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September 2 - September 8, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 365

No. Castle Ward System Petition to Be Submitted This Week

By Martin Wilbur

North Castle's former water and sewer superintendent plans to submit a petition today (Tuesday) that would enable voters to decide this fall whether they want town board members to be elected through a ward system.

Lifelong North White Plains resident Anthony Futia said last Friday he has collected well over 300 signatures, at least 100 more than he needs to get three propositions on the Nov. 4 ballot.

In addition to asking voters whether to establish wards--or districts--throughout town, Futia is also proposing to increase the number of council seats from four to six and to freeze the total compensation paid to council members at 2014 levels to avoid a cost increase to the town. The supervisor's post would remain an at large position.

Futia said that under a ward system each

area of town would be represented on the board, ensuring a resident of Banksville and North White Plains would be serving at all times. Recently, the North Castle Town Board has been dominated by Armonk residents, which is a key reason that prompted Futia to seek the change.

"The more people know their representatives the better off we're going to be," Futia said.

In order to include the propositions on the general election ballot, a petition with a minimum of 227 valid signatures from registered voters in town must be submitted to the Westchester County Board of Elections. Futia plans to turn in the petition to town hall, which would give municipal officials the chance to challenge signatures if they choose. The petition has to be submitted to the Board of Elections before Sept. 27 to get on this

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Consortium Formed to Help County's Municipalities With Sustainability Goals

By Martin Wilbur

Two organizations that have worked with Westchester municipalities to improve energy efficiency and sustainability in the past five years recently merged in hopes of having greater influence in efforts to improve the environment.

On Aug. 21 it was announced that Sustainable Westchester was formed by consolidating the Northern Westchester Energy Action Coalition (NWEAC) and the Southern Westchester Energy Action Coalition (SWEAC). At the time of the announcement there were 17 municipalities that comprised NWEAC, not including the villages of Buchanan and Briarcliff Manor, which held observer status. Another 16 municipalities make

up SWEAC.

SWEAC Chairwoman Nina Orville said by combining forces the two groups will find strength in numbers to serve Westchester municipalities more effectively.

"Westchester County is the natural geographic boundary for this effort and we've been eager to effect this merger to take advantage of the scale that collaboration across Westchester municipalities offers," Orville said. "Westchester municipalities in general are seeking to improve their environmental performance but are operating under very tight municipal budgets. Since their challenges and opportunities are similar, collaborating on programs and sharing

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Having Their Voices Heard



JON CRAIG PHOTO

About 50 students and staff gathered at Manhattanville College in Purchase last Wednesday during a march and vigil in support of Michael Brown, the black teenager killed by a white police officer on Aug. 9 in Ferguson, Mo. Another vigil is planned for Purchase College this week.

Pleasantville Mulls Changes to Senior Center Lunch Program

By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville is considering suspending its daily lunch program at the Clinton Street Senior Center due to the stagnating number of participants.

Joni Ehrlich, the village's coordinator of senior services, said attendance has hovered at 25 to 30 participants per day in recent months. She noted that a variety of factors, including attrition of older residents and a new chef, are contributing to the change, but most significant is the influx of younger seniors. The center is open to residents who are 55 and older.

Ehrlich said many people in their 50s and 60s are still working or taking care of grandchildren and don't visit in the afternoon. She suggested that the center consider phasing out lunches and hosting

breakfast or dinner instead.

"The lonely meal is dinner. The lonely meal isn't lunch," Ehrlich said.

Trustee Mindy Berard expressed concern about eliminating lunch at the center, noting that 25 seniors is still a significant number. However, Ehrlich said that the current participation level is not covering the cost of the program and that the funds could be better used for other activities.

"[For] the current seniors, the food is not their priority. They want activities, they want to be stimulated," Ehrlich said, adding that younger seniors have requested programs such as hiking and wine tastings.

Village Administrator Patricia Dwyer suggested that some of the recreation

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No. Castle Ward System Petition to Be Submitted This Week

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year's ballot, he said.

The minimum number of required signatures represents 5 percent of the total number of town voters who went to the polls in 2010, the last gubernatorial election.

Under sample districts Futia and other ward system supporters have proposed, he said there would be between 1,400 and 1,500 registered voters in each district. In addition to Banksville and North White Plains, there would be representatives in the areas around Whipoorwill Hills

and Windmill Farms and two Armonk representatives. However, should the proposition be approved, the Board of Elections would be responsible for drawing the district lines.

Armonk resident William Potvin, a former chairman of the town's citizens advisory finance committee, said he thinks the ward system could improve North Castle's government representation. So far, he said he has received positive feedback from residents and people who want more information.

"It puts the focus of town government

on neighborhoods rather than political cliques," Potvin said.

That is one of the reasons why Futia expects some pushback from the town's political establishment. He said while candidates would still run on party lines, it would be more difficult for the local committees to control. Residents who want to run but might not pass muster with the political parties would be more inclined to challenge because it would be much less expensive to mount a campaign within a district than townwide.

Calls placed last weekend to Supervisor

Michael Schiliro and leaders of the town's Republican and Democratic committees were either not returned or comment was declined.

Futia dismissed the possibility district representatives could be overly provincial.

"I think the board would make decisions it thinks is best for the town 99 percent of the time," he said.

While most cities employ ward systems, currently there are only 11 towns in New York State that do so. However, voters in the Town of Ramapo, Rockland County are likely to see propositions on this year's ballot asking them to approve a ward system and to increase the size of its town board.

In 2011, a group of residents in the Town of New Castle were able to place a similar referendum on the ballot but it was soundly defeated.



Anthony Futia wants to give North Castle voters the opportunity to decide whether they want to opt for wards, or districts, when electing their town board members.

Pleasantville Mulls Changes to Senior Center Lunch Program

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fees that the village is expected to receive this year could be used to fund activities at the senior center. She said the village anticipates a \$340,000 recreation payment from Toll Brothers in connection with the developer's proposed condominium project on Washington Avenue.

Another option would be to outsource the food preparation to a local restaurant instead of utilizing an in-house chef. This would lower the overhead for the center and could allow the kitchen, which has aging appliances that may soon need replacement, to be used for other activities.

"If we're looking at capital improvements in the kitchen anyway, then [outsourcing]

ought to be totally open," Trustee Steven Lord said.

Although changes may not be imminent, Ehrlich emphasized that phasing out meals at the center would not impact the delivery of meals to homebound residents. Currently, meals are delivered to Pleasantville residents and are also prepared for several dozen residents in nearby Chappaqua and Armonk.

Although meals for residents outside Pleasantville's boundaries are not delivered, Trustee Jonathan Cunningham questioned why the village was providing the meals to residents in these areas.

"Why are we subsidizing two of the

richest towns in Westchester with this program?" he questioned. "I love the program, but why are we subsidizing their residents with our tax money?"

Dwyer and Trustee Colleen Griffin-Wagner said because the food is being made for Pleasantville seniors anyway, making some extra meals helps bring a little more money to the program. Griffin-Wagner noted, however, that the respective towns should be charged a fee for the service in addition to charging the \$5 per meal to recipients. Currently the \$5 fee only covers the cost of the food and container.

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Castelli Looks at Experience, Record as Keys in GOP Primary Bid

By Martin Wilbur

Robert Castelli finds himself in a bit of an unusual position for next Tuesday's Republican primary in the 40th state Senate District against Terrence Murphy.

For the first time in his political career, which has included four years on the Lewisboro Town Board and nearly three years in the Assembly, Castelli isn't the choice of the Republican establishment. That nod goes to Murphy, a Yorktown councilman, who last spring was anointed by party leaders—and by outgoing state Sen. Greg Ball—as the district's next Republican candidate to take on Democrat Justin Wagner in November.

That's okay with Castelli, 64, whose efforts in Albany to engage lawmakers in both parties and seek common ground was a staple of his time in office after winning a special election over County Legislator Peter Harkham in February 2010. He followed that with a victory over Tom Roach, now mayor of White Plains, before losing two years ago against Assemblyman David Buchwald in a redrawn district that heavily favors Democrats.

"I'm not the popular guy with the party bosses," he said. "I'm the guy the people sent up to keep my word and do as I said."

Castelli said he decided to challenge Murphy after several Westchester Republican committees refused to grant a 10-day adjournment following Murphy's

entry into the race in May. That adjournment, which he said is standard practice, would have allowed him and any other Republican hopefuls to make their case to the party.

Had they followed that process and he wasn't selected, Castelli said he never would have challenged Murphy or anyone else.

"At the end of the day, you have a candidate who is the handpicked replacement of a disgraced lame duck senator—that's the only way I can put it—and party bosses in Albany, or you have an independent voice who has served at that level, and no candidate in this race, Republican or Democrat, has done so," Castelli said.

He's had to defend himself against being "too liberal" in several nasty mailers sent out this summer to the district's registered Republicans, including one with a photo of him marching with Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Bill and Hilary Clinton in the New Castle Memorial Day parade. Castelli said he's maintained a cordial and respectful relationship with all of them.

Castelli calls himself a "staunch fiscal conservative" and "a staunch



Robert Castelli

reformer." In 2011, he enthusiastically supported the tax cap because it forced municipalities and school districts to immediately rein in spending, although he decries Albany's inertia to enact mandate reform.

On the reform issue, he is an advocate for legislative term limits, full disclosure of legislators' outside income and revoking pensions and benefits of any public official convicted of a crime.

Castelli said that while the controversial Common Core was a well-intentioned

initiative by government and education leaders, its implementation was poor. The state should revamp the program.

"We want to be able to offer our children, because they are our future, the opportunity to prosper," Castelli said. "So we need to offer them the same possibilities and capabilities, but what we need to do is get great teachers in the classroom who have the autonomy to teach and to focus their time on teaching and learning, not testing."

