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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 382

Mount Kisco Trustee George Griffin Dies at 67

By Neal Rentz and Janine Bowen

Nearly 100 friends and family members turned out Monday morning to say goodbye to longtime Mount Kisco village trustee and former planning board member George Griffin Jr.

Griffin died at home on Christmas Eve surrounded by family after a long battle with cancer. He was 67.

In the days immediately following his death and again at his funeral at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mount Kisco, Griffin was warmly remembered as a man who was dedicated to community, country and family.

"I am humbled at how he has touched so many," said his son George Griffin III.

He remembered his father as someone who was firm but fair and always put the needs of family before his own, even during his final days. Looking out at the church's filled pews, Griffin was proud to know that his father had an impact on the



The casket for George Griffin Jr. is carried out of St. Francis of Assisi Church after his funeral on Monday. The longtime Mount Kisco village trustee died on Christmas Eve.

lives of so many.

Griffin was first elected to the village board in 2003 and had been deputy mayor for the past four years. Prior to becoming

a village trustee, Griffin served on the planning board for eight years.

"George represented and cared about every segment of the Mount Kisco

population," Mayor Michael Cindrich said. "He enjoyed life and never refused anyone who asked for help."

"George worked tirelessly overseeing the rebuilding of much of the village's infrastructure, from projects in Leonard Park and the senior center to the building of the (new) Mount Kisco Library," Cindrich added.

But Griffin's involvement in community affairs was not limited to his work on the village and planning boards. A longtime member of the Lion's Club, he was a Vietnam veteran and spent much time helping the Moses Taylor American Legion Post 136, Cindrich noted. He served as commander of the post in 2000 and was devoted to helping wounded veterans at the Montrose VA.

Last month, he was honored after his selection to state Sen. Greg Ball's Veterans Hall of Fame.

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Drug and Alcohol Education Series Aims to Keep P'ville Strong

By Janine Bowen

Since its inception earlier this year, Pleasantville Strong's message has been rapidly gaining momentum, and the group will continue its mission of community involvement with a new parent education series beginning Jan. 6.

The "strong" in Pleasantville Strong stands for Safe Teens, Real Opportunities, New Goals, and the coalition was formed to keep the community free from drugs and alcohol. As part of its work, the group recently distributed a survey to Pleasantville parents to gauge the attitudes toward use of alcohol and certain drugs.

The results will be revealed next Tuesday at the first of six parent education meetings at the Mount Pleasant Public Library.

"We're hoping to just get an accurate

baseline of what the activity is," said John Mueller, a founding member of Pleasantville Strong. "Obviously I would like it if there was less activity in relation to drugs and alcohol, but either way, the process is to determine what the issues are and then address them."

The group's formation and the surveys were done as part of a grant application that, if awarded, would provide \$125,000 per year for drug prevention programs. Money raised by the coalition has already funded the hiring of a substance abuse prevention counselor at Pleasantville High School.

Student Assistant Services (SAS), a substance abuse prevention agency, has been helping Pleasantville Strong. Judy Mezey, SAS's assistant director

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County to Close Valhalla Homeless Shelter This Week

By Janine Bowen

Westchester County legislators expressed frustration and concern last week over the Department of Social Services' (DSS) abrupt decision to shut down a Valhalla homeless shelter.

DSS announced its decision to close the county-owned Valhalla Residence Shelter on Hammond Road effective Dec. 31 at last Monday's Board of Legislators Community Services Committee meeting. The closure will save Westchester about \$500,000, but legislators questioned why the issue was not raised during budget proceedings in November.

"If this was the intent, I really don't understand why, just a month ago when we were here discussing [the DSS] budget going forward for 2015, that none of this was brought up," said Legislator Alfreda

Williams (D-Greenburgh).

Legislators also haven't received a quarterly report from DSS since April, she added.

DSS Commissioner Kevin McGuire and Deputy Commissioner Phillippe Gille said the facility is being closed because its services are redundant. The Grasslands homeless shelter is just a quarter mile away and the building that houses the Valhalla Residence Shelter, which accommodates up to 18 people, could be used for other purposes.

Gille explained that five residents have enough income to move into permanent single-resident homes, one will move in with relatives and another was placed in an adult home. The remaining 11 residents will be relocated to temporary housing and

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Mount Kisco Trustee George Griffin Dies at 67

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Griffin's nephew, White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, remembered looking up to his uncle as a child, especially after Griffin was drafted into military service during the Vietnam War. He recalled how family was always in the forefront of his mind and he made sure to bring home three official army helmet liners for his three young nephews.

"He was a great son of White Plains and did us a great honor in the way he lived his life," said Roach. "The thing I see is his dedication, just commitment, just doing what you should do, trying to help people

and that's something we can all try and live up to."

Don Ford, treasurer and general manager of the local American Legion post who knew Griffin for about 25 years, said his friend struggled with severe stomach pain from cancer near the end.

"I hope I make it to Christmas," Griffin told Ford about six months ago.

Ford said Griffin was very active with the American Legion, going to the hall in Mount Kisco usually every other day, often to cook for various events.

Griffin was born on Oct. 16, 1947, in White Plains to George and Marjorie Griffin, the third of five children. He was drafted into the U.S. Army when he was 19 years old and served in Vietnam as a military policeman. He was assigned to Company A of the 720th MP Battalion, 18 MP Brigade at Long Binh, the largest U.S. military base in Vietnam. He received the Army commendation medal for his service during the Tet Offensive.

After his military service, Griffin worked in the building materials industry and was later a partner of Richard's Lumber on Kisco Avenue for more than 20 years.

Griffin married his wife, Grace, in May 1989. In addition to his son, he is survived by his daughter Catherine Mary Griffin; daughter-in-law Colleen; two sisters, Diane (Cissie) Roach, and her husband,

Tom, of Canandaigua, N.Y., and Dawn Griffin-Parnell and husband Bruce, of Danbury, Conn.; and two grandchildren

Trustee Anthony Markus said he was very close with Griffin, remembering him as a giving person generous with his time, cooking for American Legion functions and always ready to donate toward a cause.

"George was my friend and you always knew he had your back," Markus said. "He will be sorely missed and the loss runs deep."

Markus said he used his vast knowledge of construction to help oversee the village's buildings and grounds, including restoration of the cupola and ceiling at village hall, while also protecting the taxpayer.

Trustee Karen Schleimer remembered how Griffin was always ready to serve others.

"George was one of the most honorable, gracious, kind and dedicated men I have had the privilege to know," Schleimer said. "He went out of his way for everyone. He was one of those rare human beings who found the good in everyone and treated everyone as if each and every person were a jewel."

Trustee Jean Farber praised Griffin for his kindness and devotion to the community, calling him "a true American hero." She also said that serving with him

was a great learning experience.

Griffin was predeceased by his brother, Edward Griffin, his mother, Marjorie Boraski, and his brother (John) Brian Griffin.

Visitation was at Cassidy-Flynn Funeral Home in Mount Kisco on Saturday and Sunday. Burial with full military honors followed at Holy Mount Cemetery in Eastchester.

Blood Drive at P'ville's Emanuel Lutheran Set for January 10

The Emanuel Lutheran Church in Pleasantville is sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday, Jan. 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church located at 197 Manville Rd. Whole blood and red cells units will be collected from qualifying candidates. Although this drive makes it convenient for Pleasantville residents to participate, blood donors from all towns are welcome to come to lend their help.

To schedule an appointment, call 800-933-2566 or visit www.nybloodcenter.org/donateblood. For information regarding your eligibility (medical, travel, etc), call 800-688-0900. Although it is helpful to let the organizers know in advance that you plan to come, walk-ins are always accepted.

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Site Plan Review, Repercussions Await After Chap Crossing Rezone

By Martin Wilbur

Site plan and state Department of Transportation approvals are still needed by developer Summit/Greenfield for Chappaqua Crossing to be built. What also remains to be seen is whether there is political fallout from the New Castle Town Board's controversial decision.

The board voted Dec. 18 to rezone 19 acres of the former Reader's Digest property for retail use by a 4-1 margin, allowing up to 120,000 square feet of space at the former Reader's Digest site. The proposal is anchored by a 40,000-square-foot Whole Foods supermarket.

While council members Jason Chapin and Elise Kessler Mottel, two board members who voted for the rezone, face re-election next fall, there has been a perception that part of last year's winning slate may have reneged on a central campaign promise.

Talking points by Supervisor Robert Greenstein and council members Lisa Katz and Adam Brodsky in 2013 sounded similar, including their hope to complete the Master Plan update before making a decision on the rezone, but a year later their comments before and after the vote appeared very different. Katz was the dissenting vote.

Greenstein denied his vote was an about-face, saying that from at least

as far back as early 2012 he supported the idea of a Whole Foods at the site after Chappaqua lost D'Agostino, the hamlet's only supermarket. He said he repeated his support for Whole Foods during the campaign.

Even before he announced his candidacy, in a March 2012 letter to the editor to newcastlenow.org, Greenstein contended that the town needed to boost its commercial tax base.

"I believe a high-end grocery store—like Whole Foods, for example—would do very well at that location considering the demographics of New Castle and the proximity of Chappaqua Crossing to the Saw Mill," Greenstein wrote. "I think that such a move could help foster a working relationship with Summit Greenfield as we take each others' interests into consideration."

What Greenstein said he had been against was a shopping center with big-box stores, such as a Staples or a Petco that Summit/Greenfield was previously considering, which could threaten downtown.

In another correspondence in June 2013, Greenstein reaffirmed his support for Whole Foods, but sharply criticized the former town board for failing to get more community feedback on the original retail plan.

However, the April 2014 revision to



An artist's rendition of the proposed Whole Foods at Chappaqua Crossing.

move away from large chain stores to smaller retail spaces other than Whole Foods made the latest plan palatable.

"They revised it into a community development concept plan and that what was submitted in April, a revised community development concept plan that took into account traditional neighborhood design," Greenstein said. "Again, (it's) not perfect. I'm not going to claim that it is, but it's better than it was."

Katz wouldn't comment directly on the vote of her running mates from last year but conveyed her disappointment in the rezone, reiterating points that the project would be too big for the site.

"I don't want to talk about them or their reasons," Katz said after the vote. "I can say that I am a woman of integrity and I did exactly what I campaigned to

do. I believe in what I said and I voted on what I said I'd do."

She pledged to be a voice to make sure that what gets built there is beneficial to New Castle, adding that she felt even more certain of her decision after the vote.

Brodsky acknowledged his opposition to the Summit/Greenfield's previous retail plan during the campaign and wanted to have the Master Plan completed first. However, between improvements in the revised proposal to go toward smaller retail shops, the threat of litigation and the town losing out on badly needed tax revenue, a tradeoff had to be made.

It was a decision, Brodsky said, he didn't take lightly, with many sleepless nights. Several friends and neighbors are now threatening not to speak to him again, he said. Once he saw the risks the town faced from the inside, the drawbacks of voting against the rezone were too great.

"It's one thing to campaign as an optimistic candidate, but as an elected official, you have to live with the consequences of your actions," he said.

Despite drawbacks, Brodsky said if the project would be built, it could help the town similarly to Armonk Square, which reenergized that hamlet.

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Candlelight Vigil Honors Slain NYPD Officers

By Pat Casey

A group of police, military and other public servants held a candlelight vigil to honor the memories of two slain New York City police officers near the Westchester County Police Memorial in White Plains Sunday evening.

While the rainy weather kept more people from attending the event to honor officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu, Frank Morgenthaler, president of the Westchester Chapter of Oath Keepers, which organized the vigil, said another event would be planned for a future date.

