



FREE

Serving Mount Kisco, Pleasantville, Chappaqua/Millwood/New Castle, Mount Pleasant, Armonk/North Castle & Briarcliff

December 29, 2015 - January 4, 2016

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 9, Issue 434

Outgoing No. Castle Planning Chair, Schiliro Squabble Over Appointment

By Martin Wilbur

The outgoing chairman of the North Castle Planning Board charged last week that the decision against reappointing him for another term may have been politically motivated.

Art Adelman, a 12-year planning board member, said he was informed by town Supervisor Michael Schiliro during a face-to-face meeting on Dec. 12 that he would no longer be serving on the board in 2016. He said he initiated the meeting with Schiliro earlier in the month.

Adelman, 76, a Republican who was initially appointed by the late supervisor Jack Lombardi, said he found the reason given to him for a change – to allow a growing number of younger residents who are interested in serving the town – to be a curious one because it has been his experience that many of those residents typically don't have the time to devote to

serving because of career and family.

He theorized that Schiliro, a Democrat, was looking to continue to remake the planning board because he may have disagreed with the board's handling of certain issues and applicants. He named outspoken developer Michael Fareri as one applicant who frequently appears before various boards that is victimized by town board bias.

"I think this is motivated by politics," Adelman said of the decision to not reappoint him. "There's little question in my mind that's what happened here."

He said he saw political overtones after his recommendation for the town board to consider North White Plains resident Jill Greto was rebuffed. Greto is a Republican; the appointee for that seat, Michael Pollack, is a Democrat, he said.

Adelman said he had an inkling that he

continued on page 2

P'ville Looking to Move Forward With Parkway Field Bathrooms

By Arthur Cusano

The Village of Pleasantville is moving forward with long discussed plans to add permanent bathrooms to Parkway Field, and will likely choose to pay for extra utilities for the structure.

Village trustees approved a bid to be sent out to construct a prefabricated restroom building that will house four new single-occupancy bathrooms to replace the portable toilets currently used at the park.

"That, we hope, will solve a problem that has existed for a few generations," said Mayor Peter Scherer. "Perhaps on the day we have a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the restrooms we can have a ceremonial removal of the porta toilets."

In November, trustees unanimously

voted to approve bid requests for a new restroom facility at the Marble Avenue park featuring full plumbing that would be open to the public. Parkway Field currently has a restroom facility that is opened by the Pleasantville School District during certain school athletic events, but is closed most other times.

Scherer wants the building to also contain space for a possible concession stand that can double as storage space and sinks that would run lines used for water fountains, which the structure will likely not have. Electrical outlets in the building's interior will be accessible to village staff.

The upgrade to the larger model would cost the village an additional \$20,000. While organizations like Pleasantville

continued on page 4

A Little Miracle



The 11th edition of WHUD's annual Children's Miracle Network Hospitals Radiothon last month raised more than \$480,000 for Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, the Valhalla children's hospital for New York's Hudson Valley and Connecticut's Fairfield County. Among those joining WHUD broadcasters Kacey Morabito Grean and Mike Bennett at the radiothon were former patient Rianne Torres, 6, and her mother, Rosa Torres, of Yorktown Heights.

New Castle, North Castle Among Safest Municipalities in State

By Martin Wilbur

Families have moved to Westchester for decades because of great schools and the security of its communities.

A report released last week from SafeWise, an independent nationally recognized organization that analyzes home security and safety, revealed just how safe it has been.

Seven of the 25 safest municipalities in New York State with at least 8,000 residents are in Westchester, including New Castle and North Castle, which were both rated in the top 10, according to the report. New Castle was rated second safest in the state while North Castle came in sixth.

SafeWise used 2013 data supplied to the FBI and based its conclusions on reports

of incidents of violent crimes, such as aggravated assault, rape, murder and robbery, and property crimes, including burglary, arson, larceny/theft and stolen vehicles. The organization then calculated the likelihood of these crimes occurring out of 1,000 people in each municipality.

"People come to our town mostly for the schools," said New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein when told of the report. "They're coming here to get the benefit of great schools but they also want to have a nice community to raise their families."

New Castle was reported to have .11 violent crimes per thousand and 4.31 property crimes per thousand while North Castle's statistics were .25 and 5.63, respectively.

continued on page 4

 **Euphoria**
Kitchen & Bath

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1965

Complete Design and Installation Services

164 Harris Road
Bedford Hills
914.241.3046

www.euphoriakitchens.com

HOURS:
Tuesday - Friday 10:30am-5pm
Saturday 11am-4pm

GC Lic.#WC-16224-HO5



Dream Kitchens & Baths

- CRAFT-MAID
- BIRCHCRAFT
- HOLIDAY
- CABICO
- STONE
- QUARTZ
- CORIAN
- DECORATIVE HARDWARE

Outgoing No. Castle Planning Chair, Schiliro Squabble Over Appointment

continued from page 1

was being phased out last year when his previous five-year term expired. Instead of being reappointed for another five years, the town board decided to appoint him to the remaining year of former member Guy Mezzancello's term. Mezzancello resigned from his seat after he won a special election in November 2014 for town board.

Reached last weekend, Schiliro dismissed Adelman's allegations as not being factual and based on conjecture.

There has been renewed interest by a cross-section of residents who have inquired about volunteering their time,

he said. As a result, Schiliro said he and the board want to tap into that talent and enthusiasm.

"We have so many talented local people who have expressed an interest in the planning board," Schiliro said. "There are people who want to get involved in the other boards –the zoning board, the ARB. That's a good thing for the community and it hasn't happened in all my years on the board."

The supervisor also denied any insinuation that Adelman was let go because of his age. He said there continues to be number of seniors that serve the town

on volunteer boards, including longtime town resident Charles Pound, who in his mid-90s is an active member of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

"I'm never going to discriminate because they're too young," Schiliro said.

"It's good to have people who are excited and ready to move into the fold," he added.

Adelman, who is retired from IBM and also had his own accounting firm, said he was disappointed that he wasn't going to continue on the planning board but is not bitter by the turn of events. He says he has many other activities to keep him busy.

He stressed that any impression by members of the public that he was unable to serve because of age should be dispelled. Adelman added that he has letters from community members, attorneys and applicants who agreed that he will be missed.

"I'm very active and have enjoyed serving, so I'm fit and ready for duty, as they say," Adelman said.

Schiliro said he maintains great respect for Adelman's service to the town, not only on the planning board but volunteering in a number of organizations as well.

County Legislators Select Leadership for Next Two Years

Board of Legislators Chairman Michael Kaplowitz (D-Somers) and Vice-chairman Jim Maisano (R-New Rochelle) announced Monday that they have the support of a majority of their colleagues to continue in their leadership positions for the 2016 and 2017 legislative sessions.

The bipartisan power-sharing arrangement that has been in place for the past two years led to the most productive legislative term in many years. Chairman Kaplowitz and Vice-Chairman Maisano began serving on the Board of Legislators together in 1998.

Chairman Mike Kaplowitz, who also represents New Castle and Yorktown, began serving on the Board of Legislators in 1998, the same year that Maisano took office.

"I am happy to continue in my leadership position as chairman of the Board of Legislators," Kaplowitz said. "I think the confidence that my colleagues have demonstrated in Vice-Chairman Maisano and myself is a direct result of the inclusive, collaborative, professional and fair manner in which we have administered the work of the Board of Legislators for the past two years.

"We have many important issues to address in the next two years like continued compliance with the fair and affordable housing settlement, important capital projects and the transition to a private-public partnership to manage Playland."

Maisano said while disagreements are part of the political process, the board has maintained a decorum the past two years where issues don't become personal.

"I am very happy to continue serving in leadership at the Board of Legislators with Chairman Kaplowitz," he said.

"Over the last two years, Mike and I have worked hard to maintain an atmosphere of professionalism and collegiality in the way we operate at the BOL."

The Democratic and Republican caucuses also reaffirmed their respective leaders. Legislator Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) will remain majority leader and Legislator John Testa (R-Peekskill) will retain the minority leader post. Legislator Alfreda Williams (D-Greenburgh) will be majority whip and Legislator Gordon Burrows (R-Bronxville, Yonkers) will be minority whip.

Quality, patient-centered care that's close to home

WHEN BACK PAIN STRIKES...

What you should know about treatment options



Ask the Doctor

Marshal D. Peris, MD, FAAOS

Co-Director, Spine Surgery
Orthopedic & Spine Institute
Northern Westchester Hospital

nwhorthoandspine.org/DrPeris

Q: My back is killing me – what can I do?

A: You'll be happy to hear that most people recover from back pain within a few days just by taking it easy, continuing gentle activity, and using over-the-counter pain medicine such as naproxen or ibuprofen to ease their pain. If the pain doesn't resolve itself within a week or so, your doctor may suggest physical therapy where you can learn stretches and ways of moving that will ease the strain on your back.

Q: What if that doesn't work?

A: Next steps may include prescription pain medications and possibly steroid injections to reduce swelling in your back. You may also be referred for imaging to determine whether abnormalities in your spine are causing your pain. If your back pain doesn't get better using these more conservative methods, your doctor may refer you to an orthopedic surgeon to determine if surgery can help. Sometimes abnormalities in the vertebrae or the soft discs that cushion your spine can press on spinal nerves and cause pain or numbness in your legs and make it difficult to walk or stand. In such cases, surgery can help immensely.

Q: Can surgery really solve my problem?

A: It can. Your orthopedic surgeon will explore your options with you, and the two of you can decide on the best approach. The good news is that the surgical solutions for back pain are continuously advancing. One exciting development used at Northern Westchester Hospital is direct lateral fusion, which can address back abnormalities that cause chronic pain.

As "lateral" implies, the surgeon works from the side of the patient. This advanced technique is much less invasive and allows us to achieve amazing results, especially in scoliosis patients. The incision is much smaller and we don't have to fuse as many vertebrae to get great results. It's often a simpler, more effective treatment, and patients are usually up and moving after one day (instead of three to four) and typically leave the hospital after three to four days versus six to seven. The vast majority of patients are much happier and back to their normal activities much sooner.

* American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Watch Dr. Peris discuss Lateral Spine Fusion
at www.nwhorthoandspine.org/DrPeris

Did You Know?
80 percent of Americans will experience back problems at some point in their lives.*



NWH NORTHERN
WESTCHESTER
HOSPITAL

400 East Main Street • Mount Kisco, NY 10549
914.666.1200 • www.nwhc.net

Astorino Calls Out Feds for Failure to Inform County of Iranian Hackers

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino last week demanded answers from the Department of Homeland Security about why the county was never informed of a cyber-security breach by Iranian hackers at the Bowman Avenue Dam in Rye in 2013.

"If this information was important enough to be reported to the White House then why wasn't it reported to me and the county officials who would have been required to deal with the consequences of any terror attack," Astorino said. "It is unacceptable that in this day in age that I had to read about this in the newspaper. No amount of intelligence information is too small or insignificant when it comes to security."

On Dec. 21, The Wall Street Journal published a report saying Iranian hackers infiltrated the control system at the Bowman Avenue Dam two years ago, citing unnamed federal officials. According to the report, the White House was notified of the breach.

Despite being a member of the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, Westchester County was never alerted to the potential security risk. Since January 2010, a Westchester County police detective has been assigned full-time to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force to ensure access to the highest levels of intelligence information affecting Westchester and its citizens. Westchester is



Left to right, John Cullen, commissioner of emergency services; George Longworth, commissioner of public safety, and County Executive Rob Astorino criticized the Department of Homeland Security for failing to inform county officials that Iranian hackers had breached the computer system of the Bowman Avenue Dam two years ago.

also part of a separate counter-terrorism zone that includes Putnam County.

The Bowman Avenue Dam, located in the Village of Rye Brook, is owned by the City of Rye and controls water on the Blind Brook flowing south through the city. The dam, which is designed to mitigate flooding, has a computer-operated sluice

gate. The reports suggest that while the hackers never took control of the dam, they were able to penetrate the electronics system.

"Even though it is done with computers,

this is considered a criminal break-in," said Public Safety Commissioner George Longworth. "The link to a possible terror threat makes this extremely serious."

New Law Allows County to Bypass Referendum on \$10M Water Projects

A new state law sponsored by Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Greenburgh/Mount Pleasant) and Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers) authorizes Westchester County to bond sewer and water capital projects over \$10 million without the need for a referendum.

Under the previous state Local Finance Law, Westchester was the only county in the state required to conduct a referendum on capital bonding over \$10 million. The new law continues the requirement that the Westchester Board of Legislators hold a public hearing before authorizing bonding.

"Capital projects that protect clean water are critical to the health and safety of Westchester residents," Abinanti said. "Westchester should not be the only county in the state required to face the cost and delay of a county-wide referendum before financing these vital projects."

"The new law is designed to remove

a significant impediment to the county's improving its water and sewer infrastructure before it badly deteriorates and requires even more costly replacements," said Abinanti, a former county legislator.

Prior law permitted bonding in excess of \$10 million without holding a referendum in limited circumstances. Thus, expensive improvements were often delayed until deterioration was so bad that the state ordered the county to make the repairs – which the county bonded without a referendum.

The state Department of Health supported the legislation, which is effective immediately.

"The referendum requirement threatened the county's ability to make capital improvements to maintain its water and sewer systems," Abinanti said. "The new law strikes the right balance – public input at a public hearing without the delay and cost of a referendum."



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

WE ARE A ONE STOP SHOPPING DESTINATION FOR ALL YOUR HOLIDAY BEER NEEDS!

- GIFT CARDS
- GIFT BASKETS
- CHRISTMAS BEER
- BEER BOOKS

AND DON'T FORGET TO STOCK UP ON BEER FOR YOUR CELEBRATIONS! BOTTLES, CANS, GROWLERS OR KEGS... WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

532 BEDFORD ROAD, BEDFORD HILLS, NY
914-666-3600 BREWANDCOMPANY.COM



Happy New Year From All Of Us At Flour & Sun Bakery!

We have Champagne Cupcakes this Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to celebrate 2016! We will be closed Friday 1/1, Saturday 1/2 and Sunday 1/3

19 Washington Avenue, Pleasantville
flourandsunbakery.com • 914.495.3232
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest & Instagram

Visit our website or call the bakery for more information.

Jewelry Designer
John Armak



Creating the New Look

John Armak can create a new look with your existing jewelry or any imagination you have in mind.

Exceptional discounts on pre-owned luxury watches (Rolex-Cartier-Ebel)

Happy New Year!



Thornwood Jewelers
A Perfect Piece for Every Occasion

968 Broadway Thornwood (ShopRite/CVS Shopping Center)
914 741 1920

P'ville Looking to Move Forward With Parkway Field Bathrooms

continued from page 1

Dad's Club and AYSO have said they did not want to make the investment, Scherer said they would likely use it if built.