The former assemblyman, who is a Vietnam veteran and served the state police for 21 years before becoming a criminal justice professor, wants to repeal the SAFE Act that was pushed through in January

2013, a month after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Castelli said it did "absolutely nothing" to make the public safer because New York already had the toughest gun laws in the state.

"When people clamor for more laws, most of them, what they're looking for is more law enforcement," Castelli said.

Instead he would focus on having more effective policing and passing mandatory prison sentences for anyone convicted of a crime while using a firearm.

During his time in the Assembly, Castelli was given one of the highest environmental rankings of any legislator by the Sierra Club. He supported a moratorium on the extraction of natural gas through hydrofracturing—at least until science can prove that it can be obtained safely.

He has a similar position regarding the Algonquin pipeline, proposed for some of the district's communities in northern Westchester and Putnam.

Castelli is also unapologetically pro-choice, a position that has rankled more conservative Republicans. While personally opposed to abortion, he said government has no business making that decision for a woman, her family and her doctor. He is opposed to late-term abortions and abortions performed by anyone other than a doctor.

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Murphy Touts Fiscal, Conservative Issues in State Senate Run

By David Propper

When weighing a run for the 40th state Senate District seat, Terrence Murphy and his wife, Caroline, discussed the possibility of moving south where the cost of living would be more affordable or staying and getting involved in their community and state.

It's a conversation the couple also had when Murphy ran for Yorktown Town Board. The decision was to stick around and get involved.

"We decided that we're all in," Murphy said. "We're going to give this a run, it's an open seat and it's an opportunity of a lifetime."

Murphy, endorsed by the Westchester and Putnam Republican parties, points to a record of fiscal responsibility as a councilman and solid conservative credentials as the reason he's the best choice over former Assemblyman Robert Castelli. Running to make New York more business friendly, Murphy is hoping to fill the seat that is currently held by Sen. Greg Ball.

In Yorktown, Murphy said he's been part of a town board that has welcomed new businesses. With effective communication with prospective owners, Murphy said he has a firm grasp on the challenges that need to be overcome to open up a business, rather than letting it get mired in delays.

"It's very easy to stop a business when

you delay it, delay it, delay it," he said. "You got to lighten up on the rules and regulations of it."

Murphy wants a repeal of two controversial laws that have recently passed. One is the SAFE Act, a set of gun laws enacted shortly after the elementary school massacre in Newtown, Conn. Murphy said while he understands what Gov. Andrew Cuomo and others tried to accomplish, he calls it a "disaster." He said it's unacceptable that previously law-abiding gun owners and members of law enforcement were turned into criminals overnight.

Murphy also said he would repeal the newly implemented education initiatives known as Common Core. Raising three school-age children of his own, Murphy said putting the new program into place was done too quickly. The state's chief motivation was to take the \$700 million in federal money. He said he is against a one-size-fits-all mentality.

"When did we become so convoluted with teaching," Murphy said.

Delving into conservative issues,



Terrence Murphy

Murphy said as a Roman Catholic he is pro-life and "feels bad for anyone who has to go through an abortion." He understands the state is not going to buck Roe v. Wade, but he would fight passionately against late-term abortions calling it "murder for the baby." He is also against a non-medical professional performing the procedure because the mother's life could also be jeopardy.

A hot topic continues to be ethics reform in Albany, especially after Cuomo shut down the Moreland Commission, whose job it was to weed out corruption. In Yorktown, Murphy said the board has come out with multiple ways to limit and stop corruption, including the formation of an independent ethics committee. What's occurring in Albany, Murphy said, "is an absolute disgrace" and the main reason why politicians are disliked.

Murphy said he supports the Triborough Amendment coming from a family with union members. He said his mother would be unable to live in Westchester if not for his father's union pension after he died several years ago.

Regarding Medicaid, Murphy said he wants abuses investigated. As for the tax cap that was passed in 2011, Murphy said he's proud of staying within the cap in Yorktown and even reducing taxes the last two years while maintaining services.

"I am extremely proud of my track record of my budgets with regards to the 2 percent tax cap," Murphy said, "with the unbelievable economy and unfunded mandates."

Locally, the Algonquin Gas Transmission pipeline proposed to run by much of the district has been a controversial topic, especially in Yorktown. Murphy said he voted to allow the process of examining the proposed pipeline. Also, with the Hudson Valley facing a terrifying drug crisis, he would make that issue one of his top priorities.

Murphy said he believes he is the Republican candidate with the best shot against Democrat Justin Wagner in November. When Murphy ran for the Westchester Board of Legislators against Michael Kaplowitz in a strong Democratic district in 2011, he lost by a slim margin, he said. In Yorktown, he's handily won his elections.

"I'm working hard, I'm knocking on my doors, I'm cautiously optimistic," Murphy said. "I believe we have a very good chance of winning this and I'm looking forward to Nov. 4."

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Consortium Formed to Help County's Municipalities With Sustainability Goals

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best practices benefits everyone.”

She said that Sustainable Westchester may also attract private resources, in the form of grants, donations and sponsorships to support its efforts.

One of the best known efforts undertaken by NWEAC and SWEAC was rolling out the Energize New York energy efficiency program, which provides low-cost energy audits of residents' homes that are subsidized by the state in the 14 municipalities that had signed up to

participate.

NWEAC also secured funding for a training program at Pace Land Use Law Center for municipal officials. Over the past year, there have been workshops and symposiums organized by SWEAC on topics such as energy efficient streetlights and green building codes, which was jointly sponsored by NWEAC, Orville said.

Sustainable Westchester is in the process of being formulated into a nonprofit organization, said NWEAC

Chairman Herb Oringel. During the next month, member municipalities will elect a 12-member board of directors, similar to a corporation, he said.

All Westchester municipalities will be invited this fall to join Sustainable Westchester, with membership dues set at \$1,000 a year. It is expected that the first general membership meeting will take place later this fall.

“We have evolved in the last five years, from a good idea held by a few forward thinkers, to a large consortium working with some of the most talented and dedicated people in New York State,” Oringel said. “We expect Sustainable Westchester to be a major player in the

effort to help local communities deal creatively and effectively with many of the sustainability challenges they face.”

One local official said having a new consortium to help local governments achieve their sustainability goals will be helpful.

“Everyone is talking about streamlining local government and sharing services,” said Croton-on-Hudson Mayor Leo Wiegman. “Sustainable Westchester will make that a reality for its members, allowing Westchester's cities, towns and villages to collaborate on fiscally sustainable improvements that no single member could tackle alone.”

Support Connection Fundraiser Set for September 10 in Pleasantville

Everyone is invited to “Raise Your Glass for Support Connection” on Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Trattoria 160, 160 Marble Ave. in Pleasantville.

It's a fun evening of good food and good company. For a \$10 donation, enjoy appetizers and receive door prize tickets. There will also be a cash bar. Trattoria 160 is a casual family friendly Italian restaurant offering traditional Italian cuisine.

The event is being held to raise funds for Support Connection's free breast and ovarian cancer support services and to share information about its upcoming 20th anniversary Support-A-Walk for

breast and ovarian cancer.

The Support-A-Walk, which will be on Sunday, Oct. 5 at FDR Park in Yorktown Heights, was founded 20 years ago by local residents to bring attention to the needs of people affected by breast and ovarian cancer and to raise funds for Support Connection's free support services for those living with these diseases. People travel from across the Hudson Valley and beyond to take part in this inspiring and uplifting community event.

For more info or to RSVP for Raise Your Glass, contact Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or email info@supportconnection.org.

County to Hold Blood Drive as Part of Sept. 11 Remembrance

Westchester County will once again hold a Marylou Seaman Employee Blood Drive in partnership with the New York Blood Center as part of its Sept. 11 observance. The drive – open to the public – will take place Thursday, Sept. 11 at the County Center, located at 198 Central Park Ave. in White Plains from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anyone between the ages of 16 and

75 and weighing at least 110 pounds is a potential donor. Individuals over the age of 75 must produce a doctor's note from shortly before the drive to be approved.

Donors are asked to register in advance by contacting Janet Lokay at 914-995-2127 or by e-mailing JEL1@westchestergov.com. Walk-ins will also be welcome.

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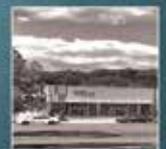
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Abinanti Fails in Final Attempt to Knock Challenger Off Ballot

By Martin Wilbur

Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti's last-ditch effort to contest his opponent's Republican and Conservative party petitions was unsuccessful last week, the final legal recourse available to him to knock the challenger off the ballot for the November election.

Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) went to the Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, in White Plains on Aug. 27 to argue that 92nd Assembly District challenger Michael Duffy's two petitions submitted in July were improper because the identity of the candidate was unclear. Duffy filed the petitions identifying himself simply as Mike Duffy even though his son, who has the same name but a different middle initial, is registered to vote at the same Valhalla address as the elder Duffy, the assemblyman argued.

He contended that a candidate should file a petition with the same name as his voter registration, something that was more important in this instance because of the potential for confusion.

The court, which had split into small groups of justices to share the



Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti's motion to throw his opponent, Michael Duffy, off the ballot, was denied last week in the state Court of Appeals.

workload of hearing 18 cases on the docket, made no rulings on any of them before adjourning, probably because of

the approaching Labor Day weekend, Abinanti said.

He said Friday he was disappointed at the court denying his motion to appeal, but that it is now time to focus on the campaign.

"I look forward to the campaign and explaining my record of advocating for the suburban communities, being pro-environment, pro-reasonable gun control and pro-education," said Abinanti, who is seeking re-election for a third term to the Assembly. "I'm proud of my record and I want to continue doing what I'm doing."

Duffy has said the court's decision to deny Abinanti's motion and uphold state Supreme Court and Appellate Division rulings from earlier this summer was proper because there was no intention on his part to deceive or mislead the public.

