were provided. The responding North Castle officer advised that all information was gathered from the complainant. Two additional officers assisted in canvassing the area for the vehicle.

Apr. 24: A caller reported at 8:16 a.m. that the gate at the Virginia Road grade crossing is not going all the way up. As a result, the caller stated that vehicles are having to drive around it due to the malfunctioning gate. MTA police was notified of the condition and stated they

would respond.

Apr. 24: There were six calls advising police of attempted larcenies from unlocked parked vehicles in North White Plains between 10:52 a.m. and 4:52 p.m.

Apr. 25: Report of a stolen row boat from the wooded area adjacent to the lake on Byram Lake Road at 5:53 p.m. The responding officers reported obtaining the owner's and witness depositions. Photos were secured; a report will follow.

Yorktown Police Department

Apr. 24: A 54-year-old Mahopac man was charged at 12:31 p.m. with driving while intoxicated following a report of a vehicle off the roadway and in a ditch

on East Main Street. An investigation revealed the driver was intoxicated and had a previous conviction for the same offense in the last 10 years. He is due to return to Yorktown Town Court on June 16.

Apr. 28: A 32-year-old Fairfield, Conn. man was charged at 1:55 p.m. with second-degree menacing in connection with a road rage incident on Jan. 31 in the area of Rutledge Drive. On that day, it is alleged the suspect pointed a black-colored AR-15-style rifle at the victim. The suspect appeared voluntarily in Yorktown police headquarters where he was arrested. He is due in Yorktown Town Court on June 18.

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Armonk Fire Department Loses Two Longtime Members

By Martin Wilbur

Alexander (Mitch) Sime and William Bosco were pillars of the Armonk Fire Department and the Town of North Castle for decades.

The two longtime Armonk residents combined to serve the Armonk Fire Department for more than 110 years, including stints as chief and fire commissioner.

Within two weeks last month, the community lost both Sime and Bosco. Sime, 86, died of heart disease and pneumonia on Apr. 21, while Bosco, 95, passed away peacefully at home on Apr. 8.

Sime, 86, volunteered for the department for 64 years, while William Bosco, 95, contributed 50 years.

Current Chief Phil Goulet, who knew Sime more than Bosco because he never stopped showing up at the firehouse until the past year, said an irreplaceable level of institutional knowledge has been lost with their passing.

"Whenever we lose a resource like both of them, it's impactful in terms of firefighting knowledge, the training is always evolving and everyone's always updating their training," Goulet said. "But someone like Mitch, especially, knew if we're on this street, the closest pond is over here, around the corner."

Sime grew up in Armonk and lived in town his entire life. He joined the department in 1956, and service as chief



Alexander (Mitch) Sime above, and William Bosco were two of the most senior members of the Armonk Fire Department, having served as both chief and commissioner.

from 1965 to 1967. Goulet said Sime is believed to have responded to more than 30,000 calls. When the department went to electronic recordkeeping alone, he amassed close to 15,000 responses.

Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto said that even in later on, Sime could still jump into a truck and contribute. One day in 2013, she recalled he got into the tanker truck and easily and confidently drove it in reverse down a long driveway.

"I think he was so knowledgeable, so experienced that any piece of machinery that had to do with the fire department, he



knew what to do," DiGiacinto said.

Sime is survived by his wife Jean, daughter Sandy and son Mitch Jr. and their children.

Bosco was born in Long Island on Sept. 13, 1924. His family relocated to Washington Heights in 1932 where he attended George Washington High School, graduating in 1942. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force.

Bosco moved to Armonk in 1955 and worked in the post office in town 37 years, serving as a mail carrier before retiring.

His dedication to community service

drew attracted him to volunteer the fire department in 1966, where he served for 50 years. Bosco had a great sense of humor, embodied a gentle and easy-going manner made him a friend to all.

He is survived by his sister, Eleanor; daughter Rebecca (Tom); son Jeffrey (Suzanne); and granddaughter Veronica. His younger brother, Frank, predeceased him. A memorial Mass and celebration of his life will be held in the fall.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Armonk Volunteer Fire Department or the Alzheimer's Association.

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Letters to the Editor

Schleifer Has Glaringly Failed to Address Key Issues in Campaign

I recently attended one of candidate Adam Schleifer's virtual "Town Halls" with the hope of getting more insight into his candidacy. As I watched this event, I was struck by how canned and artificial the experience was.

When I attended town hall/meet-and-greets of other candidates, there was opportunity for direct interaction between candidate and voter. I had every expectation that this would be the case for Mr. Schleifer's as well. I was sorely disappointed.

Mr. Schleifer refused to take direct questions from voters; all questions were submitted and screened. While his handlers and he were more than happy to take softball questions about the Electoral College (over which he as congressman would have little

control), they refused to even address an uncomfortable question about his finances that was posted on the chat.

Indeed, after this question was posted by a viewer, they closed the chat, presumably so that other difficult questions could not be posted for all to see. Given the fact that two members of Congress are currently under a cloud for potential insider trading, voters have every right to know how or if Mr. Schleifer will address potential conflicts of interest while in Congress and whether he is prepared to support legislation that will reduce drug prices even if it negatively affects the profits of his family's pharmaceutical company. I can only wonder why he does not want to address these issues.

Moreover, I was struck that several months into the COVID-19 crisis, and there was not a single question about Mr. Schleifer's views on what Congress needs to do to address the health and economic fallout? Am I expected to believe that this was not foremost on voters' minds? Really?

It appeared to this voter that Mr. Schleifer wants to rely on his stump speeches and avoid direct interaction with his potential constituency. This was less a town hall and more a feel-good political ad of controlled questions and canned responses.

Paul Diamond
Suffern

New York Health Act is Needed Now More Than Ever

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended our entire way of life. More than one million Americans have been infected. About 70,000 have died. Millions have lost their jobs.

Scientists tell us to expect a second wave of the virus this fall. But in between this first and second wave, we will be hit by a tsunami: the medical bills coming due for those who have been treated for COVID-19, especially if they have been hospitalized.

The U.S. has the distinction of having the most COVID cases in the world as well as the costliest healthcare system. In addition,

it's likely that insurance companies will raise premiums next year (possibly up to 40 percent). They need to stay profitable after paying the COVID-related claims.

Most Americans have health insurance through their jobs. What happens when employers can no longer afford it? What happens when companies go under, leaving their employees jobless and uninsured? And what if the Supreme Court decides that the Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional, eliminating insurance for an additional 20 million Americans?

We desperately need to re-think our

healthcare system. The New York Health Act (NYHA) is an obvious solution. Health insurance would be paid for by a progressive tax. Most New Yorkers would actually pay less for health insurance than they do now because there would be no premiums, co-pays, co-insurance or deductibles.

You can learn more about the NYHA at www.campaignfornyhealth.org. We must do better, and we can.

Celeste Theis
Croton-on-Hudson

Candidate Schleifer Must Tackle Crucial Pharmaceutical Issues

As scientists and pharmaceutical companies rush to find treatments and a vaccine for COVID-19, it is imperative that Congress pass legislation to ensure that these treatments remain affordable for all patients.