"Part of that is that there's a sense out there that it's time for the village to step up and make some investments, which obviously we're doing," he said.

Quotes received from the Public Restroom Company of Minden, Nev. lists the cost of the basic unit at \$114,245. It would cost \$135,580 with a concession stand. Turnkey installation of either building would cost an additional \$18,430.

Site installation of the basic unit is estimated at \$132,675; with a concession

stand would cost \$154,010. An additional security system for the building would run about \$4,595.

Scherer said that the village could not add the additional space to the building at a later time, which for him made the decision more urgent.

"I feel like it's decide now to do it or never do it," Scherer said. "And it feels like a forward-looking thing that will have quite a bit of utility as a place to sell things or register kids or a place for an office for events."

Trustee Mindy Berard said she was strongly against the concession stand, and the \$20,000 would be wasted on

something no one seemed to really want.

"I think this is an add-on that is not needed," Berard said. "If you want to make it a locked room that we could throw stuff in, fine. Take out the sink and maybe it would cost us a lot less. You'd have a lot of room and not a concession stand, or another bathroom. I can think of a lot better ways to spend that money than to put in a concession stand."

Trustees Colleen Griffin-Wagner and Steve Lord said youth groups didn't oppose the idea but weren't keen on spending money at this time.

"With this under the gun, they weren't able to think outside the box about how they could use it, but they all really liked the idea," Griffin-Wagner said. "I like the idea of having a space down there that, if our recreation center was ever moved, we'd have a place of operations down

there. I think we could store stuff in there. I don't think it's that much money for something that I'd love to see us leverage down the line for camps and maybe generate some revenue."

Lord said his biggest concern was that the building could be vandalized if it was not properly locked, but that he supported the idea if the facility could be effectively secured.

Village Administrator Patricia Dwyer said the building would be secured and closed for the winter. The building could also store a defibrillator, which she said the town does not currently have on site.

Dwyer said she expected to have estimates from bidders at last night's (Monday) board meeting. She said it is estimated that the facility would take about three to four months to build. Site work would not begin until the spring.

New Castle, North Castle Among Safest Municipalities in State

continued from page 1

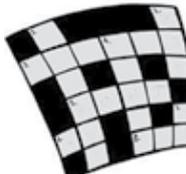
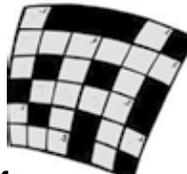
Other Westchester municipalities that cracked the top 25 were Croton-on-Hudson (11th), Sleepy Hollow (12th), Harrison (18th), Eastchester (20th) and Mount Pleasant (23rd).

The Village of Malverne in Nassau County was ranked as the safest community in the state with just 2.46 property crimes per thousand. However, that village had a higher violent crime

rate of .47 per thousand.

North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro said he was pleased to find the town high up on the list and credited having neighbors who watch out for each other and a local police department.

"It's nice and it's just emblematic of so many different things with this community that make it a great place to live," Schiliro said.


Visit
TheExaminerNews.com
and click on Puzzles
at the top of the homepage
to play today's crossword!




VINE & Co.
wine • spirits

Gift Giving Made Easy

we offer an outstanding selection of wines and spirits in all price ranges and styles. we can select, wrap and ship your wine to most states. custom gift baskets and gift cards available.

corporate accounts are welcome.

Let us help make your holiday gift giving easy and enjoyable.

drink happy.

open 7 days
741 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507
914.666.7272
vineandcompany.com

Experience = Success

This is the formula needed if you are looking to sell or buy your home. As a lifelong resident of Pleasantville with more than ten years experience in Real Estate as a top producer, I will be happy to answer all your questions.

Please Contact Sharon Tompkins Foley, Century 21 Haviland

And remember - my time is your time.



Sharon Tompkins Foley
914-769-2222
914-649-1157 (Cell)



370 Manville Road, Pleasantville

Somers Custom Framing

Wishes all our Friends & Customers a Happy & Healthy New Year!



2-Time Best of Westchester Winner!



Custom Picture Framing, Printing and Gift Shop
253 Route 202 • Somers 914-276-3173 • www.somerscustomframing.com

Pleasantville's McGuffog Promoted to Assistant Superintendent

By Arthur Cusano

The Pleasantville School District has a new assistant superintendent who is very familiar to faculty and students.

Carolyn McGuffog was promoted by the Board of Education on Dec. 22 to the position of assistant superintendent for educational services.

Trustees accepted her resignation last Tuesday from her prior position of director of education services before immediately installing her in the new position. The promotion will allow McGuffog to better oversee staff, explained board President Shane McGaffey.

"I think the most important thing for people to understand is when you have the Annual Professional Performance Review or teacher evaluations it's important that you have someone who is able to evaluate the people they oversee," McGaffey said. "And with a lot of new regulations and things like that, unless you are an assistant superintendent you can't oversee some of your staff."

McGuffog will now enter into her own contract with the district, as opposed to the administrator's contract she had prior to being promoted, McGaffey added.

"That's a nice way of saying Carolyn is taking on more responsibility for a new title for no additional money, so thank

you," said Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter.

Under the new contract that goes into effect Jan. 1, McGuffog will make a prorated \$179,195 for the current school year, \$182,707 for 2016-17 and \$186,288 for 2017-18.

McGuffog started with the district as a guidance counselor in 1993 and was promoted to director of educational services in 2005. She is also the district's homeless liaison.

Pleasantville Diner Under New Ownership, to Renovate Next Month

By Arthur Cusano

The Pleasantville Diner has been a mainstay in the village since 1937, but the venerable eatery will soon have a new look and a new menu after it closes for renovations next month.

Phil DeRaffele purchased the diner located at 10 Memorial Plaza in November after the death of longtime owner Jack Mourouzis last summer. He said the Pleasantville Diner will shut down for a few days after Martin Luther King Day (Jan. 18) to revamp the menu for modern tastes, with better quality ingredients and no frozen foods.

"We're going to be modernizing the menu," DeRaffele said. "We're going to be adding more appetizers. We'll be keeping all the diner classics, but we'll be cutting down

Fox-Alter praised McGuffog for putting her heart and soul into her work for the district. The promotion reflected that dedication, she said.

"An assistant superintendence is an incredible statement of position," Fox-Alter said. "It recognizes a level of study and professional growth, it recognizes a level of correspondence with the board of education and it recognized the ability to effect and implement and advise on policy."

McGuffog was on hand for the vote and

thanked the board and her colleagues for the promotion.

"My staff is truly made up of saints who do very sacred work and I so appreciate them from the bottom of my heart," McGuffog said. "I've had a ton of support from the board of education, I keep coming up with ideas and I've been trusted enough to be given the autonomy to implement them. And I think we have the best administrative staff that I could possibly work with."

on the dinner entrees. We'll be making the entrees fresher and of a better quality, but we're not raising the prices."

DeRaffele said he will be adding new American favorites like fruit smoothies and sliders to the menu, as well as more vegetarian and gluten-free offerings for health-conscious customers. He said he also planned to add local delivery service in the coming months.

The 37-year-old New Rochelle native said he has built or renovated 100 diners across the Northeast over the past 11 years, including in Atlantic City, Boston and Baltimore. He owns American Diner Corp., a third-generation family company that specializes in building or remodeling diners. The Pleasantville diner is the first that he will actually own.

"This diner is 15 minutes from my house," DeRaffele said. "It was available, it's small and it's manageable and it's in good shape, so it was a good opportunity to take my knowledge from all the projects I've worked on and apply them here."

In addition to changing the menu, DeRaffele will be changing the serving plates and the way the food is presented. The booths, tables, floor and carpeting will all be replaced. Additional televisions will be installed and decorations will be updated.

"The last time they renovated was in 2000, so it's due," he said. "The things that are staying to me are timeless – the wood paneling, the light fixtures – it gives it a retro diner feel!"

GRADUATE OPENHOUSE

LIU

Hudson

LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY
ROCKLAND • WESTCHESTER • WEST POINT

liu.edu/hudson

Launch or advance your career with a Master's Degree or Advanced Certificate from **LIU Hudson**.

Express Admission Days

January 4, 5, and 6 from 2-7 p.m.

Westchester - 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY
(on the Purchase College, SUNY campus)

Rockland - 70 Route 340, Orangeburg, NY
(GPS Address - 230 Route 340, Sparkill, NY 10946)

Bring your transcripts to be considered for an on-the-spot admission evaluation by faculty.
Application fee waived for those who attend open house and submit an application.

HIT ON 11 STAY 'TILL 12

RING IN THE NEW YEAR
WITH THE PERFECT PAIR

EMPIRE CITY[®]
CASINO



Blackjack, Three Card Poker, and Caribbean Stud are trademarks of the Empire City Casino. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. © 2015 Empire City Casino. 21+ years of age or older to play New York State Casino Games. Responsible Gaming. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, help is available. Call the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-2244.

P'ville Board of Ed to Hold Jan. 7 Budget Forum; Blast Aid Formula

By Arthur Cusano

The Pleasantville School District will hold a community forum on Thursday, Jan. 7 to discuss budget issues as school officials are ready to begin discussions on the 2016-17 spending plan.

Board of education members, who announced the forum at their Dec. 22 meeting, said the meeting will be held in the Pleasantville High School cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. It is open to the public.

Board President Shane McGaffey said early indicators from Albany showed the tax cap next year will be about 0.12 percent, which would equate to a levy increase of \$40,000. Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter said that number is a pittance compared to what the district received for the current year.

"Last year we were allowed to raise \$670,000; that's what we're up against this year," Fox-Alter said. "For the entire public school system here in Westchester County, we are facing almost zero."

Funding withheld due to the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) has not been restored even though there was a state budget surplus last year and again this year. The GEA was put in place in 2010 to help cover the state's budget deficit following the recession, but it remains intact despite New York State being on better financial footing.

Pleasantville has lost between \$3.6



Pleasantville Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter

million and \$3.7 million since 2010, McGaffey said.

"That's our money that they're using to fill their budget deficit that no longer exists, and then we're put in a position of having to slightly raise taxes," he said.

While Westchester and Putnam are in the second highest Regional Cost Index bracket, school districts in the two counties are placed in the same funding

bracket as districts in the Catskills where the cost of living is significantly lower. Long Island districts are in the highest bracket.

Last week, trustees agreed to send the letter to the state Education Department (SED) asking for the return of lost funding. The letter was based on a similar correspondence from the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Associations and made available to member districts to use in advocating for aid restoration.

The letter states that 20 percent of school districts in Westchester and Putnam receive less state funding than in 2008, while another 28 percent have seen increases of 7 percent or less.

"This year alone, Pleasantville Union Free School District lost \$349,822 due to GEA for a total GEA state aid loss of \$3.6 million since 2010," the district's letter states. "It is ironic that 72 percent of the districts in our region are still being shortchanged by over one-third of the GEA money due to them while NY State runs a surplus."

The letter also cited a freeze in foundation aid funding since 2007 that has withheld millions more from districts. While Pleasantville will lose \$2 million, the letter states that high-need districts will lose far more. Yonkers, the fourth-largest district in the state behind New York City, Buffalo and Rochester,

will lose \$40 million, Mount Vernon will lose \$22 million and Port Chester will lose \$16 million.

The letter also states reductions in costly state mandates that had been promised to help offset the financial burden of the tax cap have not materialized.

The district's letter was sent to Gov. Andrew Cuomo and local state elected officials. Fox-Alter said other area districts were considering sending similar letters.

get NOTICED!

Advertise in The Examiner.
Call 864-0878 today!

Select Books
Distinctive Cards
Unique Gifts
Children's Books
Special Orders
Free Gift Wrapping
Agate Book Ends
Journals
Book Group Discounts
School Orders
Gift Certificates
Bookmarks
Out-of-Print Searches
Reference Books
Cookbooks
...and more!

The Village Bookstore
Ten Washington Ave.
Pleasantville, NY
Across from the Burns Film Center

914.769.8322
staff@pleasantvillebooks.com

Glass Onion ORIGINALS
Specializing in Fine American Craft

Fine Art • Sculpture
• Unique Gifts • Furniture
Home Accessories • Antiques
• Exquisite Jewelry • & more...

4 Washington Avenue,
Pleasantville 914-741-6294
Open 7 Days —
Friday and Saturday until 8pm

MKMG urgent care
Now serving Mount Kisco AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

No Appointment Necessary
Walk-In Services
Open 7 Days a Week • 8:00am-7:45pm

Services include treatment of:

- Ear, Nose & Throat Problems
- Sprains & Fractures
- Infections
- Eye Symptoms
- Cold/Flu Symptoms
- & More

Walk-in services are available for adult and pediatric patients. Both existing MKMG patients and new patients are welcome.

For more information call **844-484-6564** or visit mkmg.com

MKMG
MOUNT KISCO MEDICAL GROUP PC

360 North Bedford Road
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Providing the Highest Quality Medical Care For You and Your Family Throughout Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess and Ulster County

f t

Don't give up on your **SOCIAL SECURITY/ DISABILITY CLAIM!**
Helping you get the benefits you are entitled to is our specialty.

Contact **ALEGRIA & BAROVICK LLP**, in White Plains, today.
Call 914-761-1133

A&B

Aardvark Pet Supplies, Inc.

Not your Average pet store

For all your pet needs

Visit us at:
58 Washington Avenue,
Pleasantville

(914) 747-4848
E-mail: aardvarkpet@verizon.net

Amended Parking Regs to Take Effect at Chap Train Station Lot

By Martin Wilbur

New overnight parking regulations and fine schedules at the train station lot in Chappaqua are set to go into effect after the New Castle Town Board amended the town code at its final meeting of 2015.

Officials decided to clamp down on car owners who leave their vehicles at the train station for days at a time, exacerbating the parking shortage at the town's lot. The problem is particularly acute in recent winters when some cars have been seen in

the lot buried under snow for weeks at a time.

Car owners may only leave their vehicles for more than 48 hours from Nov. 1 to Apr. 1 in metered lots where a permit is required in designated overnight parking areas.

"What we're saying, if you're going to be there for more than 48 hours, to park in a designated spot in the back," New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein said during the public hearing earlier this month to amend Chapter 123 of the town code.

The fine for first-time parking violations will be \$30, up from what has been \$20. Failure to pay a fine for a parking violation within 30 days after the issuance date or after a conviction will result in the fine being doubled. If the fine is not paid within 60 days, the fine will be tripled.

The fine for an expired meter will be \$30 and would be reduced by \$10 if paid in person by the close of the next business day. The town will also establish a scofflaw list comprised of vehicles with at least three

outstanding parking summonses.