"You never know what's going to happen when you go to court, but I was pretty confident," he said.

Duffy, a criminal defense attorney, had previously explained that he chose to use Mike Duffy instead of his full name because that is how he is known

to most people.

The challenger is a decided underdog in a district that has been solidly Democratic for decades. Abinanti won easily in 2010 and ran uncontested two years ago. He succeeded Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, a fixture in Albany for 28 years.

The 92nd Assembly District includes Mount Pleasant and Greenburgh as well as the river communities of Tarrytown, Irvington, Dobbs Ferry and Hastings-on-Hudson.

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New Castle's Take It or Leave It Shed Sees Boom

The Take It Or Leave It Shed, located at the Chappaqua Farmers Market, will be open Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. The new location is at the train station parking lot behind the Shell station.

Only New Castle residents are allowed to leave items in the shed. Volunteers can ask for identification. Residents and nonresidents can take things from the shed. The new wood shed is larger and more user-friendly. The drop off area is easier to use. And the parking, of course, is amazing.

"I knew the...shop would be more visible and accessible to residents but I didn't think it would do so well so fast," said Supervisor Robert Greenstein. "It is also helping the Farmer's Market as we hoped it would. They are feeding off each other."

However, the town officials have had to institute new rules to handle the increased volume. First, no drop-offs after 11:30 a.m. People are arriving late with full cars and big pieces of furniture and space in the shed is maxed out. If people leave stuff early there is a better chance it will go.

Second, each family will be allowed to drop off only two vehicle loads per week.

While the concept of the Take it or Leave is simple—to keep items that can be reused or repurposed out of the waste stream—it has become more than that, Greenstein said. Over the past 13 years it has evolved into a small community.

"We have been there for folks in good times and bad and the shed is a friendly haven," he said. "When people are first moving into town they can find things for their new homes that they will not have to buy and when they are leaving they know some of their treasures are going to be appreciated by their new caretakers. Everyone is allowed to take things and we encourage people to share. We cannot stop people from selling items they take from the shed but we discourage it."

Donation Guidelines

Acceptable items: Functioning, clean and gently used. Small, clean and functioning appliances, cookware, furniture (in good condition), kitchenware, dishes and glassware (in



The bustling scene at New Castle's Take It or Leave It shed in Chappaqua on Saturdays.

good condition), sports equipment, bicycles, toys, games, baby equipment, children's picture books, ornaments, home repair tools, gardening tools.

Unacceptable items: Mattresses, large appliances, air conditioners, refrigerators, TVs, monitors, stereo speakers construction debris, bedding, clothing, books, printers, faxes, semi-functional electronics, chipped or cracked dishes, plastic mugs/containers, skis, ski boots, stuffed toys, cribs, car seats, suitcases, anything really dirty.

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College Intern Proposes Road Maintenance Program for Mt. Pleasant

By Neal Rentz

A big part of the town road maintenance practice in Mount Pleasant has been for highway personnel to head out and observe road conditions to decide which streets need repair.

But thanks to the efforts of a Manhattan College intern this summer, the town now has a computerized system for road maintenance planning.

Town resident Joe Muccin, who is entering his senior year, has been trained through the Cornell Local Road Program, a national initiative offered at the college. Over the past three months he prepared a road study, and concluded roads must be regularly maintained and improved.

"You should look at roads as an investment," he said.

Muccin has devised a computer software program with recommendations for a five-year road maintenance plan. Mount Pleasant has 119.5 miles of town roads and currently spends \$431,228 a year to maintain those streets.

Muccin said he toured all town roads during the summer to compile his survey. He looked for a variety of factors to determine which roads are a higher priority for repairs, including cracking and potholes.

The aim of his project was to have "a safe, more efficient network of roads" in Mount Pleasant, Muccin said.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Intern Joe Muccin compiled a computer program for the Town of Mount Pleasant to assist in planning for road maintenance projects.

Town Engineer David Smyth said that due to budget implications, the town will be unable to make the recommended investment for road maintenance. However, Muccin's plan has revealed the current condition of the town's roads and local officials can lobby Mount Pleasant's state representatives to increase funding repairs, Smyth said.

Still, the town will make good use of Muccin's work.

"We will use the ratings and recommendation to allocate our capital funding moving forward in an effort to achieve the most return for our investment," Smyth said.

Teachers, Staff Dressing Down With a Purpose at Hawthorne Elementary

By Neal Rentz

Dress Down Fridays can be a fun respite from the button-down world of formal business attire.

But for the faculty and staff of Hawthorne Elementary School, Dress Down Fridays have a greater purpose: to fundraise for various charities during the school year.

The program returns the 2014-15 academic year, allowing faculty members to wear casual attire such as jeans, said Principal Jerry Schulman, who instituted Dress Down Fridays when he became principal three years ago. Last year was the most successful year for raising money—\$4,195—through donations made by staff members, he said.

One charity is chosen by the faculty for each of the 10 months of the school year. Last year, money was donated to Gilda's Club of Westchester, which provides social support for individuals with cancer and their families; Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk; Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndrome (SADS) Foundation; American Heart Association; Children's Tumor Foundation; Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley; Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; Autism Speaks; Alzheimer's Foundation; and Folds of



Hawthorne Elementary School Principal Jerry Schulman, who instituted Dress Down Fridays for teachers and staff three years ago, said the initiative raised nearly \$4,200 for charity last year.

Honor Foundation, which provides scholarships and other assistance for spouses and children of U.S. military members killed or disabled in service.

Assisting the SADS Foundation hits close to home for Schulman. He lost a niece at 21 to a heart rhythm disorder, which was hereditary, in 2006.

Although no donation goal has been set for the new school year, Schulman said he was hopeful the total would surpass last year's, especially since the program's popularity has been growing at the school.

"The sky's the limit," he said.

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Aug. 22: Report of a suspicious incident on Hadley Road at 9:03 a.m. A complainant stated that he heard what sounded like screaming coming from a neighboring residence. The responding officers discovered upon arrival that a group of children were playing in a yard, which was the source of the screaming.

Aug. 22: A complainant reported at 6:46 p.m. that there are two large animals on his porch at his home on Musket Court. The caller is uncertain whether they are dogs or another type of animal and don't appear to be a neighbor's pets. The resident was

advised to stay indoors and keep an eye on the animals but do not engage them.

Aug. 23: Report of a suspicious incident on Route 22 at 1:05 p.m. A bicyclist told police that earlier this date an unknown female was throwing objects at him from her car.

Aug. 24: A High Street resident reported at 8:30 p.m. that a generator was stolen from the side of his residence.

Aug. 26: The Armonk Fire Department

was dispatched to Nannyhagen Road at 2:40 p.m. to respond to a report of a car fire.

Aug. 26: At 6:12 p.m., a complainant requested assistance due to an earlier traffic dispute involving her mother on Tripp Lane near Byram Hills High School. The operator of the suspect vehicle was a high school-age male who was tailgating the complainant's mother's car and was driving erratically. The male exited the car and was reported to be argumentative and threatening.

Armonk Man Arrested as Part of Drug Conspiracy

Law enforcement authorities arrested a 46-year-old Armonk man last Thursday for allegedly being part of an effort to distribute large amounts of marijuana.

Federal agents executed a search warrant at the apartment of Dana Lieberman at 16 Hemlock Hollow Rd. at about 7:20 a.m. on Aug. 28. They were assisted by the Greenburgh Drug and Alcohol Task Force and North Castle police.

Once inside the residence, authorities discovered a large quantity of marijuana and \$135,000 in cash. Lieberman was charged with conspiracy to possess marijuana with intent to distribute and possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. Authorities said he was charged in connection with a 2011 incident where he was supposed to receive a drug shipment that was intercepted by law enforcement agents.

The suspect was denied bail in an appearance on Friday in U.S. District Court in White Plains and was ordered held. He will have to make an appearance in federal court in Michigan where two other suspects were arrested in connection with the same incident.

--Martin Wilbur

Friendly Rivalries



JANET L. WALSH PHOTO

On Aug. 16, the Bedford-Armonk Rotary raised more than \$4,000 for the Westchester Burn Unit by hosting an annual softball game pitting fire departments from Armonk, Bedford, Bedford Hills and Katonah against each other. The game, held in Bedford Town Park, is held every August to support the burn unit. Families and friends enjoyed cheering on their favorites in beautiful weather.

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Editorial

Campaign Season Can Be Difficult But Public Must Stay Focused

Now that we've reached the unofficial end of summer, leaving Labor Day behind us also marks the unofficial beginning of the fall campaign season.

Over the next two months the sprint to the finish is certain to offer some spirited debate and discussion on the issues of the day, particularly in races for the state legislature, whose members are up for re-election every even-numbered year. Despite that, an assortment of uncontested races and campaigns that promise to be blowouts should offer little suspense.

There will also be the race for governor between Andrew Cuomo and Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino. If you believe this summer's polls, Cuomo probably doesn't have to do too much heavy campaigning to keep his job for another four years, although surprises do happen. (All he has to do is recall how his father's political career ended 20 years ago.)

This season perhaps no contest will be more closely watched than the 40th state Senate District race where Democrat

Justin Wagner returns to take a shot at the seat held by Republican incumbent Greg Ball.

This time, however, he's not up against Ball, who is leaving for Texas under mysterious circumstances after being investigated for alleged improper use of campaign funds, but the winner of next week's Republican primary between Yorktown Councilman Terrence Murphy and former Assemblyman Robert Castelli.

What will make the match up so explosive are the stakes. It promises to be one of a handful of races across the state that is likely to decide the balance of power in the Senate--and one of the reasons why voters in Mount Pleasant, New Castle, Mount Kisco and points north should care. Even with the blizzard of mailers and campaign ads that are likely to surface over the next two months, voters ought to familiarize themselves with the candidates.