This past July, senators Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Rick Scott (R-Fla.) introduced

a bipartisan bill – the We PAID Act – to address skyrocketing prescription drug costs. This legislation would prohibit big pharmaceutical corporations from price-gouging consumers for drugs developed using federally-funded research. Residents of the 17th Congressional District deserve to know whether our congressional candidates support this legislation.

Disappointingly, one candidate, Adam Schleifer, has repeatedly evaded questions – both on social media and at his virtual town halls – about whether he supports regulating pharmaceutical profits when taxpayer dollars are used for development.

This question is particularly relevant given Mr. Schleifer's massive conflicts of interest. Mr. Schleifer has somewhere between \$25 and \$50 million in pharmaceutical stock options, and his father is the CEO of Regeneron, a pharmaceutical company with a reported revenue of more than \$5 billion per year.

Right now, 80 percent of Regeneron's costs for developing and manufacturing a coronavirus vaccine are being covered by the federal government (i.e. the taxpayers). Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar has refused to guarantee that coronavirus treatments or vaccines would be affordable, despite taxpayers' massive investments in their development.

As a voter in this district, I want to know whether Mr. Schleifer, who likely stands to lose millions of dollars if the We PAID Act is passed, would still support this bill. His refusal to even acknowledge the question is telling.

This past year, we saw how senators, such as Kelly Loeffler and Richard Burr, chose to put their own financial interests over those of their constituents as they dumped stocks while reassuring the public that the COVID-19 pandemic was not a big deal. Schleifer's massive conflicts of interest combined with his refusal to answer constituent questions about regulation of the pharmaceutical industry make me seriously question his ability to represent my interests in Congress.

Ivanya Alpert
Piermont, N.Y.

The President Shouldn't Be Blamed for COVID-19 Response

I'd like to respond to Mr. Kuvach's letter (President Trump's Incompetence Has Made Crisis Immeasurably Worse, April 21-27) regarding President Trump's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I say the following as an independently registered voter: All of us were faced with an unprecedented situation, especially President Trump. He was called racist and xenophobic for simply monitoring and closing entry points into our country, a prudent step which even Democratic politicians reluctantly agreed months afterward was the right thing to do.

Anybody that could say that he is incompetent is not a fair-minded person. I think this virus caught all of us unaware, and it is neither fair nor reasonable to put so much blame on a President for something that can spread so easily.

Howard Woodin
White Plains

Grateful for the Removal of an Eyesore in Croton-on-Hudson

There's great news! The broken, tattered, unsightly fence that ruins, I mean runs, along Riverside Avenue, separating the village from the highway, is finally being replaced.

Responding to strong advocacy from state Sen. Pete Harckham and a request from the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) has agreed to replace the fence, which has been an eyesore for some time now.

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Andy Simmons
Trustee, Village of Croton-on-Hudson

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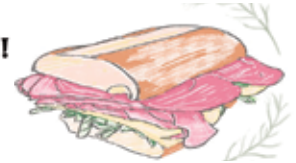
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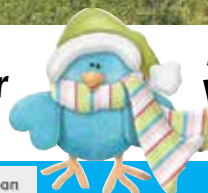
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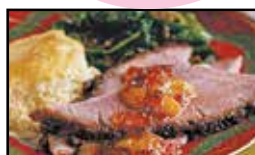
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Top Pandemic Activity: Contemplating My Coffee Table

Realtors like me don't care much for being stuck at home. We like to be out and about, and we should be exactly that if we're doing our job right.

So being shut in at home during the COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on us.

As for me, I've spent a lot of time (when my wife isn't looking) with my feet up on my large, round, 42-inch early 19th century coffee table, which serves as a display surface for a number of our collectables that look good there. These include an antique brass letter opener, a trivet upon which to put hot cups, a large brass hors d'oeuvres plate, an 18th century brass candle snuffer and a deep-pressed glass dish holding my collection of old end-of-day glass marbles. Its purpose is to provide visual interest for guests seated on our sofa.

And, further for me, it sparked my curiosity, as could be expected, for the origin of the coffee table as we know it.

The original coffee tables were actually tea tables, developed in the late 18th century in Europe and Britain. These tables were quite a bit higher than the coffee tables we are used to today, and they initially were placed behind the sofa. Human nature being what it is, eventually other items found their way to this new open surface – lamps, books and other amusements.

These early examples evolved into the lower models that made their way to the front of the sofa, although the history of this



By Bill Primavera

transition remains unclear. Two possible cultural influences on the Victorians may be the chabudai, a low table found in traditional Japanese homes, and the tables used in tea gardens in the Ottoman Empire.

With the mechanization of manufacturing during the Industrial Revolution, the basic design was standardized to the low and unadorned form we know today. J. Stuart Foote, president of the Imperial Furniture Company, claimed all the credit for inventing the coffee table himself in 1920, and marketed their functionality to Americans with vigor.

Some have theorized that the introduction of television into the average suburban home helped solidify the basic design of these fixtures, the low profile of which could accommodate beverages and TV dinners without obstructing the view of the screen.

Every design trend has created its own version of this simple fixture, including the return to a handmade aesthetic in the Arts and Crafts movement, the strong geometric shapes of Art Deco and the industrial-inspired use of glass and steel with purity of form in the Bauhaus movement. Perhaps the simplicity of the form of the coffee table helps give designers greater freedom in their creativity.

The ingenuity of interior designers in more recent times has made the coffee table multifunctional, with shelves and drawers built in underneath for storage. With the



individualized artisan movement of today, it's not uncommon to go online or watch a competitive show about flea market finds and see either coffee tables repurposed into other objects or other objects repurposed into coffee tables.

I found our coffee table on an expedition that my wife and I took when we operated a weekend antiques business. For many years, it has served as an expression of our interests and individuality, as it does for many. This semi-private, semi-public surface can also hold seasonal decorations, game controls, remotes, family photos, and yes, coffee table books.

Today the design of the coffee table seems to be returning to its original taller design, with top surfaces that elevate horizontally. Part

of this function is to allow access to storage underneath, but part is also to bring one's laptop up to a comfortable level for typing or video streaming.

Ergonomic, surely, but perhaps less conducive to the face-to-face gathering that these tables used to cultivate.

Bill Primavera is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate, as well as a writer, editor and public relations consultant (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles and real estate. His real estate site is www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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P'ville Allows Memorial Plaza Developer to Store Fill on Nearby Street

By Abby Luby

A small mountain of excavated fill is temporarily taking up 11 commuter parking spaces on Pleasantville's Cooley Street.

Construction workers are digging out the fill at the adjacent 70 Memorial Plaza property to make room for the mixed-use project's garage and foundation.

The mountain, reaching about 24 feet high according to a letter from a representative

of the developer, consists of about 3,000 cubic yards of clean fill and will be re-utilized as backfill after the foundation walls are completed.

The Village Board passed a resolution last week to allow the project's developer, Pleasantville Lofts, LLC, to use the parking spots on Cooley Street for the fill. The developer has made alternative spots available at its other property at 39 Washington St.

The board considered the negative impact of daily truck traffic taking the fill from the site if they turned down the developer's request.

"This will eliminate hundreds of trucks driving through the downtown to take the fill, stockpile it, only to bring it back and reuse it," said Village Administrator Eric Morrissey. "It's more efficient, saves energy and it totally makes sense."