Only one license plate is authorized for each metered permit, but up to three license plates can be authorized for each annual restricted parking permit. However, only one vehicle per permit may be parked at a time.

The changes, approved at the town board's Dec. 15 meeting, will go into effect once the resolution has been filed with the state. That was expected to be in place this week for the start of 2016.

Police Blotter

North Castle Police Department

Dec. 18: Report of a larceny at Whippoorwill Crossing at 3:14 p.m. The North Castle Highway Department reported that an unknown party removed or stole a stop sign and a road closed sign that the department had placed there while the road is being worked on. The highway department wanted to make this incident a matter of record.

Dec. 18: Report of loud music in the area of Pheasant Drive at 9:20 p.m. The responding officer determined that the music was coming from a Half Mile Road residence. The officer spoke with the parties involved who turned off the music. Matter adjusted.

Dec. 19: A party called from Business

Park Drive at 4:57 p.m. to report that he is having a verbal dispute with another party and is asking for an officer to intervene. The responding officers reported the situation was under control; one of the parties had left the area prior to their arrival. The complainant did not wish to pursue criminal charges. Witness depositions secured.

Dec. 22: Several callers reported by 6:38 a.m. a power outage and a possible transformer explosion had occurred on Washington Avenue.

Dec. 22: Report of a car striking a utility pole on Whippoorwill Road East at 7:23 a.m. The pole is across the roadway. Numerous callers all stated that the driver appears uninjured. The fire department and EMS were dispatched to the scene.

AG: Two Cab Companies Price Gouged After Valhalla Train Crash

Two local taxi companies were recently fined by the state attorney general's office for gouging customers immediately following last February's deadly crash involving a Metro-North train crash and an SUV.

Eagle Car Service, which is based in Mount Kisco, and Intrepid Tax Corp of White Plains were both cited with having inflated fares to a passenger in violation of the state's price gouging laws.

Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's office reached settlements with both companies, fining each \$375. The companies also were ordered to refund the passenger the amount they had been overcharged.

"In moments of tragedy and adversity, it is incumbent on all of us to look out for our fellow neighbors, and that includes making sure that vital businesses do not engage in price gouging," said Assemblyman David Buchwald, who organized outreach to Schneiderman's office after reports of price gouging.

"The idea that someone would try to capitalize on such an unfortunate and unexpected disruption for thousands of commuters is just plain wrong. I am thankful to the area residents who came forward, and I am glad that actions taken

by the attorney general have resulted in a positive outcome."

The wife of one of the victims who was ripped off, Lewisboro resident Julie Alterio, sent a tweet to Buchwald the night of the accident informing him that her husband Michael had paid more than three times the normal fare to get home from White Plains in one of Intrepid's cars.

Train service on the Harlem line was suspended once the crash occurred leaving thousands of commuters no way to get home.

Michael Alterio said he was happy to hear that a clear message was sent by fining the livery services that took advantage of people who were stranded. He was charged \$110 to get home last Feb. 3.

"The night of the derailment, I was worried about how I'd get from White Plains to my northern Westchester home," Alterio said. "It was great to find a taxi, but I did not expect to get gouged."

The second victim, an unidentified Manhattan resident who was a customer of Eagle Car Service that night, directly submitted a complaint to the attorney general's office regarding his fare.

BEECHER FLOOKS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

"The place to turn in your time of need!"

Personally Owned and Supervised By

William F Flooks, Jr. & William J Flooks
Proprietor Licensed Funeral Director

Caring for our community since 1928
Personal and Complete Funeral Service

418 Bedford Road...Pleasantville, NY 10570...769-0001

www.beecherflooksfh.com

Coed Volleyball Tourney Returns to County Center

Registration is now open for the Westchester County Coed Volleyball Tournament, to be held Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 12 and 13 from 7 to 11 p.m. each night.

The tournament is open to men and women, 18 years of age and older. It will be played in round robin format the first night to determine the ranking of each team, with a double-elimination tournament for the championship round on the second evening. The tournament will be played in two levels of competition: recreation and power recreation. Awards will be given to

the winning teams and runners up in each division.

The fee is \$195 per team, with a limit of 20 teams. Deadline for registration is Friday, Jan. 8.

The Coed Volleyball Tournament is sponsored by Westchester County Parks and Friends of Westchester County Parks, Inc.

The Westchester County Center is located at 198 Central Ave. in White Plains. Parking fees apply.

For more information or to download an application, visit www.countycenter.biz. To receive an entry form by mail, call 914-231-4645.

Murphy Outlines Steps Taken in Fight to Curtail Drug Abuse

By Neal Rentz

State Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) outlined some of the efforts the state legislature has undertaken this year to fight against the plague of illegal drugs last Tuesday night before the Mount Kisco Village Board.

Murphy, co-chairman of the Senate's Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Abuse, said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported earlier this month that more than 47,000 Americans died in 2014 from drug overdoses. That represented a 14 percent increase over 2013.

Fighting heroin use has been one of Murphy's priorities

"We need to do more," he said.

Many youngsters are initially addicted through the "over prescription" of painkillers such as Oxycontin, Murphy said. For example, a 16-year-old who has a tooth extraction could be prescribed up to 90 Oxycontin pills, he said.

A key legislative victory this year was expanding drug treatment options for addicts by providing more opportunities to qualify for drug court. Drug court can provide medical treatment for addiction as an alternative to prison sentences.

Mayor Michael Cindrich said the village began a program to offer alternatives to jail time for substances abusers 26 years ago. The efforts of the village justices



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

State Sen. Terrence Murphy addressed the Mount Kisco Village Board last Tuesday night focusing on how he and other legislators are combating drug abuse in New York.

and resident Mel Berger, head of Mount Kisco's Drug Council, have made the program a success, he said.

Other municipalities in the state could use Mount Kisco as a model for their own drug courts, Cindrich added.

Murphy touted his initiative to obtain a \$250,000 state grant to provide Narcan, a medication used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, to school nurses.

"That's something I'm especially proud

of," he said.

Murphy also addressed other topics at the meeting. He urged for more business friendly policies, including eliminating unnecessary regulation, to encourage greater commercial investment.

Commercial development was a priority when he served on the Yorktown Town Board, Murphy said. The town was successful in attracting new businesses and a major renovation of the Jefferson Valley Mall.

Working on behalf of veterans has been another priority for Murphy. A

major piece of legislation signed into law by Gov. Andrew Cuomo declared the Vietnam Veterans of America as a benevolent organization. The group's new status enables it to provide the same benefits and honoraria that other veterans groups have offered such as the storage of records, flags and memorabilia for display in the state capitol in Albany, he said.

In his first year as senator, Murphy said he strives to keep open lines of communication with his constituents.

"I can't help you if I don't know what you want," he said.

Registration Open for Mt. Kisco Pre-School Rec Programs

Mount Kisco Recreation is offering various programs for its pre-school-aged residents. Tumbling Toddlers is a movement program for two- to four-year-olds designed to develop a stronger connection between parent and child through hands-on movement activities and the use of song and games. This program, led by LeapSmart™, runs on Thursdays from Jan. 14 through March 10 from 10 to 10:45 a.m. The fee is \$150.

Pre-School Yoga is another very

popular program for children three to five years old. Your child will learn flexibility, self-confidence, strength and more through the use of calming music and creative games. This program, led by Emily Flay of The Children's School of Yoga, is held on Fridays from Jan. 8 to March 18 from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. The fee is also \$150.

For more information about these programs or to register, contact Mount Kisco Recreation at 914-666-3059.

RACE. BOWL. EAT. PLAY.

GRAND PRIX NEW YORK RACING

BIRTHDAY PARTIES
BAR/ BAT MITZVAHS
CORPORATE EVENTS
FUNDRAISERS

SPINS BOWL

RACE BOWL PLAY EAT

GO HARTS INSIDE BOWLING CENTER MONTE CARLO ARCADE FUEL RESTAURANT & BAR

333 NORTH BEDFORD ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK | 914.241.3131 | INFO@GPNY.COM
WWW.GPNY.COM | WWW.SPINSBOWL.COM

Safe Haven Self Storage

GOT STUFF? WE GOT SOLUTIONS
www.safehavenselfstorage.com

- WE SELL BOXES, CARTONS, LOCKS
- SAFE AND SECURE
- FULL INSIDE LOADING DOCK
- ACCESS TO YOUR UNIT 7 DAYS A WEEK
- CLIMATE CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT

NEW CUSTOMERS
50% OFF
FIRST 3 MONTHS*

ELMSFORD 444 SAW MILL RIVER ROAD (9A) | 914-592-1000
MOUNT KISCO 333 NORTH BEDFORD ROAD | 914-666-7233
*RESTRICTIONS APPLY

Editorial

When Life's Obstacles Become too Much to Bear, Stay Positive

Sometimes it can seem impossible to surmount life's obstacles, particularly if you have been dealt more than your fair share. But you can often draw on the strength of others for inspiration and helpful advice, especially those who have gracefully overcome difficult trials of their own.

Author and musician Vanessa Leigh Hoffman first learned of the power of her own strength as a teenager when she was undergoing chemotherapy while attending school and writing and recording music.

"One can conquer anything he or she puts a focus on," said Hoffman, who over the course of her life, endured both stage three Hodgkin's disease and a car accident that left her in a coma for close

to two weeks. "After my accident, I had to relearn to walk, talk, write, sing and do even the most menial tasks."

While not everyone will have to deal firsthand with that much tragedy, we are all subjected to unexpected challenges in our daily lives. To help, Hoffman is offering some practical insights for coping with everything, big or small.

Be Inspired. Allow your negative experiences to be your inspiration. For example, Hoffman has reprised some of the great themes of her life in her art. Her new novel, "Treasure," a fast-paced trilogy, tells the story of two twin boys orphaned and separated at birth, challenging readers to ask critical questions about how our lives are shaped. "Treasure," the winner of the Hollywood

and Southern California book festivals, was inspired by Hoffman's real life encounter with President Kennedy's former chef, a mysterious figure in her life.

Don't Be Disheartened. Whether it's discouraging feedback from a teacher or a bleak prognosis from a doctor, don't let the words of experts, however well-intentioned, define the scope of your potential. After Hoffman's accident, the medical team caring for her predicted that she would never talk, walk, read or write again. Instead of resigning herself to their expectations, she became a veritable renaissance woman, as a singer-songwriter, businesswoman and author fluent in four languages, amongst other varied pursuits.

Have Goals. It's easy to let your goals fall by the wayside, particularly when life's challenges prove time consuming, distracting and demoralizing. By embracing your passions and pursuing those things that you hold most dear, it will be easier to stay motivated to follow through.

More information about the "Treasure: A Trilogy" and Hoffman, who is donating a portion of the proceeds from her book to St. Jude's Children Research Institute and Hospital, can be found at www.VanessaLeighHoffman.com.

When life gets tough, don't focus on despair. By allowing endurance and perseverance to rule the day, you can achieve more of what you set out to do.

Guest Column

Is Your Life in Balance? Healthy Habits to Try in 2016

Is your life in balance? The new year is a great time to take stock of your routine and make improvements where necessary.

Here are some thoughtful habits to consider incorporating into your day in the coming year.

Find Time to Decompress

- If you're a morning person, get out of bed 30 minutes earlier than normal to wake up with your favorite coffee or tea and think about what you need to accomplish for the day.

- More of a night owl? Spend at least 30 minutes before going to sleep to unplug from technology and relax with a new book you've had on your list to read.

- Schedule time for exercise to reduce stress and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Planning workouts ahead of time will make you more likely to stick to them.

Write Everything Down

- Handwritten notes and to-do lists

will reinforce your memory of the tasks you need to conquer. They also give you the option to look at what you need to do for the day and prioritize the list. Consider a personal planner, such as those from the popular AT-A-GLANCE collection, which includes a variety of styles that reflect your personality and organizational needs.

- Documenting your day not only keeps you organized, but also provides you with an opportunity to look back and reflect on your life's accomplishments, memories and milestones from the year.

Balanced Diet, Balanced Life

- Maintaining a healthy, balanced diet will help you feel great, and can increase your focus, energy levels and productivity.

- Plan out your meals ahead of time before going shopping by marking them in a calendar. This will give you more time during the week to cook and prepare meals, without having to

make frequent trips to the store or feel tempted to grab take-out. You'll be more likely to stick with the habit if you love the calendar you use, so consider something easy on the eyes, such as an AT-A-GLANCE fashion planner.

- Cooking your own fresh meals can help keep your bank account balanced, and is often much healthier than food

from a restaurant. And spending time in the kitchen is also a stress reliever for some people.

Make a fresh start. The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to make positive changes to how you schedule and organize your time.

This article is reprinted with permission by statepoint.net.

Letters to the Editor

Most Gun Deaths Are Caused by Mental Illness or Emotional Problems

In your recent article on the vigil in Chappaqua ("Chappaqua Vigil Calls for End to Gun Violence Three Years After Newtown," Dec. 15-21), you listed a quote that 30,000 die by guns each year. More than 50 percent of those are suicides, who, if guns did not exist, would likely employ another method. In the remaining cases, the majority of shootings are internal within ethnic groups. The vast majority of deaths by guns are because of a mental or emotional problem.

Under Obama Care, a vast change in

available funds for mental treatment has occurred. However, laws permit the mentally ill to determine their own treatment and there is a lack of resources (despite the funding) for adequate treatment. If you ask any local police force they will tell you they deal with a revolving door of seeing the same people repeatedly with inadequate laws and treatment facilities to handle those with emotional and mental problems.

Erik Nicolaysen
Chappaqua

Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be

withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to mwilbur@theexaminernews.com. The Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

The Examiner

Adam Stone

astone@theexaminernews.com

Publisher

Martin Wilbur

mwilbur@theexaminernews.com

Editor-in-Chief

To advertise in The Examiner,
call 914-864-0878

or e-mail

advertising@theexaminernews.com

Examiner
MEDIA
also publishes The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
Examiner
The WHITE PLAINS
Examiner
The PUTNAM
Examiner

Member of NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
NYPA

To inquire about paid subscriptions, email subscriptions@theexaminernews.com
for pricing and other details.

PO Box 611, Mount Kisco, NY 10549 • 914-864-0878 www.TheExaminerNews.com

Entergy brings you...

know your Neighbor

Michael Blacker, Pastor/Counselor

By Martin Wilbur

Through most of his twenties Michael Blacker was addicted to marijuana. If he tried to stop, Blacker would suffer the extreme effects of withdrawal.

About a decade into his addiction Blacker had a terrifying dream. He rested his head on the pillow one night and heard a voice telling him "You're going to die, you're going to die. You better do something about it."

"I would hear that voice and it would scare me so much, to the point where because I was scared somebody invited me to church," Blacker recalled. "I went in desperation needing help."