The 40th Senate District campaign is certain to reach a fever pitch, especially if Murphy, the Republican Party's choice

in the primary, prevails next week. He has nearly tripped over himself racing to Castelli's right to burnish his conservative credentials, presumably to bolster his credibility in Putnam County and the small portion of Dutchess that seem to be in a different political universe than most of Westchester.

Murphy would need all the help he can muster in November. Two years ago Wagner nearly pulled off the upset by dominating in Westchester, although Ball was even more dominant up north to retain his seat.

For citizens in the 40th state Senate District, as difficult as it may be to stomach for the next eight weeks, this race--and all the races, for that matter--should command your attention. Now is not the time for complacency or apathy. There will be stark differences in the candidates and voters should take the time to know who is running and where they stand, and take the time to vote on Nov. 4.

Let the campaigns begin.

Letter to the Editor

Republican Party is Choosing Unwisely in Backing Murphy in Primary

What's wrong with the Republican Party? Two men are running for Greg Balls' 40th District state Senate seat. Terrence Murphy is a chiropractor, town councilman and bar/restaurant owner. According to a local newspaper he and other councilmen voted themselves a pay raise behind closed doors, which is unethical if not illegal. Not an impressive resume but he's the party's choice.

Also running is Bob Castelli, an Army combat veteran, retired state trooper, Harvard grad (Masters Degree), former college professor, homeland security and criminal justice expert, small business owner, former town councilman and two-term state assemblyman. Castelli has a proven voting record on veterans' issues, ethics reform, cutting taxes, job creation and has upheld his oath to support the Constitution, including the Second Amendment.

Both candidates garnered enough signatures to be on the Sept. 9 primary

ballot. Castelli showed respect for voters who signed for Murphy, but Murphy's team challenged Castelli's signatures. While Castelli was tied up fighting for our right to choose in a primary election, Murphy's camp launches a big-dollar misleading smear campaign via robo calls, anonymous glossy mailers, bogus Facebook groups, etc. Using Castelli's picture along with out-of-context quotes, misleading statements, innuendo and lies is a dirty, deceitful way to try and win an election. Castelli was the assemblyman in the Clinton's and Cuomo's district so walking in a parade with the former President, Secretary of State and current governor doesn't make him pro-Clinton, pro-Cuomo, pro-abortion, a liberal, RINO or anything else that's been alluded to. Murphy claims none of this was his doing. To me, if you lack the leadership ability to manage your own campaign people you're unfit for office.

Murphy recently joined the NRA and

had his picture taken wearing an NRA hat and holding a gun saying he will "stand up for gun owners and sportsmen." Meaningless words when you're not a sportsman and have no pro-Second Amendment history. What's more, Murphy's endorsed and funded by state Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, who brought you the (un)SAFE Act and Pataki and who brought you the assault weapons ban. In contrast, Castelli is a firearms instructor, world class shooter and lifelong member of the NRA and New York State Rifle & Pistol Association (NYSRPA).

Bob Castelli's accomplishments and voting record speak volumes. He's proven he'll honor his oath to uphold the Constitution and fight against Common Core, the SAFE Act, benefits for illegals, tax hikes, mandates and expanded abortion. The fact he can't be bought off, controlled or intimidated by the party, Skelos or anyone else shows me he has integrity. He trusts voters are savvy enough to see through Murphy's deception. This is the difference between an honest public servant and a self-serving politician. Castelli is a man of substance while Murphy is no more than a sound bite. The Republican Party has become its own worst enemy.

Marilyn Miller
Southeast

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Rosa Carro and Rosalie Fierro Children's Cooking Teachers Thornwood

By Martin Wilbur

Rosa Carro and Rosalie Fierro seemed to be perfectly suited to helping children learn their way around the kitchen.

Carro had been a teacher at St. Ann's School in Yonkers while Fierro ran the lunch program locally at Holy Rosary. Both came from families that loved to cook growing up, which has continued through their adult lives. Carro has one daughter while Fierro has four children and one grandchild with another on the way.

"I come from an Italian family and I've cooked all my life," Fierro said.

After the Thornwood neighbors, both of whom grew up in the Bronx, discovered their similarities, including their love for cooking, they began kicking around the idea of leading a class. They approached the Town of Mount Pleasant about introducing cooking classes for children ranging from preschool through fifth grade.

For the last 10 years they have teamed up to offer series of eight-week sessions at the Town Hall Tower Room in Valhalla. The fall session starts on Sept. 15.

"It's hands on," said Carro, who is the head chef of the class and is accompanied by Fierro, who serves as her assistant. "We make it hands on. That's what makes it different because we allow them to do it."

Depending on the age group, the weekly 90-minute sessions might focus on how to make pizza or pancakes or pasta, staples that most children have eaten at home with their families. They have even produced homemade spaghetti. In fact, Carro has a thick stack of recipes that she has accumulated over the years that work well in the classes.

Each week they cook a main dish, and usually conclude by baking a dessert.

When each class is finished, Carro and Fierro provide their students with a copy of that week's recipe. Not only does



the class introduce young children to an important life skill, they learn a fun and sociable activity as well.

"Remember, they're excited. This is hands on. This is something they don't do," Fierro said. "Remember, we're in an age of technology and everybody is on a video game or whatever they're doing. This is really like a new interest."

"It's a bonding time. 'You're making something and you're sharing with family,'" Carro added of having children learn how to cook. "It's a bonding time."

For children 3 to 5 years old, they lead a class called Lil' Cooks three times a week. It meets Wednesdays from 12:30 to 2 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 to 2 p.m.

For children in grades K-2 there is one session of Buddin' Cooks, which will meet on Thursday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Then the oldest group, kids in grades 3-5, there is the Junior Cooks program

on Fridays after school, also from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Carro and Fierro said the classes work best with about eight to 10 children in each.

Perhaps surprisingly to some, there is a fairly close split between girls and boys. Carro believes that the popularity of cooking shows, which many parents watch, may be rubbing off on today's children. They said it's gratifying to hear when parents return to tell them that their children want to cook or to help them in the kitchen.

Their classes have also become popular in a few neighboring communities. While they have offered them in Mount Pleasant for the past decade, they also offer them at the Purchase Children's Center and in Ardsley. Previously, they had also scheduled classes for the Town of Bedford and White Plains.

Carro and Fierro said they've been fortunate that during the past 10 years they've been able to do something they love and bring that joy to children.

"We work together really well," Fierro said. "It's really been working great."

For parents interested in signing up their children for one of the classes, registration begins this Thursday, Sept. 4. For more information, contact the Mount Pleasant Recreation Department at 914-742-2310 or visit www.MtPleasantNY.com/rec. Non-residents are also invited to sign up but would pay a higher fee.

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Red Cross Back-to-School Safety Tips for Families to Follow

As another school year begins, the American Red Cross has steps that everyone can take to make the trip back to the classroom safer.

“When kids go back to school, parents should make sure the child knows his or her home phone number and address, parents’ work contact information, how to get in touch with another trusted adult and how to dial 9-1-1,” said Mary Young, CEO, of the American Red Cross, Metro New York North. “Parents should also teach their children not to talk to strangers or accept rides from someone they don’t know.”

Bus Safety

If children ride a bus to school, they should plan to get to their bus stop early and stand away from the curb. Other safety steps for students include:

- Board the bus only after it has come to a complete stop.
- Only board your bus and never an alternate one.
- Always stay in clear view of the bus driver and never walk behind the bus.
- Cross the street at the corner, obeying traffic signals and staying in the crosswalk. Motorists should know what the yellow and red bus signals mean.



- Yellow flashing lights: the bus is getting ready to stop, and motorists should slow down and be alert.
- Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign: the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off. Drivers in both directions must stop their vehicles and wait until the lights go off, the stop sign is back in place and the bus is moving before they can start driving again.

Driving

- If a teenager is going to drive to school, parents should mandate that they use seat belts. Drivers should not use their cell phone to text or make calls and should avoid eating or drinking while driving.
- All drivers should be aware that children are out walking or biking to school and slow down, especially in residential areas and school zones.

Biking and Walking

Students who ride their bike to school should always wear a helmet, obey all traffic signs and ride on the right in the same direction as traffic.

Those who walk to school should only cross the street at an intersection and use a route along which the school has placed crossing guards. Parents should walk young children and children taking new routes or attending new schools at least for the first week to ensure they know how to get there safely.

Emergencies can happen anytime

- Talk to your child’s teacher or school principal about the school’s emergency plan and how you will be notified if an emergency happens at the school.
- Remind your child that the most important thing they can do if an emergency happens at school is to stay calm and listen to the direction of their teachers or principal.
- Tape a copy of your family’s contact numbers and meeting places to the inside of your child’s binder or homework notebook and in their book bag.



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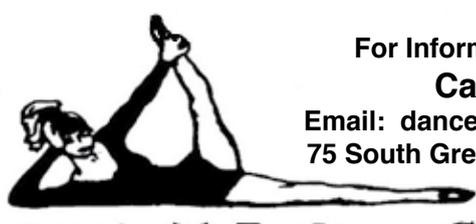


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For many children, playing sports is an important part of growing up, and that's a good thing. Sports are a great way for children and adolescents to develop lifelong exercise habits, build relationships and learn teamwork.

"Parents can play a vital role in ensuring young athletes train and condition properly," said Dr. James M. Perrin, 2014 president of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). "From staying hydrated to wearing safety gear, kids may need periodic reminders."

Here are ways to help your child avoid common sports hazards:

Condition

Athletes will reduce their risk of injury by strengthening muscles to protect vulnerable ligaments. This is especially important in certain sports -- including soccer, football, basketball, volleyball, gymnastics and lacrosse -- in which athletes are prone to injuring their anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), which provides stability to the knee.

Girls need to be especially careful, statistics reveal. Adolescent girls are four to eight times more likely to suffer ACL injuries than boys, according to the AAP.