It's estimated the fill will be stored until

early July. Downtown and commuter parking have been underutilized since the state-imposed stay-at-home order to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

The limited activity near the downtown project site has actually been advantageous for the project, where work has been quickly progressing, said Pleasantville Building Inspector Robert Hughes.

"All the storm drains on Cooley Street are completed and the water and sewer lines are almost done," Hughes said.

The project was behind schedule as the demolition took up the better part of a year while a massive amount of unexpected rock discovered at the site was excavated.

Most board members said the agreement between the village and Pleasantville Lofts, LLC developer Vito Errico for the temporary use of the parking spots was to everyone's benefit.

"Vito Errico is a guy who is good to his word," said Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer. "He respects and appreciates a cooperative relationship (and) realizes that it goes both ways. This is one of those rare moments where we can say 'yes' and everybody wins."

Apartments planned for 70 Memorial Plaza include seven studio apartments, 38 one-bedroom apartments, 33 two-bedroom units and four three-bedroom residences.

Eight of the building's units will be affordable housing of varying sizes. Original plans included a gym and 24-hour doorman service. A recreation area is planned to be placed on the roof.

Pleasantville Trims Tax Rate Hike in \$16.8M Village Budget

By Abby Luby

Pleasantville property owners will see a 1.91 percent tax rate increase in the next fiscal year after the Village Board last Monday approved the \$16.8 million budget for 2020-21.

Village Administrator Eric Morrissey said the average homeowner can expect about an \$80 tax increase. For the current fiscal year, which ends May 31, the tax rate hike was 2.23 percent.

"We had to scale back the increase because of the unexpected impacts of COVID-19," said Morrissey.

The pandemic has added considerable uncertainty to county and town budgets throughout the state. Since the proposed tentative budget was unveiled several weeks ago, Pleasantville reduced its expected revenue from the county sales tax from \$1.2 million to \$800,000.

"The sales tax is a big question mark and we are trying to grapple with that," Morrissey said. "Now we are ratcheting that back and moving very conservatively on our expectations."

The projected village fund balance remains strong at roughly \$4.6 million, according to Morrissey. The fund balance should help the village navigate the challenges ahead, he said.

Cuts that enabled the village to keep the tax rate low were seen in travel, conference training and supplies, saving about \$170,000. There have been no personnel cuts except for programs that have not been running because of the shutdown, such as part-time workers for the Panther Club, an afterschool program.

Other programs that bring in revenue and are at least budget-neutral are the village's summer camp and the Pleasantville Music Festival. The festival was canceled earlier this month but it's unclear if there will be a summer camp.

Another unknown is revenue from the village parking meters. The village waived all fees for downtown parking meters starting in March, and that will remain in effect until at least May 15. The board expects to revisit the issue at its next meeting on May 11.

For residents and businesses impacted by COVID-19, the board voted to shift the start of the 12-month parking permit period from June 1 to July 1. The current year's permits will remain valid through June 30. Current and future parking permit holders have until July 1 to request a permit.

"Hopefully by June, people will have more clarity about their commuting situation," Morrissey said.

Parking revenue in the adopted budget is \$413,000, with \$180,000 projected from parking permit fees, \$200,000 from parking meters and \$33,000 from E-Z Park Cards.

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Hudson Highlands, W'chester Land Trusts Preserve 42 Acres in Kent

More than 40 acres of land in the Town of Kent, Putnam County have been preserved as a place for the public to visit and enjoy the outdoors thanks to a visionary landowner and the work of a partnership between the Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) and Westchester Land Trust (WLT).

The project protects woodlands, predominantly sugar maple and red oak, and wetlands with high biodiversity. The property contains a large state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulated wetland that provides habitat for native and migrating songbirds, waterfowl and raptors, all of which make it an important buffer to the adjoining 1,133-acre Wonder Lake State Park.

"The New York Highlands is a unique region with a wide array of natural areas and recreational opportunities," said Katrina Shindledecker, HHLT's director of conservation. "Westchester Land Trust's acquisition of this land protects its wetlands and woodlands, while expanding public open space next to a popular state park – a win-win for everyone."

This land is located in the Highlands region of New York, an environmentally significant corridor that stretches from Pennsylvania to Connecticut. It is rich in biodiversity, has large tracts of unbroken forest cover and is home to 250 endangered, threatened or species of special concern.

The importance of the Highlands region was extensively documented in the U.S. Forest Service's Highlands Regional Study (HRS). This property lies within one of the study's Conservation Focal Areas that have been identified as having the highest conservation resource value, but which are most threatened by development.

The Hudson Highlands and Westchester land trusts worked directly with the landowner to purchase the property for preservation purposes. HHLT provided critical financial assistance, and WLT will own and manage the land, with the goal of ultimately transferring it to New York State Parks' ownership. The property will eventually be opened for public access with a trail system that links to the neighboring trails on state-owned lands.

"I'm so happy that the Westchester Land Trust and Hudson Highlands Land Trust protected this land," said property owner John Armstrong. "My family has had a connection to the property for more than 60 years; I roamed its wetlands and uplands when I was a boy. By protecting it, you have given us a great legacy."

A portion of the 42 acres being preserved in the Town of Kent as part of a partnership announced last Friday between the Hudson Highlands Land Trust and the Westchester Land Trust.



JULIA ROGERS/HUDSON HIGHLANDS LAND TRUST PHOTO

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Yorktown Veterinary Hospital the Heights for Pets, Owners

By Ariel Markowski

Susan LaCalamito understands the importance of good veterinary care.

She has two dogs and three cats. Her dog Eddie, 14, has inoperable bladder cancer; her other dog, Coco, 12 has Cushing's disease.

One of her cats, 18-year-old Culver, is facing numerous medical issues, including blindness in one eye.

If it weren't for Heights Hospital for Animals in Yorktown Heights, a full veterinary hospital, pets like hers would fail to receive the care and attention they need.

Heights Hospital for Animals has been providing veterinary care to LaCalamito and many other area pet owners for more than 20 years. Now with the coronavirus posing a major challenge, they are going the extra mile to help their patients and their owners.

"[T]hey would...call to discuss any issues and meet me outside to pick my pet up," LaCalamito said. "For medications, I would call them to tell them what I was running out of, pay by credit card and they would leave the meds outside."

The three veterinarians at Heights Hospital for Animals have adopted social distancing practices in order to safely provide assistance to pets and their owners when it's most essential. The protocol consists of wearing a mask and gloves, meeting pet owners in the parking lot and discussing their pets' needs on the phone.

Owners don't have to come inside, said Nancy Delaney, one of the hospital's three veterinarians.

Helping pets has provided the hospital's staff with a variety of memories. Delaney speaks about her favorite one – a little Yorkshire terrier who wasn't feeling well from kidney impairment. He's much improved, his appetite is back to normal and he shows good energy at home, she said.

"This is very rewarding," Delaney said. "Everyone involved benefits from this caring and it helps us all during these troubling times."

Heights Hospital for Animals not only provides effective care for the animals but a warm environment for their owners.