The house of worship that the friend asked him to accompany him to was the World Evangelism Bible Church, a nondenominational Christian congregation in Danbury. Blacker said during a prayer on his first trip there his hands began to feel hot. The pastor said if anyone had that sensation to step forward.

Blacker approached haltingly. The pastor then asked anyone who needed healing to also come up. About 10 people came forward, including the assistant pastor.

Blacker said he couldn't believe that the church's clergy was asking him to provide healing when he was the one who attended in search of help. But he liked what he felt.

"Something just came over me and there was such a change in my body," Blacker said. "I don't know how to describe it. I started praying. Words began coming out of me. I don't know where they came from but I'm praying for people and I started feeling in the presence of God a different dimension. My whole body was like lifted up."

The decision to go to church that day helped Blacker set his life course. Church elders asked him to visit parishioners in area hospitals where he would pray for the sick.

About five years ago after attending a chaplaincy program and then seminary, Blacker, 53, became a pastor and now leads the church's Connecticut congregation. He serves in ministry, still visiting the sick and those in drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers, providing counseling and speaking publicly – he's fluent in Spanish and Portuguese – about the power of prayer and the miracles they produce.

One such miracle, he said, was within three weeks after his initial trip to the church he never returned to drugs. That was more than 20 years ago.

"For the first time in a long time my eyes were clear, everything was gone," said Blacker, who previously owned his own painting and wallpaper business. "I'd been apparently healed, so I never went back to the drugs. I never thought about it."

During his years in ministry and visiting patients in hospitals, Blacker said he has seen his share of miracles, which he has outlined in a book he wrote earlier this year called "Miraculous Prayers: Home to Get Your Miracle From God."

Growing up in Bedford, Blacker, a Fox Lane High School graduate, may have been one of the last people anyone would think of as a future clergy member. He said he grew up a shy, introverted youngster whose family attended an Episcopalian congregation. But he found church boring and didn't want to be involved.

In high school, Blacker started drinking. He went to college – and dropped out – and soon replaced alcohol with marijuana. He infuriated his father who cut off all financial help.

Perhaps Blacker's first exposure to the



power of prayer came from his paternal grandmother. During his darkest days, which included run-ins with the police, he would periodically visit her in Florida. Blacker would see her pray daily in her house. But it was his grandmother's unconditional love struck a chord in him.

"She always bought me clothes and never said anything except that I'm

praying for you," Blacker remembered.

Blacker, who is single and plans to finish his college degree, said getting himself clean and finding a purpose repaired his relationship with parents. His message of hope and prayer during interfaith counseling sessions has also endeared him to people of other faiths.

Blacker said he is thrilled that he has been able to use his gifts to help people as he was helped more than 20 years ago. He's certain that it's in God's hands.

"When I wake up in the morning and feel tired or overwhelmed by life's challenges I wonder why I have that gift," Blacker said. "The Bible says that when you are in your mother's womb God knows you and ordained you. He had a plan for your life."

To learn more about the World Evangelism Bible Church or to contact Pastor Michael Blacker, visit www.webicamerica.org or call 914-299-6254.



"Peekskill is my home, and keeping us safe is my job."

Kaitlyn Corbett
Nuclear Engineer

Kaitlyn Corbett has always called New York home. Born and raised in Buffalo, she earned her degree in nuclear power engineering at SUNY College of Technology and moved to Peekskill to start her career at Indian Point. Safety is the single most important mission for Kaitlyn and her 1,000 colleagues at the plant, and it's been the focus of her years of study and training in the nuclear power industry. Every day, engineers are graded on their performance by inspectors from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC recently gave Kaitlyn and the team at Indian Point its highest safety rating – for the fifth year in a row.

Discover more about Indian Point at SafeSecureVital.com

Indian Point Energy Center | 
POWERING NEW YORK



VINE & Co.
wine • spirits

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

DECEMBER HOLIDAY SALE

WHITE WINE (750ml)

	WAS	NOW
ASTORIA <i>Pinot Grigio</i>	\$12	\$9.99
HESS SELECT <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i>	\$12	\$9.99
SALMON RUN <i>Riesling</i>	\$12	\$9.99
HANGING VINE <i>Chardonnay</i>	\$12	\$9.99
VRAC <i>Macon-Village</i>	\$12	\$9.99
DR L. <i>Riesling</i>	\$13	\$10.99
CHATEAU ST. JEAN <i>Chardonnay</i>	\$13	\$10.99
KRIS <i>Pinot Grigio</i>	\$14	\$11.49
PINE RIDGE <i>Chenin/Viognier</i>	\$14	\$11.49
KUNG FU GIRL <i>Riesling</i>	\$14	\$11.49
KENDALL JACKSON <i>Chardonnay</i>	\$15	\$12.49
PONZI <i>Pinot Gris</i>	\$17	\$13.99
TRIMBACH <i>Riesling</i>	\$17	\$13.99
JAM CELLARS <i>Butter Chardonnay</i>	\$17	\$13.99
KIM CRAWFORD <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i>	\$17	\$13.99
REVERDY-DUCROUX <i>Sancerre</i>	\$19	\$14.99
LA CREMA <i>Chardonnay Sonoma Coast</i>	\$22	\$17.49
CONUNDRUM <i>White Blend</i>	\$23	\$17.99
HESS SELECT <i>Chardonnay Napa</i>	\$25	\$19.99
SONOMA-CUTRER <i>Chardonnay</i>	\$27	\$21.99
CLOUDY BAY <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i>	\$33	\$24.99

SPIRITS

	WAS	NOW
SMIRNOFF VODKA 1.75L	STILL ONLY	\$19.99
WODKA VODKA 1.75L	\$25	\$22.49
PINNACLE VODKA 1L	\$17	\$14.99
DOUBLE CROSS VODKA 750ML	\$38	\$33.99
DEEP EDDY VODKA 750ML	\$15	\$13.49
DEEP EDDY "FLAVORS" 1L	\$25	\$19.99
NEW AMSTERDAM GIN 1L	\$18	\$15.99
ST. PAUL'S LONDON DRY GIN 1L	\$15	\$12.49
KERRYGOLD IRISH CREAM 750ML [GIFT SET]	\$22	\$19.49
BAILEY'S IRISH CREAM 750ML	\$28	\$24.99
CAROLANS IRISH CREAM 1.75L	\$33	\$27.99
JAMESON IRISH WHISKEY 1.75L	\$58	\$49.99
JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK 750ML	\$45	\$38.99
BRUICHLADDICH PORT CHARLOTTE ISLAY	\$62	\$55.99
GLENFIDDICH 12YR 750ML	\$55	\$49.99
BALVENIE 12YR 750ML	\$60	\$53.99
OBAN 14YR 750ML	\$72	\$65.99
JACK DANIELS HONEY 750ML [GIFT SET]	\$30	\$26.99
WOODFORD RESERVE BOURBON 750ML	\$42	\$37.99
EVAN WILLIAMS SINGLE BARREL BOURBON 750ML	\$30	\$25.99

RED WINE (750ml)

	WAS	NOW
MASCIARELLI <i>Montepulciano d'Abruzzo</i>	\$10	\$8.49
14 HANDS <i>Hot to Trot</i>	\$11	\$8.99
19 CRIMES <i>Red Blend</i>	\$11	\$8.99
EL COTO <i>Rioja Crianza</i>	\$12	\$9.99
CLINE <i>Zinfandel</i>	\$12	\$9.99
GOUGENHEIM <i>Cabernet</i>	\$12	\$9.99
CLAVE DEL SECRETO <i>Monastrell</i>	\$12	\$9.99
STERLING <i>Vintners Collection Meritage</i>	\$12	\$9.99
NIETO SENTINER <i>Malbec</i>	\$13	\$10.99
ZACCAGNINI <i>Montepulciano d'Abruzzo</i>	\$15	\$12.49
SEVEN DEADLY ZINS	\$16	\$12.99
1922 <i>Malbec</i>	\$17	\$13.99
HESS SELECT <i>Cabernet</i>	\$19	\$15.99
MARQUES DE CACERES <i>Rioja Reserva</i>	\$20	\$16.99
FOREFRONT <i>Cabernet</i>	\$20	\$16.99
LOS VASCOS <i>Cabernet Grand Reserve</i>	\$20	\$16.99
CATENA <i>Malbec</i>	\$20	\$16.99
COPPOLA <i>Claret</i>	\$20	\$16.99
NEWTON <i>Claret</i>	\$24	\$19.49
BODEGAS COLOME <i>Malbec</i>	\$25	\$19.99
OBERON <i>Cabernet Sauvignon</i>	\$25	\$19.99
HESS SELECT <i>Cabernet Allomi</i>	\$34	\$27.99
FLOWERS <i>Pinot Noir</i>	\$50	\$39.99
DUCKHORN <i>Merlot</i>	\$56	\$44.99

MAGNUMS (1.75L)

	WAS	NOW
FRONTERA <i>Cabernet Sauvignon</i>	\$11	\$8.99
CA' DONINI <i>Pinot Grigio</i>	\$13	\$9.99
BAREFOOT <i>Chardonnay</i>	\$14	\$10.99
TWO OCEANS <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i>	\$14	\$10.99
MELINI <i>Chianti</i>	\$14	\$10.99
REX GOLIATH <i>Pinot Noir</i>	\$14	\$10.99
YELLOWTAIL <i>Chard/Cab/Shiraz</i>	\$14	\$10.99
WOODBIDGE <i>Chardonnay</i>	\$15	\$11.99
CAVIT <i>Pinot Grigio</i>	\$16	\$11.99



LOCATED ON RT. 117 IN THE
GREEN LANE
SHOPPING CENTER
NEXT TO SHOPRITE

WE GIFT WRAP. ASK ABOUT HOLIDAY ORDERS.

More Living Using Less Space With Convertible Furniture

In the early days of our marriage, my wife and I lived in a small New York City studio apartment and we had to make the most of what space we had.

Some of our neighbors opened up floor space by sleeping on Murphy beds that folded up vertically into the wall. We opted instead to purchase an extra-long convertible sofa, a Lawson-style, upholstered in red velvet, and had that as our regular bed. It followed us through many moves. The daily ritual of folding the sofa up again early in the morning became ingrained in us.

Eventually we settled into our home in the suburbs and acquired a queen-sized bed in its own bedroom. Our old convertible sofa became part of our living room furniture. We imagined that it could still be unfolded for our relatives when they came to visit, but as we already had a separate guest bedroom with its own bed, the sofa was opened for company only rarely, mainly on Christmas Eve when relatives visiting from a distance stayed over.

After many years we finally brought it to the curb and replaced it with a more



By Bill Primavera

delicate – but admittedly less adaptable – pink Sheraton-style settee. We felt fortunate to have enough rooms to meet our needs. But now as we look forward, we see the appeal of having less house to tend to. Eventually we will downsize, yet we will still want to entertain and have family over as before. I decided to investigate convertible furniture to see if it has evolved from my old city days.

There is no doubt that the fold-out sofa is the classic choice for temporary guest bedding, although many of us dread spending a night over

that infamous metal bar that runs across the width of the mattress. Fortunately, a little research on the Apartment Therapy or Consumers Digest websites can give you advice for choosing the newest comfortable brands.

One alternative to the fold-out is a daybed with a slide-out trundle underneath, turning a sofa into two side-by-side twin beds. Another is the ingenious sofa bunk bed, which unfolds upward, revealing easily-positioned ladder rungs and safety rails.

For the more experimental, many manufacturers offer geometric foam

pieces that can be rearranged like building blocks into a sofa, a daybed or a low table with extra blocks on the floor for seating. I'm not sure how much I would enjoy picking myself up off the floor after sleeping on that foam, but the younger or more limber among us may want to try it.

Once you know where your guests will be sleeping, it's time to find them a place to sit and eat. The most traditional way to expand your dining table is to buy one that accommodates extra panels in the center, and perhaps unfold a card table for the overflow.

But if your space is too small for a dedicated dining table, there are still alternatives. One of my favorites is the fold-down table, where one edge is joined to the wall with hinges. When open, the legs unfold down for support, and when closed, the legs and eating surface lie flat against the wall. Some models, available online for the DIYer, reveal medicine cabinet-sized storage when the table is folded down. Other versions, such as those made by IvyDesign, turn the underside of the table into a framed work of art once it is folded up.

Even small furniture items can give you more space when you need it. Not only can sets of end tables nest into each other, but with design ingenuity even chairs and coffee tables can be stored in

a similar way.

For the ultimate in space efficiency, one can marvel at the highly-engineered components that make up accordion-style apartments, where sliding and pivoting structures transform one room into three or more. The traditional Murphy bed, for example, not only folds up into the wall, but it might pivot to reveal bookcases and a fold-down table on the other side. What looks like a solid wall might easily slide forward, similar to the mobile shelving in museum archives, to create a new mini-room with bunk beds or other storage that unfold from the newly revealed wall.

While I don't see myself returning to the days of folding my bed away every morning, I can certainly handle stacking a few coffee tables, matryoshka doll-style, after company leaves. Even this longtime suburban homeowner can adapt to using space in a new way.

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

**Wishing
Everyone a
Happy and
Healthy
New Year!**



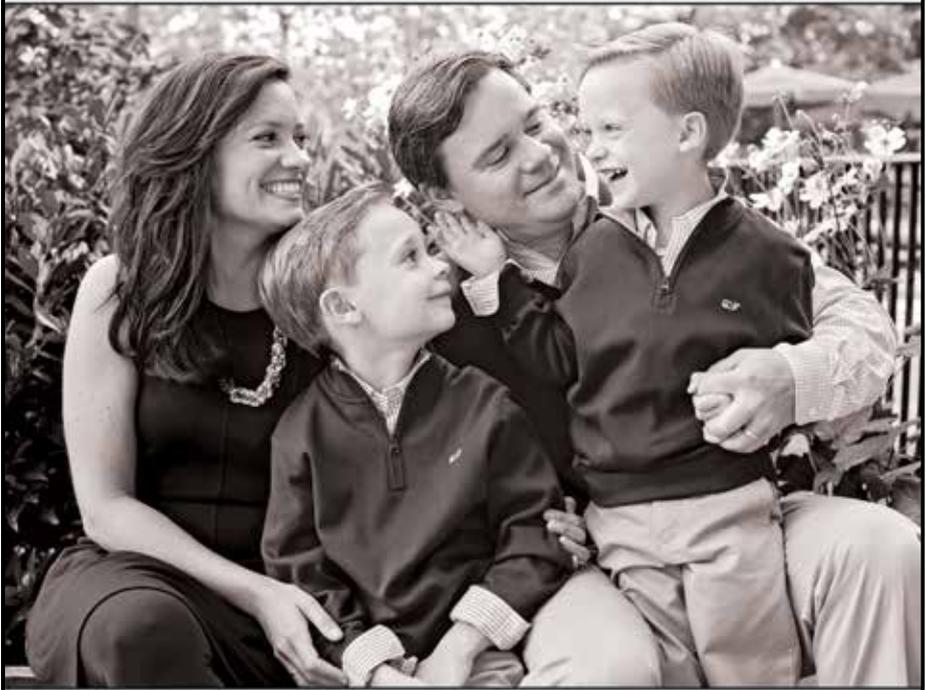
**From everyone at
Miracle Home Improvements
914★271★9119**

**ROOFING • WINDOWS • SIDING • DOORS • DECKS
SEAMLESS GUTTERS • LEADERS**




 Robert & Mary Sniffen, Owners
 Visit our 5,000 sq. ft. showroom
 Or we will BRING the showroom to you!
 2010 Albany Post Road • Croton-On-Hudson, NY
 WC10415H99 PC - 1817 Yonkers #3807
www.miraclehomeimprovements.com

silkstudiokids
child and family lifestyle photography



portraits • events • westchester • nyc
www.silkstudiokids.com
gift certificates available

Armonk Teen Continues to Make Waves in the Theater World

By Martin Wilbur

It's fitting that the latest work in the theater for Armonk's Alex Baron is being involved in a production that tells the story of a 60-and-up dance team.