Neuromuscular training programs that strengthen hips, the core muscles and hamstrings can significantly reduce one's risk for injury. This training will help

athletes improve their form and have a greater awareness of how to safely pivot, jump and land.

Stay Hydrated

Water is the best way for kids to stay hydrated while playing or exercising. Sports and energy drinks are heavily marketed to children and adolescents, but in most cases kids don't need them--and some of these products contain ingredients that could be harmful to children.

Sports drinks which contain carbohydrates and electrolytes can be helpful for young athletes engaged in prolonged, vigorous exercise, but in most cases they're unnecessary. Plain water is usually best, as sports drinks contain extra calories and sugar. Energy drinks, which contain stimulants like caffeine, are not healthy for children or teens, the AAP cautions.

Read the label to know exactly what you're giving your child. When in doubt, stick to water.

Protect Your Head

Because young athletes' brains are still developing, it's important to take head injuries seriously. Adolescent concussions can cause long-term brain injury. If your young athlete sustains a concussion, he or she should be evaluated by a physician and



DUSAN KOSTIC - FOTOLIA.COM PHOTO

Some common sense precautions can help students prevent injuries when they return to the field for the new school year.

receive medical clearance before returning to play. While concussion symptoms usually resolve in seven to 10 days, some athletes may take weeks or months to recover, and some students may need accommodations at school during this recovery.

Don't Overdo It

The most common type of sports injury is from overuse. Ignoring pain can worsen the injury and cause long-term damage.

"The best way for parents to prevent overuse injuries is to pay attention to their

child's training schedule," Perrin said.

Limit your child to a single sport or team per season, and the training schedule to no more than five days per week. Alternating sports can help avoid burnout.

More sports safety tips can be found at www.HealthyChildren.org.

While sports are an important part of childhood with critical health benefits, parents, coaches and athletes should work together to make sure children participate safely.



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Pointe-ers for Finding the Right Dance School for Your Child

By Rose-Marie Menes

September is here. School is opening and parents are looking for afterschool activities for their children.

Dance lessons are probably one of the most popular activities for young children. In the last 10 years or more it seems that every time one turns around, another dance school is opening. Be careful and be cautious. Do your homework and research the school. No two are the same. Look for a school as if you are looking for a doctor or dentist; you want the best for your child.

All dance forms--ballet, modern, tap, jazz and now lyrical and hip-hop--have a set syllabus that has been handed down from teacher to student. This should be the foundation for every teacher that is teaching dance. And remember, learning dance correctly can be as much fun as learning dance incorrectly.

What should a parent look for in a school and its faculty?

1. Director and faculty should have extensive background in dance with outstanding credentials and have worked professionally. George Ballanchine said "to be a good

teacher you must have performed professionally on stage."

2. Classes should be one hour with a half-hour warm-up and half-hour of center work. As a student matures, classes extend to an hour-and-a-half to two hours. Exceptions are only given for preschool classes. Some schools offer combination classes. Combination classes consist of two to three elements of dance given during an hour or an hour-and-a-half class. For example, 40 minutes ballet, 40 minutes tap and 10 minutes changing shoes.
3. A teacher should have knowledge of body placement. Without correct body placement a student can have serious injuries, even later on in life and will not be prepared for pointe properly. The corrections for one child is not necessarily the corrections for all children. Every child's body is different.
4. Terminology is very important. French terminology is used in all elements of dance and is international.
5. Ask to watch classes. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Look at the advanced class to see how your child will develop.
6. Go to the recitals and see what



they are like.

7. It takes many years to develop the strength to go on pointe; therefore, a school should be very careful about putting children on pointe prematurely. Pointe shoes are not given as a reward or for Christmas.

Generally, age is not the sole deciding factor as to whether a student is placed on pointe. They are admitted to pointe class automatically when the body, legs and feet have the correct placement and strength to stand correctly. The student should be at least 11 years old.

8. Most schools usually do recitals and many do competitions, while others place emphasis on technique during the year and usually finish the year with a recital.
9. Not every student is going to be a professional but they should be given the opportunity and not have it taken away by inadequate training. The effect on the student who discovers they have had inadequate training can be very disappointing.

What would you say when you enrolled your child in kindergarten and found out in 12th grade that your child does not know the ABCs and cannot read but, oh, she had so much fun?

Rose-Marie Menes is director of Dance Theatre in Westchester and the Westchester Ballet Center for the Performing Arts.



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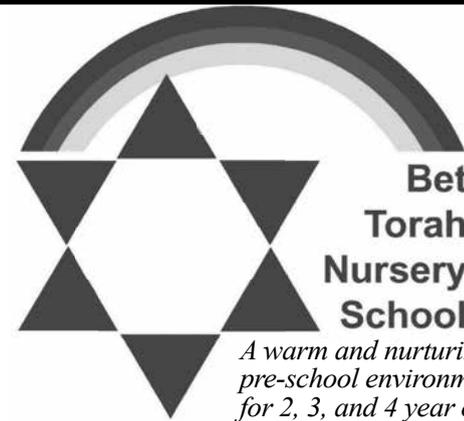
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Healthy Fuel for Back to School: Tasty, Tote-able Snack Ideas

During back-to-school season, many families will find time is at a premium. With routines changing from summer's slower pace to tighter schedules jam-packed with work, school and extracurricular commitments, it can be hard to keep kids fueled for the day and eating healthfully.

With limited time to eat between the dismissal bell and soccer games, art class and homework, speed sometimes supersedes nutrition. Fortunately you don't have to make that kind of compromise. There are plenty of quick, convenient and healthy foods to keep everyone on schedule and your kids properly fed.

Make a Mini-wich

Sandwiches are a classic, portable meal, but when your kids just need a snack, try a "mini-wich."

Making one is as simple as quartering a PB&J or grilled cheese sandwich into a bite-sized, pop-able snack. Add in a few baby carrots or a handful of raisins on the side and you're all set.

It's a tiny, attractive combo that will come in very handy when your son or daughter needs an extra boost after getting off the bus or energy for an early start on homework.



On-the-Go Snacks

There are lots of options for healthy snacks on the go--from all-in-one bars, to trail mix, to fruit squeezers. Sometimes, all it takes is a squeeze and a slurp to enjoy a snack that's nutritious and delicious.

For a no-spoon, no-mess solution, give GoGo squeeZ squeezable fruit and vegetable pouches a try. They are 100 percent natural and come in a variety of

flavors, including apple cinnamon, apple peach and new GoGo Fruit and veggieZ blends. These convenient, tasty pouches are even great for families with dietary restrictions, since they are gluten-free, kosher certified, GMO-free and made without high fructose corn syrup.

These squeezable snacks are perfect for when life is moving fast, and they're shelf-stable so you can keep a few in the car to

have on hand even if you forgot to plan ahead. At only 60 calories, it's a snack you can feel good about sharing with kids, who find fun pouches irresistible. You can find more information at www.gogosqueeZ.com.

Leftovers

One man's dinner is some kid's snack. While that's not exactly how the saying goes, "waste not, want not" should ring a bell.

Try dicing up last night's chicken and broccoli and mixing them in a small Tupperware container. Throw in a side of ranch dressing and a colorful safety fork, and voila, your kids have an instant, bite-sized snack ready for spearing.

When school starts back up, it's hard to carve out time for healthy food preparation, but when the going gets hectic, imaginative parents can fall back on these snacks.

Whether it's grabbing a pouch of GoGo squeeZ or cutting a quick, delicious mini-wich, your kids will thank you for something small, tasty and playful--and you'll gain confidence that a more hurried time doesn't mean a less healthy time.



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Tuesday, Sept. 2

Back to School Bingo. You won't be "board." For children in grades K-2. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4:30 pm. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

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. Every Tuesday in September. Info: 914-273-3887.

First Tuesdays Book Club. "Marcelo in the Real World" by Francisco X. Stork will be discussed. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Wednesday, Sept. 3

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.

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 and Wednesday. Info: 914-769-2021.

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.

Breast and Ovarian Cancer Support Group. Northern Westchester Hospital

at Chappaqua Crossing, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Meets the first Wednesday of every month. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Thursday, Sept. 4

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 claudiaiyogadance@gmail.com.

Multilingual Mother Goose. Learn and share songs and rhymes in other languages. For children from birth to five years old; with an adult. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 2:30 p.m. Free. Meets every Thursday. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

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

Friday, Sept. 5

Stroller Tours. Take a break from the ordinary and bring your little one with you. Moms, dads and caregivers of stroller-bound babies are welcome for special "before hours" tours of the unique landscape and contemporary art of Iceland in the Katonah Museum of Art's "Iceland: Artists Respond to Place" exhibition. For adults with children under 18 months. Breakfast snacks provided by Tazza Café. Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay St., Katonah. 9 to 10 a.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$10. Info: 914-232-9555 ext. 0.

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.

Welcome Back: Artist Trading Cards and Snacks. Ease back into the school year by letting your creativity flow. Use Sharpies and colored pencils to draw your own 2.5-inch x 3.5-inch creations while enjoying a snack. For students in grades 7-12. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 3:30 to 4:30

p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Brother Sun Concert. National touring artists Greg Greenway, Pat Wictor and Joe Jencks have made their mark as veteran touring singer-songwriters. The trio's harmonies and lyrics tell what they are about: warm as a campfire, stirring as a gospel church, rousing as a call to arms. Fusing folk, Americana, blues, pop, jazz, rock and a cappella singing, the trio is an explosion of musical diversity and harmony in the finest of male singing traditions. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester, 236 S. Bedford Rd., Mount Kisco (across from Rippowam Sisqua School). 7:30 p.m. \$20. Children (under 12): Free at the door. Info and tickets: Visit <http://brothersunmtkisco.brownpapertickets.com>.