Morgenthaler, a Hawthorne resident who ran for Congress in 2013 on a minor party line, said it was important to honor the memories of the two officers who were killed in the line of duty in Brooklyn on Dec. 20.

"It is appropriate for us to gather by the county police memorial, and also near the Martin Luther King, Jr. statue, which is also located on the same plaza," said Morgenthaler who called the officers' deaths an assassination. "Martin Luther King, Jr. didn't believe in violence. If more people were like MLK, then we wouldn't see as much damage. If Mr. King were alive now, he would be appalled by how much violence there is.



This is a symbolic spot."

More than half of the national Oath Keepers membership are active duty and retired police officers, Morgenthaler said.

"There is an allegiance and a bond between our organization and police," he said. "We stand with our police and

thank and support them, and are proud to sponsor the vigil here tonight."

The vigil included prayers, the playing of Taps and a bagpipe rendition of "Amazing Grace."

Oath Keepers was established in 2009. According to the organization's print literature, it is a nonpartisan association



PAT CASEY PHOTOS

Above: Despite the wind, attendees at the vigil managed to keep their candles burning.

Left: Frank Morgenthaler, right, honors the memory of NYPD officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu. The Westchester County Police Memorial is to the left.

of currently serving military, reserves, National Guard, veterans, peace officers and firefighters "who fulfill the oath we swore, with the support of like minded citizens who take an oath to stand with us, to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic, so help us God."

"Our oath is to the Constitution, not to the politicians, and not to any political party," Morgenthaler said.

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Drug and Alcohol Education Series Aims to Keep P'ville Strong

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for community-based programs, was impressed by the level of parental participation she has seen. More than 200 parents completed and returned surveys, which Mezey said is well above average.

"We were pleasantly surprised by the

excellent response to the parent survey. Generally we have difficulty getting even 100 parents to respond," she said.

Mueller said Pleasantville parents have stepped up in hopes of eradicating drug and alcohol abuse in the village, noting their willingness to work together.

"I'm not surprised at all. It is like the

most community-involved place around," Mueller said.

Mueller predicted the biggest issue noted by the surveys will be underage drinking, followed by marijuana use, and said he would like to have a meeting focusing on synthetic marijuana, which has only been part of the drug scene since 2008.

A Yonkers Police Department officer, Mueller is aware that many youngsters have gotten sick and some have died from using synthetic marijuana. Since it's relatively new, most parents don't know what the substance looks like.

Synthetic marijuana is often distributed in packages that feature popular cartoon characters, and because it's bought online and often distributed by unscrupulous overseas sellers, buyers can never be certain of its contents, Mueller said.

Although the forums are intended for adults, Mueller said Pleasantville Strong is currently working on programs for students, such as a youth leadership development program that would train teens to assist their peers. Even if a teenager is willing to talk openly, parents may not have a clear understanding of what youths face in school. Fellow teens might be better equipped to show empathy toward their peers in difficult situations.

"The question is how do we take their foundational knowledge of their friends' lives and get them to accept that you're not rattling on someone if you think they have a problem," Mueller said.

The Pleasantville Strong Parent Education Series will be held the first Tuesday of each month through June at the Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville. The forums begin at 7:30 p.m.

County to Close Valhalla Homeless Shelter This Week

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shelters throughout the county.

"It seems like ... Scrooge-like behavior to dispossess people or ask people to move" around Christmas, Williams said.

McGuire and Gille said the facility's closure is justified because the number of homeless people who utilize DSS shelters has been reduced over the past year. They said the remaining facilities will be able to absorb the influx of residents because only 80 percent of the beds at all county-owned shelters were filled as of Dec. 19. That statistic does not include the Valhalla Residence Shelter.

"We're fairly comfortable, absent a catastrophe of some kind, that we'll be able to make it through the year with this capacity," Gille said.

The Valhalla Residence Shelter opened more than 20 years ago to help homeless people who were suffering from HIV/AIDS. As treatments and attitudes toward the disease changed, the shelter evolved

into a place for the medically frail.

According to Gille, 40 percent of people who use the shelter receive no medical care. Those who do need medical assistance are placed in a care facility, such as a nursing home, if their condition is serious enough, or they receive treatment off-site through medical providers. Gille explained that DSS did its best to relocate residents so their medical services would continue uninterrupted.

Catherine Marsh, who opened Valhalla Residence Shelter, said she was concerned about what will happen to Westchester's homeless who suffer from mental, physical and psychiatric disorders. She wanted to know if residents who are being relocated were assessed to determine whether their medical issues warrant placement in a different facility. Some shelters would be unable to accept medically frail residents, Marsh said.

Legislator Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) voiced skepticism whether

the DSS would be able to handle the homeless population if it closes the shelter, noting that she still sees people on the streets at night. Gille countered that the DSS can only help those who arrive at the shelter for help. He explained that many homeless people will not come forward because they don't comply with DSS requirements, such as attending rehab or therapy or finding employment.

Marsh said she is concerned that the shelter's closure will force people to remain on the streets this winter.

"There was reference to the cold weather last year and the bump in the numbers, and it's winter again," Marsh said.

McGuire and Gille explained that the reduction in the number of homeless is due to more intensive case review. They spoke of a focus on eviction prevention and permanent housing solutions while developing individual living plans to avert a return to the shelter once someone is placed in a permanent home.

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Pleasantville STRONG 2014 Annual Report

Safe Teens. Real Opportunities. New Goals.

Though just six months old, Pleasantville STRONG (Safe Teens, Real Opportunities, New Goals) is on the fast track to developing a comprehensive community approach to keeping Pleasantville youth healthy, safe and drug- and alcohol-free.

"The support from residents, police, elected officials, faith-based groups, businesses and the school district has been very gratifying. When I explain that our mission is to mitigate drug and alcohol use by our youth before it becomes a problem, people come on board," said John Mueller, Founder of Pleasantville STRONG.



John Mueller, one of the founders of Pleasantville STRONG, appeared on PCTV to discuss the coalition's plans.

First Steps

One of the first actions taken by the coalition was to create a Facebook page as a central and convenient location to post useful information for parents and their children. Visit and like www.facebook.com/PleasantvilleSTRONG.

Posts are not just focused on drug and alcohol issues, but on keeping Pleasantville's youth safe and healthy, so the coalition posts links like "How can I



Pleasantville High School Principal Joe Palumbo and his students attended the Westchester Coalition for Drug and Alcohol Free Youth Leadership Conference.

monitor my 12 year old daughter's use of Instagram?" The coalition aims to be the community's go-to resource for information, trends, prevention strategies and solutions for drug and alcohol use by teens and young adults.



Pleasantville STRONG partnered with the Jacob Burns Film Center to show *Whispering Spirits*, the Justin Veatch story.

Whispering Spirits

The coalition also partnered with the Jacob Burns Film Center to premiere *Whispering Spirits*, a documentary about the 2008

death of Yorktown teen Justin Veatch, a talented high school musician who tragically died of an accidental drug overdose at the age of 17. A panel discussion about substance abuse followed the sold out performance.

Communicating with the Public

In addition to social media, coalition representatives and relevant guest speakers are appearing on Pleasantville Community Television to share information with the public. Two half-hour shows have been shown on Cablevision Channel 76 and Verizon Channel 36. PCTV is a media partner of the coalition.

Parent & Community Input

From its inception, the coalition sought community input, and recently completed an online survey to determine community attitudes on drug/alcohol use.

More than 200 people, mostly parents, completed the survey. The results will be released at a parent forum on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 7pm at the Mount Pleasant Library.

Student Input

The coalition surveyed middle and high school students to determine drug and alcohol use. The surveys were voluntary, confidential and designed to establish benchmarks for future comparisons.

Public Service Campaigns

Holidays like Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and

New Year's can be dangerous for teens. The coalition launched a public service campaign to warn parents about the dangers faced by teens around holidays.

Pleasantville STRONG's public service campaign reminds parents of the dangers to teens during the holidays.



Looking Ahead/Getting Involved

The coalition plans to apply for a federal Drug Free Communities grant to continue its prevention strategies and launch new initiatives.

In 2015, a Parent Education Series will be held, 7PM, the first Tuesday of every month, Mount Pleasant Library. All are welcome.

The next regular coalition meeting is Wednesday, January 21, 2015, 8PM, Holy Innocents Social Hall. All are welcome.

Pleasantville STRONG

Safe Teens. Real Opportunities. New Goals

For More Information visit and LIKE our Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/PleasantvilleSTRONG

Obituary

Virginia Owen

Virginia C. Owen passed away peacefully in her sleep on Christmas evening. She was 90.

Owen was born Virginia Carolina Porcelli on Aug. 7, 1924, to Italian parents and raised in Manhattan and Harrison, N.Y. She graduated Harrison High School and attended Westchester School of Nursing, graduating as a registered nurse in 1945. Owen spent her entire 40-year career at Grasslands Hospital and Westchester Medical Center working in various services and clinics including the tuberculosis unit at Grasslands where as a young nurse, she contracted TB, requiring many months of hospitalization.

In March 1945, she married John Alan Owen of Newtown, Wales at St. Gregory's Church in Harrison. He was volunteering at the hospital while on leave from the Royal Air Force during World War II. He returned to Wales to complete his military service before moving to Westchester with Virginia to begin their life together. They had seven children, six of whom survive: John Owen of Cassleberry, Fla., Steven Owen of White Plains, Virginia Owen McDonald of Alpharetta, Ga.,

Maria Torregrossa of Carmel, Patricia Carbone of Hartsdale and David Owen of Elmsford. She was predeceased by son Gerard in 1994 and her husband in 2003. She was the loving grandmother of 17 and great-grandmother of 13. She was predeceased by all of her siblings: Edward Porcelli, Vincent Porcelli, Arthur Porcelli, Marion Porcelli, Julia Moran and Benedetta MacCarthy.

Virginia and John settled in Elmsford in 1952. She was very active in her community as a Girl Scout leader and a participant in nursing alumni and senior activities at Fairview and Sleepy Hollow Senior citizens. She was always ready to lend a hand to anyone who needed it.

Owen was a devout Catholic and participated in the Rosary Society and the choir at Mt. Carmel in Elmsford, the church she attended throughout her life. She loved to attend social activities and made everyone around her comfortable with her conversation and laughter. After her retirement, she traveled the world with her husband.

Owen was an avid Yankees and Rangers fan and she enjoyed attending any sports activity that her children and grandchildren were involved in. She was often the most vocal supporter in

the stands if one of her family members was playing. Lottery tickets were a daily event and trips to the casino with family were a highlight for her. She was an accomplished artist and often presented her children and grandchildren with personal portraits of themselves or with beautiful scenes from fairy tales.

She brought a special light into the room and into our lives and she will be missed by all of her family and friends.

Visitation will be Friday, Jan. 2

from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home, Inc. in Pleasantville. A Mass of Christian burial will be on Saturday, Jan. 3 at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Elmsford. Interment is private.

In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to Hearthstone Alzheimer's Care, 95 S. Broadway, White Plains, N.Y. 10601 or Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School, 59 E. Main St., Elmsford, N.Y. 10532.

Police Blotter

Mount Kisco Police Department

Dec. 19: A 17-year-old Mount Kisco male reported at 9:49 a.m. that he was the victim of a strong-arm robbery at about 5 p.m. on Dec. 18 in the vicinity of 219 Main St. The victim stated that the robber took his house keys, which also had tag cards from local supermarkets, and his wallet containing \$200 cash. There are no suspects at this time. The matter is under investigation.