For Baron, age has made no difference to him or those that he's worked with in the industry.

Baron, who in the past two years has written and produced a one-act play and produced a full-length Off Broadway show in Manhattan, is an 18-year-old Penn State University freshman enrolled in the school's Stage Management Program.

With the opening of the pre-Broadway premiere in Chicago this week of "Gotta Dance," the story of the introduction of the New Jersey Nets' senior dance troupe

to the team's halftime show in 2007, Baron is on track to become the youngest person with a producer credit for a Broadway show.

"Gotta Dance," which is starring in the Chicago production Tony Award nominee Andre De Shields, Georgia Engel (best known for her appearances on "Everybody Loves Raymond" and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show") and Stefanie Powers ("Hart to Hart"), is being targeted for an opening on the Great White Way next fall.

For the past few months, Baron has been working with the award-winning Broadway and film producer Dori Berinstein and noted animated film producer Bill Damaschke, who was chief creative officer at DreamWorks

Animation, learning from two of the best about the theater industry.

"The nice thing I get from working with people like Dori and Bill is the experience," said Baron, who started acting at five years old and was involved in productions when he attended Byram Hills High School. "It's not to get credits to put on your resume but the experience and the knowledge you get from these credits is what matters."

He said Berinstein and Damaschke have been receptive to his ideas for "Gotta Dance," which has about a 20-member cast. Baron has been able to put a younger theater patron's perspective on a show about how a group of senior citizen dancers, known as the NETSational Seniors, learn hip-hop and refuse to be



Armonk resident and Byram Hills High School graduate Alex Baron is a co-producer of a Chicago production that could make it to Broadway by next fall.

cast aside because of their age. The troupe remains intact even after the Nets' move to Brooklyn several years ago.

Baron has been leading the social media and marketing efforts for the show to reach the younger generation in hoping that there will be extensive crossover appeal. He said last week he planned to be at the show's opening last night (Monday).

Baron's involvement with "Gotta Dance" comes during his first semester at Penn State.

"It's really special because you're not getting training in one aspect of the industry but the entire world of theater," he said of his enrollment in stage management.

Baron has had an upward trajectory with professional theater. In 2013, he wrote and produced the one-act play "Love Behind Bars," which was performed at the Manhattan Repertory Theatre. The contacts he made through that show helped him produce the Off Broadway play "Vote for Me," a musical version of a presidential debate where the audience voted for the candidate of their choice.

Despite his successes, Baron said he stays humble and hopes to continue to learn from everyone that he encounters.

"The experience and knowledge that I'm getting is unbelievable," he said.

Howard Meyer Acting Classes to Resume in P'ville

Howard Meyer's Acting Program in Pleasantville begins its next session of classes starting the week of Jan. 4.

Created 21 years ago, the program is part of Axial Theatre, a professional company of actors and playwrights and appeals to a broad spectrum of students in age, vocation and interest.

"Whether it's to pursue a professional career on stage and screen or to gain confidence by discovering inner talent, taking a class in acting is a great way to develop new skills," said Meyer, the founding artistic director of the program.

Meyer described his method of teaching as "learning, exploring and becoming comfortable with the process of creative and personal exploration. We offer students individual and group exercise work, and applications of these exercises to monologues and scenes."

Students and company members have booked screen and stage roles for feature-length and short films, television series and commercials.

Beginner adult (age 18 up) classes run for six weeks from Wednesday, Jan. 6

through Wednesday, Feb. 17. The cost is \$245. Students can register for a 12-week program for a discounted cost of \$395.

Intermediate, advanced and master classes are offered by invitation for students previously enrolled in the program.

Teen classes (ages 13-17) start Wednesday, Jan. 6, and run for 12 weeks, ending Mar. 30. Cost is \$395. Classes for children (ages 10-12) also start Wednesday, Jan. 6 for 12 Wednesdays. The cost is \$385.

Playwriting classes for all levels – beginner through advanced – start Tuesday, Jan. 19, and run through Tuesday, Feb. 23. Cost is \$265.

All classes continue throughout the year, with students having the option to register for subsequent sessions after completing the initial session.

On Jan. 29-30, Howard Meyer Acting will present its annual Monologue Workshop program featuring students enrolled in the classes. In the summer, students can sign up for a performance workshop that focuses on one-act plays



LYNDA CURTIS SHENKMAN PHOTO

The fall 2015 advanced class of Howard Meyer's Acting Program watches and listens as he coaches students after their stage work. The next session of classes begin next week.

and excerpts from full-length works. As with the monologue workshop, at the end of the six-week workshop, the students act in front of a paying audience.

Howard Meyer's Acting Program also offers individual coaching for auditions for school or stage, plus workshops in voice, movement and acting for television.

For more information and to register, call 914-286-7680 or visit www.hmacting.org or follow Howard Meyer's Acting Program on Facebook.

Advertise in The Examiner • 914-864-0878

Trumbull
PRINTING

Newspapers • Publications • Shoppers • Catalogs • Magazines
Directories • Coupon Books • College Course Catalogs
Business and Financial Periodicals
Free Standing Inserts • Advertising Supplements

205 Spring Hill Road, Trumbull, CT 06611 • 203.261.2548
www.trumbullprinting.com

PCTV
Pleasantville Community Television
www.pctv76.org 914.747.4411

PCTV is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization

We at PCTV appreciate the long-standing support of the many communities we serve.

This year we have reached a proud milestone. 2015 marks the fifteenth anniversary of PCTV and the completion of a major upgrade project to provide a state of the art studio for public access shows and business media services.

We look forward to continuing to enhance and improve our community support in the coming years.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to PCTV in your giving plans for this year. Go to our website at PCTV76.org or mail to 2 Jackson Street, Pleasantville, NY 10570.

Happenings

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

Tuesday, Dec. 29

Italian Language and Culture. Mara De Matteo, born and raised in Italy and passionate about her native language, she combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes. She creates interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and even photography. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Wednesday, Dec. 30

Master Networker Meeting. Join this high-energy interactive membership network of learning-based, service-oriented entrepreneurs and business leaders. Come be a guest any Wednesday to learn more about this world-class business training and referral program. Mount Kisco Coach Diner, 252 E. Main St., Mount. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. RSVP suggested. Info and RSVP: Contact Julie Genovesi at 303-929-7203 or e-mail julie@eurobella.net or just drop in.

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

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

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.

Wolves of North America. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why it's a special time for packs in North America. Whether the wolves are living on the Arctic tundra or the high desert of the southwest, wolf families are out searching for prey as their pups prepare for their first winter season. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and the critically

endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$13. Children (under 12): \$11. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

"It's a Wonderful Life." Frank Capra's holiday classic about bank manager George Bailey (James Stewart) who, facing financial ruin and possible jail time, contemplates jumping off a bridge on Christmas Eve. Jacob Burns Film Center 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. Noon. Also Dec. 31. Info and tickets: visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

The Explorers Club. A new literacy/activity program this fall. Join Miss Debbie to explore a new theme each week (science, art and more) through literacy and hands-on activities. Come read, discover and create. For children five to seven years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Registration required. Info and registration: www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Knitting at the Library. Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels. For ages 10 and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-864-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberalry.org.

Zumba Toning With Amy. Sculpt and tone muscle groups while dancing and shaking toning sticks to the sassy sizzling rhythms of the Zumba. Toning sticks provided. PFX Fitness, 10 Castleton Rd., Pleasantville. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Drop-in fee: \$12. Every Wednesday Info: E-mail olin.amyj@gmail.com.

Thursday, Dec. 31

"Ring in the New Year at Noon." This sixth annual festive event will feature face painting, arts and crafts, kiddy rides, clowns, wheel of chance, games, snacks, goody bag, raffle prizes, a meet and greet with former New York Ranger Brian Mullen and a 3,000-balloon drop at noon. Families are invited to spend the rest of the afternoon at the complex to complete the celebration. New Roc City, 33 Le Count Place, New Rochelle. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$5 per family donation at registration (to support the Westchester Children's Museum). Pre-registration strongly encouraged. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.newrochelledowntown.com.

New Year's Eve Celebration: Tramps Like Us. Come ring in the new year with the world's top Springsteen tribute band, an open bar and specialty food items. MTK Tavern, 30 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$100. Info and tickets: Visit www.mtktaavern.com.

Friday, Jan. 1

Eight Annual New Year's Day Walk. Start off the year and your 2016 bird

list with an invigorating walk along the Hudson River shoreline. Dress warmly since it is often cooler by the river. Bring binoculars if you have them. There will also be spotting scopes to share. Walk for an hour or stay longer if you wish and weather permits. Rockwood Hall State Park, Sleepy Hollow. 9 a.m. Free. Info: Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org.

Saturday, Jan. 2

Pleasantville Farmers Market. The Pleasantville Farmers Market is the largest, year-round farmers market in Westchester, and the one voted "Best of Westchester" in 2014 and 2015 by the readers of Westchester Magazine. With over 40 vendors participating in the indoor market, including special seasonal vendors this month, the delicious good time continues. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday through May 14. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

Adult Coloring. If you're an adult looking for a relaxing, fresh and new activity that will help bring stress relief to your busy life, try this new coloring class. Drop in anytime. Materials provided. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Saturday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberalry.org.

Adult Salsa Class. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. \$12. Every Saturday. Also Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Info: 917-215-1720 or visit www.addie-tude.com.

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

Pound Fitness Program. A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix™ and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. TADA Theatre and Dance Arts, 131 Bedford Rd., Katonah. 11:45 a.m. \$20. Every Saturday; also Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

Children's Movies for the Holidays: "Tomorrowland." Whenever Casey Newton (Britt Robertson) touches a lapel pin with the letter T on it, she finds herself transported to Tomorrowland, a city filled with huge robots and sleek buildings. The gifted young woman

recruits the help of scientist Frank Walker (George Clooney), a previous visitor to Tomorrowland, who years earlier made a startling discovery about the future. Together, the two adventurers travel to the metropolis to uncover its mysterious secrets. Whippoorwill Hall at North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Family Saturdays @ the Lab. Learn about green screening, explore an augmented reality sandbox and make your own claymation stop-motion film! Jacob Burns Film Center educators will be on hand to guide visitors through an experience like no other. Jacob Burns Film Center's Media Arts Lab, 405 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Meets the first Saturday of the month. Info: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

"Faith, Food and Friends." A weekly gathering that includes prayer, song, discussion and dinner for all. Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 197 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 5 p.m. Free. Every Saturday. Info: Visit www.emanuelelc.org.

Sunday, Jan. 3

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

Monthly JourneyDance™ Classes for Adults. JourneyDance is a joyful yet powerful dance practice that offers guided imagery and easy movement suggestions resulting in your unique dance expression. Each 75-minute class consists of a JourneyDance flow followed by a gentle yoga and relaxation sequence. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 4 p.m. \$20. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: E-mail claudiayogadance@gmail.com.

Monday, Jan. 4

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. Every Monday. Info: 914-769-2021.

Knitting Circle. This group is open to everyone who has an interest in knitting. Live, love, laugh, learn and have fun together during these creative journeys. Come share patterns and ideas and celebrate creative spirits together while enjoying the ancient art of knitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday (except

continued on page 18

The Restaurant Examiner

The Examiner's Creative Winter Cocktail Guide

By Jerry Eimbinder

At many local restaurants, mixologists have enhanced the dining experience by applying bold imagination and artistry to the ancient art of cocktail making. Blending in new ingredients has produced "craft cocktail" alternatives to the Old Fashioned, Manhattan, Bloody Mary and the Cosmopolitan.

The following directory has been prepared for the adventurous drinker seeking creative or exotic winter/holiday cocktails. Since most of the drinks are new, in some cases the establishment has not yet listed a price.

Armonk: Moderne Barn. Rum Toddy. Apple-flavored rum, apple cider, cinnamon stick, cloves, nutmeg, allspice, star anise, butter (\$13).

Dobbs Ferry: Cedar Street Grill. The Big Apple Toddy. Served warm with Serpent's Apple Whiskey, local cider (\$12).

Dobbs Ferry: Harper's. Positively Smashed. Rittenhouse rye, Sorel liqueur, Lambrusco, Abbey ale, smashed kumquat.

Hastings on Hudson: Saint George. Chartreuse Julep. Bourbon, green Chartreuse liqueur, raw sugar, fresh mint (\$12).

Irvington: MP Taverna. Angouri. House infused cucumber vodka, Elderflower liqueur, lime (\$12).

Irvington: River City Grille. Winter Caipiriña. Leblon Cachaça, Cedilla Acai liqueur, cranberry, rosemary, lime, Simple Syrup muddle on the rocks (\$13).

Larchmont: Plates. The Manor Park Martini. Pear vodka, pomegranate, pear nectar, homemade blood-orange sorbet.

Mahopac: Social on 6. Cocoritaville. Malibu red rum, lime juice, Patron Citronge liqueur (\$10).

Mount Kisco: 251 Lex. Cucumber Cozzie. Gin, cucumber juice, mint, lemon syrup, cucumber infused gin (\$12).

Mount Kisco: Cafe of Love. Blood-Orange Bourbon Thawed.

Mount Kisco: Little Drunken Chef. Winter Nights. Patron XO, Fresh espresso, double Dutch chocolate liqueur, cream, Frangelico, chocolate truffle garnish (\$12).

Mount Kisco: Pour. Between the Sheets. Parce 8-year-old Columbian rum, Guillon-Painturaud cognac, Caffo Solero, fresh lemon juice (\$14).