Karen Bergreen will be at the Sept. 6 Comedy Night at the Schoolhouse Theater in Croton Falls.

Saturday, Sept. 6

Pleasantville Farmers Market. Come experience the farmers market voted by Westchester Magazine readers as the Best of Westchester in 2014. With over 50 vendors, seven nearby parking lots and weekly programming, it is a delicious good time. This week, the market welcomes back the Westchester-based acoustic band Skyfactor. It's also the day of the market's annual corn roast, and for kids, the Little Village Playhouse will entertain. Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Kids program from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Music from 10 a.m. to noon. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

Chappaqua Farmers Market. Chappaqua train station, Chappaqua. 8:30 to 1 p.m. Every Saturday. Info: Visit www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org.

Fall Native Plant Sale. Learn about native plants and pick up some additions for your garden while supporting The Native Plant Center at Westchester

Community College. Personal shoppers will be on hand to help customers select the right plants at this fifth annual benefit for the center. Includes a free workshop taught by Go Native U instructors at 11 a.m. each day. Rosedale Nurseries, 51 Saw Mill River Rd., Hawthorne. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Also Sept. 7. Info: 914-606-7870.

Academy of Dance Arts Open House/15th Anniversary Celebration. Celebrate the kickoff to the school's 15th anniversary dance season and check out the classes being offered. Meet the staff and enjoy free demo classes, food, giveaways and more. Academy of Dance Arts, 17 Marble Ave., Pleasantville. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-741-5678 or visit www.academyofdancearts.info.

Tai Chi With Larry Attile. Learn specific feldenkrais and chi kung breathing techniques for deep relaxation and apply them to tai chi movement. A hands-on class geared to the level of experience of the class that will challenge all participants. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Also Sept. 13 and 20. Info: 914-273-3887.

College Planning: Write Your College Essay With Marek Fuchs. This combination session will offer a chance to either brainstorm an idea or to talk about your draft of the college essay. With Marek Fuchs, who teaches nonfiction writing at Sarah Lawrence College and is an author and former New York Times columnist. Bring a laptop, if desired. Students only. For students in grades 11-12. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 1 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Online registration required. Registration: Visit www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Aren't They Grand. Get an early start to celebrating National Grandparent's Day. Bring the whole family and enjoy an informative program that allows you to get up close and hands-on with some of our live animals! Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Comedy Night. Featuring comics Karen Bergreen, J-L Cauvin and Mr. Eli. Collectively, who have collectively honed their craft on "Comedy Central," "The Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson" and "The View." Schoolhouse Theater, 3 Owens Rd., Croton Falls. 8 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: 914-277-8477 or visit www.schoolhousetheater.org.

Sunday, Sept. 7

Open Studios Day. Come create art and paint with us, meet our instructors and try your hand at drawing, painting, pottery, sculpture, jewelry and more. Models will be available to draw or paint. Light

continued on page 21

Girl Scout Recruitment Season Kicks Off in the Heart of the Hudson

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson is kicking off its recruitment season with events at various locations throughout the lower Hudson Valley for girls and adult volunteers to join.

With families already thinking about how to allocate their free time during the coming school year, Girl Scouts of the USA has released new data showing the organization's benefits for both girls and volunteers.

Results of a summer 2014 poll conducted with over 3,500 volunteers and parents of Girl Scouts in grades K-5 show positive effects on members of all ages; 97 percent of parents agree that Girl Scouts has been a positive activity for their daughter. It also revealed that Scouts had fun and exciting new experiences (95 percent) and that they have learned or tried something new (96 percent). In addition, 94 percent of parents say that because of Girl Scouts their daughter feels special, has more friends (95 percent) and is happier (89 percent).

The data shows it is not just girls who benefit: 94 percent of volunteers have made new friends; 88 percent believe their life is better because they volunteer with Girl Scouts; and two-thirds responded that their volunteer experience has helped them professionally. Ninety-five

percent of Girl Scout volunteers are happy knowing they are making girls' lives better.

"Girl Scouts has provided a safe, fun and engaging place for girls and adult volunteers to lead and thrive for over 100 years," said Anna Maria Chávez, CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA. "We know the majority of volunteers feel their Girl Scout experience has helped them both personally and professionally, but in many places throughout the country, the lack of volunteers is what keeps girls on waiting lists. Every adult who volunteers for Girl Scouts can help us bring fun, new experiences to at least five girls. Imagine what that can do to shape the next generation of female leaders."

Girl Scouts gives girls a place to explore topics of interest in a judgment-free space outside of classroom confinements; it cultivates cooperative and self-directed

learning as well as the growth mindset (the understanding that intelligence and talent can be developed)—all of which help foster a lifetime passion for learning.



The variety of experiences and the value for the money the Girl Scout program provides are also popular selling points. Eighty-nine percent of parents say their daughter gets a greater variety of experiences

from Girl Scouts than she does from other extracurricular activities, and the majority of parents feel Girl Scouts is a great value for the money compared to other extracurricular activities. Overall, parents consider Girl Scouts one of the most beneficial extracurricular activities for their daughter.

"The greatest single barrier to leadership among girls is low self-regard of their individual skills and qualities," said Pamela I. Anderson,

CEO of Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson. "According to the Girl Scout Research Institute (GSRI), it is not race/ethnicity or income that drives leadership aspirations in girls, and youth for that matter, but attitudes, self-perceptions and experiences."

The Girl Scout leadership experience changes the arc of a girl's life and equips them to take on leadership roles in their communities. By helping girls discover who they are, connect with others and take action to make their community and world a better place, we're developing the leaders of tomorrow by enabling them to experience leadership today.

To find a recruitment event at a convenient location, please visit <http://www.girlscoutshh.org/join-us/recruitment/>

Girl Scouts is open to all girls from kindergarten through grade 12. The more adults that step forward to volunteer, the more girls will get the chance to be a Girl Scout. Adults over age 18 may become volunteers; both girls and adult volunteers can join at any time of the year. Girl Scout volunteers come from all walks of life--men, women, young professionals, retirees, college students and more. To join or volunteer, please visit www.girlscouts.org/join.



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Secret Paths and Gardens as Places to Transport Oneself

When I was 10 years old, I had a summer experience of great wonderment. My father had taken a short-term work assignment in Lynchburg, Va. My mother, he and I took up temporary residence in an antebellum mansion that had come upon hard times after the Civil War and was split up into rooms for transient tenants like us.

There was an unkempt backyard that was a bramble of underbrush that seemed all but impenetrable. In a first-floor apartment, there was a couple, Bella and Jake, who served as caretakers. They were both world weary and Jake was particularly weather beaten. Sometimes in late afternoon he would sit rocking on the back porch and tell me stories about the Civil War in which his dad had been a drummer as a boy.

One day, perhaps observing that I was bored with nothing to do, he told me a secret. With a twinkle in his eye and whispering low, he related that within all the bramble of the back reaches of the yard had been a beautiful formal garden, surrounded by a low wall and traversed by brick paths leading to a center fountain made of marble. It was still there, he told me, but completely covered by years of vine and overgrowth. He estimated it had been neglected since about World War I when the mistress



By Bill Primavera

of the property, before it had been converted to a multifamily dwelling, had died.

Can you imagine what this secret had on a highly curious 10-year-old? Upon my begging, he allowed me to borrow his heavier garden tools from a shed. The majority of my days for the rest of the summer were spent, with his permission and my mother's, cutting, hacking and pruning until I reached the outer rim of the fountain. I didn't finish the job before we had to leave town, but I did have time enough to create an effect in the dense growth much

like the parting of the Red Sea.

Since that experience, I have never regarded a lawn as just a lawn but as an opportunity to create hidden, private spaces for reflection. On my own property, I have created shaded walkways made from bluestone and flat-faced field stone. In my head, I have planned a formal English garden for the broad expanse of my lawn, created when a 200-year-old maple was felled by Sandy two years ago, which changed the shady plane into a sunny one.

However, for some time I've had to concentrate more on urn and container gardening, leaving behind my bigger projects, like more secret paths and gardens, until my eventual retirement years--or at

least that's what I've been telling myself. I'm approaching an age when most mortals are at least thinking about retirement, yet I'm busier today than I was in my 30s, and it appears likely that this is not likely to happen any time soon, if at all. So, devoid of time to do much gardening myself, I live vicariously through others' joy of gardening.

The most ingenious garden plan I've found in recent years is that of Joyce and George Harvey whose historic home, the Constant White House, I have listed for sale in Yorktown Heights. Behind the house, started in the early 1700s, is a "secret" meditation garden, hidden from view by plantings until you are upon it, that was ingeniously placed where an old tennis court had once been.

"The dimensions were determined by the pre-existing but dilapidated blacktop tennis court," Joyce said in explaining how it came about. "Removing all the material was a Herculean task by a crew and excavator. We reused much of the gravel underneath the surface for the paths, which were edged with recycled bricks from an old patio and lots of rocks and boulders unearthed during the demolition.

"There are several different seating areas, all with different views of the garden, as well



JOYCE HARVEY PHOTO
View of the meditation garden at the Constant White House in Yorktown, owned by Joyce and George Harvey.

as the rest of our property -- our sweeping lawn, barn and pool," she continued. "We simulate prairie-style waves of green with three circular beds of five different grasses of varying heights and hues. For color, there are swaths of undulating wildflower patches along the path as well as a native garden and horseshoe court."

Considering some other exceptional amenities offered by this particular house designed to appeal to the mind, body and spirit--like a large soak tub/jacuzzi for two, a barn with a second-story gym/meditation

space and a beautiful pool, also surrounded by grasses and colorful perennials--I can guarantee that anyone lucky enough to acquire this particular house will be stress free while under its spell.

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Happenings

continued from page 18

refreshments will be served. Katonah Art Center, 131 Bedford Rd., Katonah. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-232-4843 or visit www.katonahartcenter.com.