Dec. 20: A burglary was reported at 5:19 a.m. at the Mount Kisco Deli & Grocery on Maple Avenue. Sometime between 10 p.m. the previous night and 5 a.m. on this date, the store's front window was broken and an undetermined amount of lottery tickets were stolen. The matter is under investigation.

Dec. 20: A 46-year-old Mount Kisco man was arrested at 5:29 p.m. and charged with DWI after being involved in an accident on Main Street while driving his 1997 Honda Civic. Police reported his blood-alcohol content at .12. The suspect is due to appear in village court on Jan. 8.

Dec. 20: A 37-year-old Mount Kisco woman was arrested at 10:52 p.m. and charged with DWI following a traffic stop at Locust and West streets. The suspect's blood-alcohol content was measured at .24.

Dec. 22: A 68-year-old Chappaqua man who was stopped for a traffic infraction on North Bedford Road near Brookside Avenue at 4:18 p.m. was arrested for having failed to appear for previous vehicle and traffic violations dating back to 2011. He was arraigned

in village court and released in his own recognizance. He is scheduled to return to court on Jan. 15.

Dec. 23: A 28-year-old Ossining man was arrested on Kisco Avenue at 3:31 p.m. and charged with possession of stolen property. He had affixed a New York State inspection sticker to his window that had been reported stolen from another vehicle in June. The suspect is due back in village court on Jan. 8.

Dec. 25: Report of a burglary at Angelo's Deli on Main Street at 8:56 a.m. Sometime overnight the front door was shattered and about \$144 of beer was stolen from the store.

Pleasantville Police Department

Dec. 20: Report of criminal mischief on Skytop Drive at 7:45 a.m. There was damage sustained to a resident's mailbox sometime overnight.

Dec. 21: A 62-year-old Danbury, Conn. man was charged on Pleasantville Road at 11:50 p.m. with driving a vehicle without a license following a traffic stop. A summons was issued and the vehicle was impounded.

Dec. 22: A 21-year-old Orlando, Fla. man was arrested on Marble Avenue at 9:25 p.m. following a traffic stop for failing to have a permit for a loaded firearm. He was charged a felony for that alleged offense and unlawful possession of marijuana, a violation.

Dec. 24: A 22-year-old Bronx man was arrested on Bedford Road at 9:15 p.m. and charged with driving with a suspended license following a traffic stop.

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BOCES' Langlois Named State's Super of the Year

The New York State Council of School Superintendents announced last Monday that Dr. James Langlois, superintendent of Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, has been named the 2015 New York State School Superintendent of the Year.

Langlois leads a responsive, innovative and collaborative agency that serves some of the highest rated and most respected school districts in the nation. "We Can Do That," the BOCES motto, exemplifies the agency's commitment to helping school districts meet the rapidly changing challenges of education reform and tight budgets with flexible, cutting-edge, high-quality and cost-effective programs.

"To the extent that the award calls attention to the challenges faced by public education and its long history of successes in the face of those challenges, I am honored to receive this recognition," Langlois said. "It is an honor that I am proud to share with every superintendent who leads public schools."

Langlois has led Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES for the past 10 years. Previously, he served eight years as superintendent in Goshen and was an assistant superintendent on Long Island. He worked in various leadership positions in New York City public schools in Manhattan and the Bronx. He began his career 50 years ago as a high school English teacher in Connecticut.



Dr. James Langlois speaks with students in a cosmetology class at Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES' tech center in Yorktown.

"Jim Langlois is admired by his colleagues in this state and beyond," said Council Executive Director Dr. Robert Reidy. "They have called on him to serve in many leadership roles. He is also a respected independent voice and effective local leader among the superintendents and school boards of the Lower Hudson Valley."

Langlois served for seven years on the national governing board of the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), the council's national affiliate, and

for several years on the national Association of Educational Service Agencies' (AESA) Executive Committee.

He holds two masters degrees and a doctorate in educational communication from Columbia University Teachers College. He has taught graduate educational leadership courses at Fordham University and SUNY New Paltz and is the author of several nationwide evaluations of federally funded career and technical and special education initiatives. Langlois has also

presented at many national and regional conferences.

"He has creatively and with great persistence developed a positive, collaborative and responsive culture that has successfully steered our BOCES through major internal transitions and multiple external challenges," said BOCES Board President Richard Kreps. "As a result of his leadership, our BOCES is often looked upon as a model of effective practices in an educational service agency."

Some of the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES accomplishments that have been achieved under his leadership include:

- Creating a Center for Educational Leadership that provides innovative graduate degree and certification programs for educators in partnership with several colleges and universities;
- Developing widely used, groundbreaking science, social studies, sustainability and blended online curricula;
- Transforming BOCES' career and technical education with new offerings in high-tech, medical and other 21st century career areas, and expanding offerings to middle school students and to multiple school-based sites;
- Opening up new areas of special education services while systematically

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Editorial

Time to Polish Off the Crystal Ball and See What's in Store for 2015

Well, 2014 went by quickly, didn't it? When there are plenty of intriguing issues unfolding it's always lots of fun. (Okay, it depends what your definition of fun is.) This past year there was no shortage of issues and we actually saw some longstanding matters resolved that had been dragging on interminably: a long overdue state prohibition on hydraulic fracturing; in Pleasantville, the Toll Brothers condominium project was approved and the Benchmark assisted living plan was defeated; in Armonk, the Brynwood Golf & Country Club plan resurfaced with some revisions; and after eight years of debate and 10 years after its purchase, Summit/Greenfield saw a portion of the former Reader's Digest property rezoned for retail at Chappaqua Crossing.

Of course, there is still plenty of inertia. There was no mandate relief, factions with the county government are still bickering over anything and everything, including affordable housing, and does anybody really like the Common Core?

In keeping with The Examiner's annual tradition, we peer into our crystal ball to see some of the things that could happen next year. If just a handful of these come true, it will be a very happy 2015.

A state commissioner of education that actually listens to educators, parents and students.

For the Mount Pleasant School District to find a way to pay for the necessary improvements at Westlake Middle School and Westlake High School.

That Pleasantville High School seniors are able to go out for lunch.

For a new restaurant to open at the Chappaqua train station.

An agreement to be reached between Mount Kisco and Westchester County

to consolidate the village's police force with the county's Department of Public Safety.

For law enforcement and certain communities across the nation to be able to work on needed reforms, including race relations, without unnecessary interference caused by divisive rhetoric or unruly rabble rousers.

That police can solve the murder of Pleasantville resident Linda Falkoff. For that matter, maybe there will be some clues to help with the unsolved homicide of Pleasantville volunteer firefighter Thomas Dorr, who will be gone 19 years next week.

No more gun violence.

For communities to successfully fight the scourge of illegal drugs.

For the area to continue to have relatively quiet weather, especially during the winter. Too much snow and ice can be costly.

For all municipalities, the county and the state to have a chance to fix the rest of their roads.

That there be no more ward system referendums in North Castle, but for town officials to recognize the entire town isn't one big happy family. There is real dissatisfaction among some North White Plains residents.

A permanent solution be found to save the Miller House before it disintegrates.

For there to be new affordable housing units in Chappaqua. It will take awhile before units at Chappaqua Crossing are built, so whether it's Hunts Lane, Washington Avenue or someplace else, the town needs to do its fair share.

A new tenant--or multiple tenants--to move into the old Borders bookstore space in Mount Kisco.

For another restaurant to take over

the old Friendly's building on East Main Street in the village.

For all store vacancies everywhere to be filled. The economy is improving but certain areas aren't having as much success keeping up.

That a farmers market returns to Chappaqua next winter.

A makeover for Chappaqua's downtown, but first for the merchants there to make it through this year's scheduled infrastructure improvements unscathed.

That North Castle gets its new gazebo for Wampus Brook Park.

For the hungry to have food and the homeless to have shelter.

For the Dow Jones Industrial Average to reach 20,000 and NASDAQ to achieve an all-time high.

Some serious help for the Knicks. Did anyone think it would get this bad?

A winning season for the Mets and the dawn of a new (winning) era for the Yankees.

Good new coaches for the Jets and Giants.

No more outbreaks of mumps in the NHL.

Great success on the field or court for all youth and high school athletes everywhere.

A successful year for all of the area's local, county and state elected officials. Like all of us they make mistakes, but if you think it's easy, then try running for office sometime.

Special recognition for community volunteers everywhere. You make the towns we live in a better place.

And to all of our readers, advertisers and supporters, a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015.

A Few Game Day Party Tips for Football Fans

Football fans are often looking for ways to host the perfect party without fumbling a lot of cash. Luckily, there are many ways to host the game at your house on a budget.

Here are some tips to help party hosts throw touchdown-worthy bashes at savings to cheer about.

Potluck

One of the easiest ways to save money when planning a party is to let your guests contribute to the fun. Creating a tailgate potluck is a great way to sample other party-goers' best game day recipes while taking the stress out of providing enough food for everyone in attendance.

Score Deals Ahead of Time

If you know a big party is in your future, plan your grocery list ahead of time. Some items like chips, dip and canned food items have a long shelf-life and can be purchased before the rush of other party goers.

Stock up on Paper Products

One of the most time-consuming duties after throwing a party is cleaning up. Save time by buying disposable plates, cups and plastic ware for your guests to use. And don't forget the paper towels -- stock up on paper products to clean up those spills made during exciting moments in the game.

This football season, have a party playbook for thriftier hosting.

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Joe Magardino College Student, Chappaqua

By Martin Wilbur

When Joe Magardino was in his junior year at Horace Greeley High School, he was approached by then head football coach Bill Tribou to see if the budding star offensive lineman was interested in playing in college.

At first, Magardino thought his coach was joking. While he had excelled at each level--freshman football as a ninth-grader and junior varsity as a sophomore before making the transition to varsity--college football was hardly something he had considered.

Tribou offered to write Magardino a recommendation letter and suggested he get game tapes of himself so some of the schools that were recruiting him could evaluate his play. Two days after sending out packages, he was called by Ithaca's head coach, the first of many phone conversations from colleges trying to woo Magardino to their school.

"I honestly didn't think I could play at the college level," Magardino said. "When I got that phone call it was kind of surreal. It was at a surreal point in my life where there were people calling my house every night

wanting to talk to me and fighting over me. It was kind of a unique experience that you really only experience once in a lifetime, people fighting over you."

Magardino would choose Trinity College, a Division III school in Hartford, where he spent the past four years.

In November, Magardino, who is one semester away from graduating with a computer science degree, completed his fourth and final season and was named to the prestigious American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Division III All-American Team. It capped a stellar collegiate career that saw him collect a vast array of accolades, including first team New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) honors the past two seasons.

Magardino wasn't sure he would succeed on the field when he first arrived at Trinity in 2011. Listed at 6-foot-2, 275 pounds, Magardino looked around and questioned whether he could compete against players who were much larger than those he encountered at Greeley.

Another obstacle he had to overcome was learning every position on the

offensive line. As a freshman and sophomore, Magardino started at tackle, which could spell disaster for the team if he was beaten to the outside.

Asked about the chances of him being honored twice as a first team conference player and as an All-American as a senior early in college, he said he dismissed such talk.

"My freshman and sophomore years I would say absolutely no way," said Magardino, who was part of a team that went undefeated and captured the NESCAC title in his sophomore year. "When I went back to center I felt more comfortable in that position. After that, I thought it was attainable."

Magardino, the oldest of four children, credits his success on the gridiron to helping prepare him for life after college. He has been interviewing with various companies and hopes to work in New England or New York after graduation. He also is interning at a Hartford hospital.

"Football teaches you something that you can never learn in class. That's being part of team and being loyal to your teammates and being disciplined and doing what's expected of you," he said. "When you get to the professional world, it's not what you know and academics but do you work well as a team."