Mount Kisco: Winston. Elm City Iced Tea. High West Double Rye, Amaro Sibilla, Earl Grey tea, local honey, lemon.

New Rochelle: Dubrovnik. Croatian Sunset. Akvinta vodka, lemon juice, Simple Syrup, muddled mint. With an orange and cherry, served over ice (\$12).

Port Chester: Saltaire. Pumpkin Spice & Everything Nice. Pumpkin beer, bourbon, maple syrup, egg (\$13).

Pound Ridge: Inn at Pound Ridge. Egg



Raz & Bubbles, a popular cocktail at Equus in Tarrytown's Castle Hotel and Spa.



The bar in the cocktail lounge at Saltaire in Port Chester.

nog. Made from scratch at the restaurant. Cruzan Black Strap rum, Famous Grouse scotch whiskey and a bit of St. Elizabeth Allspice Dram (\$10).

Rye: La Panetiere. Russian Ballet. Similar to a vodka sour; vodka, creme de cassis. Shaken (\$14).

Scarsdale: Meritage. The Hudson. Hudson Valley wheat whiskey, sweet vermouth, bitter, cherry (\$14).

Sleepy Hollow: Bridge View Tavern. BVT Bloody Mary. Crop cucumber vodka, meddled sherry tomatoes, parsley, fresh horseradish with Bloody Mary mix. Served with fresh lemon, olives and crisp celery.

Somers: Muscoot Tavern. Jack Frost.

A martini made with pineapple vodka, pineapple juice, coconut rum, creme de coconut (\$10).

Tarrytown: Equus. Raz & Bubbles. Prosecco and Stoli Raz with muddled raspberries, fresh lemon juice and Simple Syrup with a twist.

Tarrytown: Ruth's Chris. The Gold Standard. Sparkling wine, Woodford Reserve Kentucky Bourbon, Cointreau, housemade cardamom syrup.

White Plains: Bao. French Martini. Vodka, Chambord Liqueur, pineapple juice. (\$10).

White Plains: Emma's Ale House. Adult Hot Chocolate. Bailey's liquor, steamed chocolate milk, whipped cream,

mini marshmallows, drizzle of chocolate (\$12).

White Plains: Lobby Lounge at The Ritz-Carlton. Ginger Apple Cider. Domaine De Canton with Wild Turkey Bourbon, a splash of Hudson Valley maple syrup, apple beer (\$17).

White Plains: Morton's. The 36th Vote Manhattan. High West whiskey aged in oak barrels for three months, vermouth, bitters, stirred, served over an ice sphere.

White Plains: Sam's of Gedney Way. Lady Lindy. New Amsterdam gin, fresh squeezed lemon juice, Simple Syrup, Crème de Violette topped with champagne, garnished with twist (\$12).

New Year's Eve Dining and Entertainment Guide, Part III

By Jerry Eimbinder

Here is a continuation of The Examiner's coverage of venues for area New Year's Eve events. Prices shown are per person and do not include tax and gratuity unless otherwise stated.

Hastings-on-Hudson: Purpl. Passed hors d'oeuvres. The Cookery food station, ice cream sandwiches from Pennylick Ice Cream and desserts by As You Wish Catering and pastry chef Rob Jones. Open bar includes cocktails, Champagne, wine and Captain Lawrence beer. Silent auction for work of many artists. Karaoke band. \$100 per person; \$179 per couple; \$425 for a table of eight. 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. or later. Cost is 50 percent tax deductible.

Mount Kisco: Rose Room. A la carte dinner. DJ. Entrées include filet mignon with lump crabmeat, lobster and spaghetti, braised beef ravioli, salmon, shrimp risotto, grilled swordfish, veal chop and chicken cutlet.

Pleasantville: Iron Horse. Prix-fixe dinner. Entrées: roasted duck breast, grilled salmon, Italian fish stew, beef

short ribs, crusted roast rack of lamb, and New York steak. Champagne toast, party favors. \$75. Starts at 9 p.m.

White Plains: Royal Palace. Masquerade theme (bring a mask). Three-course dinner. Open bar. Midnight Champagne toast. Party favors, photo booth, belly dancer. Kaotic Sound DJ. \$75 per adult in advance or \$90 at door. \$40 per child (ages 5-12). \$65 per person for groups of 10 or more. Opens at 8 p.m.

White Plains: Serafina. Appetizer, entrées include a choice of risotto, filet mignon or branzino and tiramisu for dessert. Party favors, balloons, music and midnight countdown. Welcome Champagne toast. \$79.

Yonkers: Alley 810. At Empire City Casino. DJ LAX. 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Yonkers: Dan Rooney's Sports Bar. At Empire City Casino. Rachel Allyn Band. 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Yonkers: Entertainment Lounge. At Empire City Casino. FDR Drive Band. 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Yonkers: Good Time Room. At



JERRY EIMBINDER PHOTO

Karaoke is planned at Purpl in Hastings-on-Hudson for New Year's Eve entertainment.

Empire City Casino. Buffet dinner. Open bar, midnight Champagne toast. Bobby Lynch Orchestra. \$150. 9 p.m. seating.

Yonkers: Terrace Room. At Empire City Casino. Four entrée choices. Champagne Toast. Guss Hayes Band. \$79 for Empire Club members; \$89 for non-members. 9 p.m. seating.

Yonkers: Zuppa. Lounge cocktail hour with raw bar and food stations followed by four-course dinner. Entrées: Amish chicken, two South African lobster tails and veal chop. Open bar. DJ. \$140. Half-price for children.

Happenings

continued from page 16

Dec. 24 and 31). Info: 914-273-3887.

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives 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 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, 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 Storytime. This interactive story time uses 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-

769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Young Explorers Story Time. Nature discovery for youngsters. Enjoy a nature-themed story and discover the wonders of nature while exploring fields, forests or landscaped grounds. Dress for outdoor activity. Except in extreme weather conditions, a portion of each class is spent outdoors. For children three to five years old; with a parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$9 per child. Non-member: \$12 per child. Every Monday (except Jan. 18). Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Look Good . . . Feel Better. A workshop that teaches beauty techniques to women undergoing cancer treatment. The program includes a hair consultation with a professional stylist and a makeup consultation with a cosmetologist. Attendees can take home a complementary wig and a makeup kit donated by cosmetic companies. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center, Room 545, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3315 or 914-366-3421.

Zumba Class. Open to all. Drop-ins welcome; no membership needed. PFX, 101 Castleton St., Pleasantville. 6:30 to

7:30 p.m. \$10 a class. Every Monday. Info: Contact Amy Olin at olin.amyj@gmail.com.

Telephone Support Group for Women With Metastatic Breast Cancer. This Support Connection group offers the opportunity to share information and experiences with women across the country who are living with breast cancer. Share information and experiences. Confidentially discuss concerns and gain support from others who understand from the comfort of home. Open to women nationwide living with recurrent, advanced stage or metastatic breast cancer. 8 p.m. Free. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Contact Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Tuesday, Jan. 5

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives 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 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action

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

Preschool Storytime. This interactive story time uses 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, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

"The Winter's Tale." Acclaimed actor-director Kenneth Branagh present an exceptional series of plays that brings together a remarkable group of actors, including Judi Dench and Derek Jacobi and Kenneth Branagh. This timeless Shakespeare tragicomedy of obsession and redemption is reimagined in a new production co-directed by Rob Ashford. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 6:30 p.m. Members: \$25. Non-members: \$30. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds

122915

AUCTIONS

Income Properties in Newport, VT Auctions: Thurs., Jan 28 25-Unit Apt. Building, 27,500+/-SF Ind. Building, & 28,000+/-SF Ind. Building THAuction. com *800-634-7653

AUTO DONATIONS

Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 315-400-0797 Today!

Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 914-468-4999 Today!

HELP WANTED

NEW YEAR, NEW AIRLINE CAREERS Get trained as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Overnight classes available. Call AIM 866-296-7093

IN HOME PET SITTING

PLEASANT PAWS INN LLC Our home will be their home! 24/7 one on one love! We only take a small group of dogs. For quality care. Warm, cozy, relaxing no stress atmosphere. Large yard to play in! We look forward to having them be part of our family. Boarding: Daycare:

Dog walker available to come to your home as well. Call Julie 914-906-8414 www.Pleasantpawsinn.com FB

LEGALS

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WHOLESOME GROWTH LLC d/b/a Kumon of White Plains. Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/27/2015. Office location: WESTCHESTER county. SSNY designated agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to: 476 SHELTON RD TRUMBULL, CT, 06611. Principal business address: 600 N BROADWAY WHITE PLAINS, NY 10603. Purpose: any lawful act.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SO-RENSEN HC ADVISORS LLC. Articles of Incorporation filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 7/7/14. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 15 Petersville Road, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: General.

Classified Ad Deadline is Thursdays at 5pm for the next week's publication

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF GELIX, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with Sec'y of State of New York (SSNY) on 9/17/2015. Office location in Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 333 N. Bedford Rd. Ste. 230, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Thrive HR Solutions, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 7/27/15. Office in Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: United States Corporation Agents, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of M.J. Fish LLC filed with the Secretary of State of NY on November 17, 2015. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against may be served. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY shall mail process to 302 West Main Street, Suite 155, Avon, CT 06001.

MISCELLANEOUS

SAWMILLS from only \$4397.00- MAKE & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill- Cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship! FREE Info/DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com

www.NorwoodSawmills.com 1-800-578-1363 Ext.300N

WANTED

MOST CASH PAID FOR paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry, books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. PLEASE CALL AARON AT 914-654-1683

CASH for Coins! Buying Gold & Silver. Also Stamps & Paper Money, Comics, Entire Collections, Estates. Travel to your home. Call Marc in NY: 1-800-959-3419

WANTED TO BUY

CASH FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS Up to \$35/Box! Sealed & Unexpired. Payment Made SAME DAY. Highest Prices Paid!! Call Juley Today! 800-413-3479 www.CashForYourTestStrips.com

TOP CASH PAID ON THE SPOT! - WE BUY Baseball Cards, Autographs, Records, Silver Coins, Golf Items, Art, Jewelry, Comics Etc., Call Joe Today @ 914-310-5153

To Place a Classified Ad Call 914-864-0878 or e-mail classifieds@theexaminernews.com

The Rising Influence of the Millennial Generation



By Nick Antonaccio

Much has been written about the Millennial Generation (born between 1982 and 2000), their unique buying patterns, social values and affinity for all things digital.

These attributes have influenced entire segments of the economy, social patterns and political ideologies. This uniqueness extends to preferences for wine (for those of legal drinking age). As their numbers and influence increase (they are 75 million strong, larger than the Baby Boomer Generation, born between 1946 and 1964), they have garnered the attention of economists plotting the future and consumer businesses seeking to cater to this generation's preferences.

I've been researching this phenomenon and have distilled the Millennials' preferences for wine and wine trends. If you are a Gen Xer (1963-1981), Boomer, or one of the dwindling Silent Generation (1923-1945), you may wish to compare your personal preferences to those of this coveted demographic.

1. Millennials prefer Moscato, Malbec, sparkling wines and red blends (mainly American, with a fruity, low acid and

'compare your personal preferences to theirs'

slightly sweet style).

2. New formats are the new trend. The Franzia and Black Box brands, at three liters, are very popular for upscale Millennials. Both are packaged in plastic bags inside cardboard containers. Convenient containers make it easier to socialize with wine.

3. The price sweet spot is \$12 to \$18. This also happens to be the price range where many of the most popular and quality wines may be found. Western Europe is exporting significant quantities of highly regarded wines to the United States market in this range.

4. The point of entry for new wine lovers has changed. There are now many more brands available in lower price ranges that are starting points for understanding wines. These wines provide an entrée into higher priced, higher quality wines, as increasing discretionary income in the future will presumably afford Millennials the luxury of tasting prestige wines.

5. The up and coming winemakers worldwide are increasingly Millennials. For example, Taken Wine Company is a venture of two friends who grew up in famous Napa Valley family wineries. Josh Phelps (Swanson Vineyards) and Carlo Trincherio (Trincherio Family Estates) decided to

venture out on their own five years ago to create a line of wines focused on their generation's preferences. Today, they've expanded to three lines and have broadened their appeal to Millennials.

6. Of course, this generation is tuned in to digital marketing at a much younger age than their predecessors. Many Baby Boomers have become immersed in social media and digital advertising, but it is not as natural as it is for the 18- to 33-year-old demographic.

7. Sharing is common in influencing their decisions. Trust in crowd consensus is a common determinant in decision-making. From Airbnb to Uber to Cellar Tracker (for wine reviews), Millennials no longer rely on a few trusted sources. Sharing opinions with the masses has replaced reliance on individual experts.

Lest I mislead you to believe that the Millennials have taken over the economy, the fact is that while they are growing in influence and purchasing power, the Baby Boomer generation is still driving the economy. Baby Boomers are open-minded to new wines and trends, which they deftly track on social media. Their

disposable income, as a group, is greater than Millennials; thus, they still hold sway over many advertisers and marketers. In fact, Millennials, as a group, are at a distinct financial disadvantage. They have less wealth and more debt than previous generations did at the same age, due in large part to a shrinking job market, exorbitant student loans and climbing rent prices and home costs.

As Baby Boomers age and "fade away," the growing influence of succeeding generations has captured the attention of

advertisers and the media. In their efforts to prepare for the inevitable, are businesses being shortsighted in estimating the power of today's Millennials?

Millennials are not a singularly unique demographic, but rather the leading indicator of where we are all headed, both the generations ahead of them and those in their rear-view mirrors.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 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](https://twitter.com/sharingwine).

**You Heard It
Through the
Grapevine**

Follow us on



twitter

twitter.com/ExaminerMedia

f Find us on **Facebook**

Search for **EXAMINER MEDIA**

914-864-0878

advertising@theexaminernews.com

www.theexaminernews.com

Your Daily Examiner Fix

Examí Blast

Visit TheExaminerNews.com to subscribe to **Examiner Media's FREE, daily e-mail newsletter**

To get the latest headlines from

The Examiner The **WHITE PLAINS** Examiner

The **PUTNAM** Examiner The **NORTHERN WESTCHESTER** Examiner



as well as columns, features and sports

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

ExaminerSports

Vikings' Second-Half Comeback Falls Short Against Hastings

By Andy Jacobs

Even though he's just halfway through his first season as head coach of the Valhalla boys' basketball team, Mike Auerbach has already discovered that a heavy reliance on long-distance shooting is sure to produce plenty of peaks and valleys.

"We're pretty much an outside shooting team," Auerbach conceded last Tuesday evening, shortly after his Vikings had played their final game of the calendar year. "We don't get a lot in tight, things we can rely on. It's kind of who we are. We've got to live with it right now until we figure out ways to get easy baskets inside that we can rely on and be more consistent with."