"They always made me feel, that in spite of everything going on, they were still able to handle everything my pets needed in a



Two of Susan LaCalamito's pets, who she brings to Heights Hospital for Animals in Yorktown Heights for their veterinary care.

friendly, caring and professional manner," said LaCalamito. "The reason why the care that the veterinarians...provide is so important is that they continued to provide [what] my pets needed almost as if all was normal."

Heights Hospital for Animals is located

at 1865 Commerce St. Its hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursdays; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

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Factors to Consider for Unmarried Couples When Estate Planning

By Alan D. Feller, Esq.

Marriage is not for everyone. Many long-term couples anchored by commitment and companionship chose not to seek matrimony.

This type of arrangement may succeed functionally and emotionally, but when illness or death touches one of the relationship's partners the legal consequences can be profound.

If an unmarried partner becomes ill and requires long-term care, financial and real property transfers between the partners would not be exempt for Medicaid purposes, and therefore, subject to penalties. Other Medicaid planning approaches would also not be available to non-spouses. Not having Medicaid for long-term care would mean paying privately with large out-of-pocket costs.

In the absence of a health care proxy, New York law grants healthcare decision-making authority to a spouse or children or another important person based on their relationship with the person who has lost capacity and is currently in a hospital or nursing home. An unmarried partner may run into issues with an adult child in terms of decision-making priority and that may run counter to the ill person's wishes.

The death of an unmarried partner carries even more onerous ramifications.

New York law lays out specific guidelines for people's estates when they die without preparing a will. Known as intestacy, a deceased person's heirs-at-law will inherit the estate assets according to the closeness of their blood relationship and if there is a surviving spouse. The 40-year companion who resided with the decedent may be passed over in this situation, especially if they do not share title in assets or have a beneficiary designation.

The worst-case scenario is the companion who resides in a home that is titled solely in the name of the other unmarried partner who dies without a will. The companion may be forced out of that property as the estate fiduciaries prepare to sell the residence.

Avoiding these difficulties while preserving the non-marital relationship is often tasked to the estate planner. The preparation of wills and trusts along with advance directives, including powers of attorney, health care proxies, living wills and dispositions of remains, can greatly reduce anxiety. Trusts are valuable documents that can hold and organize assets previously owned by the unmarried partners. Assets held in trust avoid probate or intestacy and can limit problems posed by other family members. Advance directives grant authority to the unmarried partner to handle health and money matters should the other partner's



abilities become compromised. The Disposition of Remains is an overlooked form that governs who is in charge of the funeral and burial and how the instructions are to be carried out. Without this form or other estate planning documents naming the unmarried partner as a fiduciary, there could be complications with funeral planning during a sad and unsettling time.

Life is paperwork. Unmarried couples must prepare planning documents to protect their assets and ensure that their companion is protected legally. A will, a trust, a power of attorney and a health care proxy are vitally important because they fill legal gaps that are created when long-term relationships are not defined in marriage and assets are maintained separately.

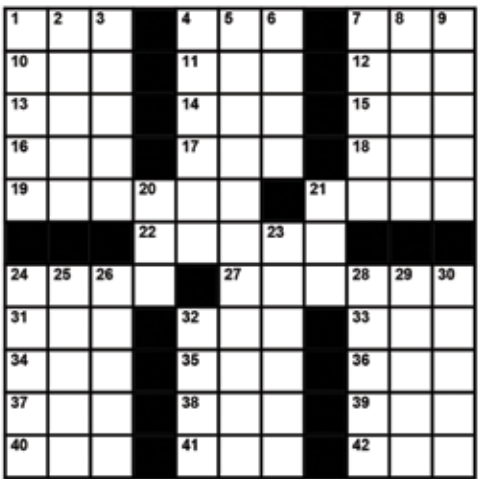
Contact the professionals at Sloan & Feller today to obtain more information about estate planning.

Alan D. Feller, Esq. is managing partner of Sloan & Feller Attorneys at Law, located at 625 Route 6 in Mahopac. He can be reached at alandfeller@sloanandfeller.com.

Crossword

- Across
- 1. 100 lbs.
 - 4. Filling station filler
 - 7. The car, affectionately
 - 10. "How exciting!"
 - 11. Astern
 - 12. Not for love __ money
 - 13. Former coin of France
 - 14. Monetary unit of Romania
 - 15. Way back when
 - 16. Tree that is a common street name
 - 17. Possess
 - 18. Beanie Babies for example
 - 19. Half man half mechanical
 - 21. Ancient alphabetic character
 - 22. Sierra ____
 - 24. Ribald
 - 27. Tons and tons
 - 31. Thrilla in Manila participant
 - 32. Trouble
 - 33. Yodeling mountain
 - 34. Herd of seals
 - 35. Time zone basis
 - 36. .001 inch
 - 37. Big gorilla
 - 38. Comics cry
 - 39. Parents assoc.
 - 40. Buddhist branch
 - 41. CSI stuff
 - 42. ____ the table

- Down
- 1. Trig. term
 - 2. Like a fleece



- 3. Rule of ____
- 4. Aplenty
- 5. Cruise's code red movie?
- 6. Phaser setting
- 7. All messed up
- 8. Wrestler, Hulk
- 9. Destroy by disintegration
- 20. Outmoded
- 21. Cub opponent
- 23. Canadian tribe member
- 24. Capital of Bolivia
- 25. Marry in haste
- 26. Swell
- 28. Illuminations
- 29. Blue bloods
- 30. Slapping sound
- 32. Matured

Answers on page 25



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Westchester Auto Dealers Deliver 50,000 Face Masks to County

Franchise auto dealers in Westchester County, working through the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association (GNYADA), donated 50,000 face masks to the county last Friday to help keep residents safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is part of a donation of 500,000 masks GNYADA is making to the 12 downstate counties, including New York City.

Auto dealers, which collectively throughout the downstate region contribute more than \$20 million annually to charitable causes, including community organizations in Westchester, are once again racing to the aid of their neighbors.

The organization delivered to County Executive George Latimer's office the supply of three-ply paper masks. The county executive will distribute them to individuals who need them, including seniors, essential workers and other vulnerable populations.

Since Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced last month that New Yorkers are required to wear masks in situations where adequate social distancing is not possible, the need has become clear, and auto dealers have been eager to help.

"When New Yorkers are in need, time and again, franchise new car dealers and their employees are always there for the communities where they live and work," said GNYADA President Mark Schienberg. "Auto dealers are the brick-

and-mortar backbones of main streets and neighborhoods throughout the region, supporting Little Leagues, hospitals, schools, senior centers and many charities large and small. During this extremely challenging time, when so many New Yorkers are suffering, losing loved ones, losing jobs and struggling, car dealerships are once again here to contribute."

This is the time of year when the auto industry would have been hosting the 120th annual New York International Auto Show at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in Manhattan, which was converted to overflow hospital space. The popular event is now rescheduled to take place later this year.

Latimer expressed his gratitude for the donation at the county's Department of Emergency Services in Valhalla.

"The health and safety of our doctors, nurses and first responders is essential for our success in this uphill battle against COVID-19," Latimer said. "We know this donation will go a long way in helping our healthcare heroes deliver necessary care to those who are suffering from this illness."