Learn Mah Jongg. Led by Regina Klenosky. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd., Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Every Sunday in September. Info: 914-273-3887.

Harvest Party. Our naturalist prepare a sampling of tasty treats from the center's garden and learn about the fascinating social network of honeybees, beekeeping and how honey is harvested from hives. Honey is extracted by beekeeper H. Peet Foster. A free tasting and newly harvested honey is available for purchase. Rain or shine event. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: \$4. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

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Monday, Sept. 8

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap sit story time. Includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories to give babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:20 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Toddler Time. Uses finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening skills, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two and a half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Preschool Story Time. An interactive story time using picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two and a half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Info: 914-769-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Veterans Roundtable. Informal discussion and camaraderie among members and public service projects. Clinton Street Center, 1A Clinton St., Pleasantville. 1 to 2 p.m. Free. Meets every

Monday. Info: 914-769-2021.

Stories and More. Stories and snacks-and sometimes a party! For children in grades K-3. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday through October (except Oct. 13). Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Hudson Chorale Auditions. The area's largest mixed voice chorus, will be holding singer-friendly auditions by appointment to this evening's rehearsal. Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, 400 Bedford Rd, Pleasantville. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Also Sept. 15 and 22. (Rehearsals for the upcoming season held on Mondays from 7:30 to 10 p.m.) Info and appointments: Contact Jeanne Wygant at 914-478-0074 or e-mail JeanneWygant@optonline.net. To learn more about the chorus, visit www.HudsonChorale.org.

"Bag It." The Chappaqua Public Library and the New Castle Sustainability Advisory Board are co-sponsoring a screening of this film, which explores and identifies how our daily reliance on plastic threatens not only waterways and marine life, but human health as well. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: email newcastlesab@gmail.com or visit www.bagitmovie.com/trailer.html.

Friendly Squares Dance Club Free Fun Nights. Friendly Squares Dance Club will hold two square dancing fun nights with professional caller Sandy Corey. Square dancing is a great way to exercise your body and mind and is an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Open to singles, couples and families. Attire is casual; no experience necessary. Katonah Methodist Church Parish Hall, 44 Edgemont Rd., Katonah. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Free. Also Sept. 15. Info: Contact Tee Cotter at 914-433-2919.

Tuesday, Sept. 9

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap sit story time. Includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories to give babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10 to 10:20 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Toddler Time. Uses finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening skills, learning and speaking skills. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Recommended for children one to two and a half years old. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Preschool Story Time. An interactive story time using picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other

activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive., Valhalla 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Recommended for children two and a half to five years old. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Poems and Stories. Whether you're just beginning to discover the joys of poetry or have been writing for years, this three-part series will help you un-mine feelings, memories and the essence of things. Working from the musical sound and rhythm of language, discover words that make poems "speak" to us in meaningful ways. Led by Karen Rippstein. For all levels. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Also Sept. 16 and 23. Info: 914-273-3887.

Lego Club. Be constructive with us. For children in grades 3-6. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4 p.m. Free. Also Sept. 16, 23 and 30. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-238-4779.

College Planning: Coming Up With a "Good Fit." Learn what to look for and questions to ask. Led by private college counselor with Will Goodman, a Chappaqua resident who attended Horace Greeley High School. For high

school students. Parents also welcome. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Wednesday, Sept. 10

Support Group for Alzheimer's Caregivers. Temple Shaaray Tefila and Westchester Jewish Community Services have scheduled this forum to provide a place for caregivers to discuss their feelings, share their experiences and support one another. A specialist from the Alzheimer's Association will lead the group and provide educational materials and information. All welcome. Temple Shaaray Tefila's Youth Lounge, 89 Baldwin Rd., Baldwin Corners. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact the Alzheimer's Association at 800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/hudsonvalley.

Learn Chair Yoga. Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance, improved balance, strengthening and toning of muscles, better digestion, stress reduction, mental clarity, improved breathing, relaxation and an overall sense of well-being. Led by Alka Tewani. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Also Sept. 17 and 24. Info: 914-273-3887.

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Nature Wields its Power in California Wine Country



By Nick Antonaccio

Several columns back, I presented the case for the ongoing battle between man and nature to control our lives and our destiny. As man evolves and advances, and attempts to

dominate and negate the whims of nature's forces, we are constantly reminded of nature's continuing impact on man's environment and thus, the fragility of life on earth.

Just as man advances in conquering one aspect of the natural order, nature roars back with a forceful reminder of its superiority and dominance. Especially in vineyards. Natural disasters and phenomenon such as wildfires, hurricanes, hailstorms drought and disease continuously assault vineyards. Yet, man valiantly perseveres and comes back each time.

In surveying the landscape of man vs. nature, I quoted a renowned grape grower and winemaker, Andy Beckstoffer, owner of California's prominent Beckstoffer Vineyards: "Whatever Nature throws at us, we will overcome. Our intellect and our science are that far advanced."

Last week, nature again tested man's

'the precariousness of winemakers livelihoods'

fortitude and resilience.

A 6.0 earthquake with an epicenter in California wine country shook Napa and Sonoma counties' cities and wineries.

As vineyard owners continue to grapple with the three-year drought hitting much of the West, along comes another volley from nature to remind them of the precariousness of their livelihoods.

The potential death and destruction of such a forceful earthquake was averted. There were no deaths and although the estimated damage was significant--\$1 billion as I pen this column--the Napa earthquake pales in comparison to the 63 deaths and \$6 billion in destruction caused by the 1989 earthquake that shook the San Francisco Bay area.

It seems many property owners heeded advice and have been building earthquake resistant structures over the past decade, thus averting more significant injuries and destruction.

But any earthquake is traumatic. Disheveled storage racks of broken bottles of precious wine and splintered barrels of aging wine, photos of which have been plastered across social media all week,

bring home the almost instantaneous transition from calm to chaos that nature can wreak.

And just as local residents and winery owners were recovering from the damage and stress of this earthquake, they were hit with 70 additional aftershocks this past week, six of which were of magnitude 3.0 or greater. I wonder how Beckstoffer is handling these instant messages from nature.

Here are few of the reports I've been able to cull:

1. At B.R. Cohn Winery, casks stacked 10 to 12 high rolled off racks in the warehouse. The wine-covered floors accounted for up to 50 percent of the winery's production.

2. At Hess Collections, two 20,000-liter tanks of Cabernet Sauvignon, filled with the equivalent of 53,000 bottles, cracked and spilled, ruining up to half of the 2013 production.

3. At Silver Oak Winery, one of the most prestigious family-owned wineries in the United States, damage was not as significant as it could have been. After suffering from a devastating fire in 2006, new buildings were constructed, with earthquakes in mind, which mitigated

losses. In addition, new barrel rack storage design made the racks more stable than conventional racks. Thankfully, the damage to wine in barrels, estimated to be valued at \$32,500 each, was minimal. However, hundreds of older bottles, worth several hundred dollars each, toppled from shelves, smashing on the winery floor.

Overall, the effect on fans of Napa and Sonoma wines appears negligible--this time. Much of the 2014 crop was still on the vines; a good deal of 2013 vintage wines are still in barrels, not more easily damaged bottles.

What will the future bring? Hopefully this is a wake-up call for wineries to follow the lead of Silver Oak.

Is this round of earthquakes a reminder of nature's ability to give and take at its discretion? After all, the very land that was affected by earthquakes this month is the same valuable land of rolling hills and diverse soils that nature's shifting tectonic plates created millions of years ago.

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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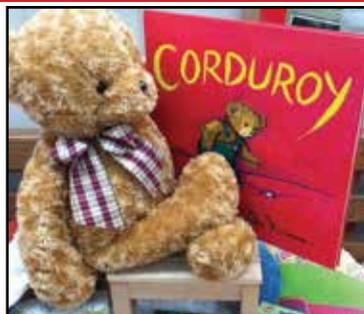
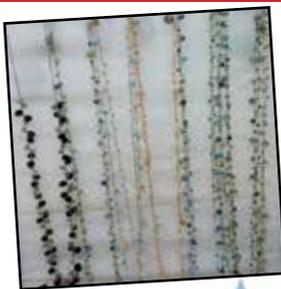
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ExaminerSports

Open Tryouts Scheduled for Westchester Knicks' Inaugural Season

By Janine Bowen

Local basketball players may soon get the opportunity to play for one of the most iconic names in New York sports.

The Westchester Knicks, the official Development League affiliate for the New York Knicks, will be kicking off their inaugural season this fall, and will hold open tryouts at House of Sports in Ardsley on Saturday, Sept. 20.

"It's an exciting time for the Westchester Knicks as we begin to assemble a team for our inaugural season," Westchester Knicks General Manager and former Knicks star Allan Houston said in a prepared statement. "This event gives us a chance to look for new talent to help us compete in the NBA D-League, and, for the players, makes an impact on their professional careers moving forward."

The Westchester Knicks will essentially be a minor league basketball team that will give players who are drafted by the Knicks but aren't ready to play at the NBA level or aren't getting enough playing time a chance to improve their skills. In addition, it will give some accomplished local players an opportunity to play at a professional level.

"It's really good basketball. It's the next



Westchester Knicks General Manager and former New York Knicks star Allan Houston with children at his basketball camp this summer showing off towels of the new developmental league team. The team will debut in November and play its home games at The County Center in White Plains.

best level of basketball next to the NBA," said Katie Hatch, the team's director of marketing and public relations.

Hatch explained that trying out for the Westchester Knicks could be a way for young players who didn't get drafted by an NBA team to get a second chance as well as for others with former professional experience to continue to play.

She noted that if a member of the New York Knicks gets injured during the season a D-League player could be called up

to the big team from Westchester.

"If there's a roster spot open, we're the first place that the Knicks are going to look to fill that spot," she said.

The Westchester Knicks are owned and operated by The Madison Square Garden Company, owners of the New York Knicks, Rangers and Liberty of the WNBA. The introduction of the team is part of an NBA

initiative for the league's 30 teams to have developmental league affiliates.

Although this is the first year for the developmental league, the New York Knicks have had a presence in Westchester for more than two decades. The team's training center is located in Tarrytown, so the decision to bring the minor league team to nearby White Plains was an easy one.

"The Knicks have been a part of Westchester County; they've been a

tradition for a long time so it just kind of made sense," said Hatch.

"Westchester is a basketball community," she added. "You hear about Mount Vernon all the time, you hear about all the great high school basketball teams, so there are a lot of reasons why White Plains made sense."

The Westchester Knicks season will begin in November. Although the team's schedule has yet to be released, season tickets are on sale beginning at \$250. Each D-League team will play 24 games in the regular season as well as one pre-season game. Home games will be played at The County Center, located at 198 Central Ave.

All players who are interested in trying out must register in advance at House of Sports or online at www.WestchesterKnicks.com and pay a \$150 fee. All players must meet NBA Development League requirements and be at least 18 years old. Registration will be limited to 75 applicants. Participants who compete in the open tryouts will vie for an invitation to the team's training camp this fall.

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Renegades Clinch Division Title, Then Lose to the Tigers

By A.J. Martelli

After a 5-3 victory over the Connecticut Tigers last Thursday night, the Hudson Valley Renegades had plenty to celebrate. Having just clinched first place in the New York-Penn League's McNamara Division, the giddy 'Gades sprayed champagne on the field and dumped the Gatorade cooler over manager Tim Parenton's head.

But the excitement and momentum of earning a ticket to the playoffs for the second time in three years didn't quite carry over to Friday night at Dutchess Stadium as Hudson Valley came up short in 11 innings to the Tigers, losing 5-4.

"Good ballgame," Parenton said shortly after the final out of the extra-inning affair. "Both teams are good teams. It came down to extra innings. They got the hit, we didn't, and that's just the way it was played."

Tied 4-4 in the top of the 11th inning, Connecticut right fielder Ben Verlander, the younger brother of Detroit Tigers' ace and former American League Most Valuable Player and Cy Young Award winner Justin Verlander, led off with a hard-hit double to center field. Renegades reliever Mike Franco then threw two consecutive pitches that got past catcher Zach Marberry, allowing Verlander to score the game's decisive run.

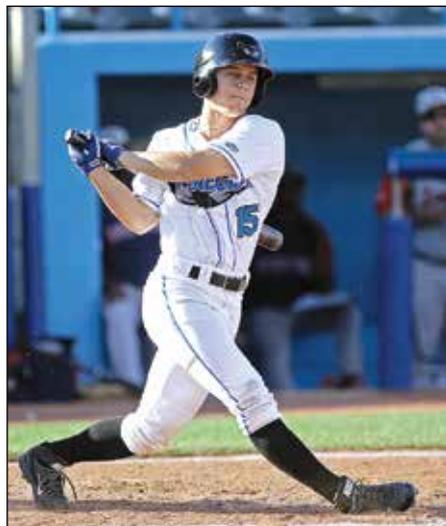
To Verlander and his teammates, the win was important because the Tigers are trying to stay alive for a possible slot in the postseason as a Wild Card team.

"It was just a crazy game," Verlander said. "We needed that one as far as the standings go. We try not to look at scores, but we knew in the dugout Brooklyn (the team in front of them) had lost, and to be able to score that run in the 11th was big. It was a big win for us, and just a great team win."

The Renegades didn't go down without a fight, putting a pair of runners in scoring position with two outs in the bottom of the inning. Left fielder Grant Kay, the team's leading hitter, stepped up to the plate looking to deliver the winning hit. But he struck out swinging to end the game.

Despite the loss, Parenton still feels his players have the ability to put pressure on the other team, even though they have struggled a bit down the stretch of the regular season.

"We had our chances," he said. "Had the winning run at second base in the last inning right there, but their pitcher did his



Hudson Valley Renegades players, left to right, Braxton Lee, Bralin Jackson and Grant Kay will be participating in the first round of the New York-Penn League playoffs, starting on Wednesday evening.

job. We come out and play the game right. Our guys hustle and play hard. We do things that you're supposed to do."

The Renegades trailed 2-0 in the third inning, but were able to take the lead with three runs. The first run scored on Hunter Lockwood's fielder's choice grounder to third that plated Jace Conrad. Designated hitter Bralin Jackson followed by smacking a booming triple into the right-field corner, scoring Kay. Jackson then came home on a balk by Tigers starter Spencer Turnbull.

In the sixth, the Renegades padded their lead, receiving an RBI double down the line in left field off the bat of center fielder Clayton Henning. But with Hudson Valley up 4-2, the Tigers answered in the seventh, scoring a run on a wild pitch by reliever Gerardo Reyes, and then tying the game on a run-scoring groundout by Will Maddox.

Renegades starter Nolan Gannon, who came into the game with six wins under his belt and an ERA of 2.77, yielded two runs on four hits. He pitched the first five innings and retired the last eight Tiger batters he faced.

On Saturday, the Renegades once again fell to Connecticut, losing 2-1. Parenton doesn't seem worried though, and is thrilled to be managing in the postseason in his first year as a professional skipper.

"It's very exciting, it's one of the things you play for - you play to win your division and get a chance to go to the playoffs," he said. "We're there, now we just have to play and see what happens. We're going to try and get everybody rested, get our pitching

lined up so that when it starts we have a full boat, ready to go."

The New York-Penn League playoffs begin with semifinal games tomorrow (Wednesday). The Renegades, 46-29, no longer have the league's best record after dropping three straight games. Still unsure of their first-round opponent in the

best-of-three series, they were set to play the final game of the regular season on Monday afternoon in Aberdeen.

'Run for Love' Set for Sept. 14 to Support No. Castle Library

The fourth annual Armonk Outdoor Art Show Road Races, highlighted by Jamie's 5K "Run for Love," will be held on Sunday, Sept. 14, starting and finishing at Armonk's Wampus Brook Park.

This year the race sponsors, Friends of the North Castle Public Library, are directing all net proceeds from the races to youth programs at the North Castle Public Library.

Over 400 runners participated last year, and the Friends are expecting even more this year.

"This is a great community event that kicks off the week leading up to the Armonk Outdoor Art Show," added Debbie Heidecorn, president of the Friends, which also sponsors the art show. "Our organization is all about helping the library, and we are especially thrilled to help the youth of our community."

This year marks the 53rd annual Art Show, one of the nation's top-rated shows,

which will take place on Sept. 20 and 21 at Armonk's Community Park.

The races start at 9:30 a.m. at Wampus Brook Park with a 100-yard dash for children two to eight years old, a one-mile run open to all and the signature race, Jamie's 5K "Run for Love." Walkers are also welcome.

Jamie's 5K "Run for Love" is held in memory of Jamie Love, who was a member of the Byram Hills High School cross country and track and field teams. He was an avid runner who chose to continue his running career in college at the University of Vermont, where he studied mechanical engineering.

Race sign-up is done via entry form, which can be found at the library, in various locations around town or on the art show website, www.armonkoutdoorartshow.org. Race day registration is available at Wampus Brook Park, but pre-registration is recommended.

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Fifth-seeded Maria Sharapova hits a backhand return during her surprising loss in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sunday.



Roger Federer hits a backhand return in Sunday's rain-interrupted win vs. Marcel Granollers.

2014 U.S. OPEN TENNIS Star Gazing



Top-seeded Novak Djokovic serves during his second-round victory last Thursday afternoon.



Serena Williams, the women's top seed, gets set to belt a forehand return inside Arthur Ashe Stadium.



Crowd-pleasing Frenchman Gael Monfils displays some of his athleticism in last Tuesday's opening-round win.



Serbian star Ana Ivanovic was one of seven top-seeded women ousted during the first week of the tournament.



Wimbledon champ Petra Kvitova lines up a forehand in her second-round win in the Grandstand.



Rising star Genie Bouchard won her second- and third-round matches by identical 6-2, 6-7, 6-4 scores.



Above: Big-serving Milos Raonic has advanced through the first three rounds of the 2014 U.S. Open.

Left: Two-time Open champion Venus Williams fell in a third-set tiebreaker to Italy's Sara Errani in Friday's third round.



Andy Murray, the 2012 Open champion, moves forward to put away a volley.



Caroline Wozniacki celebrates her round-of-16 victory over Maria Sharapova on Sunday afternoon.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka hits a serve during his opening-round win last Monday.



Croatian 16-year-old Borna Coric showed glimpses of his big future after qualifying for the 2014 Open.



15-year-old CiCi Bellis became an overnight sensation after upsetting 12th-seeded Dominika Cibulkova in the first round.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Qualifier Aleksandra Krunic has reached the fourth round after stunning third-seeded Petra Kvitova on Saturday.



Ajla Tomljanovic of Croatia regains her balance after running to hit a backhand in the opening round.



2014 U.S. OPEN TENNIS Week One

Immensely talented Grigor Dimitrov, the seventh seed, has moved into the fourth round after Sunday night's win over David Goffin.



Victoria Azarenka, bidding to reach the women's final for the third straight year, smacks a forehand.



Fourth-seeded David Ferrer follows through on a backhand return in his third-round loss on Sunday.



Above: Tomas Berdych, seeded sixth, concentrates as he hits a backhand in the Grandstand on Thursday afternoon.

Left: Popular Jo-Wilfried Tsonga waves to the fans in the Grandstand after his second-round victory on Thursday.

Right: American prospect Madison Keys reacts to a line call during her second-round loss last Thursday.



Belinda Bencic, a 17-year-old from Switzerland, has defeated three seeded players en route to the quarterfinals.



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