So maybe it shouldn't have been much of a surprise that cold-shooting Valhalla had just found itself facing a huge deficit against visiting Hastings before finally catching fire and making a furious comeback late in the third quarter. Though they whittled an 18-point Yellow Jacket lead down to just two, the Vikings wound up with a disappointing 56-49 loss.

"We thought we had 'em scrambling a little bit there and they were able to make just enough plays down the stretch," said Auerbach about the victorious Yellow Jackets. "Every time we got it to four, it seemed like they had an answer for us."

The slow-starting Vikings made just two baskets in the opening quarter, one of them a 3-pointer by Orlando Clarke, and fell behind 14-6. Junior guard Kevin Kelly provided seven of his team-high 16 points in the second quarter, but the Vikings still walked off the floor at halftime trailing 29-20.

"The first half, really, we struggled making shots," said Auerbach. "And when we do that, we're not gonna score a lot of points. I was just telling the guys inside we're gonna have halves like that. But that's when we need to rely on our defense. Instead of 29-20, maybe it's 24-20 or 23-20 and we're feeling a little bit differently about things in the locker room at halftime."

When the second half began, it took Valhalla more than three and a half minutes to make a shot. By then, Hastings had already scored nine points, stretched its lead to 38-20 and made the outcome seem obvious. But the Yellow Jackets never scored another point the rest of the quarter, which ended with the Vikings on a 13-0 run and the home fans in the Kensico gym in an uproar.

The Vikings' big burst began after stepping up their defense with full-court pressure as Conor Sullivan provided back-to-back baskets, first on a reverse layup and then a 17-foot jumper from the right baseline. A minute later, Terrence Hart, who seemed to be all over the floor diving for loose balls in the third quarter, scored on a put-back. A Hastings turnover soon



Valhalla's Ricky Thomas scores an easy basket in the second half of last Tuesday's home game.

led to a fast-break layup by Clarke.

Hart drove the baseline for a layup with 48 seconds to go in the period, then Clarke, on a fast break 17 seconds later, added another layup and was fouled. He made the free throw, cutting the Hastings lead to just 38-33. The Vikings could have moved even closer, but Clarke misfired on a 3-point attempt from the left elbow as the buzzer sounded to end the quarter.

"I said to the guys in the locker room at halftime, 'Let's win the third quarter,'" said Auerbach. "I didn't know that's how we're gonna have to win it. But, yeah, they fight. They fought hard. We've been in that situation before where we've been down big and we came back and we made it a game. That was against Hen Hud early in the season. That's kind of how they are. If we make shots in bunches and we get hot, now we can kind of erase a deficit and we can put up nine, 10, 11 points pretty quickly."

Unfortunately for the Vikings, they went scoreless for nearly the first four minutes of the final quarter, falling behind by eight points before Kelly finally made both ends of a one-and-one opportunity. A fast-break bucket by Ricky Thomas with 3:13 remaining sliced the Yellow Jackets' lead to 41-37. Hastings then built its advantage back to seven points as Grant Hevia made a long jumper from the left corner and one of two free throws 13 seconds later.

But Valhalla was hardly finished. A 3-pointer by Kelly with 2:26 to go narrowed the deficit to 44-40. After a layup by Hevia, who finished with a game-high 21 points, Viking sophomore Ethan Bartlett connected on 3-pointer from the right corner. With exactly two



Ethan Bartlett passes the ball after driving into the lane in last Tuesday evening's game vs. Hastings.

minutes left, the Hastings lead was down to 46-43.

The Vikings' comeback was stalled, though, as Hevia came through with two big baskets 30 seconds apart. The first one, when he grabbed the rebound of his own miss, made a layup and the subsequent free throw after being fouled, may have been the biggest play of the evening.

With 59 seconds on the clock, two foul shots by Kelly moved the Vikings within 51-47, but their chances all but ended 19 seconds later when Thomas missed on a 3-pointer that would've cut the lead to one. The Yellow Jackets proceeded to make five free throws in the final 36 seconds to clinch the victory.

"We kept it close for pretty much the whole fourth and then they made a couple of big shots," said Auerbach. "They made the big one from the corner against us late in the shot clock, made a couple more inside. So, yeah, we hung with 'em, but they made the plays when they needed them."

Auerbach is at least hoping the defeat to Hastings will help prepare his young team, with two sophomores and two juniors in the starting lineup, for the league battles to come in January. The Vikings have already played 11 games over the first three weeks of the season, leaving little time for anything more than shoot-arounds and walk-throughs.

"We're kind of trying to develop practice habits, good game habits, that type of thing," he said. "Trying to figure out what our identity is. So it's been a work in progress. But to have seven wins in the first half, I don't think I could've expected much more."

Valhalla first-year coach Mike Auerbach watches his Vikings battle from behind in the fourth quarter last Tuesday evening.



Vikings guard Kevin Kelly drives to the basket during last week's game vs. visiting Hastings.



Valhalla sophomore Orlando Clarke sails through the lane for a bucket against the Yellow Jackets.



Briarcliff's Youth Movement Overwhelms the Eagles

By Andy Jacobs

No, they weren't giving out crystal balls last Tuesday afternoon at Briarcliff High School. But anyone entering the gymnasium could clearly see into the future as a trio of talented young guards was providing an early glimpse of what Section One foes can expect over the next few years playing against the Bears.

Led by eighth-grader Alana Lombardi and freshmen KC Hamlin and Maddie Plank, the Briarcliff girls' basketball team overwhelmed the visiting Dobbs Ferry Eagles 75-51 in a game that was all but decided by the middle of the third quarter. Lombardi finished with a game-high 24 points as the Bears closed out the 2015 portion of their schedule and improved to 5-4 this season.

"I've never had an eighth-grader that plays like her," said Bears coach Don Hamlin after watching Lombardi score 11 baskets against the Eagles, two of them from 3-point range. "I've really never had ninth-graders that play like the other two. So we're fortunate. Let's hope they continue to grow."

Dobbs Ferry actually took a two-point lead five different times in the game's opening few minutes. But the three precocious Bears then sparked a 9-0 run over the next couple of minutes that kept Briarcliff in front the rest of the way. It began three minutes into the contest with a bucket by Hamlin, who then gave the Bears the lead for good with a 3-pointer from the top of the key. Lombardi and Plank completed the spurt with back-to-back layups 15 seconds apart.

But the Eagles were still within 19-16 after a pair of free throws by Katelyn Fanning with 1:43 left in the first quarter. Unfortunately for them, that was as close as they would get as Briarcliff scored the next 11 points. The opening period ended with both Plank and Lombardi driving for baskets, and the second quarter began with



Eighth-grader Alana Lombardi drives for two of her game-high 24 points in last Tuesday's victory against the Eagles.

Jackie Contento and Kelly Monaghan, grizzled old veterans compared to their young teammates, providing the first seven points to give the Bears a 30-16 advantage.

A 6-0 Dobbs Ferry run late in the second quarter cut the Briarcliff lead to 34-24 before Contento, who finished with 17 points, answered with a fast-break layup and Lombardi nailed a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to provide the Bears with a 39-25 halftime cushion. Despite the comfortable lead, though, coach Hamlin was a bit disappointed.

"We kind of need to do a better job playing defense," he said. "We outscored them, but I didn't really think our defense was great. We started very slow, defensively. It's happened the last two games and we were able to win the games. But we need to do a better job with that. Sometimes we have defensive lapses that we've got to take care of. You can't do this all the time."

Lombardi had 11 of her points in the third quarter when the Bears outscored Dobbs Ferry by just a 16-14 margin. With the Eagles trailing 45-32 midway through the quarter, it was Lombardi who then scored the last nine points in a 10-2 Briarcliff burst. She had three fast-break layups, including two within 10 seconds, and added a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

"She does a lot of good things," said Hamlin about his youngest player. "She's at the point defensively. So when she's really locked in defensively, everybody behind her plays well as well. And she's long. She looks like this little, skinny kid, but she makes plays."

The fourth quarter began with the Bears leading by 16 points after Dobbs scored the final five points of the third.



The Bears' Kelly Monaghan gets inside for a bucket during the second half of last Tuesday's home win.



Jackie Contento tries to maintain control of the ball as she drives through the lane in Briarcliff's 75-51 rout of Dobbs Ferry.

Kelly O'Donnell, another Briarcliff freshman, opened the period with a 15-foot jumper and, after baskets by the Eagles' Allison Burt and the Bears' Monaghan, Lombardi made a steal and went coast to coast for a layup to restore the 20-point lead.

The Bears made nine baskets in the final quarter and, as it turned out, all but the first one, by O'Donnell, were from close to the rim. Lombardi concluded the day's scoring by driving through the lane one final time with 1:20 left on the clock to give Briarcliff its largest lead. Despite a lack of size in the frontcourt, the Bears had still been able to rebound the basketball and get out in transition countless times.

"Yeah, it'd be nice to have that," said Hamlin about the prospect of finding a tall rebounder under his Christmas tree. "But you can't worry about what you don't have. You just have to work with who you have. Most of the time



Briarcliff freshman Maddie Plank fires a jumper from the right corner in last week's home win over Dobbs Ferry.

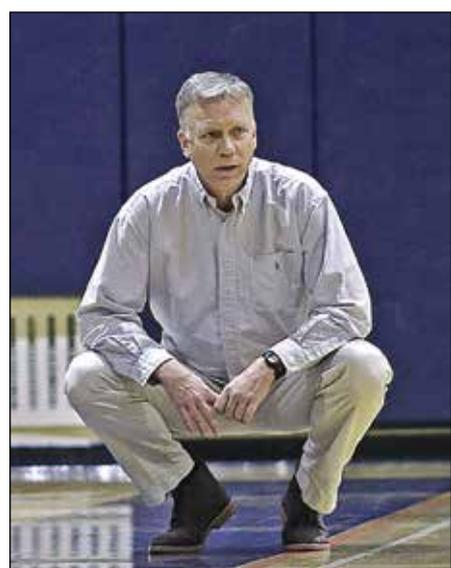


Briarcliff guard KC Hamlin dribbles the ball near the top of the key in the win over Dobbs Ferry.

this year, we've done a pretty good job on the boards. So it hasn't really killed us not to have, you know, like a six-foot girl."

What he does have is an emerging young team that seems to have recovered from the shock of losing leading scorer Carly Fanelli to a season-ending knee injury in the opening game. His daughter, point guard KC, erupted for nine of her 13 points in the opening quarter and now has classmate Plank back in the lineup to offer another tempting option for her passes.

"She's not scoring as much as she will," said coach Hamlin about Plank, who wound up with seven points against the Eagles. "If that ever gets going, we're going to be really dangerous."



Briarcliff coach Don Hamlin watches from the sideline during the first half against visiting Dobbs Ferry.



Pleasantville's Aiden McDermott follows the flight of his tee shot on the final hole in a match vs. Croton.

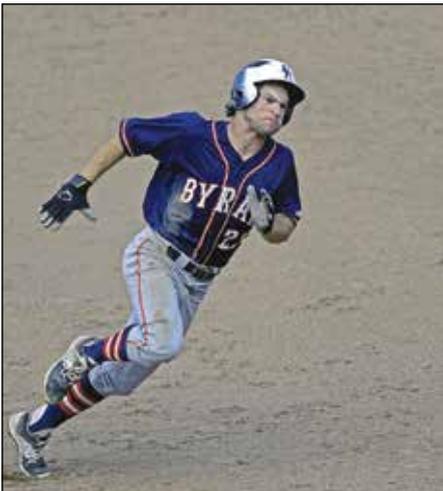


Westlake's Jason Kalle maintains his balance after breaking a tackle in the Wildcats' playoff victory over Bronxville.

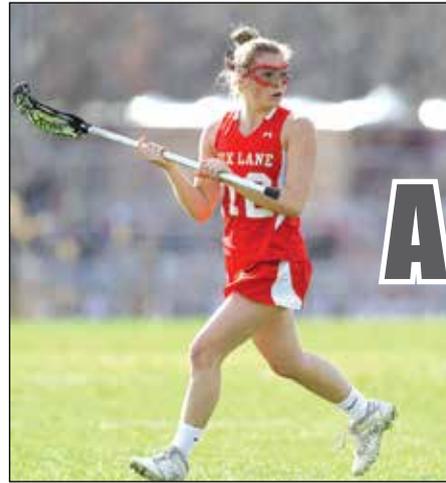


ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Three of the elite distance runners in the section, Pleasantville's Eli Waxler and Drew Dorflinger and Briarcliff's Ryan Gallagher, run stride for stride at the league championships.



Frankie Vesuvio's hitting and pitching led the Byram Hills baseball team to the state championship.



2015 A Look Back

Left: Fox Lane's Lindsay West controls the ball during a lacrosse game against host Greeley.



Horace Greeley field hockey players celebrate a goal on their way to a berth in the Section One championship game.



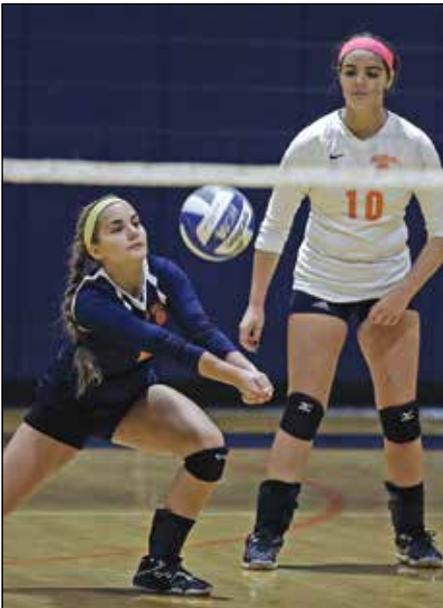
Matt Neuberger sends a shot toward the goal during a Horace Greeley home soccer game.



Melissa Giglio of Valhalla clears the last hurdle while competing at the Westchester County Championships.



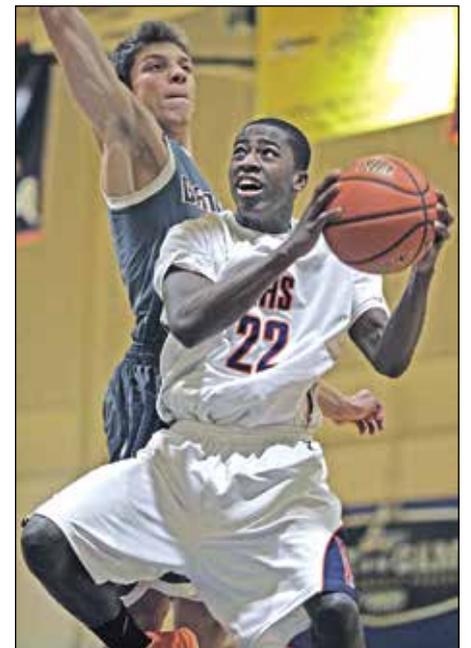
Right: The Valhalla softball team's six-year title run ended with a loss in the sectional final to Rye Neck.