Magardino also credits his high school for not only helping him find his major,



but preparing him for the rigors of college. He chose computer science after being introduced to it in his senior year at Greeley in the AP Robotics class. The demands placed on him in high school made for an easy transition at Trinity, Magardino said.

He also credited Tribou for recognizing his athletic potential, although he implored Magardino

that he needed to work a lot harder than he was in 10th grade. One day, the coach spotted Magardino on a stationary bike at school and told him to get off of it.

"Go bench press and squat, that's all I want to see you do," Magardino was told.

With his playing days behind him, Magardino said there are times he's sad that he'll never take the field again, although he's enjoying the extra free time that comes from not having practice or team meetings.

He realizes that he was lucky to have had the opportunity to play in college. Perhaps he'll coach one day, but whatever the future holds there are bonds with teammates from both Greeley and Trinity that will never be broken.

"Sometimes when I'm alone watching TV or doing homework or about to go to bed, it hits me that I'll never play again," Magardino said. "But I'm happy I had a great career. I got to play four more years than most people play. I'll always stick around the game."

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The Restaurant Examiner

Savoring the Popular Dishes at Sapori Restaurant & Bar

By Jerry Eimbinder

If trying a restaurant for the first time, it is helpful to know which of its dishes are the most popular among its customers.

Eddie Vucetaj, one of the three owners of Sapori Italian Restaurant & Bar in White Plains, shared information on four of his establishment's best-selling dinner menu items.

Squid-ink Pasta. ("Tagliolini neri.") With shrimp, scallops and crabmeat in a pink champagne sauce (an appetizer or entrée).

Chicken Scarpariello. With chicken on or off the bone and garlic, rosemary, hot cherry peppers and sausage (entrée).

Rigatoni Bolognese (entrée).

Veal Chop. With sautéed mushrooms (a very generously-sized entrée).

The most popular dishes among the specials are osso buco and braised veal short ribs, Vucetaj said.

Vucetaj and his uncles, Kenny and Sammy Balidemaj, opened Sapori 18 months ago, located a short distance from the Westchester County Center.

Finishing touches

It isn't just the food that's engrossing. Deboning service at the table is provided for three of the fish entrées: whole-fish branzino (\$29), Dover sole (\$39) and orrata (\$29), which like branzino is a Mediterranean catch. Branzino, although not listed on the menu, is almost always available on request.

Skillfully prepared tableside are Caesar salad (\$18 for two people) and the flambéed dessert Zabaglione with strawberries (\$22 for two people).

Table service is contagious. It catches the attention of nearby guests — a benefit for the house.

Nice touches, too, are the availability of half-portions for pasta lovers who have an appealing alternative as an appetizer and half-bottles of red wine, white wine and champagne for modest drinkers. Gluten-free and whole wheat pasta is available.

The desserts are mostly homemade and



Sapori Italian Restaurant & Bar in White Plains has attention-getting table service.

include tiramisu, ricotta cheese cake, apple strudel and chocolate mousse cake.

A popular beverage is a Manhattan made with port wine and bourbon and priced at \$12. Nearly 300 wines are available by the bottle and 13 by the glass, priced from \$9 to \$12. Champagne is available by the glass at \$18 and prosecco (sparkling white wine)

at \$9.

These dishes are the personal favorites of the owners.

Vucetaj: Veal chop martini. He feels the lemon sauce is addicting.

Sammy Balidemaj: A tossup between the filet mignon in Barolo wine sauce and the gnocchi.

Kenny Balidemaj: Swordfish or chicken scarpariello.

The restaurant has 160 seats. For private groups, the wine cellar will seat up to 65 people on weeknights. On Friday and Saturday evenings, wine cellar reservations are accepted for parties of any size. Private rooms are available for groups from 10 to 100.

Weather permitting, five outside tables accommodate up to 20 people.

The restaurant is open seven days a week. It serves lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday. Only dinner is served on Sunday from 2 to 9 p.m.

On New Year's Eve, the regular menu will be available beginning at 5 p.m. Guests who arrive at 9 p.m. or later can still order dinner a la carte and, at no extra charge, can also celebrate with noisemakers and hats, listen to a Viva! La Music Entertainment DJ, take to the dance floor opposite the bar and have a free midnight champagne toast.

Sapori Italian Restaurant & Bar is located at 324 Central Ave. in White Plains. For more information, call 914-684-855 or visit www.saporiofwhiteplains.com.

Ben's Deli's to Open in Scarsdale With Ribbon Cutting Next Month

By Jerry Eimbinder

Ben's of Scarsdale expects to formally open formally in Scarsdale on Jan. 1. To ensure that all operations are running smoothly, a "soft opening" will be held during the first week of January.

Ronnie Dragoon, founder of Ben's Restaurant Group, and its president Scott W. Singer, will speak during the festivities, which will also include a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Ben's of Scarsdale's chef, Scott C. Rabedeau, and General Manager Otto Stierli will also participate.

Rabedeau was raised in Chicago where he gained food service experience working with the Windy City's Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises and Levy Restaurants. Before joining Ben's, he was



Ben's Deli is set to open in Scarsdale.

a culinary development leader at Brinker International in Hackensack, NJ.

His favorite meal out of the Ben's Deli kitchen is a vegetable tempura appetizer, Hangar Steak Chimichurri and an assortment of mini rugelach (small fruit/nut pastry rolls). His favorite recreational activities are skiing, fishing and hiking with his wife, Adriana, and their two children, Cole and Isabella.

Stierli, a Croton-on-Hudson resident, previously held management posts at 121 Kitchen in North Salem, the Patina Restaurant Group, Macy's Cellar Bar & Grill, Cucina & Co., Swiss Cabin Restaurant in Dobbs Ferry and Restaurant Associates.

A graduate of the School of English and Commerce in Worthing, England, he is fluent in French and German.

The new restaurant has two dining levels, including a high-ceiling, main floor dining area, meeting rooms and a bar with a 65-inch television screen.

The organization's other restaurants except for the one in Boca Raton, Fla., are located in Manhattan, Queens and Long Island.

The building is across the street from the Greenburgh Fire Department station, at 718 Central Park Ave. in Scarsdale. For more information, visit www.bensdeli.net.



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Veteran Westlake Teacher Takes to 'The Little Mermaid' Stage

By Neal Rentz

For many years, Yorktown resident Phil Cutrone has been a driving force behind the theater productions at Westlake High School in Mount Pleasant by serving as director.

Cutrone is taking advantage of a different chance to be in the spotlight in his role as Grimsby, Prince Eric's manservant, in the production of "The Little Mermaid" at the White Plains Performing Arts Center. The musical, based on the hit Disney animated

BOCES' Langlois Named State's Super of the Year

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- raising academic standards and accountability;
- Supporting an influx of new immigrants to the region with a wide and flexible range of academic, career and technical and support services;
- Expanding BOCES' online application system to more than 300 school districts in New York State;
- Providing a wide and constantly changing range of cutting edge professional development, training and consulting to schools and districts in administration, academics and support services.
- Establishing an extensive system of networks of educators – from superintendents to teachers to support staff – who collaborate with BOCES in identifying the changing needs and wants of their school districts, and in developing effective responses to meet those needs and wants.

Under his leadership, Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES has received regional and national recognition as a model of excellence in such areas as developing independence in students with multiple handicaps and incorporating entrepreneurship into career and technical education.

Langlois becomes New York's candidate for national superintendent of the year, to be awarded at AASA's National Conference on Education in San Diego, Calif. in February.

Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES is a collaborative that provides educational opportunities and support services to 18 school districts, including Byram Hills, Bedford and Chappaqua, that are unable to provide as effectively on their own.

The New York State Council of School Superintendents is a professional and advocacy organization with over a century of service to school superintendents and assistant superintendents in New York State. The Council provides more than 750 members with numerous professional development opportunities, publications and personal services while advocating for public education and the superintendency.

film, continues through Sunday, Jan. 4.

When Cutrone, 55, a library media specialist at the high school and Westlake Middle School, is not in the classroom or directing one of the student theater productions, he's been performing in community theater and at off-Broadway venues. His list of credits over the years include roles with local companies such as M&M Productions in Amawalk, YCP TheatreWorks in Shrub Oak and the Armonk Players, along with Center Stage playhouse in the Bronx, the Ridgefield Barn and two previous shows at the White Plains Performing Arts Center.

Cutrone, a Westlake High School alumnus who has worked in Mount Pleasant his entire 31-year career, said during his college years as a communications major at Fordham, he had considered becoming a professional actor. But a talk with a friend who is a few years older than him and who was struggling to make ends meet helped solidify his decision against pursuing the uncertainty of a full-time acting career.

"Her life was so disjointed. I wanted a wife and a house and a family," said Cutrone, who went to graduate school at Manhattanville and Long Island University.

Despite his career choice, his passion for the theater has never waned. He began performing again about 14 years ago in Yorktown after his sons, Sam and

Alex, had grown up. He moved on to off Broadway, with one of his most prominent roles as Dal the landlord in "Apartment 3A," written by Jeff Daniels and staged in 2008. One of his proudest moments came when he was mentioned in The New York Times review of "Apartment 3A," written by critic Charles Isherwood.

"Philip J. Cutrone is charming in a comic supporting role as the foul-mouthed super who, rather incongruously, confesses an addiction to the Disney Channel," Isherwood wrote.

Cutrone said the theater companies he has worked with have allowed him to rehearse and perform around his school schedule. His sons and wife, Lori, have also backed his passion for performing.

Cutrone praised the cast and crew of "The Little Mermaid." One of the lead performers is John Treacy Egan, who was in the cast of the original Broadway production of the show and plays Ursula the sea witch.

"He is a talented, very gracious professional," Cutrone said.

Cutrone said once he retires from the school district, probably within four or five years, he would like to act professionally full time. It's a luxury that wasn't available to him when he graduated from college.

"(Now) I don't have to worry about paying my rent," he said.



Yorktown resident Phil Cutrone, a veteran director of plays at Westlake High School, is portraying Grimsby, Prince Eric's manservant, in the New York regional premiere of "The Little Mermaid." The musical is being presented at the White Plains Performing Arts Center through Jan. 4.

For more information about the production of "The Little Mermaid" at the White Plains Performing Arts Center, visit www.wppac.com.

Playwright Returns to Axial Theatre to Help Budding Writers

By Janine Bowen

Aspiring writers in the region will have the opportunity to get a helping hand from an award-winning playwright at the Axial Theatre in Pleasantville this winter.

Gabrielle Fox will join the faculty of Axial's playwriting program starting next Wednesday, Jan. 7, when she will offer a free introductory class from 7 to 9 p.m.

Leading the class marks a full circle career move for Fox, who attended a free writing workshop more than a decade ago and was inspired to pursue professional playwriting.

"I just loved it. I've been a writer my whole life, but when I walked into the workshop that was it," Fox said. "I knew playwriting was what I wanted."

Fox grew up around the theater because her mother was an actress, but her experience studying under Axial's first literary manager, Tony Howarth, helped her grow as a writer. She recalled how Howarth was enthusiastic about his craft and was able to nurture budding writers while providing feedback and constructive criticism.

"It was just a very, very supportive and nurturing environment, which is kind of what I'm trying to carry on," Fox said. "I think it's an important aspect for artists to feel safe and supported and feel free to be able to stumble and fall and make mistakes."

Since leaving the Axial Theatre playwriting program, Fox has maintained



Gabrielle Fox, who started on her path to become an award-winning playwright at Pleasantville's Axial Theatre more than a decade ago, returns next week to offer a writing class.

a working relationship with the organization. Axial has produced a few of her pieces and Fox has also maintained a connection with the theater group through her role as director of extension services at Westchester Community College. Her works have been produced throughout the state and, most recently, she was honored with the Planet Activist Award for her play "The Home," which focused on the aging population and helped raise money for the Alzheimer's Association.

Fox said the play marked one of

her greatest achievements personally and professionally because she raised awareness for a serious issue.

"To be able to use the play as a way to generate discussion and raise some money for a great organization was just very rewarding, and then to get the award for playwriting on top of that, it was just a great experience," Fox said.

Following the free class on Jan. 7, Fox will offer six subsequent classes that will run on Wednesday nights through February for a fee of \$265. The course is open to all types of writers, from beginners to advanced, regardless of what type of pieces they wish to work on.

She said novice writers will have the chance to learn from those who have had more experience, while the advanced writers will be able to hone their skills and have the chance to provide feedback and editing advice.

Perhaps most important, the writers will have an opportunity to bring something new to class each week and a forum to share their work.

"It's going to be a real working, vibrant type of group," Fox said.

Axial Theater is located at St. John's Episcopal Church at 8 Sunnyside Ave. in Pleasantville. Anyone interested in attending the free workshop on Jan. 7 can register by calling 914-286-7680. There is no obligation to continue with the course after attending the free class.

Predictions on the Real Estate Market and Trends for 2015

Each New Year's I gaze into my crystal ball (I really have one, but let's be real here) to predict what will happen in terms of real estate market conditions and trends for the year ahead.

I do it quite jauntily for two reasons. For one thing, I cheat and look at the crib sheets of what various housing industry experts have to say; then, at the end of the year if I'm found to be way off in my predictions, I can blame them. Also, I figure, you'll probably forget what I say a full year from now. Even I can't remember what I said this time last year.

Actually, many times I take a different position from what the experts say anyway, mainly because they speak globally and I speak locally, especially in terms of buying and selling forecasts. The New York metropolitan region is a different animal from, let's say, the Midwest and the West Coast, and certainly New York City is as different from our glorious Hudson Valley as it can be as well.

And then, there are two totally unscientific factors I add to the mix: my gut feeling and my cell phone. Does my gut tell me things will be better or worse? And, is my cell phone ringing with people calling to ask me to come and list their homes in greater number? Let me tell you, what I've heard ringing just before and after Christmas are not sleigh

bells!

Mix all these factors together as we gather to sing "Auld Lang Syne," and here's what to expect in the year ahead.

The value of your home will continue to increase. The experts say ever so slowly, like this year, but did they fail to consider the news announced last week that in the last quarter our overall economy grew at its fastest rate in over a decade? I believe that augurs well for what we can expect for the 2015 housing market. Especially in the metropolitan area, I believe we'll see a gain of at least 5 to 6 percent in the value of our homes. Maybe that isn't the rapid appreciation we rhapsodized about in 2013 as a kickback from the Great Recession, but it's pretty good as we move out of the rapid recovery phase to the "new normal" of the housing market.

Finally, credit will loosen a bit, making it easier for first-time buyers to enter the market. As more homes come on the market, buyers will have more choices, sellers will face more competitive pressure and that will create a more balanced market for everyone. Oh, yes, and mortgage rates will rise, according



By Bill Primavera

to the Mortgage Bankers Association, to 5 percent, by the end of 2015.

Those who observe national trends say that builders will shift to building less expensive homes, concentrating in such states as Texas, Georgia and Florida where there is still a lot of buildable land. However, in our area, with land as scarce as it is, I predict that the price of new homes will continue to escalate and more people will continue to upgrade older homes. As the year progresses, foreclosures basically will go away.

Let's now consider what will be trending in home improvement jobs in 2015. The various sites that track the home improvement business seem to disagree about which jobs are most important to homeowners and which pull the most interest. But let's face it. When homeowners invest in home improvement, they do it not only for pride of ownership, but also because they hope someday they'll get payback when it comes time to sell. So I suspect that they'll be investing in those things that give the biggest bang for the buck in terms of recouping expenditure.

Top on the list is a new front door,

which recoups 96.6 percent of its cost. In descending order, we'll be investing in new decks or patios (recoups 87 percent of the cost); adding space or converting attics into living space (an 84 percent recoup); replacing windows (79 percent); replacing siding (78 percent); basement remodeling (78 percent) or redoing the bathroom (some sources say it recoups as much as 100 percent of the cost); and a major kitchen remodel (over 90 percent). Of course landscaping will be very big in 2015 with over 100 percent recouped because curb appeal becomes very important as we run faster to keep up with the Joneses.

Happy New Year, all, and take heart about the year ahead. Keep your eye on this column for encouraging news about your home's value and market conditions as 2015 unfolds.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is: www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of Bill Primavera and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

Despite Market Volatility, Investors Have Been Rewarded in 2014

The Dow Jones Industrial Average began 2014 at 16,444. Stocks, and that average, then proceeded to decline for several of the subsequent trading days, darkening the holiday spirits of many investors who likely took the decline as a portent of the rest of the year.

Surprise! This month, the Dow Jones Industrial Average hovered at about 17,500, an increase of roughly 7 percent for the year, so far, that few forecast, particularly after the approximate 25 percent gain in this index in 2013. Last week it closed above 18,000 for the first time.

What a year it has been! Quite a roller coaster ride – and a tough year for those so-called market-timers, intrepid investors trying to base investment decisions on immediate activity.

October was a good example of the volatility. One day the market, as measured by the Dow, dropped by some 300 points and another day it rallied by



By Kevin Peters

about 275. As one analyst said, the sharp moves left investors "scratching their heads."

There certainly was considerable news to cause worry. Ukraine and Russia. Ebola. Interest rates. China and Hong Kong. Recession in Japan. There even are concerns that oil prices might be too low to support increased domestic production. (Crude oil dipped below \$60 per barrel on Dec. 12.)

Despite these concerns, I continue to believe the overall trend remains upward, although along the way we will likely continue to see dips in stock prices that at times may test the nerve of long-term investors. Keep the antacid tablets handy, market-timers.

Clearly, the economy is improving. Longtime oil industry analyst Daniel Yergin has predicted, for example, that global economic output would increase by .4 percent with oil prices remaining under \$80 per barrel. Now oil is below

\$60, a five-year low.

Employment, as well, is showing sharp improvement with the U.S. economy adding about 321,000 jobs in November alone, the biggest monthly jump in about three years. Other positive signs include a slowing of health care spending, increased federal tax receipts and a federal budget deficit below its 40-year average as measured against the economy.

The sharply improved jobs report does cause a modicum of concern if similar results are reported for December and January. The Federal Reserve could easily view the good news as the push to increase interest rates sooner than we might otherwise expect. That potential is cause for uncertainty, which is rarely in favor with investors.

Nevertheless, the stronger job market coupled with lower gasoline prices means consumers will have more money to spend. The hope is that will generate more revenue for corporate America –

with a resulting boost in earnings and increased stock prices.

Improved earnings themselves can help fuel a recovering economy by allowing companies to spend on equipment, expansion and perhaps increased shareholder dividends. The long recession and nearly invisible recovery also has created many long-delayed projects including home improvements and renovations that can spike spending on construction materials and labor, not to mention appliances and furniture.

It just takes a spark to start a warming blaze and the drop in energy prices along with an improved job market could be just the spark that is needed to warm

up the so-far tepid recovery.

Kevin Peters is a managing director and financial adviser with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Purchase. He can be reached at 914-225-6680.

The Prudent Portfolio

The information contained in this column is not a solicitation to purchase or sell investments. Any information presented is general in nature and not intended to provide individually tailored investment advice. The strategies and/or investments referenced may not be suitable for all investors as the appropriateness of a particular investment or strategy will depend on an investor's individual circumstances and objectives. The views expressed herein are those of the author and may not necessarily reflect the views of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, or its affiliates Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, LLC, Member SIPC.

Business of the Week

Financial Asset Management Corp., Chappaqua

By Martin Wilbur

There's a lot more to planning your financial future than picking the right stocks or mutual funds.

In an era when there are more products to choose from and the decisions to be made have become increasingly complicated, handling finances and planning for the years ahead have never been more important.

Led by principal and senior financial planner Scott Kahan, Financial Asset Management Corp. makes sure its clients have the personalized attention they need to not only manage and grow their portfolio, but to make certain it is consistent with their goals, lifestyle and temperament.

For Kahan, a Chappaqua resident, it's about helping people make the right decisions for themselves and their families.

"The idea of being able to help people, and when clients come in and we do a data gathering and they bring all their documents, people tell me when they walk out they feel better right from the beginning because they left all the worries

on my table, and we can help them," he said.

Kahan, a 30-year professional who founded Financial Asset Management in 1986, said his practice provides the road map for where a client wants to go. Not only are there a full range of investment products, but Kahan, part of a team of four professionals, makes sure that each client is protected with the proper insurance, including life and disability coverage, estate documents and the critical three- to six-month emergency cash fund on hand.

He's aware that financial planning is an emotional issue. But it's more about managing lives, not money, he said. Two families could have seemingly identical circumstances but based on myriad factors could have very different strategies devised for them.

"That's the financial planning process and that's financial planning, sitting down with somebody," said Kahan, whose firm manages about \$150 million and has offices in downtown Chappaqua, which opened in September, and Manhattan. "What are your goals? What are your objectives? When do you want to retire?"

Do you want to pay for college for your child? Do you want to buy a house? Whatever they are, both short term, intermediary and long term."

Kahan said he wants his firm to be held to a higher standard. Registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Financial Asset Management's fee structure isn't based on the common arrangement of roughly 1 percent of a client's assets. Instead, clients pay a retainer fee that is based on their net wealth, not including real estate, and that fee is locked in for three years.

Under the more conventional fee structure, there could be a conflict of interest, he said. For example, for a particular client who is buying a house it may be the correct decision for them to make a larger down payment, but that would affect the planner's commission.

Kahan, a Syracuse University graduate, briefly worked for an insurance company out of college, but disliked what he saw. In the 1980s, financial planning as a career was still in its infancy, and many planners and firms were steering clients to



Certified financial planner Scott Kahan, principal at Financial Asset Management Corp.

investments that weren't necessarily in their best interests.

"I never wanted to work for a big firm because what I saw was it was all about what I'm selling, and it was not about what was right for the client," Kahan said.

In 1986, he started Financial Asset Management in Manhattan. Today, there are a vast amount of choices, including mutual funds with varying fee levels, exchange traded funds and all sorts types of

alternative investments. Throw in the volume of information available at everyone's fingertips and how people reacted to the 2008-09 market implosion, and there's bound to be confusion. But Kahan hopes to take the intimidation level out of planning.

"(Financial) planning is a process to get from one point to another in life and all the stops along the way," he said. "We help clients make the right decisions."

Kahan's Chappaqua office is located at 26 S. Greeley Ave. You can reach Financial Asset Management Corp. at 914-238-8900 or visit www.famcorporation.com.

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Happenings

We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Martin Wilbur at mwilbur@theexaminernews.com.

Tuesday, Dec. 30

Italian Language and Culture With Mara De Matteo. De Matteo, born and raised in Italy, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes, creating interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and photography. North Castle Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. Beginners from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Advanced Italian speakers from 7:15 to 8 p.m. Free. Meets every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887.

Wednesday, Dec. 31

School's Out/Arts In. Looking for something for your kids to do when they have no school? Get inspired by the Katonah Museum of Art's exhibition "Lethal Beauty: Samurai Weapons and Armor" with fun art activities each day. Today, using beads, yarn and papers, create a fun piece of Japanese hanging art to hang anywhere. For children three years old and up. Children under six and under must participate with an adult; for children seven and older, adults must remain at the museum. Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children of members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Adults: Regular museum admission. Info: Visit www.katonahmuseum.org.

Wolves of North America. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why this time of year is special for packs in North America. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa and Zephyr and will meet almost eight-month-old ambassador pup Nikai. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

New Year's Eve Party. Dance the night away at this after-hours party with Phineas and the Lonely Leaves, Sponge Worthy and headliner Ali Isabella. Includes unlimited beer and wine pass. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 9 p.m. \$65 (plus tax and fees). Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 or visit www.paramounthudsonvalley.com.

Friday, Jan. 2

Zumba Gold. Try this low-impact approach to Zumba for the older active adult and baby boomer with the same sassy, sweaty, fun-filled cardio workout in an easy learning environment. Ongoing classes; drop-ins welcome. Addie-tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. \$12. Four- and eight-week cards available. Meets every Friday. Info: 914-747-0808 or email instructor at olin.amyj@gmail.com.

Saturday, Jan. 3

Zumba Fitness Class. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. \$15 a class. \$29 for four classes. \$55 for eight classes. Meets every Saturday. Also Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. Info: 917-215-1720, e-mail AddietudeDance@gmail.com or visit www.Addie-tude.com.

Pleasantville Farmers Market. The market moves indoors featuring vendors with winter-grown produce along with a variety of meats, cheeses, breads and prepared foods. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday through May 9. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.com.

Mount Kisco Farmers Market. St. Mark's Church, 85 Main St., Mount Kisco. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Visit <https://www.facebook.com/MtKiscoFarmersMarket>.

Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education. Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes the best animal home or which plant makes its own heat to help melt through the late winter ice. Program runs about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 11:30 a.m. Free. Also every Saturday and Sunday in January. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Nature in the New Year. Join a naturalist to observe nature in winter and meet some special animal friends along the way. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: \$5 per person. Non-members: \$8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Sunday, Jan. 4

Pound Fitness Demo Class. A 45-minute full-body cardio workout, carefully calibrated and strategically engineered for fat-burning. Fusing Pilates, plyometrics and isometric movements and poses with the excitement and euphoria of drumming using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix™. You'll use the beat to make you burn, sweat and rock out. Good for guys too. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 11 a.m. \$10. Ripstix provided. RSVP required. Info and RSVP: Contact Peggy at 914-960-4097.

Winter Wildlife. This entertaining and informative program allows visitors to hear, see, smell and touch many of our fascinating, furry, feathered and scaly friends. Recommended for children five years old and up. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Argentine Tango Dances. Great music

and dancing on a 3,500-square-foot dance floor. Enjoy a pleasant time with friends. Refreshments served. Broadway 26 Dance, 26 Broadway, Hawthorne. 3 to 6 p.m. \$12. Also the third Saturday of each month from 8 p.m. to midnight \$16. Info: 914-725-3023 or 914-484-5101 or e-mail sampelayo@optonline.net.

By the Light of the Moon. Experience the evening woods and trails as the animals do--in the dark! Along the way, look and listen for the critters that move about at night. Bring flashlights. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 6:30 p.m. Members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Monday, Jan. 5

Knitting Group. Hats for our servicemen and women overseas and other ongoing projects for care centers and hospitals. Clinton Street Center, 1A Clinton St., Pleasantville. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Meets every Monday. Info: 914-769-2021.

Wild Encounters Story Time. Nature discovery for youngsters three to five years old; with a parent or caregiver. Participants enjoy a nature-themed story and discover the wonders of nature while exploring fields, forests or landscaped grounds. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$9 per child. Non-members: \$12 per child. Also Jan. 12, 19 and 26. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Telephone Support Group for Women With Metastatic Breast Cancer. This new Support Connection group offers the opportunity to share information and experiences with women across the country who are living with breast cancer. Share information and experiences. Confidentially discuss concerns and gain support from others who understand from the comfort of home. Open to women nationwide living with recurrent, advanced stage or metastatic breast cancer. 7 p.m. Free. Meets the first Monday of every month. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Contact Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

Let Your Yoga Dance Classes. The popular Kripalu noon dance class is now in Chappaqua! Combines easy dance, gentle yoga and great music. Come join this noncompetitive, heart pumping and joyful experience. Drop-ins welcome. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. \$20 per 75-minute class. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-238-8974 or email claudiayogadance@gmail.com.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

Zumba Fitness. Achieve long-term benefits while having a blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage and captivate for life. For all fitness levels. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. Every Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Drop in or weekly discount rates available. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

Pound Fitness Program. A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix™ and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10:15 a.m. \$20. Every Wednesday. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

Mother Nature's Story Time. Enjoy winter days at the center with nature-themed stories, nature walks, live animals and/or crafts during this six-week program. For children two to four years old with a parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 10 to 11 a.m. Members: \$50 per child. Non-members: \$90 per child. Pre-registration and pre-payment required. Info and pre-registration: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Senior Benefits Information Center. Counselors offer older adults one-on-one counseling covering a broad range of topics including Medicare health and prescription plans, food stamps, HEAP, EPIC, weatherization, minor home repair and tax relief programs. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 Main St., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-231-3260.

Knitting Club. Come learn to knit, or if you already know how, bring your current project and enjoy a visit with other knitters and crocheters. Beginners should bring a pair off size 8 or 10 straight knitting needles and skein or worsted weight yarn. Open to knitters and crocheters 10 years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Meets every Wednesday. Info: 914-666-8041.

Wednesday Night Bingo. Regular bingo tickets and specials available for sale. Includes coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Hot dogs and soda for sale. Holy Rosary School, 180 Bradhurst Ave., Hawthorne. Doors open at 6 p.m. Games start at 7:20 p.m. \$2 (for one card). Extra game cards may be purchased for \$2 or \$3 each along with a few specialty games. Every Wednesday.

Beware the Russian Bear as it Flexes its Diminishing Might



By Nick Antonaccio

There are many facets of wine, primarily self-contained within the expansive wine industry. From the agricultural component, to the technological, biological and marketing components, the wine industry, at least in the United States, tends not to cross the line into sociopolitical matters or governmental intervention and influence--not to any major extent (federal distribution regulations notwithstanding). However, this is not always the case in other wine-producing nations.

Social trends and political intervention are exerting increasing influence in certain countries. For example, in Russia, the demise of the Soviet state and the recent international sanctions over the annexation of Crimea have altered Russian drinking trends and consumption. These changes in Russia have affected the fortunes of the neighboring wine regions that flourished during Communism. The reign of Vladimir Putin has also introduced new tensions in the area's wine industries.

As I've been following the domestic and

international political state of affairs in Russia, I'm noticing a number of political influences on wine sales. Here, from the perspective of Russian wine consumers, are recent developments in the Russian wine market.

Good news: Wines from Georgia, highly popular in Russia before and after Georgian independence, were banned in 2008 as the result of a war with Russia. Last year, trade relations resumed and Georgian red and white wines from the Black Sea area are once again available and increasing in popularity.

Bad news: Wine exports from Moldova to Russia flourished during the post-Soviet era, accounting for 90 percent of production of these highly regarded wines. Then in 2006, Russia banned all Moldovan wine imports. Trade resumed a few years later, but last year a new ban was imposed. Moldovan winemakers began exporting their wines to Western Europe; a few trickle to the United States. I attended a Wines of Moldova event this summer and enjoyed several excellent wines.

Bad news: Sanctions and embargoes by Western nations. Begun soon after the Crimean annexation, wine imports were not widely affected by these measures. However, anticipating an ever-growing list of goods banned by the West, President Putin's office recently purchased

over one million bottles of wines from the European Union. At least the politicians will be able to weather the Western measures for a while.

More bad news: The dramatic drop in oil prices, coupled with the devaluation of the ruble. Those imports still crossing the Russian borders are becoming more expensive by the day. Russians enjoy French and Italian wines. Escalating prices will certainly affect the purchasing power of middle class Russians.

Even the wealthy oligarchs are affected. Government-created Russian oil billionaires are increasingly subject to personal and corporate sanctions; purchasing fine French and Italian wines is increasingly difficult. Although the fortunes of a number of these oligarchs can be tenuous in today's political climate: enjoying fine wine with President Putin in St. Petersburg's top restaurants one day, drinking tap water with fellow exiles in a Siberian cafeteria the next.

Good news: Wine consumption has been increasing steadily - albeit rather slowly. However, one reason for the increase in wine consumption is encouragement from Moscow. Alcoholism is rampant in Russia; to discourage

vodka consumption, the government has embarked on a campaign to encourage citizens to drink wine. Steering citizens from 80 proof spirits to 14 percent alcohol would be considered a triumph in reducing alcoholism. We'll have to wait and see if this campaign proves effective.

Bad news: Retaliation to the sanctions. The Russian parliament is considering a ban on all French wines. Ironically, this could be devastating to Russian consumers, who favor French wines; nearly 20 percent of Russia's worldwide wine imports are from France. At least consumers wouldn't need to be concerned about the rising cost of these wines.

Is the Sleeping Bear of post-World War II now a Bear gone wild intent on flexing its muscles in a world torn by turmoil? Perhaps, but at least the threat of Bear-drunkness is not rampant, not with wine consumption in check.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. 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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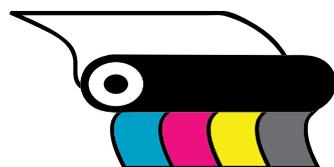
By Edward Goralski

All About Eve. The ancient Babylonians first celebrated the arrival of New Year's some 4,000 years ago and we've been at it ever since. The quiz this week will test your knowledge of New Year's Eve celebrations. Have a happy and safe New Year.

- Who wrote the words to the song and New Year's Eve favorite "Auld Lang Syne"?
A) Robert Browning B) Robert Burns C) Robert Frost
- In 1976, what city was the site of the first "First Night," a family-oriented community celebration?
A) Philadelphia B) Boston C) Miami
- In what year was the first ball drop in New York City's Times Square?
A) 1907 B) 1927 C) 1947
- To assure prosperity in the New Year, it is customary in Spain to eat 12 of what at midnight on New Year's Eve?
A) Grapes B) Olives C) Cherries
- December 31st is also the feast day for which saint?
A) St. Egwin B) St. Nicholas C) St. Sylvester
- In Italy, what color underwear should you don on New Year's Eve for good luck in the coming year?
A) Green B) Blue C) Red
- What does the title of the operetta "Die Fledermaus" performed in Vienna on New Year's Eve mean?
A) The Stork B) The Bat C) The Field Mouse
- Molybdomancy, a Nordic tradition, uses what material dropped in water to tell fortunes?
A) Fish oil B) Wood C) Molten lead

ANSWERS:

- Burns wrote the poem in 1788
- First Night has been replicated in over 250 cities and towns
- The first ball was made of iron and wood covered with 100 25-watt light bulbs
- The tradition became established in 1909 after Vienna
- Sylvester I was pope from 314 to 335
- And eating lentil stew at midnight is said to bring good fortune
- The operetta premiered on April 5, 1874 in
- Molten tin can also be used



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LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF NASSAU,

Index No.: 2014-202317: GAETANA GAZZARA, Plaintiff, against MANUEL MARTINEZ, Defendant, in an ACTION FOR A DIVORCE. To the above named Defendant: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file an Answer in writing to the attached Verified Complaint with the clerk of the above entitled Court, at 240 Old Country Road, Mineola, New York, 11501, and to serve upon or mail C. William Gaylor, III, attorney for Plaintiff, 7 Atlantic Avenue, Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563, a copy of said Answer within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you; If you fail so to do, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in said VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE, which has been filed with the Clerk of said Court and a copy of which has been mailed to your last known address. The nature of this action is to dissolve the marriage between the parties, on the grounds: DRL § 170 (2) - Abandonment and/or DRL § 170 (7) - the relationship between the parties has broken down irretrievably for a period of at least six months. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Nassau, dated 11/25/14, and filed in the office of the clerk of the County of Nassau at 240 Old Country Road, Mineola, New York. The object of this action is to obtain judgment against the Defendant MANUEL MARTINEZ, last known address 100 Diplomat Drive, Mount Kisco, NY10549, for an absolute divorce, that the bonds of matrimony between the Plaintiff, GAETANA GAZZARA and the Defendant, MANUEL MARTINEZ be forever dissolved and such other, further and different relief as may be just and proper.

Dated, 12/8/14, /s/ C. William Gaylor, III, attorney for Plaintiff, 7 Atlantic Avenue, Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563.

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ExaminerSports

A First-Half Scoring Drought Sinks the Bobcats

By Andy Jacobs

The Byram Hills girls' basketball team found out Friday morning that making just four of 25 shots from the field in the first half is a surefire way to play from behind the entire second half.

"We shot 16 percent," Bobcats coach Sarah Kinsley would say later about her players' first-half shooting woes. "You're not gonna win any games like that."

A Bobcat scoring drought that lasted over six minutes and bridged the first and second quarters enabled the Rye Garnets to run off 12 points in succession and take the lead for good en route to a 42-32 victory in a "Challenge Game" that launched the 16th annual Slam Dunk Tournament, the four-day-long holiday basketball extravaganza at the Westchester County Center.

Despite game-highs of 22 points from Lucy Bancone and 19 rebounds by Ashley Polera, the Bobcats never really posed much of a threat once the Garnets went on their big run in the first half that turned a three-point deficit into a nine-point lead. Sophomore guard Katie Popp began and finished the 12-0 Rye burst with 3-pointers, finishing the day with 19 points and the game's MVP award.

"They knew to guard Ashley and Lucy, and when that happens we need to find other alternatives," said Kinsley. "We struggle sometimes doing that."

The Bobcats, now 5-4 in Kinsley's first season at the helm, actually scored the game's first two baskets, a coast-to-coast drive by Bancone and then a layup by Dana DiCristofaro. A 3-pointer by Bancone from left of the key with 2:20 remaining in the first quarter gave Byram Hills a 7-4 lead.

But Byram only managed to make one more bucket the rest of the half, going scoreless until Bancone hit a pair of free throws with 4:05 left in the second quarter. By then, Popp had already made two shots from beyond the arc and Madeline Eck had worked her way inside for three easy



Byram Hills' Maggie Croke takes the ball along the right baseline during the "Challenge Game" vs. Rye at the County Center.



Alex Sapone of Byram Hills battles with Rye's Katie Popp for a rebound at the Slam Dunk Tournament.

baskets as Rye went on its big spurt and took command.

With just under two minutes left in the half, Polera got the Bobcats within 18-12 as she provided a conventional 3-point play, scoring on a runner in the lane while getting fouled and adding the free throw. But the half ended with Rye's Kate Robbins connecting on a trey and Holly Hunter scoring on a layup to increase the Byram deficit to 11 points at intermission.

Bancone, the senior guard who came into the game averaging over 17 points, drained a pair of 3s and scored the Bobcats' first nine points of the third quarter, but Byram Hills never really cut into the Garnets' double-digit lead. The quarter ended with a put-back basket by the Bobcats' Kiera Ahern, but they still trailed 33-23 with eight minutes to go.



Byram Hills guard Ashley Polera drives past Taylor Maurer of Rye in the Bobcats' loss to the Garnets on Friday.



Byram Hills guard Lucy Bancone sets up the Bobcat offense in the second half vs. Rye at the County Center.

Any doubt about the outcome all but disappeared when the fourth quarter began with Popp hitting on a 12-foot jumper and then a 3-pointer from the right corner with six minutes left, giving Rye its biggest lead of the day, 15 points. A 3-point shot by Alex Sapone with 2:25 left on the clock and two free throws by Bancone 18 seconds later narrowed the Bobcats' deficit to 40-30, but Byram never got any closer as the Garnets emerged with their fifth win in six games this year.

With Bancone, who finished 9-for-10 from the line, taking nearly half of the Bobcats' shots and scoring two-thirds of their points, Kinsley knows some of her teammates are going to have to step up soon and provide some more balance.

"I told the girls Lucy can't do it all on her own," said Kinsley. "Ashley wants to do it, but they also guard her very well too. And



Maggie Walsh of Byram Hills tries to shoot the ball in Friday's game at the Westchester County Center.



Byram Hills coach Sarah Kinsley watches as her Bobcats battle with Rye at the Westchester County Center.

everyone else is very young. They have to be able to take the ball in their own hands and make things happen."

The Bobcats wound up making just nine of their 46 shots from the field, perhaps in part because of the spaciousness of the County Center and the assorted background distractions a player can't help noticing when shooting the ball.

"Well, it's definitely hard," said Kinsley, "because, with the holiday, we didn't get to practice yesterday. They were tired. You could tell. Lots of running. Just try to remind them that we're doing the same things even though the spaces are larger. Their perception on the baskets might have been off, but just try to tell them that it's the same game."

A staggering 25 turnovers also contributed to the Bobcats' loss, but Kinsley was pleased that her team's defensive effort held Rye to just 29 percent shooting.

"I just really wanted them to come here and play hard, which they did, regardless of what happened," she said. "Obviously, we'd love a win, but I just wanted them to have a good experience and enjoy it. So I'm gonna tell them the things they did well."



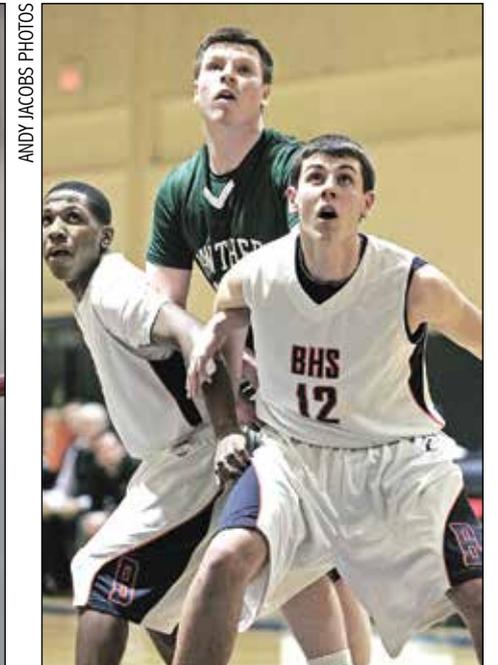
The Bobcats' Lucy Bancone is fouled as she drives to the basket by Rye's Eleanor Dailey in the first half of last Friday's game.



Above: Fox Lane's Nick Delfico watches as his approach shot lands on the green in the second round of the sectional tournament.



Right: Briarcliff's Sharon Luan tries to avoid hitting the bar as she competes in the high jump.



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Briarcliff's Alquan Phillip (left) and Jeff Blair box out James Leyden of Pleasantville as they all await a possible rebound.

2014 Images



Sam Mishkind of Greeley rushes the puck toward the net in the Quakers' playoff game vs. Somers/North Salem.

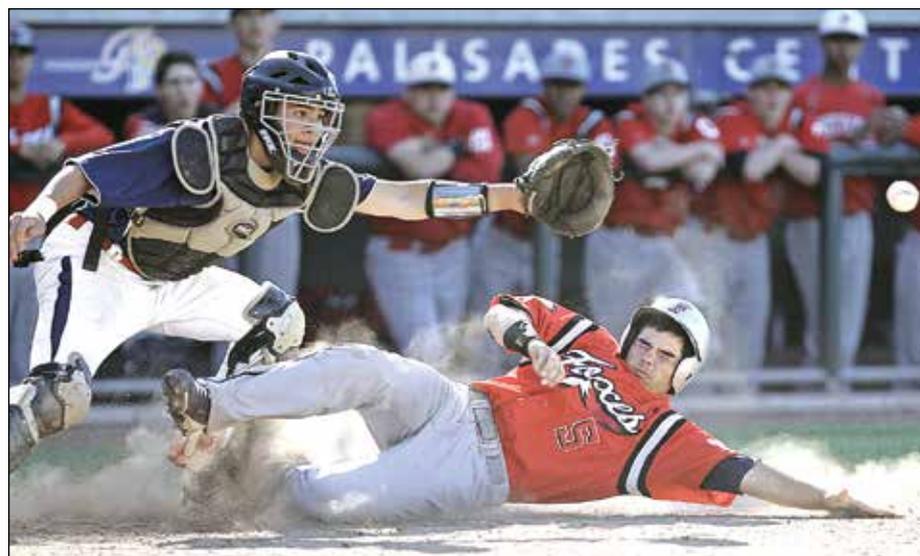


Above: Byram Hills golfer Ally Steffen lines up a putt during the girls' sectional championships at the Whippoorwill Club.

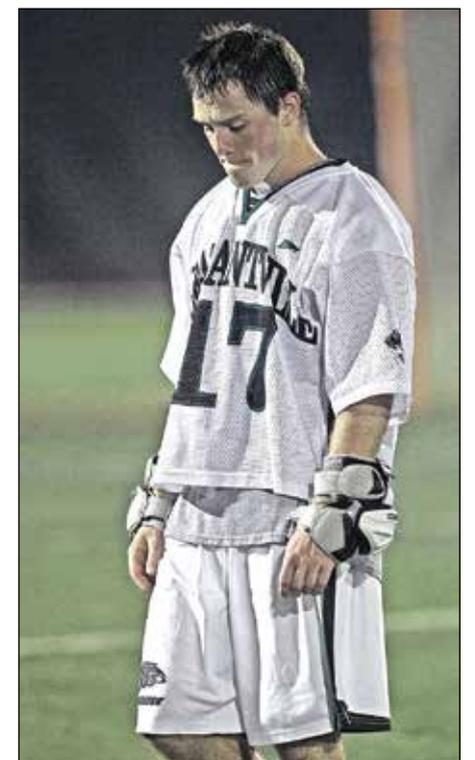
Left: Horace Greeley forward Lauren Brown soars to the basket in a Quaker home game vs. the Pleasantville Panthers.



Valhalla standout pitcher Sydni Holtz helped the Vikings to yet another Section One championship this past spring.



Fox Lane's Ralph Nuzzi slides home with a run during the sectional championship game vs. RCK at Provident Bank Park in Rockland.



Pleasantville's Patrick Bathon walks dejectedly off the field after the Panthers were narrowly defeated by Bronxville in the sectional lacrosse final.



Horace Greeley left fielder Sammy Russo tries to make a running catch in the Quakers' home game vs. Yorktown.



Pleasantville's Brendan Halloran and Byram Hills goalie Wes Cutler collide in front of the cage during the teams' dramatic game, won by the host Bobcats.



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Westlake's Gareth O'Connor competes in the pole vault during one of his team's home track meets.

2014 Images



Byram Hills' Jon Osonzio (left) and David Lachs walk off the field together after the Bobcats fell to Yorktown in the sectional title game.



Valhalla's Ricky Thomas boots the ball past Rye Neck keeper Richie Barrios for a Viking goal that tied the game and forced overtime.

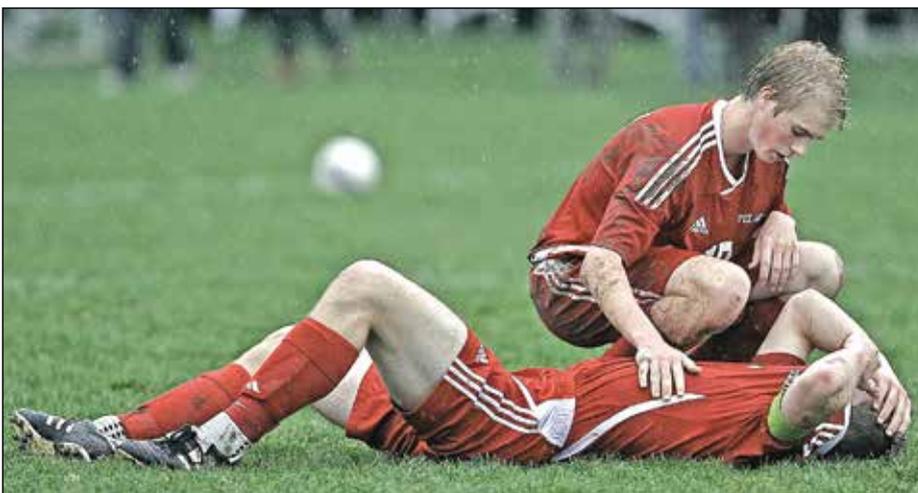


Above: Brandon Drossman of Byram Hills celebrates his overtime goal that earned the Bobcats the sectional championship.

Above left: Nicole Kim of Byram Hills clears one last hurdle as she heads for the finish line.



Left: Horace Greeley tennis players, left to right, Lily Glotzer, Alex Kung, Anna Waterhouse, Gwen Rauch and Carly Levitz take a moment to stand together after competing at the conference tourney.



Fox Lane's Chris Gourd consoles teammate Owen Azrak moments after the Foxes fell to eventual champ John Jay in the semifinals of the sectional tournament.



Fox Lane lacrosse players celebrate after scoring a goal in the sectional playoffs vs. host Somers.



Lexi Grasso of Briarcliff gets set to send a shot on goal in the Bears' playoff win over Croton-Harmon.



Westlake soccer players form a wall in front of the goal during a midseason home game.



Pleasantville quarterback Jeff Barile throws a pass just in time during the Panthers' home game vs. the Lourdes Warriors.



The Westlake volleyball team lines up during the opening introductions in the sectional championship match vs. Dobbs Ferry.



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Above: Jessica Tesoro of Valhalla moves the ball up the field in the Vikings' road victory over Briarcliff.

Left: Pleasantville running back Brandon Castro goes airborne to pick up some extra yardage in the Panthers' win over rival Briarcliff.



Pleasantville's John Tucci waits at the line of scrimmage as time is about to run out on the Panthers in their playoff game vs. host Nanuet.



Horace Greeley standout quarterback Cameron Ciero shares a laugh on the sideline en route to leading the Quakers back to the playoffs this season.



Ally Hewitt of Fox Lane lunges to hit a forehand return in a doubles match at the Section 1, Conference 1 tournament.



Briarcliff's Stefano Paone tries to run past Pleasantville's Lucas Cohen in a game played on the Bears' new turf field.

Violante and O'Mahoney Lead Fox Lane Past the Pelicans

By Andy Jacobs

With freshman forward Maria Violante and junior guard Emily O'Mahoney providing a dynamic inside-outside duo on Monday, the visiting Pelham Pelicans never really had much of a chance in their holiday matinee at Fox Lane High School.

O'Mahoney connected on four 3-pointers and finished with a game-high 22 points, while Violante dominated inside, scoring all 20 of her points in the first three quarters, as the Foxes breezed to a 54-34 victory in the final game of the 2014 portion of their schedule.

Once Fox Lane opened the contest by scoring the first 10 points, all within a minute and a half, any doubt about the outcome just about disappeared. The Foxes opened up a 14-point lead after one quarter, increased it to 35-18 at halftime, then scored the first 10 points of the second half, much to the delight of head coach Kris Matts, who wasn't sure what to expect from his now 3-3 team just four days after Christmas.

"I was ecstatic with that," he said of the Foxes' proficiency right from the opening tip. "The holiday season is tough because you don't know. People are feasting, celebrating, not doing a lot of work. So I've seen some teams come out with some disastrous holiday games. These guys, they work so hard. They came out and they refused to lose today."

That was apparent from the outset as the Foxes controlled the opening tip and, three seconds later, Sorvina Carr glided in for a layup that gave them a lead they never came close to losing. Violante, who had 17 points by halftime, soon followed with a bucket inside. When Tara Lombardi drained a 3-pointer from the right wing just 59 seconds into the game, the Fox Lane lead was already 7-0 and the Pelicans were calling for a timeout.

Just 19 seconds after play resumed, O'Mahoney drilled the first of her 3-pointers and the early Fox Lane blitz stretched to 10-0. Amarani Marin scored on a put-back to finally get the Pelicans on the



Victoria Darling battles for possession of the ball in traffic during Fox Lane's home win over Pelham.



The Foxes' Tara Lombardi prepares to pass the ball in Monday afternoon's home victory vs. Pelham.

board, but then Violante followed with two free throws and a layup that gave the Foxes a 14-2 cushion.

O'Mahoney added another 3-pointer, this time from the left corner, with just under three minutes left in the opening quarter, and the Foxes took a 19-5 lead a minute later when Violante hit a jumper from near the foul line to close the scoring for the period.

"They looked great," said Matts of his players. "They started the game right away. Intensity, strength, defense, which is what we preach in the program all year. That's where our points of emphasis are, and they managed to do it despite not practicing in a while."

It took just six seconds for the Foxes to continue their onslaught in the second quarter as freshman guard Lucy Crerend made a 3-pointer from just right of the key. Not even 30 seconds later, Violante scored on a conventional 3-point play and the overwhelmed Pelicans were suddenly facing a 20-point deficit for the first time.

When Pelham managed to move within 13 points late in the half, Violante answered with an up-and-under move in the lane for a layup and then two free throws with 6.3 seconds remaining. The Foxes took a 17-point lead at intermission, then O'Mahoney erupted for seven quick points to start the third quarter. Fox Lane's second 10-0 run of the day to start a half was capped by another old-fashioned 3-point play by Violante, the precocious freshman who already has a year of varsity experience behind her.

"When you see a kid working as hard as she does, with the inherent talent she possesses," said Matts about Violante, "it's so rewarding to watch it happen. She's already dangerous, but the sky is the limit with her. And she's got a great attitude about everything."

The Pelicans went on an 8-0 spurt of their own, closing to within 45-26, before O'Mahoney scored on a fast-break layup with a minute left. The third quarter



Sorvina Carr of Fox Lane dribbles the ball in the second half vs. the Pelham Pelicans.



Fox Lane's Caroline Christie gets set to put up a shot in the lane vs. visiting Pelham.

ended with Violante blocking a shot and O'Mahoney racing down the court to drill an 18-footer from the right wing just in time to beat the buzzer.

In the fourth quarter, the Foxes, with virtually their entire starting lineup watching from the bench, didn't score for nearly the first six minutes. But it didn't matter as Pelham was only able to chip six points off the huge Fox Lane lead. A put-back by Caroline Christie ended the Fox scoring drought, and the game concluded with O'Mahoney making one last 3-pointer to restore her team's 20-point advantage.

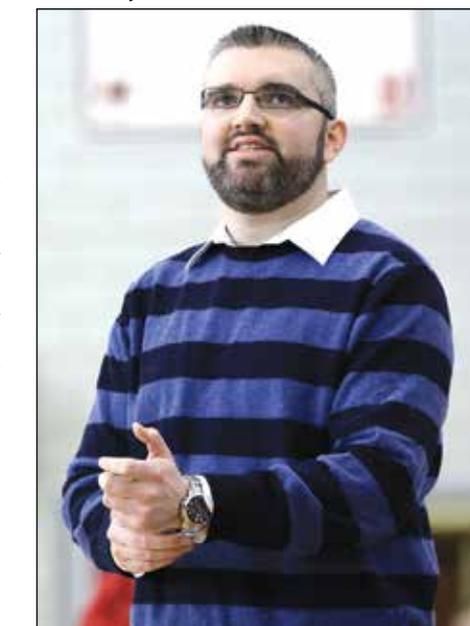
"Between Emily O'Mahoney, Tara Lombardi, Lucy (Crerend) and (Katie) Morales," said Matts, "I mean, I've got deadeye shooters, sharpshooters all throughout the roster. When they're on, the defense can't afford to collapse on Violante and she's gonna feast. When we're off, we have to work a little bit harder for it. But I've got a lot of weapons. We're very excited about the new year."



Fox Lane guard Emily O'Mahoney, who scored a game-high 22 points, lines up a 3-point shot in Monday's win vs. Pelham.



Fox Lane freshman Maria Violante works her way to the basket in the Foxes' 54-34 rout of Pelham on Monday.

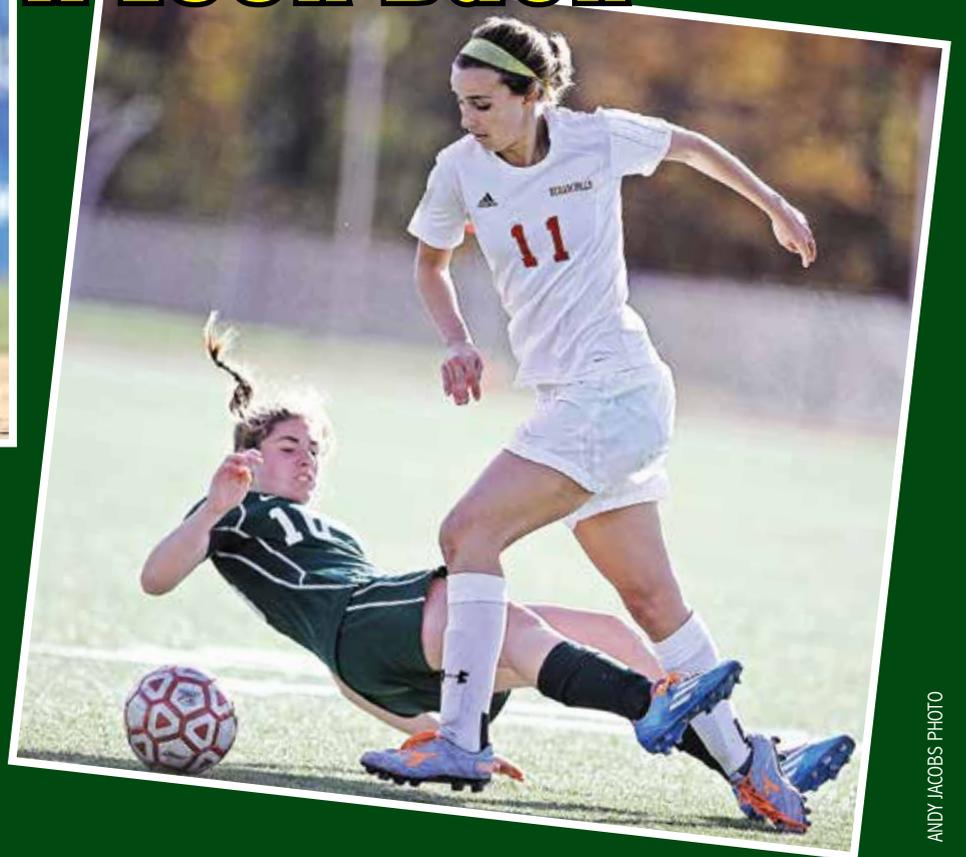


Fox Lane coach Kris Matts glances at the scoreboard during the second half of Monday's victory over Pelham.

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