Franchised new car dealers collectively are the fifth largest retail employer throughout the downstate region, helping to support 71,280 jobs, contributing \$2.5 billion in local and state taxes and supporting a total payroll of \$4.5 billion, according to a 2019 economic impact



DOMINICK TOTINO PHOTO

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, left, accepts a donation of 50,000 face masks from auto dealers in Valhalla last Friday. Croton Auto Park Principal Lou Giordano, center, and Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association President Mark Schienberg helped deliver the masks.

survey.

New car dealers have been declared essential businesses by the state. Service departments must fix cars and perform roadside assistance not only for other essential workers like doctors and nurses,

but also for ordinary people who need to go to grocery stores and pharmacies and carry out the necessities of daily life.

Crossword Answers

C	W	T		G	A	S		S	H	E
O	O	H		A	F	T		N	O	R
S	O	U		L	E	U		A	G	O
E	L	M		O	W	N		F	A	D
C	Y	B		O	R	G		R	U	N
				L	E	O	N	E		
L	E	W	D		O	O	D	L	E	S
A	L	I		A	D	O		A	L	P
P	O	D		G	M	T		M	I	L
A	P	E		E	E	K		P	T	A
Z	E	N		D	N	A		S	E	T

Latimer Delivers Thousands of Masks to Municipalities in Westchester

By Rick Pezzullo

Westchester County Executive George Latimer made the rounds this week delivering thousands of masks to municipalities throughout the county.

Hanes Brand, Inc. donated 300,000 masks to Westchester and the county has been giving out boxes to cities, towns and villages, divvied up based on population.

"This was a special allocation from Hanes. We're like the clearing house. We're like the shipping clerk," Latimer said during a visit last Wednesday to City Hall in Peekskill, where he was joined by legislators Catherine Borgia and Colin Smith and Deputy Mayor Vivian McKenzie.

"This generous donation is being used to make us all a little bit safer. These deliveries are just one part of our strategy to reduce the spread here in Westchester," Latimer said. "All communities in Westchester will benefit from these donations. We are happy to be here to deliver in person and show the county is trying to be a good partner to our towns, villages and cities."

Peekskill received 6,000 masks, which will be made available to essential workers and city employees, among others. Prior to arriving in Peekskill, Latimer handed off 9,500 masks to village and town officials in Ossining. Yorktown received 10,000; Cortlandt 7,500; Somers 6,000; Buchanan 3,500; and Croton-on-Hudson 3,500.

On Thursday, Latimer was joined



STATEPOINT.NET PHOTO

Pictured, from left, are County Executive George Latimer, Deputy Peekskill Mayor Vivian McKenzie, and county legislators Colin Smith and Catherine Borgia holding masks outside Peekskill City Hall last Wednesday.

by County Legislator Margaret Cunzio and local officials from the Village of Pleasantville and the Town of Mount Pleasant.

"We are proud to be here in Pleasantville and Mount Pleasant to drop off these cloth

masks thanks to the generosity of Hanes and efforts of New York State," he said. "We are happy to be in different parts of the county, with our masks on, to deliver these for communities to use as needed."

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Connecting During Social Disconnecting: How One Preschool is Adapting

By Evelyn J. Mocbeichel

For adults these are trying times, and coping with the new normal is surely a learning process.

To provide for their families, keeping safe and trying to function while being housebound, thinking about what the youngest family members are feeling may go unnoticed.

"Young children, especially preschoolers, do best when they have consistency and a routine they are familiar with on a daily basis," said Vera Correa, director of Bright Beginnings Preschool Center in Yorktown Heights, who has more than 30 years experience in early education.

After schools were mandated to close in March, Correa devised a plan, along with her staff, to connect to their preschool students at home. Using the teachers' talents and combining that with Zoom, Bright Beginnings Pre School Learning Center devised an online curriculum that closes a bit of the void in their students' lives.

Online Lessons

What is Bright Beginnings doing during this pandemic to keep their students connected? Like all children enrolled in any preschool

program, students missed their friends, teachers and the chance to play and learn when they came to school. While the children are home, they still are able, through Zoom, to interact with friends.

Music classes covered songs about the arrival of spring and farm animals with piano, played by Miss Alison, and CD music. Story time with Miss Stacy included her reading "The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse" by Eric Carle. A special online list of activities was included for the Toddler Room, which included making a Mother's Day present with materials mailed home to each toddler family for the craft to be done with mother and child.

A daily circle time provided a bit of science for the toddlers with sink/float activities and mixing blue and yellow to make green. The latter was a supplement to the reading of "Little Blue and Little Yellow."

Toddler, nursery and kindergarten classes were able to enjoy a host of videos on such topics as how to properly wash your hands; tracing letters in the sand; exercising; and making puffy paint, a sampling of the lessons that have continued over the last month and will still be offered once on-site classes resume.

Educational Links

There are so many new websites popping up to help families with young children at home finding activities during time away from school. Some are purely entertainment, while others have educational aspects to them. Here are a few that parents can consider. Check to see if they are appropriate for your child's age level, interest and comprehension.

Online Storytime. The SAG-AFTRA Foundation's Daytime Emmy-nominated "Storyline Online" has been advertised on television the last few weeks. This site features well-known actors such as Viola Davis, Kristen Bell, Chris Pine, Lily Tomlin, Kevin Costner and Betty White that are reading children's books, which inspires a love of reading to millions of children worldwide. Visit www.storylineonline.net.

Drawing: Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems! Here is a delightful site for young children who like to draw or want to learn how to draw. The Kennedy Center Educational Artist-in-Residence Mo Willems sits in his studio and "doodles" while the children can watch and learn. He invites children to "grab some paper, pencils, pens or crayons and doodle along with



him!"

"You might be isolated, but you're not alone. You are an artmaker. Let's make some together," Willems said.

There are 15 episodes to watch. Visit www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems.

New York Botanical Garden. The next best thing, for the time being, to making a trip to the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) is being a part of their new program. It has created NYBG at Home for Kids & Families, an online resource.

The Garden has compiled many of its educational resources in

one convenient online hub, said Nicholas Leshi, senior director of communications. A child's at-home learning can now be supplemented with recipes, videos, lesson plan ideas and more, designed to teach them about the plant world and spark their imaginations for home projects.

Other activities include ways to explore plants in "Herbarium Creative Projects at Home." How about "Healthy Recipes to Try at Home" to create new family favorites? Exploring the Botanical Garden with your child,

continued on page 28

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Puzzling Through Puzzling Times: An Interview With Will Shortz

By Ellie Grueskin

I recently interviewed Pleasantville resident Will Shortz, crossword puzzle editor of The New York Times and all-around puzzle connoisseur, about his favorite puzzles in times of quarantine and normalcy alike.

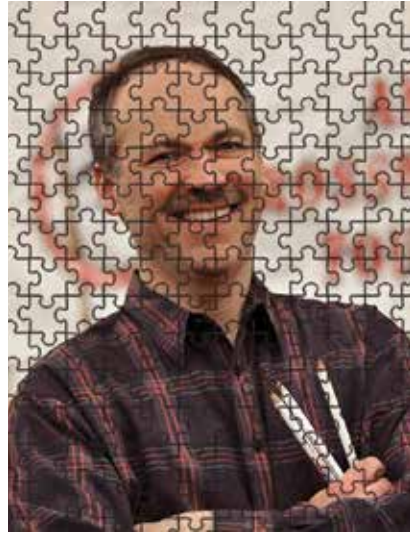
Q: What is it about puzzles that makes them such a valuable quarantine activity?

A: Puzzles serve as a diversion from whatever is bothering you; drugs can do that too, but puzzles are empowering and beneficial to the mind. By completing puzzles, you're not just filling time, but you're also making yourself a better person.

Q: You helped bring KenKen, the Japanese math puzzle, to The Times about a decade ago and declared it as "the most addicting puzzle since Sudoku." What about KenKen captivated you?

A: With a tough KenKen, or problem of any sort, you struggle through the tough part and at the end, you rush to finish the last squares – at which point you have an endorphin rush.

Q: I know your longest-running puzzle is the crossword. How does this compare to KenKen?



Puzzle master and Westchester resident Will Shortz is the The New York Times crossword puzzle editor.

A: KenKen balances the crossword very well. While people who like word and math puzzles are different types of solvers, both types like to use their minds to solve puzzles. The solving process is similar in that it involves filling in squares, figuring out a strategy or hint and finishing with a sense of

completion.

Q: I see that you've just introduced two new puzzles to the daily puzzle section. Who designed these puzzles and how will they add to the existing KenKen and crossword offerings?

A: The first one is called "Two Not Touch." It is a grid-based logic puzzle designed by Jim Bumgardner and has some similarities to KenKen. The second, featured right below, is my very own word puzzle.

Q: Do you have a favorite board game or non-newspaper puzzle?

A: My all-time favorite game is Boggle. I have beaten almost everyone at it.

Q: Any final thoughts?

A: The Times was the final major publication to withhold from publishing a daily crossword. After Pearl Harbor and the start of U.S. involvement in World War II in February 1942, they introduced the puzzle because they knew that people would need an intelligent diversion. I think it is appropriate that they are adding more puzzles right now.

Ellie Grueskin is an avid puzzler and is also a KENKEN champion. She is currently a sophomore at Harvard University studying economics.

Connecting During Social Disconnecting: How One Preschool is Adapting

continued from page 27

in the comfort of your home, can take place in "Virtual Class Trip to the Orchid Show," which features Jeff Leatham's Kaleidoscope, or "Meet the Plants of the Palm Dome."

Join Marc Hachadourian, director of glasshouse horticulture and senior curator of orchids, as he shares some of his favorite plants from the historic palm dome. This site is suitable for children of all ages and their parents to enjoy. Visit www.nybg.org/nybg-at-home-for-kids-families.

Our children are our greatest resource. During this global crisis, we want to help them maintain a bit of normalcy in their lives. By trying to connect children, even for a short period of time, with educational activities, may help them to be less apprehensive about what is going on in their household. As we look forward to the day we can all be back together in the classroom, this is one way our teachers can reach out and let the children know they are missed, loved and cared about.

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Here We Go Again: Science Dueling With Nature



By Nick Antonaccio

It is said that more scientific-based breakthroughs have been introduced in the last 50 years in addressing the forces of nature than in all humankind before that.

But what of the more mundane incidents of man's efforts to vanquish the variability and randomness of nature?

I found such an incident a few months ago. A new company, Endless West, has embarked on a lofty goal: to create wine (and spirits) in a laboratory. No grapes, no fermentation, no aging. And not in a traditional way of mimicking nature. Endless West is seeking a more "natural" method.

This week's column focuses on the potential of this new product. It is not intended to offer a scientific bent for publication in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences or the Journal of Nucleic Acids. I leave that to much more qualified individuals.

Endless West's approach is to break down the components of a wine to its molecular level and construct a wine in a laboratory from the bottom up. This process begins by analyzing a sample of "traditional wine"

using gas and liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry.

The ingredients utilized after analyzing and replicating the DNA of the wine? Water and neutral alcohol. A recipe is then created by co-founder Josh Decolongon, a sommelier by training. He is responsible for creating the desired molecular profile of aromatics, taste and texture.

The company has recently introduced Gemello Moscato into the market. The particulars? The aroma and flavor purports to be similar to a generic Italian Moscato wine, with a shelf price of \$11 to \$14 and only 6 percent alcohol.

The label can't use the word wine for obvious reasons. What is the bottle description of the contents? "Neutral spirits with carbonation, natural flavors, caramel color and beta carotene for color." Not very appealing to a consumer?

Why would a customer in a wine shop consider a synthetic product that is similarly priced to its natural counterpart?

There is a somewhat persuasive (I won't use the term compelling) argument for its appeal.

Getting to the essence of wine – its very DNA, its soul, its molecules – makes sense, doesn't it?

A few Gemello pros and cons for your consideration.

Pro:

- It meets the increasing preference of millennials and other low- or no-alcohol adherents.
- It's a natural product.
- No seasonal weather concerns.
- No climate change concerns.
- No crop shortages.
- No demand and supply price swings.
- No drain on local water supplies.
- No vineyards to maintain.
- No breakdown in the supply chain in the event of a pandemic. No shortage of healthy field workers, no transport logistics, interruptions, etc.
- It's consistently the same, every year.

Con:

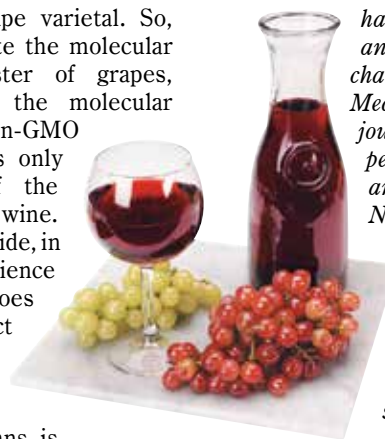
- It's consistently the same, every year. Every vintage is an expression of the vineyard site, its terroir. Wine is an expression of its grape varietal. So, if science can replicate the molecular structure of a cluster of grapes, shouldn't we enjoy the molecular wine as much as non-GMO grapes? Ah, but it is only a small fraction of the biochemistry of wine. Molecular structure aside, in my opinion, our experience with a bottle of wine goes well beyond the distinct characteristics of a particular grape. A simple example I utilize in my columns is

wine produced from the Pinot Noir grape. It may be reasonable to discern that a particular wine is derived from this grape, but it is often difficult to place the wine region from whence it came. Terroir is as influential as the DNA of the grape.

- The influence and history of a winery and a winemaker accounts for a significant level of appeal of a particular bottle of wine.
- No compelling price difference from traditional wine.

The maxim I espouse in my columns is 90 percent of a wine is made in the vineyard. Persuading readers that a wine made 100 percent in a laboratory is acceptable would be a difficult proposition. I'm not going there.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years, he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is the co-chairperson of the Wine Media Guild of wine journalists. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.



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Valhalla Loses a Legend With the Passing of Coach D

Nicholas Modugno passed away on Apr. 29 due to COVID-19. He was 91.

Modugno was known to all as Mr. D or Coach D. He taught and coached the children of Valhalla for more than 40 years, spanning parts of six decades. Even after his retirement in 2000, he continued to be an ever-present figure within the Valhalla School District.

To call him a coach, or a physical education teacher, does not begin to describe who this man truly was. He touched thousands of lives just by being himself. He was humble and caring, and he had the ability to make everyone feel that he was truly interested in what they were doing. He was a superior athlete who didn't fit the stereotypical mold of a jock. He was soft-spoken, religious and



Nicholas Modugno

never uttered a negative word or a curse.

Coach D played collegiate baseball, served in the Army and played baseball professionally in Europe before eventually making his way to Valhalla by 1959. Initially, he was Mr. Di Modugno, but he shortened it to Modugno because, as he would tell his students, Di Modugno was too hard for the kindergartners to pronounce. Within this small act you can find the essence of the man. To give of himself to benefit others was his nature, and he never strayed from who he was.

Coach D was not a tall man, but he may have been one of the quickest, fastest, speediest human beings any of us ever knew. Over the years as each year's student-faculty basketball game would approach, more than a few high school students thought it would

finally be their turn to step up and teach the "old" teacher a lesson. Some would even try to talk a little trash before the game.

He would quietly enjoy the banter, then slowly step on the court to await the whistle. What happened next never failed to amaze all who witnessed it. He moved with lightning quick speed, outrunning, out-defending, and outscoring even the school's best athletes. At times, he would cover two opponents at once, while some of his colleagues took a rest. To the best of anyone's knowledge Coach D and his faculty teams were never defeated.

For Valhalla students from more than 40 years, let's take a moment to say thank you to a man who gave so much to everyone else.

Examiner Media Joins Newsrooms Across the Country for #GivingNewsday

We are excited to be participating in #GivingNewsday, a campaign to bring our neighbors together to subscribe, give, and amplify as they can to support our newsroom's coverage, especially during COVID-19. Examiner community journalists are working tirelessly to provide you with essential coverage to keep Westchester and Putnam county residents safe and informed. Just like you, this pandemic impacts the safety, finances, and routine of our staff but we are persevering and remain committed to our public service.

Your continued support is especially meaningful to us during this time. We have partnered with the Local Media Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, so that we may accept tax-deductible gifts through the COVID-19 Local News Fund program. The foundation has assisted more than 200 independent and family-owned local



news publishers in getting valuable financial support from their communities. All donations will be used to continue, support, and increase COVID-19 news coverage and journalism right here in Westchester and Putnam.

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Nothing to Do at Home? Recently Released Films to Consider Watching

By Rick M. Pezzullo

During these tough times, many of us have spent countless hours trying to find something good to watch on our various streaming services.

The good news is many feature films that were previously in theaters have been expedited to Netflix, Amazon and other platforms on demand. With so many choices, where do you start?

Here are a few reviews to make your selection process a bit less stressful.

"Onward." The newest Disney Pixar film, directed by Dan Scanlon, tells the story of a quest by two brothers to bring their father back to life for just one day.

"Onward" is set in a fantasy world where mythical creatures have lost their ability to perform magical abilities due to the innovation of science and technology that has rendered them lazy and complacent.

Ian, voiced by Tom Holland, and his older brother Barley, voiced by Chris Pratt, are left a magical staff and a Phoenix stone by their father in order to resurrect him for one full day. Ian discovers he has magical ability, but is unable to perform the spell correctly and brings only the lower half of his father back to life. A journey ensues to find another Phoenix stone to bring the rest of him back before time runs out.

The film's emotional journey is something to be applauded and brings to light a unique family relationship that is not always at the forefront. "Onward" provides enough laughs, peril and underlying meaning to create an exceptional cinematic experience for the whole family. It is perhaps not an upper-tier Disney Pixar film, but an excellent addition nonetheless. Rating: 9/10.

"Impractical Jokers: The Movie."

Everyone's favorite show on TruTV comes to the big screen with a feature-length film detailing a redemption road trip to Florida for Joe, Sal, Murr and Q as they look to make amends with Paula Abdul.

Yes, the sentence you just read is an accurate description of the plot of this film. Yes, I know it sounds terrible. Yes, it is terrible. In what is a very obvious money grab for the four jokers, they somehow try to tie in a plot that has no business being on a screen.

The movie has its moments as the jokers perform some skits similar to the format of the show. Let's just say even if you're a big fan of the show, you probably will feel let down by this movie. The jokers should stick to what they're good at and that is being an entertaining television option when nothing else is on. Rating: 3/10.

"Just Mercy." This legal drama film, directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, is based on the true story of Walter McMillan, who is wrongfully incarcerated for a murder of a white woman in Alabama. Defense attorney Bryan Stevenson takes on the case and has to fight against the inherent racial injustice embedded in Alabama's legal system in the late 1980s and early '90s.

Michael B. Jordan and Jamie Foxx deliver incredible performances in roles that were made for them to play. Brie Larson contributes her usual excellence in a supporting role as Eva Ansley, who was instrumental in forming the Equal Justice Initiative along with Stevenson.

"Just Mercy" presents the harsh realities of the American justice system and highlights the racial disparities that still exist today. The film was unjustly snubbed from many of the major award shows, aside from a Best Supporting Actor nomination for

Jamie Foxx at the SAG awards.

"Just Mercy" is an exceptional achievement of film that takes you on an emotional journey that will open your eyes to the struggles of those who are most affected by racism in the criminal justice system. Rating: 9/10.

"Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey."

The newest installment in the DC Cinematic Universe revolves around the story of Harley Quinn and her team of female vigilantes as they combat crime boss Roman Sinonis, otherwise known as Black Mask.

The movie can be described as fun, chaotic, lively, confusing and many other adjectives that leave me on the fence. Margot Robbie puts in another stellar performance as Quinn, portraying the famous villain/heroine's crazed personality while still providing the charm that has created her cult following. Ewan McGregor, on the other hand, didn't seem like a great fit for his role. It was tough to truly be fearful of this lunatic crime boss when all I could see was Obi Wan Kenobi.

Likewise, Rosie Perez, wasn't at all believable as a hardcore cop who can apparently take down multiple combatants at once while standing five feet tall. I credit director, Cathy Yan, for her originality and bold style, but the film just felt devoid of flow and natural humor. All in all, 'Birds of Prey,' is worth the watch for the true comic book fans, but others may find the film puzzling and a waste of potential. Rating: 6/10.

"The Way Back." This sports/drama film, directed by Gavin O'Connor, tells the story of Jack Cunningham, a construction worker and former high school basketball star in California who struggles with alcoholism.

Cunningham, played by Ben Affleck, is



Rick M. Pezzullo has had plenty of opportunities to catch up on his movie watching in recent weeks.

asked to coach a struggling basketball team at his alma mater. In true sports movie fashion, Cunningham takes a liking to mentoring the players and finds purpose in his otherwise barren life. Affleck does a nice job with this role and makes us almost forget that he recently played Batman.

The film has its sports clichés, but I didn't mind the feel-good moments amidst this pandemic we're all experiencing. Viewers may be surprised at the story arc of the film as it centers mostly on Cunningham's life as opposed to being basketball focused.

"The Way Back" is a solid addition to the sports movie genre and is a good watch for those looking for perseverance and hope in a time when we all need it. Rating: 7.5/10.

Clearwater to Host Virtual Mother's Day Fundraising Concert

Original, folk and grassroots activist musicians have been the heartbeat of Clearwater's musical community and more than two dozen artists from across the country will be performing in a 12-hour Mother's Day tribute to Toshi Seeger on Sunday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The event will be curated by a favorite Clearwater Festival performer Fred Gillen Jr.

This event will honor Toshi Seeger, whose creative vision and environmental work made an enormous impact in the Hudson Valley, which lives on in Clearwater's traditions today. Beyond being an organizer, mother, road manager, photographer and camera woman, Pete Seeger often credited his wife as "the brains behind the operation." She also served on the Newport Folk Festival board from its inception, insisting that they bring the musicians to the stage that were the mentors to the popular folk musicians of the 1960s.

She also helped found Folklore Research Films and worked on the Rainbow Quest TV Series produced by Sholem Rubenstein. Toshi was executive producer of "The Power of



Toshi Seeger, wife of folk music legend Pete Seeger, will be the subject of a Mother's Day tribute concert on Facebook that will also serve as a fundraiser for Clearwater.

Song," she booked many musicians for Clearwater's Great Hudson Revival, started the groundbreaking Litter-Picking & Recycling initiative and ensured wheelchair accessibility and ASC interpretative signing at the festival.

There will be story tributes throughout the day by musicians, Seeger family members and others.

The Facebook Live concert will raise much-needed funds for Clearwater's critical environmental action initiatives and educational programming. Performers and presenters include David and Jacob Bernz; Laura Bowman; Tom Breiding; Sarah Browne; Kitama Cahill-Jackson; Julie Corbalis; John Cronin; Moraya DeGeare; KJ Denhart; Emma's Revolution; Susan Fisher Wright; Lori Frazer-Gross; Fred Gillen Jr.; Shirl and Steve Kaplan of Great Blue; Manna Jo Greene; Lisa Gutkin; Reggie Harris; Markley & Balmer; Mel and Vinnie; Rick and Donna Nestler; Tinya Seeger; Carolann Solebello; Spook Handy; and Matt Turk. For the full schedule and concert lineup, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/3086082568081247>.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global crisis and leaves many unable to be together on Mother's Day. This event can unite families and share music in the spirit of Clearwater's folk and grassroots tradition.

This concert and other Clearwater fundraising efforts support the important environmental work, which includes:

- Promoting safe decommissioning of

nuclear power plants, including Indian Point. Clearwater sponsored the groundbreaking Fall 2019 Regional Decommissioning Forum, whose information was the foundation of legislative policy in 2020 for a statewide Decommissioning Oversight Board of New York State agencies;

- Opposing new fossil fuel plants such as the proposed Danskammer expansion;
- Participating in the investigation of industrial runoff into the Hudson River from riverfront communities;
- Promoting the cleanup of PFOS, which contaminated Newburgh's drinking water supply, from the source at Stewart Air National Guard Base;
- Ensuring accountability in the ongoing participation in the Hudson River PCB remediation; and
- Building a renewable energy future with the development of a seven-county Mid-Hudson Regional Renewable Energy Implementation Plan.

A BIG TIME THANK YOU TO OUR READERS!

"Always look forward to your weekly newspaper and your support of the Pleasantville Garden Club of which I am a member."

"Keep up the good work. You are so important to our community."

"Thanks for your great reporting. Good luck with the fundraising"

"I imagine how incredibly helpful your news is to everyone right now. Sending support!!!!"

"Our family enjoys reading your paper each week! Thank you for all the great work you do and thank you for keeping us informed about all the local news in our area!!"

"Thank you Martin Wilbur for always being there for us when we need news coverage! Love you guys and The Examiner News!"

"We're in this fight together. Times are tough, but we'll get through this. Stay strong."

"Thank you for all you do to bring local news to the community. We're all better for having you around, and I'm glad to be able to do my part."

"Great local news. Apple Pie and the Examiner!"

"Keep up the great journalism and important work. Old school community journalism at its best."

"We are devout readers of The Examiner. A publication like this is

a necessity in our small local communities. Rarely do we go into Starbucks, the barber shop or the lobby at the Jacob Burns without seeing people engrossed in an issue. We are proud to support a paper based on integrity and a generous community spirit."

"It's an honor to support such a fantastic enterprise that means so much to our communities."

"I Thank You, Mount Kisco Thanks You and William Raveis Real Estate Thanks You. I Love The Examiner"

"This community is in desperate need of a local, community news source, especially as we waded into these uncharted waters caused by coronavirus. Adam is an amazing journalist who's built an upstanding, quality news outfit. He's been there for all of us, now it's time to be there for him and his team. Godspeed, Adam."

"Proud supporter of The Examiner. It's my favorite resource for news and happenings in our community."

"We have been fans and friends of Adam Stone and were fortunate enough to watch him create and print the first edition of The Examiner in 2007. Adam, his team, and the paper are a shining light in our community. It's not a flim flam local rag, it's real journalism that addresses the tough issues while celebrating and documenting the lives of our neighbors. Local news is important, it's where

national news starts... I'm proud that they are in my community and happy to support them in any way I can."

"Your service to the community deserves support in regular circumstances too, but especially in these difficult times."

"You've always supported our community and it's with great pleasure that we return the favor. May The Examiner continue to serve and thrive."

"I worked for The Examiner for about 3 1/2 years as a freelance sports writer and newspaper distributor. I learned a lot working with Adam, Ray and Andy, and they helped and supported me as I moved on to become a full-time sports reporter at the Poughkeepsie Journal. The Examiner is a venerable weekly, and I'm more than happy to offer my support during these hard times."

"I thank you for balanced informative local news. we gladly support you."

"Looking forward to continued fair and accurate local reporting. Wishing your staff and readers good health."

"As a member of CD17Indivisible, I much appreciate the outlet you have provided for the many letters to the Editor published in support of key local issues. We believe in a Free press that provides a voice to those who seek to call attention to Community concerns. As

such, I am pleased to contribute to your continuance and success in these challenging times."

"So proud of what you are doing for your community!!! Thank you!"

"Thank you for always covering Lakeland & Panas Sports!"

"We look forward to reading the hard copy of your Examiner every week. Martin Wilbur's reporting is accurate and always right on target."

"Putnam Examiner does a great job promoting student-athletes in our community Stay safe and healthy."

"Your reporting on local government news is excellent! We also enjoy your columnists, especially Nick Antonaccio on wine, Bill Primavera ("The Home Guru"), and Brian Kleupfel on birding. Keep up the great work!"

"You've always been there for Fox Lane so we're here for you."

"Adam, Martin and team, The Examiner is an important and valued resource for our community!"

Thank you to the 331 readers who, as of late Sunday morning (in contributions of mostly \$25 to \$100) donated \$24,338 and growing. We appreciate all of the ongoing generosity and kind words.



Tax Deductible!

To contribute, visit: givebutter.com/theexaminernews

You may also donate by check. Make checks payable to **Examiner Media** and mail to **P.O. Box 611, Mt. Kisco NY 10549**. Checks payable to Examiner Media are not tax-deductible.



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