Above: Briarcliff's Maria Capasso bumps the ball as teammate Isabella Pisani looks on during a Bears' home volleyball match.



Right: Horace Greeley standout swimmer Emma Hadley helped the Quakers claim yet another Section One championship this past fall.



Josiah Cobbs tries to get to the basket for the Briarcliff Bears, who reached the Class B championship game at the County Center.



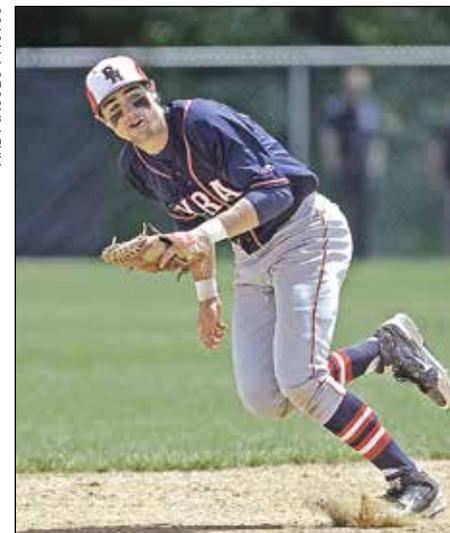
Byram Hills quarterback Lou Filippelli had a record-setting senior season throwing the football.



Fox Lane's Tanner More celebrates after scoring a goal at the Brewster Ice Arena.



Josie Amerson of Pleasantville shoots the ball during the Panthers' semifinal playoff game vs. Irvington at the Westchester County Center.



Byram Hills shortstop Kellen Hatheway played a big part in the Bobcats' march to the state championship.

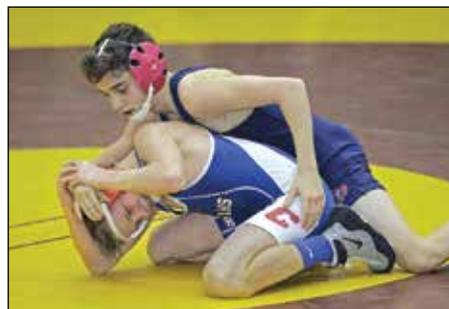
2015 A Look Back



Fox Lane's Vicky Martinez runs in the sectional cross country championships at Bowdoin Park.



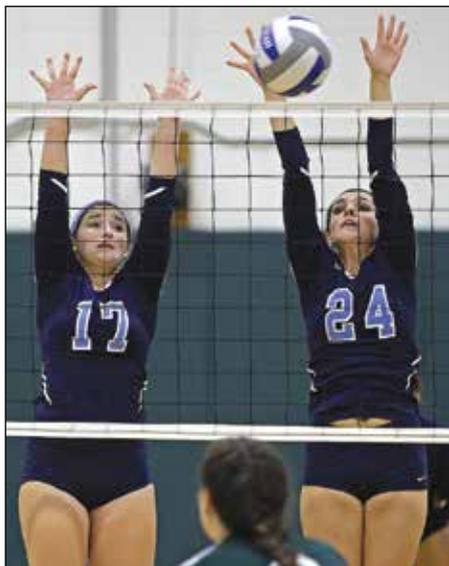
Westlake point guard Natalie Alfieri helped the Wildcats reach the County Center last March.



Byram Hills wrestler Luca Errico has the upper hand on his way to winning the title at 99 pounds in the Division 2 meet last winter.



Ally Steffen of Byram Hills drives the ball during the girls' sectional championship this past spring.



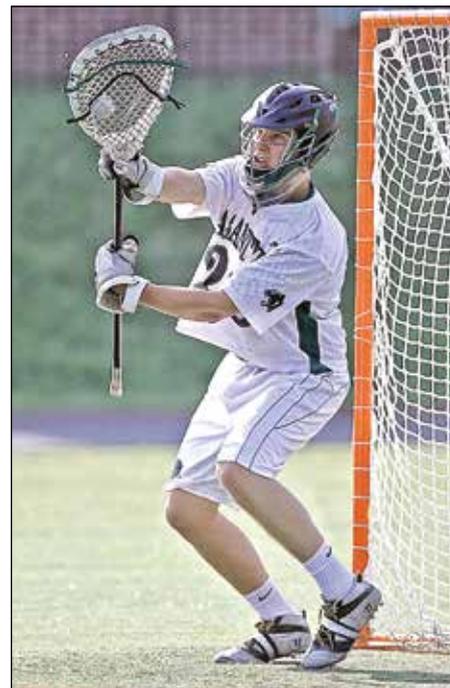
Westlake's Stephanie Rizzo (left) and Kelly Martin rise together for a block during a volleyball match at Pleasantville.



Quarterback Ralph Gonzalez throws a pass for the Valhalla football team, which went undefeated during the regular season.



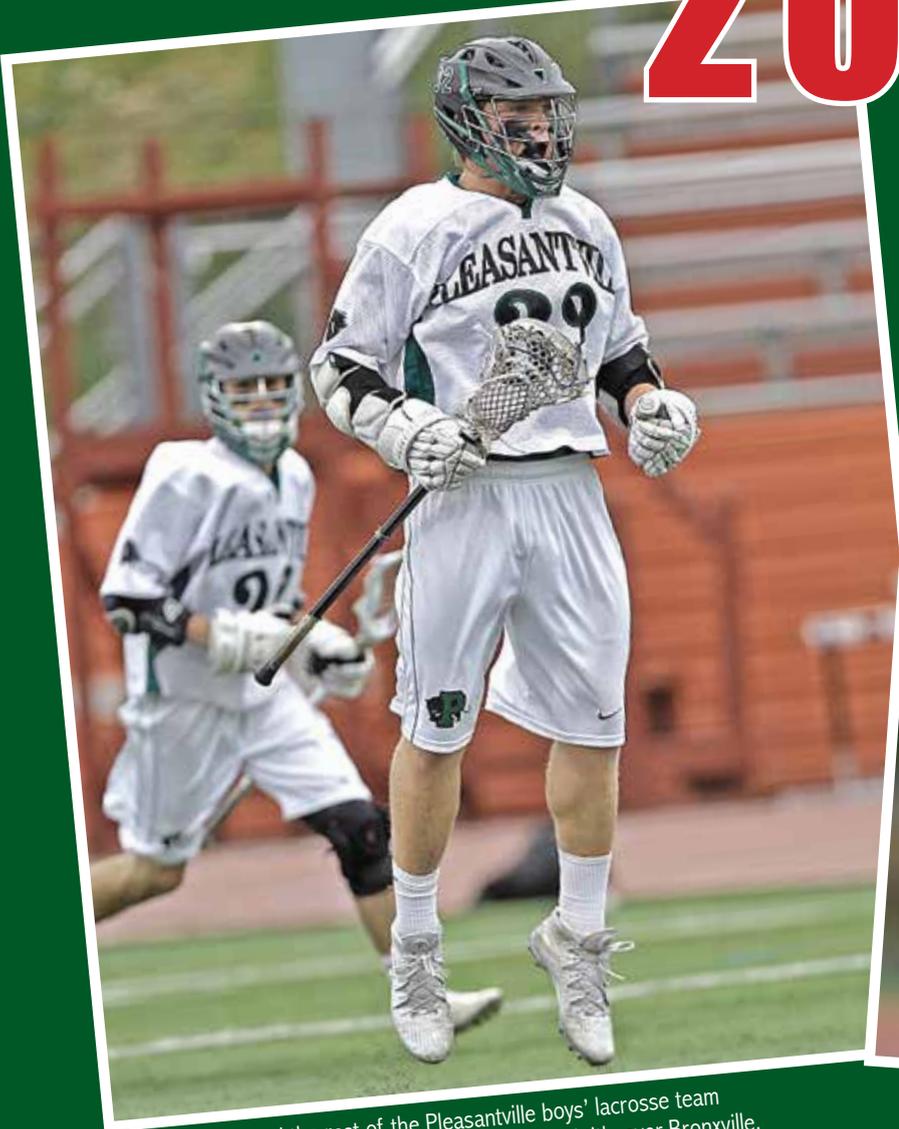
Above: Bianca Balducci of Pleasantville (left) and Marianna Leone of Westlake battle for control of the soccer ball.



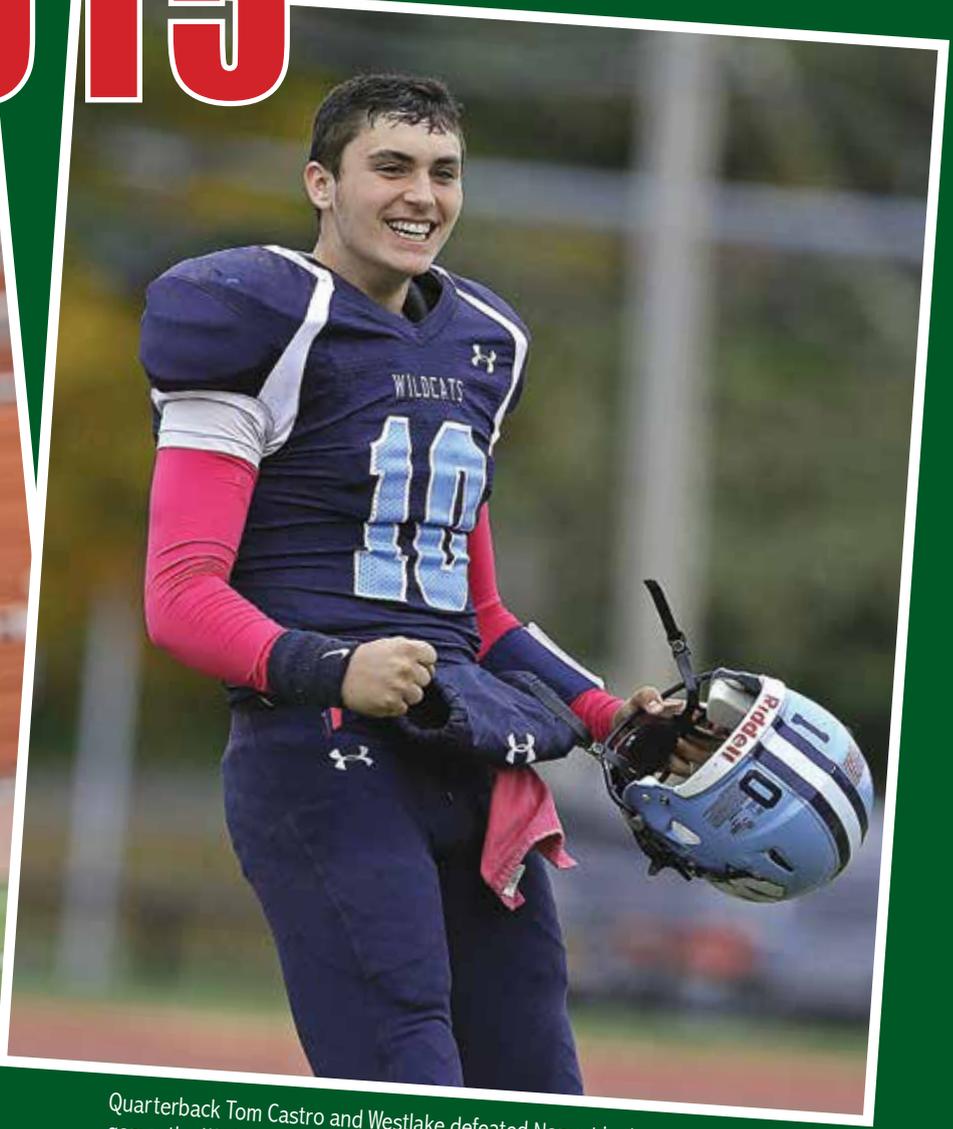
Standout goalie Oscar Marchi helped the Pleasantville lacrosse team capture its first-ever sectional title.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

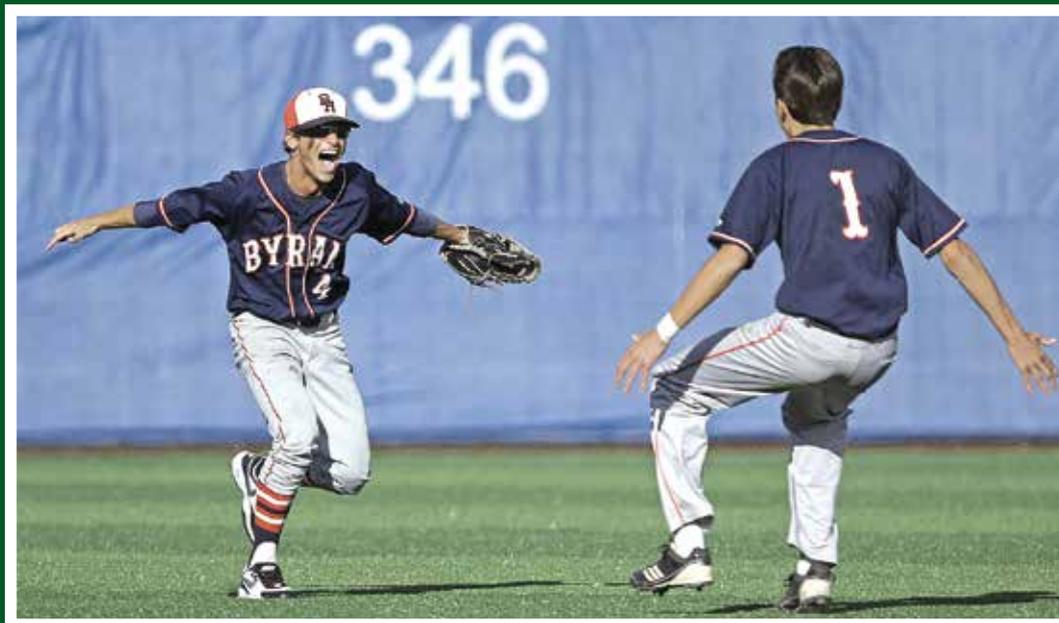
CHAMPIONS 2015



Josh Della Puca and the rest of the Pleasantville boys' lacrosse team had plenty to shout about after winning the sectional title over Bronxville.



Quarterback Tom Castro and Westlake defeated Nanuet in the sectional championship game, the Wildcats' first football title in more than three decades.



Nick Sapone (left) and Matt Milone celebrate after the Byram Hills baseball team captured the state championship.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS