

New Castle Ready for Plastic Bag Ban to Take Effect

By Martin Wilbur

After more than six months of preparation and public education, the Town of New Castle is ready to see its Reusable Bag Initiative go into effect this Sunday.

The measure to eliminate single-use plastic bags was unanimously approved by the town board last spring, but officials provided the New Castle Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) with extra time to allow for a period of adjustment for merchants and residents.

As part of the law, groceries, food markets, pharmacies and convenience stores will charge 10 cents per paper bag if a customer requests one to carry out their merchandise. However, the nominal charge is meant to encourage shoppers to bring a reusable bag when they visit a store.

Bags for meat and produce, prescription

drugs, newspapers, greeting cards and plastic covering from dry cleaners will still be permitted with no fee, according to the law.

Jennifer Mebes Flagg, an SAB member, said letters and a sheet containing frequently asked questions were sent to every merchant in town in October to remind them about the Reusable Bag Initiative. During the past month, SAB members also visited each merchant in person to provide them posters containing pertinent information to hang in their establishment, Flagg said.

Earlier this month, residents received a mailing with information about the law. Banners were affixed to lampposts throughout town and alerts have been included in town-wide e-mails to keep residents aware that the law is set to take effect, she said. The SAB has also posted

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Man Indicted for Attempted Murder of County Police Officer

By Martin Wilbur

A Mount Vernon man who tried to stab a Westchester County police officer after a high-speed chase in Mount Kisco and Bedford last month was arraigned last Thursday on an 11-count indictment, including first-degree attempted murder.

Ronald Clare Greenland, 53, faces 25 years to life in jail. He was also brought up on six other felony charges, three misdemeanors and a violation stemming from the Nov. 8 incident. He pleaded not guilty at the arraignment and was remanded to the county jail.

Law enforcement authorities said Greenland led the officer on a chase after the cop spotted a suspicious green Honda Odyssey van in the Arroyo Chevrolet Cadillac dealership at 175 N.

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Ronald Greenland was indicted last Thursday for attempting to murder a Westchester County police officer following an incident in Mount Kisco and Bedford last month.

A Special Milestone



Left to right, Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino helps Thompson & Bender Partners Geoff Thompson, Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson and Dean Bender celebrate the public relations, marketing and advertising firm's 30th anniversary last week at a gala at the Castle Hotel & Spa in Tarrytown. The company is based in Briarcliff Manor.

Astorino to Make Affordable Housing Announcement as Deadline Nears

By Martin Wilbur

As the deadline looms Saturday for Westchester to comply with the affordable housing settlement, County Executive Rob Astorino is scheduled to make a major announcement today (Tuesday) on the status of the agreement.

Under the terms of the settlement between the county and the federal government that was reached more than seven years ago, funding and building permits for 750 new affordable units of housing in 31 predominantly white communities is required to be in place by Dec. 31, 2016.

The county's calculations revealed that it had surpassed funding the requisite number of units months ago, but it had not reached the threshold for building

permits. As of the beginning of last week, Westchester reported that 714 permits were in place.

A request for a status update before the holiday weekend from the county executive's office went unanswered. Monday's advisory regarding Tuesday afternoon's announcement in White Plains gave no additional information.

Board of Legislators Chairman Michael Kaplowitz (D-Somers) said the Astorino administration was confident it will meet the deadline by the end of the week. However, the matter of whether Westchester will have enough permits is in the hands of the building departments of several municipalities, he said.

"They're very close," Kaplowitz said last Thursday. "They believe they'll have

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New Castle Ready for Plastic Bag Ban to Take Effect

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on the Chappaqua Moms and Town of New Castle website.

“The reaction of residents has been tremendously positive,” Flagg said. “We’re thrilled that it looks like New Castle residents are aware of the law, and certainly everyone will have to adjust a little bit to remember to bring their (reusable) bags. We’ve had great feedback and a lot of great support. We’re very happy with that.”

Despite strong support among residents during the public hearing earlier this spring, there had been some concerns expressed by merchants that it could negatively affect business. Concerns raised

came primarily from those in food-related establishments.

Flagg said that by visiting each merchant she believes there has been progress made on that front, but they plan to have a continuing dialogue.

“We believe that in our speaking with every merchant and trying to get them to see that there is support by the residents – obviously let’s see what happens after Jan. 1 – but we think that by visiting with every merchant that has helped,” Flagg said.



Town Supervisor Robert Greenstein said sponsorship of several thousand reusable bags by a few businesses in town, particularly DeCicco & Sons, which is opening this Friday in Millwood, has provided a good example for all merchants.

The education period has also been effective in preparing the town to adjust, Greenstein said.

“I definitely think the Reusable Bag Initiative will be a help to the town and we believe it will be supported by the merchants and the residents,” he said.

In addition to DeCicco’s, which is sponsoring 2,000 reusable bags, Sunrise Solar is sponsoring 1,000 bags and Ted Holmes, a Chappaqua realtor, is also sponsoring additional bags.

In another effort to help shoppers, the SAB will be handing out reusable bags after Jan. 1 as part of its public awareness campaign, Flagg said.

When the law was approved in May, New Castle became the fifth municipality in Westchester and the ninth in the state to enact a law prohibiting single-use plastic bags. Since its passage, Flagg said the SAB has been contacted by other municipalities in the area that are discussing similar measures.

Astorino to Make Affordable Housing Announcement as Deadline Nears

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it, but it’s coming down to one or two projects, and the projects are not in the jurisdiction of the county.”

One of the projects referenced by Kaplowitz was Conifer Realty’s controversial 28-unit Chappaqua Station project at 54 Hunts Place in Chappaqua, the legislator confirmed. There are also several other smaller projects that are similarly awaiting approvals that could help the county reach the magic number.

New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein said last Friday that entering

the final week of the year the only remaining regulatory hurdle that Conifer faces is to obtain an MTA access permit that would allow the builder to use the agency’s property.

Greenstein, who has opposed the Conifer project since before he ran for supervisor in 2013, said the town will not make an exception for Conifer if the MTA fails to give its go-ahead this week despite the potential for serious ramifications for the county.

“They (Conifer) need an access permit from the MTA relating to the site,”

Greenstein said. “We’re not giving our building permit until they have that access permit.”

Chappaqua Station has also faced stiff opposition from some town residents who have argued that the one-third of an acre Hunts Place parcel is inappropriate for housing and would be unsafe.

It is unclear what will occur if the county fails to reach the 750-permit level by Saturday. Federal Judge Denise Cote has been presiding over the case, but there has been no replacement federal monitor overseeing the issues related

to the settlement since James Johnson resigned from that position in August. A short time later Johnson announced he was running for governor of New Jersey.

It is also unknown whether the county will, in fact, be in compliance with the settlement even if it should have at least 750 permits. The agreement called for the monitor to approve an Analysis of Impediments that deals with zoning issues. Astorino’s office has submitted eight proposed analyses since he took office in 2010, but all of them have been rejected.



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Q: Are there advances in cosmetic surgery for the body?

A: Today’s techniques make possible faster recovery and dramatically less scarring, while minimizing surgical risk. These include replacing general anesthesia with local “tumescence” anesthesia, which improves safety, reduces post-op pain and speeds recovery. In addition, liposuction and lasers are used to supplement surgery, reducing scarring, improving results, and minimizing your downtime.

Q: What is the newest approach to liposuction?

A: The procedure involves the suctioned removal of fat from an area, after which the skin tightens up to assume the new contour. Now, lasers are used to tighten the skin’s undersurface during surgery so that post-op, the skin becomes taut faster, with less trauma. This means better results and faster healing. Most people return to work by the third day after surgery.

Q: What is the latest technique for removing excess skin?

A: A tummy tuck eliminates a bulge by lifting tissue and pulling it into the new position. Sometimes the abdominal muscles are also tightened. Today’s

surgeons incorporate liposuction to remove fat in the area, minimizing the amount of skin removed. That results in less pain, smaller scars and faster recovery. The procedure usually involves an overnight hospital stay, and you’ll be back to work in one to two weeks. Modern arm lifts and thigh lifts also incorporate liposuction to remove fat, reducing the amount of loose skin. You enjoy greater safety, less scarring and faster recovery. After an arm and thigh lift, you can be back to work in one week. While there is an immediate visible difference after all three procedures, you’ll enjoy the full results in about three weeks.

Q: How should I choose the right surgeon and facility?

A: Choose a surgeon board-certified in this specialty with extensive experience in body-contouring procedures. At the Center for Plastic Surgery at Northern Westchester Hospital, specialized surgeons and anesthesiologists work with highly experienced nurses in a hospital setting that offers patients comfort, privacy and pampering combined with the safety, expertise and advanced technology of a surgically sophisticated hospital.

BOL Democrats Seek to Ban Gun Show at County Center

By Martin Wilbur

Outraged Democrats on the Board of Legislators last week vowed to ban a gun show scheduled for the County Center next month by County Executive Rob Astorino's office, arguing it is inappropriate for the site.

The board's political factions are gearing up for battle once New Year's is over to debate whether the Northeast Gun Show, scheduled for the weekend of Jan. 21-22 at the White Plains venue, should take place.

Board Chairman Michael Kaplowitz (D-Somers) said he expects legislation to be drawn up and debated at the Jan. 3 meeting of the Public Safety and Social Services Committee in favor of a ban. A vote by the full legislature could then take place at the Board of Legislators' Jan. 9 meeting, he said.

Kaplowitz said while he is a supporter of the Second Amendment, the Constitution doesn't compel the county to host a gun and knife show at one of its facilities.

"I believe we should not have a gun show at government facilities of the county and I'm supporting legislation that will ban the gun show," said Kaplowitz. "The reason is it's a family venue. There are lots of things that are legal, you don't necessarily want to invite them into your living room."

"In our current climate, with reported threats of violence at more than one Westchester school in recent weeks, it sends a terrible message for the county to sanction a gun show on its property," added

Legislator MaryJane Shimsky (D-Hastings-on-Hudson).

Meanwhile, last week the board's seven Republicans and one Conservative countered with a proposal that would require the show's operator follow the state attorney general's Model New York Gun Show Procedures. The procedures were drawn up by Attorney General Eric Schneiderman about two years ago.

The procedures require that guns brought into the show by private sellers are tagged so that the operator can determine if guns were sold and that a proper background check is performed. There would also have to be conspicuous signs posted throughout the show that give written notice to all dealers and makes clear in online promotional materials that New York State law requires a National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS) for all firearm sales or transfers.

It also informs all gun show staff of the requirements of posting signs and conducting background checks; limits the number of access doors at the show so that sellers and buyers have to enter and exit through an area where the NICS procedures can be monitored; and uses reasonable means, including police patrols, to prevent illegal gun sales outside of the building, and have law enforcement at the show watch for illegal sales.

"I would expect quick passage of this



The County Center, operated by Westchester County, is scheduled to host a controversial gun show next month. Democrats on the Board of Legislators have vowed to fight against the show.

legislation since it was developed after research and due diligence by Attorney General Eric Schneiderman in working with the companies that run gun shows around New York," said Board of Legislators Vice Chairman Jim Maisano (R-New Rochelle).

"We believe that mandating the toughest regulations possible to ensure that gun shows follow all existing laws and that the safest procedures possible are followed is the right solution to deal with future gun shows at the Westchester County Center."

Phil Oliva, a spokesman for Astorino, said the stringent attorney general's procedures require a background check to purchase a gun. County police will also be providing security and that all rules are followed.

"The Northeast Gun show has historically been one of the best run and most well-attended shows we host at the County

Center," Oliva said. "We expect the show in January to be no different and we encourage not just sportsmen and firearm enthusiasts in Westchester and throughout the Hudson Valley to attend, but also the general public.

However, Kaplowitz, who said he would also support the Republicans' proposal as a backup plan, questioned why Astorino tried to schedule the show without telling anybody. He also reneged on a handshake agreement with the Board of Legislators following the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre four years ago.

Kaplowitz said he hopes Astorino realizes that it's bad timing and bad policy to push the gun show through.

While Democrats outnumber the Republican caucus 9-8, there aren't enough votes for a veto override, Kaplowitz said.



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Transparency, Efficiency Priorities for New Mt. Kisco Planning Chair

By Neal Rentz

Following a year of turmoil and calls for change, Doug Hertz took the helm of the Mount Kisco Planning Board for its Dec. 13 meeting with the goal of introducing an improved project review system.

Hertz, a 17-year board member, was appointed to lead the board earlier this month by village trustees, replacing longtime chairman Joseph Cosentino against a backdrop of calls to ease the time it takes for commercial applicants to receive approvals. During the past year, the laborious planning board process was seen as a key impediment to reinvigorating commercial development and to reduce the number of downtown store vacancies.

While one proposal – to reduce the size of the planning board from five to seven members – was recently rejected by the village board, Hertz said other steps are being taken to move applications along but also protect the village, its residents and merchants.

The municipality's professional planning and engineering staff will be given the time and resources to work with applicants and representatives ahead of time and remain in contact with them so issues can be addressed in a timely fashion, he said.

"I want things to be as simple as

possible, but not simpler," Hertz said. "This will allow planning board members to act effectively and appropriately, namely to be the representatives of the community, unbiased by politics or outside factors, and weigh all the information after it has been processed, worked on, deemed complete and vetted by our professional staff."

A task force earlier this year issued a series of recommendations in hopes of streamlining commercial applications. Hertz said the task force along with village officials addressed issues that have held the planning board back over the years. "Many of their suggestions have already been implemented in the last year and we have seen the improvements in process and workflow that have resulted," he said.

All applications will be available digitally to assist with record keeping and to make it easier to follow and track each application, which will help make for a more transparent process, Hertz said.

He also expected to have digital projection and improved amplification for meetings in the near future.

Another upcoming change is having Building Inspector Peter Miley provide a brief report at each meeting of matters that have been before the planning board but are now being handled



Doug Hertz presided over his first planning board meeting as chairman on Dec. 13. Changes recommended by a task force earlier this year have started to be implemented to streamline the review process.

with the planning board to create a procedure that will allow the CAC to provide its input on environmental issues. In addition, Hertz plans to speak with Zoning Board of Appeals and Architectural Review Board members about ways to share information and improve communication among the boards.

Developers are also meeting with village staff to discuss yet-to-be-submitted proposals. That would speed up the process as professional staff becomes more familiar with a project before an application comes before the board for the first time, he said.

Hertz said he wanted to make a statement coming on as the new chairman that there will be positive changes. He thanked the village board for its support and village staff for their assistance and is pleased with the changes that are now underway.

"I hope that this message will resonate with those who have businesses in town and those who may be considering a business in Mount Kisco," Hertz said. "I hope that those who in the past have criticized actions of this board will now become its advocates and that this new transparency will better inform the public."

administratively. That could include, for example, updates on changes of use that are as of right.

"This will help board members keep abreast of any changes in town that we may not be privy to otherwise, and this information may end up informing future decisions," Hertz said.

He has also asked the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) to meet

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Changing Styles Forces Longtime Mt. Kisco Jeweler to Shut Store

By Anna Young

A change in shopping habits continues to reshape the small business landscape in downtown throughout the United States. It will also soon mean the end of the line for a longtime Mount Kisco jewelry store.

Rose Garden Jewelers, located at 12 S. Moger Ave., will be going out of business on Friday, Mar. 31 after 23 years of operation, its owner Shirley Wang confirmed last week.

Wang said that in the last five to 10 years, the local business scene in Mount Kisco has changed and foot traffic for the once busy storefront has slowed significantly.

"Time is just not the same," Wang said. "I've done this my whole life; it's a hard decision but I feel this is the right time."

Wang started her career in the jewelry business in Hopewell Junction in Dutchess County, wanting to be a part of a downtown business district.

She spent five years there; however, she was robbed in her store at gunpoint, an experience that forced Wang to move her family to Westchester and eventually opening a store in Bedford Hills.

Aside from the life-threatening incident, Wang also realized that she needed to have a better education about the jewelry industry.

"There's so much knowledge you need to have if you want to run a jewelry



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Shirley Wang, left, the owner of Rose Garden Jewelers in Mount Kisco, with her daughter Shawei. The store will be closing in March.

business," Wang said. "If you see two blue gemstones you need to know what's genuine and what's synthetic."

Wang enrolled at the Gemological Institute of America where she received a comprehensive education on diamonds and colored stones along with technical expertise and practical skills to evaluate

gemstones. Upon completing the course, she received her degree from the graduate gemologist program, the most prestigious credential in the industry.

Wang then shadowed professional jewelers and attended courses at Jewelers of America, an association that helps advance professionalism and ethics within the jewelry industry.

Despite finding success in Bedford after moving to Westchester, Wang relocated to Mount Kisco because there was more foot traffic in its downtown at the time. Once in the village, Wang opened an old-fashioned, full-service store specializing in antique, Victorian art nouveau and high quality custom-made jewelry.

"Sometimes when I came back from antique shows customers would be waiting in line to get the first pick," Wang said.

Despite a loyal clientele over the years, a new generation has been replacing many of Wang's most valued clients. She said younger customers have gravitated away from antique jewelry styles. Wearing a brooch or a pin isn't in vogue these days, so they're interested in different types of jewelry establishments for their most important purchases, she said.

"I have spent a lot of time making this decision," Wang said. "Many of my customers have retired and moved away and it's tough trying to keep up with this

generation's style."

Wang will begin her retirement vacationing in Switzerland with her daughter Shawei next spring. After her return, she plans to consult on a part-time basis with some of her customers on purchases if they need help as well as do appraisals and repairs.

In the meantime, Wang is marking down her inventory hoping to sell it all during her remaining three months in business.

"This truly is the end of an era," Shawei said. "I'm just sad my daughters won't be able to grow up with this store like I did."

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Defendants Plead Guilty in 2015 Death of Mt. Kisco Day Laborer

By Martin Wilbur

Three Mount Kisco men charged in the July 2015 beating death of a day laborer in the village, pleaded guilty last week to charges stemming from the crime.

The Westchester County District Attorney's office announced last Friday that

Fredy Coronado Mendez Depaz, 36, of 16 Spring St., and his brother, Mario David Coronado Depaz, 21, of 3 West

St., pleaded guilty to second-degree manslaughter, a Class C felony, in the death of Jose Reyes Sanchez on either July 4 or July 5, 2015. Both men face a maximum of five to 15 years in state prison.

A third defendant, Milton Aviel Ventura, 36, of 57 Spring St. entered a guilty plea of third-degree robbery, a Class D felony.

Authorities said that sometime late

on July 4 or early on July 5, 2015, the Depaz brothers beat Sanchez to death in a wooded area in the vicinity of Lieto Drive and Lexington Avenue.

The victim, a homeless day laborer was repeatedly punched, kicked and beaten with a tree branch, according to the district attorney's office.

Prior to the attack, Mario David Coronado Depaz and Ventura forcibly stole the victim's wrist watch off of his

wrist.

An intensive investigation by Westchester County police led to the arrest of the three defendants.

Sentencing for Mario David Coronado Depaz is Feb. 23, while his brother Fredy will be sentenced on Apr. 15.

The Depaz brothers were returned to jail to await sentencing.

Man Indicted for Attempted Murder of County Police Officer

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Bedford Rd. at about 2:15 a.m. The van had previously been reported stolen.

The officer attempted to pull over the van at a traffic light after it exited the dealership but the driver sped off. Greenland, police said, got out of the van on Knowlton Avenue and began running from the vehicle with the officer chasing him through the woods and backyards. He was caught on Dickson Lane in Bedford.

According to the district attorney's office, a struggle ensued, with Greenland allegedly attempting to stab the officer several times. The officer's bulletproof vest had several slashes in the area of the chest.

The suspect had been attempting

to steal rims off vehicles, the district attorney's office reported. Police had increased patrols of car dealerships in the area in response to several thefts of tires, rims and other car parts during overnight hours.

After the defendant's arrest, police discovered a car jack and cinder blocks beneath a pickup truck on the car dealership's property. The minivan Greenland was driving had been stolen from Scarsdale in September.

In addition to first-degree attempted murder, the other felony charges are one count each of first-degree attempted assault, attempted aggravated assault on a police officer, second-degree assault, third-degree criminal possession of a weapon, third-degree attempted grand

larceny and third-degree criminal possession of stolen property.

The misdemeanor charges are third-degree unlawful fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle, resisting arrest and possession of burglar's tools. Greenland was also charged with trespassing, a violation.

The defendant faces federal charges because he had previously been deported to his native Jamaica and returned illegally to the United States. He had been deported based upon a prior felony conviction relating to his participation in a car theft ring.

Greenland, who is being held in jail, is due to return to county court on Jan. 17.

Co-ed Volleyball Tournament Returns to County Center

Registration is open for the Westchester County Co-ed Volleyball Tournament to be held Jan. 4 and 5 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

The tournament is open to men and women, 18 years old and up. The tournament will have 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 \$200 per team, with a limit of 20 teams. Deadline for registration is Friday, Dec. 30.

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New Castle Prepares for Springtime Infrastructure Work

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle officials are planning coordination of various portions of the upcoming downtown Chappaqua infrastructure and streetscape project to limit likely disruptions.

Last week town board members discussed various issues including tentative schedules, possible staging locations for construction and how to ensure that Con Edison promptly starts and finishes its gas main replacement in the vicinity of King Street and South Greeley Avenue so it doesn't interfere with the remainder of the project's scheduled.

The estimated \$10 million initiative, which will include downtown water and sewer main replacement as well as drainage upgrades, will be put out to bid this winter with work expected to start in the spring, said Jared Anderson, an engineer from the town's consulting firm WSP Sells. The final piece will include the above ground streetscape improvements featuring an assortment of aesthetic enhancements.

It is anticipated that all of the work will be completed by the end of 2018, he said.

"We're trying to be very thoughtful in the way we attack this because it's going to be a very disruptive presence," said Councilman Adam Brodsky, the town board's liaison to the Downtown Streetscape Committee. "So we're trying to take the bull by the horns and trying to

get this done and try to do everything in an efficient and smart way and be as least disruptive as possible."

At a special town board meeting last Wednesday, Anderson and DPW Commissioner Gerry Moerschell said the town's water main replacement is scheduled to start in April on South Greeley Avenue near Town Hall and move northward. It is expected that the water main work will be complete by next September or October.

Sewer main replacement will be done in 2018, Moerschell said.

Officials expressed concern last week that Con Edison's gas main replacement, which will start at the opposite end of Greeley Avenue, could disrupt the town's schedule if its start is delayed. The town would like the gas main work to begin in March or April before the water main replacement commences, but representatives for the utility have not given the town an indication of a possible start date, Anderson said.

If Con Edison is delayed it should not affect work this spring and summer, he said.

"Con Edison's gas (main) is not going to detriment the start of water at this end," Anderson said. "They're on the opposite side of the street, so that helps. It's only going to become a problem if Con Ed is not in motion. They could theoretically start late and end at the same time as water,

and you can still have completed water (main) replacement. The problem is they might be in the way of the sewer (main replacement)."

Moerschell suggested the board and town attorneys consider enacting local legislation that would charge prohibitively expensive road opening fees, which could be enacted if Con Edison has major delays. He said Scarsdale was successful in motivating Con Edison to begin their work on time with "phenomenally expensive" fees of about \$1,000 a foot.

An important consideration is for the town to find a centrally located construction staging area, Moerschell said. The last major downtown project, the Route 120 bridge replacement that finished in 2010, used 54 Hunts Place, the site of the Conifer Realty affordable housing project.

With that parcel unavailable, the town could try to convince the owner of a vacant downtown parcel to lease the space, ask the Church of St. Mary the Virgin on South Greeley Avenue to lease space on its South Greeley Avenue property or keep a trailer on the front law at Town Hall.

The town could also find an empty storefront to rent for the construction manager.

Town Administrator Jill Shapiro said the town is also planning an active update system through e-mail blasts and other forms of communication to inform

residents and merchants of the looming project, including schedules and any potential road closures.

A portion of the work, from the gas station on South Greeley Avenue to King Street, may be done at night.

"The best you can do is make sure everybody's on board," Shapiro said.

The infrastructure work was originally going to be done about five years ago, but a former town board postponed the project for several years to help Projecddowntown merchants recover from the impact of the Route 120 bridge work.

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Obituaries Police Blotter

Dolores Acquaviva

Dolores Mary (Constantino) Acquaviva died peacefully on Dec. 21 at home in Thornwood.

She was 85.

Acquaviva was the wife of the late Joseph A. Acquaviva and mother of the late Steven A. Acquaviva. She is survived by her daughter, Diane Lynn (Alfred) Horlacher, and son Joseph (Christine) Acquaviva; her grandchildren, Michael (Jessica), Christopher (Shilpa) and Randall Horlacher and Joseph, Tina and Angela Acquaviva; and her great-granddaughter Giovanna Alphonse.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to remember Dolores in a special way may send a contribution to Phelps Hospice, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. 10591.

Al Landi

Al J. Landi of Pleasantville passed away on Dec. 18 at the age of 92.

Landi was predeceased by his wife, Mary. He is survived by his, sons John and Michael.

The family received friends on Dec. 22 at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. Burial followed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne.

County Police/Mount Kisco

Dec. 19: A Mount Kisco Highway Department employee reported at 7:50 a.m. possible bear tracks on property behind the garage. The area was canvassed by officers but no bear was sighted. The state Department of Environmental Conservation was notified.

Dec. 20: Police responded to Tompkins Mahopac Bank on Lexington Avenue 10:37 a.m. on a report of an unruly customer. The man left the bank prior to an officer's arrival.

Dec. 20: A staff member at Neighbors Link on Columbus Avenue turned over some property found on premises to county police at 5:22 p.m. The items included a cell phone, a cell phone case and a driver's license. An officer was able to return the items to the owner at a Carpenter Avenue residence.

Dec. 21: A visitor to a Gregory Avenue residence contacted police at 2 p.m. to make a welfare check on a friend who was not answering the door. While

officers were on the scene, the resident returned home and advised officers that she had misunderstood the time that her friend was coming to visit.

Dec. 21: A worker at a Mount Kisco restaurant reported at 3:22 p.m. that he gave his car and a \$1,400 deposit for transmission work to a man four months ago. He only knows the man as Pablo. The victim said his car was never returned and Pablo does not return phone calls or text messages. The case was turned over to detectives from the General Investigations Unit.

Dec. 22: Police responded to Gregory Avenue at 2:39 a.m. after receiving a complaint about an illegally parked van. The vehicle was found to be legally parked.

Dec. 22: A woman reported at 10:11 a.m. that she left her wallet behind after purchasing items at Rite Aid on South Moger Avenue. She returned to the store several hours later after realizing her wallet was not in her purse. The wallet had not been turned in to store staff. A police report was prepared and

the woman was advised to cancel her credit cards.

Pleasantville Police Department

Dec 18: A Grove Street resident reported at 6:57 a.m. that a suspicious car was following her with its flashers on. Officers reported the car belonged to the local newspaper delivery conducting the morning route.

Dec. 18: Report of domestic dispute on Clinton Avenue at 11:07 p.m. Police were called back the following date at 4:40 a.m. Police declined to provide additional information about the calls.

Dec. 22: Report of a burglary on Wheeler Avenue at 9:05 p.m. Police declined to provide additional information because the matter is under investigation.

Dec 23: Residents reported an unknown person taking photos and entering the residence at 79 Grandview Ave. at 10:55 a.m. Officers reported it was a bank inspector entering the property.

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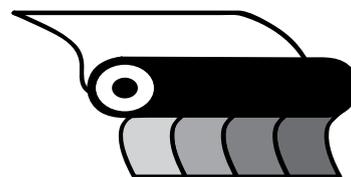


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Pleasantville Fund for Learning Awards Grant to H.S. Guidance Dept.

By Anna Young

The Pleasantville High School Guidance Department was awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Pleasantville Fund for Learning (PFFL) last week that will help with the task of evaluations for its counseling program to enhance student success.

Every year the PFFL reviews grant applications submitted by faculty and staff that outline purpose, scope, sustainability and the requested amount. A committee spends time deliberating each application and awarding fund to initiative that will likely benefit the district and students the most.

PFFL Co-chairs Joan Jacobsen and Keri Gregersen attended the Pleasantville Board of Education's Dec. 20 meeting to present high school Principal Joe Palumbo and Counseling Coordinator Joyce Connell with the award.

The grant will go toward the school's program that will allow staff to discover areas of growth and enhance the program's efforts to help students. It culminates in an application for national group recognition following onsite training and review.

With a proactive counseling staff within the high school, the 140 students in last June's graduating class had a 96 percent college enrollment rate and an 85.76 GPA.

Through a new initiative within the PFFL, the organization awards two grants a year to the school district. The

organization is expected to return in June to honor the district.

Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter said the administration, trustees and teachers appreciate all that the PFFL does for the district.

"This is a great grant to benefit everybody here in the high school

and we thank you," Fox-Alter said.

Shool Principal Joe Palumbo and Guidance Coordinator Joyce Connell. From left, Keri Gregersen and Joan Jacobsen, co-chairs of the Pleasantville Fund for Learning, present a grant last Tuesday to Pleasantville High School Principal Joe Palumbo and Guidance Coordinator Joyce Connell.



Jacob Burns Among Arts Organizations Receiving Federal Grant

The Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville was one of five arts organizations in Westchester to be named recipients of federal grants that support local artists, performances or arts education programs.

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-Harrison), the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee, last week announced \$110,000 in National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grants to the handful of local organizations.

The grants are part of more than \$30 million awarded by the NEA to nonprofit organizations and individuals across the United States in all artistic disciplines. Organizations in 48 states, Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Virgin Islands will be receiving grant money. It also supports partnerships between the arts and non-arts sectors.

"The arts help connect us by telling the story of our communities," Lowey said. "I will continue fighting to protect funding for

the National Endowment of the Arts, and I'm pleased these federal investments will help local artists and organizations celebrate and enrich the Lower Hudson Valley's vibrant creative culture."

The Jacob Burns Film Center will receive \$35,000 to support "The Power of Film: Community Engagement and Dialogue," a curated film series. Dedicated to bolstering the role of the community art house theater, the film center will present several curated films with a focus on cultural awareness and social justice. Additional activities include talkbacks, community events and an educational program for middle school and high school students.

Grants to other organizations include: The Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art in Peekskill will receive \$30,000 to support the residency component to complement the exhibition "Threads." The exhibition will feature artists who work with yarn, paper, twine, thread and other domestic materials to create

artwork inspired by their personal journeys.

ArtsWestchester in White Plains is receiving \$25,000 to support "Modern Families," a visual exploration of the modern American family. "Modern Families" will explore the diverse faces and facets of the American family during the last century as portrayed by contemporary photographers.

Copland House in Peekskill has been awarded \$10,000 to support performances of American music performed by the Music from Copland House ensemble and related educational activities, including commentary during performances and question-and answer discussions.

The Clay Art Center, Inc. in Port Chester will also receive \$10,000 to support the creation and installation of public art projects in White Plains. Healing Through Clay, an arts therapy program, will provide free clay classes for adults living with cancer and youth impacted by homelessness.

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P'ville, Chappaqua Schools Help Develop New Tech Education Plan

By Anna Young

The Pleasantville and Chappaqua school districts are among three Westchester school systems collaborating with a local nonprofit organization on a cutting-edge technology education plan for students in the lower Hudson Valley.

Both districts along with the Bronxville School District have teamed up with the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center (LHRIC) in Harrison to implement President Barack Obama's "Computer Science for All" initiative.

In his weekly radio address on Jan. 30, 2016, President Obama raised the concern of the growing gap between the number of well-paying technology jobs that require computer science knowledge or coding skills and the lack of qualified applicants to fill those positions.

With roughly 26 million jobs requiring extensive computer skills and that number projected to double within the next four years, computer science education continues to be woefully inadequate for students in grades K-12.

Pleasantville and Chappaqua, with support from the LHRIC, a nonprofit organization that provides educational and administrative technology services, will launch computer science and coding programs that will eventually reach all students in the 62 public school districts in Westchester, Putnam and Rockland

counties.

The LHRIC's Model Schools, a service that provides instructional technology for professional development, announced the partnership with the three school districts on Dec. 5, the start of the national Computer Science Education Week. It is currently working directly with faculty and administrators within the three districts to identify the specific needs for each school to develop, coordinate and support various K-12 computer science education programs.

Despite incorporating computer science and AP electives within the Pleasantville School District the last few years, the LHRIC is working with Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter to develop a customized computer science and coding curriculum.

"Technology is a 21st century skill," Fox-Alter said. "It's so important to support technology for students."

With programs introduced in the third grade at Bedford Road School, the curriculum will be expanded throughout the school year to include students in grades K-7. Students in all grades will be included in the computer science education plan for 2017-18.

"The school district deserves to have the educational foundation that will provide a robust curriculum essential to creating multiple pathways for students,"

Fox-Alter said. "The years students spend in school sets the stage for their future."

Dr. Carmen Fadgo, a member of the Tech Planning and Coordination Division at LHRIC, said by using the organization's cooperative services to develop computer science programs, it would allow districts to save money.

Districts interested in creating new computer science and STEAM education programs has led to multiple programs being developed that share existing resources and meets each district's needs while reducing costs.

The result is a program that uses research-based practices in teaching all students how to code and brings together key community stakeholders.

"This allows the Model Schools team to build and deploy shared expertise in computer science and STEAM education to school districts throughout the region," Fadgo said. "It ensures, most importantly, that teachers are receiving the training and support they need as classroom leaders to develop the most cutting-edge educational experience for their schools and districts."

In Chappaqua, the LHRIC has been working with the district since September to design and establish computer science curriculum for third-graders. The district has had access to professional development coaches to provide guidance for teachers to help them determine what essential concepts need to be taught and how to accomplish that task.

Using the Model Schools innovative instructional support model, Chappaqua will launch a 10-lesson unit of study for all third-graders next month.

"This (three month) project is an early step in putting a strong emphasis on computer science," said Eric Byrne, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

Darleen Nicolosi, Chappaqua's director of instructional technology, said teachers will instruct students on different aspects of computer science, including coding and algorithms using the SCRATCH program. The SCRATCH program helps youngsters learn and think creatively, reason systematically and work together to equip them with essential 21st century technology skills, she said.

Nicolosi and Fox-Alter agreed that coding is a critically important skill students will need, and by introducing it to them at younger ages, students will be better prepared for the future.

The LHRIC won't use the same strategies for every school district, but the goal is to engage teachers and staff in each district to tailor computer science education to fit their needs, Fadgo said.

"We're not taking what worked in Chappaqua or Pleasantville and just inserting it into another district of a different size and student population," she said. "I believe the most important message to other districts is that we have a streamlined approach that is used to help each district customize their own solution."

Mt. Kisco Committee Urges Village Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

By Neal Rentz

The Mount Kisco Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is calling on the village board to take steps to reduce the municipality's greenhouse gas emissions.

Chairman Robert Liebman, who last week presented the committee's report, "Setting a Target for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction in Mount Kisco," said the CAC is hoping the village will follow New York State's lead to reduce emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050.

The national goal set by President Barack Obama is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent from 2005 levels by 2050, Liebman said.

The council wants village trustees to pass a resolution stating its support to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 2 percent a year through 2025, Liebman said. Mount Kisco officials could strive to do even better, he said.

Liebman said a 2010 study prepared

by IFC International for the New York State Energy and Development Agency (NYSERDA) stated that Mount Kisco generated 122,765 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent that year. The recommended target for the village is 85,936 metric tons by 2025, which would represent the annual 2 percent reduction in carbon emissions, a goal set by several neighboring communities, Liebman said.

While the trustees did not say whether it supported the CAC's proposed resolution, members did express support of new efforts to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Trustee Peter Grunthal said the village could take a variety of steps, including replacing current street lights with LED lighting, a move also supported by Mayor Michael Cindrich.

Cindrich said the state Department of Transportation should change the timing of traffic lights on state roads in the village, thereby reducing the time vehicles idle and further reducing emissions.



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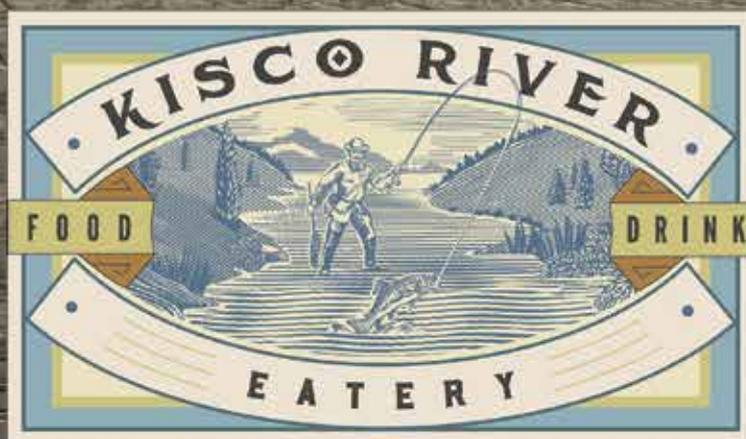
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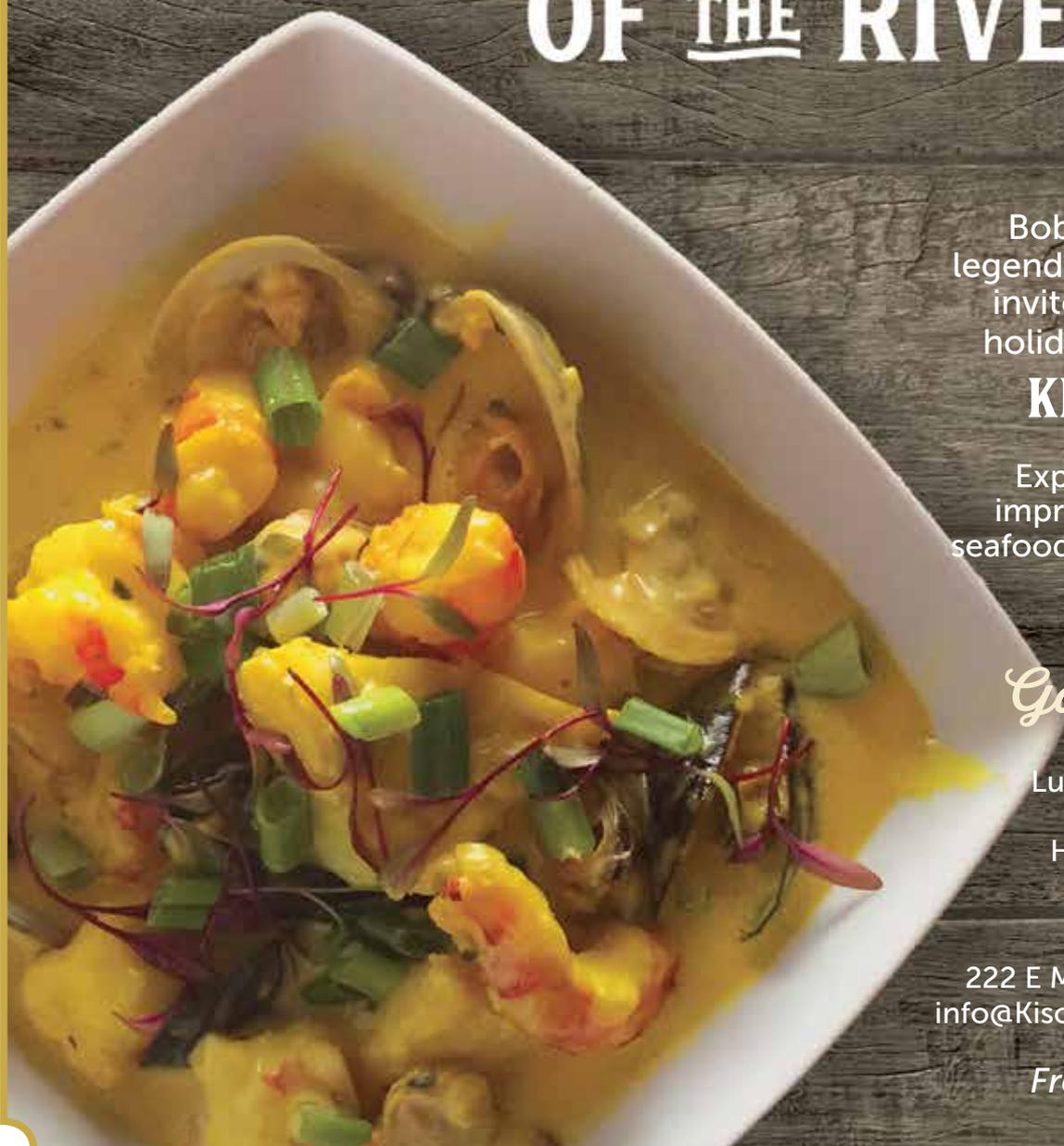
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Editorial

Time to Polish Off the Crystal Ball and See What's in Store for 2017

It's hard to believe another year is ready to be filed into the history bin. What a year it's been at every level of life – politics, sports, entertainment, and of course, local news.

There sure is never any shortage of surprising, funny, maddening, poignant, infuriating or startling moments when it comes to the latter department.

So, in keeping with The Examiner's (almost) annual tradition, we bring back the crystal ball this year and take a look at what may be in store for 2017. If just a handful of these come true, it will be a very happy new year.

Some new businesses move into vacant storefronts in downtown Mount Kisco.

That Mount Pleasant receives all the resources the town needs to help begin the remake of downtown Hawthorne and Thornwood.

Everything runs as smoothly as possible for Chappaqua's downtown infrastructure and streetscape project.

No more delays or unexpected hurdles for Chappaqua Crossing, so area residents can visit the long-awaited Whole Foods supermarket.

No gun shows at the county center.

That Westchester County doesn't abandon its commitment to building affordable housing even if the county proves this week that it has complied with the 2009 settlement with the federal government.

That the Town of North Castle can celebrate a groundbreaking at the old lumberyard in Armonk.

A new park at the corner of Maple Avenue and Bedford Road in Armonk, a site that has been discussed for parkland more than three years.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signs the hotel tax into law for the Westchester municipalities that could use the revenue. We're still waiting, governor.

An Albany that is just a little less corrupt. It's not asking much but any move in a positive direction would be an improvement.

Sufficient funding from Albany to help Westchester school districts.

For the state to rethink the notion that all capital expenditures for municipalities should count toward the tax cap.

Now that the state Department of Transportation is studying the safety of fall railroad grade crossings throughout New York, let there be available funds to make the necessary improvements.

That no more young people – or anyone of any age – lose their life from an opioid overdose.

For the New Castle Fire District No. 1 to allow absentee ballots for all votes.

For the Chappaqua school community to close the wounds that were created during the Christopher Schraufnagel scandal.

An end to the senseless mass shootings at public venues.

An end to common-sense gun control going nowhere in Congress.

That President-elect Donald Trump releases his tax returns. Okay, maybe in time for his 2020 re-election bid?

People show as much courage speaking to others face to face as they do when sitting at a keyboard. Or maybe it should be that people show as much deference to others when sitting behind a keyboard as they do when they're in person.

An MTA moratorium on Metro-North fare hikes – just for a couple of years.

Every shopper who visits a local downtown business district is able to find a parking space within a short walk of their destination.

Fewer Westchester residents, and people who live anywhere in this great country, forced to use food pantries to feed themselves or their families.

Another rain-free day for the Pleasantville Music Festival.

The New York Mets pitching staff stays healthy for one full season.

A Yankee team that can continue its rebuild without rebuilding.

A long run for the New York Giants in next month's NFL playoffs.

A path for the New York Jets to end nearly a half-century of pain.

Nothing but success for all of the area's youth and high school athletes.

A great year for all of our elected officials. When they succeed, we all succeed.

Special recognition for community volunteers everywhere. You make the towns we live in a better place by all that you do.

And to all our readers, advertisers and supporters, a happy, healthy and prosperous 2017.

Have a Pet? Here are Some Resolutions to Consider for the New Year

The new year is upon us. It's time to take a look back on the past year and determine what we might want to change, do better or accomplish in 2017.

For pet parents, much of this reflection applies to the lives they share with their pets.

Recently, TripsWithPets.com surveyed pet parents and asked them what resolutions they've made for 2017 relating to their pets. Here are the top five choices.

1. Daily Walks: Whether it's a walk through the park, a stroll around the neighborhood or a jog along hiking trails, 37 percent of pet parents surveyed plan to get outside each day and move with their pets this year. They cited exercise, maintaining their pack leader status and bonding as their motivation for walking their pooch more often.

2. Healthier Diet: Feeding their pets better quality food is very important this year. They've been doing their research and are wanting to do all they can to ensure their little ones live a long, happy and healthy life. Whether it's gluten-free, grain-free, dairy-free, soy-free, corn-free, raw food, unprocessed food or probiotics, pet parents are coming for you in 2017!

3. More Outings: More car rides, doggie bakery visits, beach outings and family vacations are among the activities that respondents said they are resolved to doing more of with their four-legged family members. Getting out and spending some quality time with their pets to make that bond even stronger is at the top of many pet parents' minds this year.

4. Socialization: As more pet parents

opt to take their pets on more outings, there comes the need to have them socialize. Nearly 1 in 5 pet parents polled are committed to helping their shy, skittish or fearful pet become more comfortable around people, other pets and in public places.

5. Training: A close cousin of socialization, training comes in as the fifth most popular pet resolution this year. We all can't have the perfectly mannered pet but a good number of pet parents plan to devote the time to curb some not-so-favorable behavior. From teaching Rover not to bark at house guests and drag you while on walks to practicing better recall (getting your dog to come when called) and training your cat to stay off kitchen counters, pet parents are ready to put on their pet whispher hat.

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Steve Farrelly, Arborist, Bedford

By Martin Wilbur

You never know where the inspiration for a career or a business may originate. For Steve Farrelly, it was a summer landscaping job in the Hamptons that he held for six years starting in high school and lasting through college.

Farrelly enjoyed working outdoors, and as a lifelong Westchester resident, has always had an affinity for the Long Island Sound.

Through his work and schooling – Farrelly would graduate from the New York Botanical Gardens' Professional Horticulture program – he learned early about the cause and effect of what landscaping and tree care on a property can have on the environment, particularly in Westchester.

“What appealed to me about the business is, number one, the whole environmental impact that the landscape has on the surrounding area, especially Long Island Sound,” Farrelly said. “I’m an avid sportsman. I love Long Island Sound, I love fishing in it. I love swimming in it and there’s a lot of irresponsible acts going on that kind of upset me to the point where

I felt I could really do something to help the watershed, help customers relate to their landscape and pesticide use, and really their trees, too, are such an important part of a macro environment.”

It wasn’t so much landscaping that interested Farrelly as much as trees. In 1998, he sold the landscaping business he had started several years earlier to gather enough money to make the capital investment needed to buy the heavy equipment for a tree care company.

That year is when Farrelly established Emerald Tree & Shrub Care Company, now located in Harrison, after it was originally based in Scarsdale.

The company, whose clients are mostly in Westchester and Fairfield County, Conn., has a wide variety of clients interested in proper tree care, maintenance and selection: high-end developers who share the same environmental philosophy as Farrelly, private residential and commercial customers, various government agencies that want to protect trees in its jurisdiction, such as the New York City Parks Department, and colleges and universities.

In fact, Farrelly’s company was recognized by Fordham University, one of his clients, for elm tree protection on its main Rose Hill campus in the Bronx.

“That’s what I wanted to focus on, tree protection, and kind of educate people on the value of trees,” said Farrelly, 45, a master arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture, the highest level of accreditation in the field.

In recent years, the biggest challenge hasn’t been massive storms or even overdevelopment, although plenty of property owners often make decisions that destabilize the soil that hurts trees years later.

The biggest problem, Farrelly said, comes from invasive insects that have taken hold in the tristate area. The Asian long-horned beetle has infested a variety of tree species. Now there’s a Southern Pine beetle, which attacks pines and spruces.

Another scourge has been the Emerald ash borer, a beetle native to eastern Asia that has been attacking ash trees.

“In five years, there won’t be an ash tree alive except if it’s treated,” Farrelly predicted.

Then there are multiple Boxwood blight



fungi, which has raged on certain plants during the past five years in parts of the United States, including in Connecticut and New York.

Farrelly, whose four children attend Byram Hills schools, said the most damage can occur when there is insufficient tree diversity, making more trees susceptible to damage or death if a particular insect or fungus takes hold. Farrelly and

his team of experts are sometimes forced to make unappealing decisions to address tree problems.

“Is it environmentally better to save the tree with pesticides or an organic type of pesticide or is it better to just remove the tree?” he said. “The dilemma is what’s the best avenue to take.”

For Farrelly, the best part of his job is that it takes him out into the field. He has always enjoyed working outside and educating clients and the public on the critical role trees play in the world and local communities.

“It’s important people are educated on trees,” Farrelly said. “They’re here for a reason.”

For more information on Steve Farrelly and Emerald Tree & Shrub Care Company, visit www.emeraldtreecare.com.

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New Year's Eve Celebration Set for Winter Wonderland

Westchester's Winter Wonderland will have a New Year's Eve celebration for the first time this year – designed for families with children of all ages.

The celebration will begin at 8 p.m. this Saturday, Dec. 31 at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

The New Year's Eve celebration will include all of Westchester's Winter Wonderland regular activities that begin at 5 p.m. that evening, including rides, ice skating, circus performances, strolling

characters and more. To add to the fun, a New Year's Eve ball will drop at 8 p.m. followed by a five-minute pyrotechnic show.

"A New Year's Eve celebration adds a little more magic to Westchester's Winter Wonderland, and the 8 p.m. ball drop is great for families with children," said County Executive Rob Astorino. "I look forward to the pyrotechnic display as part of this great kickoff to a safe, happy and prosperous 2017."

Westchester's Winter Wonderland has a new feature this year – Hanneford's Holiday Circus. The double-poled, red and white striped circus tent is the only tented holiday circus in the tristate area and provides 30-minute circus shows, as well as pony and camel rides. Guests also enjoy the New York Rangers-sponsored 70-foot by 90-foot ice rink "RangersTown," which is the same size as the rink at Rockefeller Center in New York City.

"We are excited to have our first New Year's Eve celebration at Westchester's iconic holiday destination this year. We wanted to design a celebration earlier in the evening so that families could bring their young ones out to celebrate, with enough time to get home before midnight," said Joanne Fernandez, chair of the Westchester Parks Foundation. "We invite everyone to come early to enjoy New Year's Eve with their loved ones at Westchester's Winter Wonderland and stay for the ball drop!"

Other features scheduled for Saturday evening include:

- The Santa Experience, with costumed character appearances.
- Rides: The Wonderland Express, Winter Hay Ride and the Holly Jolly Caterpillar.
- The Westchester Knicks Holiday Dining Tent and Hospitality Tent.
- Individually-tented shopping vendors

in newly named sections on the plaza: "Main Street," "Light Show Lane" and "Hay Ride Way."

- A 32-foot tall Christmas tree.
- Candy Cane Forest lights at the entrance to the event.

General admission for Westchester's Winter Wonderland is \$15 per person; children 5 and under are free. (Ticket price allows for unlimited access to amusement rides, ice skating and rentals, as well as visits with Santa Claus.)

Westchester Parks Foundation is the organization that envisioned and helped to develop Westchester's Winter Wonderland with the County Parks Department, while also advocating and investing in the county's 18,000 acres of parks and open space.

The event is presented by Westchester Medical Center, sponsored by the Westchester Parks Foundation and produced by the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Event sponsors include the New York Rangers, Con Edison, Party Line Rentals and the Westchester Knicks.

Westchester's Winter Wonderland will run through Monday, Jan. 2 and is open weekdays and Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.wwinterwonderland.com.

Jingle Bells to Wedding Bells



There was romance in the air – or should we say, on the ice rink – at Kensico Dam Plaza's Westchester's Winter Wonderland in Valhalla on Dec. 10. Before Pompton Plains, N.J. residents Tina Bacolas and Matt Iaccheo hit the RangersTown ice rink, Iaccheo hid a box with an engagement ring in Bacolas' ice skate as she was putting it on. When she noticed it, he proposed. She said yes!

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New Year's Resolutions to Keep Your Home in Top Shape

The beginning of a new year is the very best time to make resolutions for improvements around the house. To our aid comes House Logic, the online communications arm of the National Association of Realtors, which has done something really cute by relating the most popular personal resolutions to home-related issues.

I present a selected list of them here, followed by my recommendations of suppliers I've called upon for many years when I couldn't do certain jobs by myself.

Here's hoping 2017 will be your most productive year around the house ever! Are any of the following resolutions on your list of to-dos?

1. **Lose weight!** (In house talk, cut energy use) A good place to start is your HVAC ductwork. Ducts are notorious energy wasters, leaking heating and cooling air through holes and loose connections. Sealing and insulating ductwork can improve the efficiency of heating and cooling systems by as much as 20 percent, according to Energy Star. Not only will a home be more comfortable, but a more efficient system extends the life of a furnace, air conditioner or heat pump.
2. **Quit smoking.** (Purify indoor air) The EPA lists indoor air quality as one of the top environmental health hazards. Indoor air is full of potential contaminants, such as dust, mold

spores, pollen and viruses, and the problem is at its worst during winter when windows and doors are shut tight. You can help eliminate harmful lung irritants in the home by maintaining your HVAC system and changing furnace filters regularly.

3. **Get out of debt.** (Budget for improvements) Creating an annual budget for home improvement and maintenance helps prevent overspending and encourages the creation of a fund for major replacements, such as new roofing.
4. **Learn something new.** (Educate yourself on home finances) Learning how to improve your insurance score can help keep your home insurance premiums from escalating. Letting credit card debt build up is a black mark on a homeowner's credit history and an indicator that an insurance claim is likely to be filed. The more claims, the lower the insurance score, which means higher rates for home insurance.
5. **Get organized.** (De-clutter!) There's no better time than the new year to pare down and create more storage space creatively, such as under stair spaces and even between wall studs.
6. **Drink less.** (Curb home water use) The



By Bill Primavera

average household uses about 400 gallons of water each day. Making a few simple changes could trim your annual water bill. Add to that energy savings from reduced costs to heat water, and your yearly savings could be increased significantly. Low-flow showerheads include technology that reduces the amount of flow yet keeps pressure up, resulting in shower streams that are powerful and satisfying. High efficiency toilets use compressed air and electric water pumps to flush with less than one gallon of water; older models required up to eight gallons.

7. **Get fit.** (Exercise your DIY skills) Routine home maintenance burns calories while keeping your house in tip-top shape.
8. **Be less stressed.** (Use maintenance-free materials) Install low-maintenance materials and products inside and out, designed for durability and long, trouble-free service. Vinyl or fiberboard siding on the outside and LED bulbs on the inside go a long way to easing maintenance stress.

When it comes time to rely on resources other than your own in meeting your home's New Year's resolutions, here is a list of suppliers I have used for many years and recommend highly in their respective fields.

Architect: David Tetro, 914-962-3113.

Cabinetry and Woodworking: Woodtronics, 914-962-5205.

Contractor: Franzoso Contracting, 914-271-4572.

Electrician: P and K, Electrical Contractors (Peter and Kenneth Simone), 914-962-3581.

Fencing: Campanella Fencing (Tony Campanella), 845-628-2200.

Flooring: The Flooring Girl (Debbie Gartner), 914-937-2950.

Interior Designer/Stager: Susan Atwell, 914-525-0454.

Landscaper/Snow Removal: Fitz's Landscaping (John Fitzpatrick), 914-618-1549.

Mover: Advantage Movers, 800-444-0104.

Painter: Joe Pascarelli, 914-330-3889.

Plumber: Goldberg Plumbing, 914-962-3498.

Rug Cleaning: Spotless Cleaning Systems, 845-225-6449.

Here's wishing you a happy New Year, full of satisfying projects to keep your home in top and welcoming shape.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (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.

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A Tale of Wine Intrigue and Fraud Becomes a Major Movie



By Nick Antonaccio

Several years ago, I wrote a column discussing a unique case of wine fraud and counterfeiting. It involved a tangled web of high-end collectors and a nefarious entrepreneur who took advantage of gullible, wealthy wine aficionados who were susceptible to being scammed.

Sound like a premise for a thriller movie? It certainly has all of the elements for a blockbuster tale: unlikely heroes, unscrupulous villains, scam artists, undaunted truth-seekers and easily duped victims. All against a setting of wealthy excess, hedonistic dinners and decadent debauchery. Just a few months ago, a major movie was released which recounts the deeds of such a counterfeiter. And it is a documentary no less.

The movie, "Sour Grapes" tracks the misadventures of counterfeiter extraordinaire Rudy Kurniawan over nearly 10 years, from his early exploits as a wealthy jetsetter entertainer to his ignominy as a convicted felon. Last week I watched the movie; next week I'll review it.

Here then, the 2012 column:

We live in a world of checks and balances. They generally work as intended,

'figuring out a new way to game the system'

protecting us from unscrupulous purveyors of information or products. On rare occasions, we hear of an instance of an individual or group that figures out a new way to game the system.

Last week, Rudy Kurniawan, a 35-year-old self-proclaimed multimillionaire, was arrested by the FBI on charges that he attempted to sell counterfeit wine, which, if authentic, would have been worth \$1.3 million.

Mr. Kurniawan diligently worked at building a reputation in every aspect of the exclusive club of high-end wine lovers. For 10 years before his arrest, he played a major role in the wine auction market and was highly regarded as a sophisticated aficionado, wine connoisseur, collector, dealer and authenticity expert. Essentially Mr. Kurniawan was at the center of each check and balance in the wine world's self-policing system.

Many in his closed circle regarded Mr. Kurniawan as generous and possessing impeccable standards. His arrest has rocked the very foundation of the world of wealthy collectors of high-end French Bordeaux and Burgundy wines.

Allow me to fill in the picture with a few factoids based on adjectives many attributed to him:

1. **Sophisticated aficionado.** One of

the wealthiest collectors/dealers in the world, Mr. Kurniawan enjoyed a lavish lifestyle. He was known to spend up to \$250,000 a night on wines at expensive restaurants. Court papers indicate he racked up \$16 million on his American Express card from 2006 to 2011.

2. **Collector.** It is believed he owned 50,000 or more bottles of very expensive wine. At one time, he was considered the world's most active wine buyer, influencing the prices for wines. He engaged in wine churning: buying and selling authentic – and counterfeit – wines to support his lifestyle.

3. **Dealer.** Mr. Kurniawan sold \$35 million worth of wine in 2006 alone, thus controlling both sides of the auction block.

4. **Authenticity expert.** The deeper you descend, the bolder you get. He built a reputation for his skill in identifying (and apparently avoiding) counterfeit wines. Incredulously, he even went so far as to offer buyers a guarantee intended to protect against fraud.

5. **Counterfeiter.** In 2008, Mr. Kurniawan consigned for auction a number of

wines, including Burgundies with label dates between 1929 and 1971, even though the first productions of those wines took place many years later. He lied about these discrepancies yet continued to actively participate in the auction markets.

In Mr. Kurniawan's home, the FBI found empty bottles of famous, and very expensive, wines, shipped to him by restaurants that he patronized. Apparently, he refilled the bottles with moderately priced California wines, offering them at auction as the original wines (and guaranteeing their authenticity).

Our system of checks and balances has taken on a new meaning in the wine world: collectors writing checks to Mr. Kurniawan as he was increasing his bank balances.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.

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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. 27

Drop-in Tech Help. Drop in for help with any of your technology devices. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrry.org.

Westchester's Winter Wonderland. A gala celebration of the season with a spectacular light show, visits with Santa, rides, vendors, food and ice skating. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla. 5 to 9 p.m. \$15 per person. Children (5 and under): Free. Daily through Jan. 2. Sunday through Thursday 5 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays 5 to 10 p.m. Info: Visit www.winterwonderland.com.

Wednesday, Dec. 28

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 jam session that combines cardio, Pilates, plyometrics and isometric movements and poses with the excitement and euphoria of drumming. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix, you'll rock your entire body into beautiful shape while torching calories, isolating core muscles and strengthening coordination and balance. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greely Ave., Chappaqua. 10:15 a.m. \$20. Every Wednesday. Also Saturdays at 11:15 a.m. RSVP required. Info and registration: Contact Peggy at 914-960-4097.

New Mommy Meet-up. Whether you just gave birth to your first or fourth child, join us and enjoy time to meet and chat with other new moms in the Romperie Indoor Playground. This is not a structured class, but rather an opportunity to hang out with your new baby. We also invite guest speakers to come and share their expertise about various topics that interest parents of new babies. World Cup Schools, 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua. 10:15 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday through June 21, 2017.

Info: 914-238-9267.

Adult Coloring Club. It's a relaxing, analog stress-reducer that can give you a sense of accomplishment. Coloring also provides a creative outlet to people who may not be trained artists. The library provides colored pencils and intricate mandala patterns, just bring your creativity. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

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

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

Storytime. For children 18 months to five years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday and Thursday. Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrry.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.mountkiscolibrry.org.

Separation/Divorce Support Group. A new group for men and women separated, in the process of separating or post-divorce. Establishes a safe place where attendees can deal with the pain and loneliness brought about by the ending of a significant relationship. This nondenominational group will use the 12 Steps to focus on its members and the choices made to cope and adjust. Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 15 S. Bedford Rd., Mount Kisco. \$10. Every Wednesday. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Info: Contact Ilene Amiel at 914-980-0898 or e-mail 12stepdivorcegroup@gmail.com or visit www.meetup.com/Mount-Kisco-12-step-Separation-Divorce-Support-Meetup.

Thursday, Dec. 29

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 Jan. 2 and 16). Info: 914-273-3887.

John Jay Homestead Historic Site Holiday Tour. Tour the 1820s retirement home of Founding Father John Jay and discover what the winter holiday season would have been like for Jay and his family. Period decorations, historic foods and candlelight help celebrate the season. In the gallery, a specially curated exhibition will feature holiday-themed artifacts used by multiple generations of the Jay family. John Jay Homestead, 400 Jay St., (Route 22), Katonah. Tours at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Adults: \$7. Seniors and students: \$5. Children (under 12) and Friends of John Jay Homestead members: Free. Also Dec. 30 and 31. Info: Visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.

Mahjogg Club. Intermediate players welcome. Participants must bring their own set. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrry.org.

Storytime Playgroup. Come hear a story and music and join in on playtime with toys and books. Children, parents and caregivers will make new friends and share time together. For children one to four years old; with a caregiver. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 2:45 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Gaming Old School. Join old school gaming enthusiasts to play board games like a kid again. Open to all ages. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrry.org.

Read to Rover. Dogs love listening to stories. Come meet Rover and read your favorite story. For children five years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrry.org.

"The Gift of the Magi." An adaptation of O. Henry's classic, adapted and directed by Bram Lewis. The intermission will consist of a singing session replete with cookies and carols. The Schoolhouse Theater, 3 Owens Rd., Croton Falls. 8 p.m. Adults: \$38. Seniors: \$35. Also Dec. 30 and 31 at 8 p.m. and Jan. 1 at 3 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-277-8477 or visit www.schoolhousetheater.org.

[schoolhousetheater.org](http://www.schoolhousetheater.org).

Friday, Dec. 30

Zumba. Low-impact Zumba with Amy. A great dance fitness workout for those who like to sweat, sizzle and tone while moving to the beat of exhilarating rhythms with a low impact/high intensity approach. A perfect class for those who need to protect vulnerable body parts such as knees, shoulders and back. Try a free trial class. Addie-tude Dance Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. Drop-in rate: \$12. Every Friday. Also Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Info: Call or text the instructor at 914-643-6162.

Saturday, Dec. 31

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 to 2016 by the readers of Westchester Magazine. With over 40 vendors participating in the indoor market, the delicious good time continues. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday through Mar. 25. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

New Year's Eve Celebration. A gala celebration is in store for revelers here. Come for a culinary feast, see the sensational musical "Saturday Night Fever" live on stage, dance into the night with the Tuxedo Parc Orchestra, and at the stroke of midnight, raise a glass of bubbly to the new year. Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza, Elmsford. 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. \$370 per couple (tax, gratuity and parking included). Info and reservations: 914-592-2222 or visit www.broadwaytheatre.com.

Shadows of the Sixties: A Tribute to Motown's Super Groups. A show that pays tribute to the tremendous legacy of Motown's Super Groups, including The Supremes, The Four Tops and The Temptations. A highly interactive and visually stunning production featuring top industry musicians and singers dressed in exquisitely designed costumes and dazzling choreography. The evening is capped off with a jaw-dropping grand finale featuring the music of Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye, The Marvelettes, Junior Walker & The All Stars, Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight & The Pips, The Contours and more. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 7 and 10 p.m. \$45.75, \$57.19 and \$74.34. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 or visit www.paramounthudsonvalley.com.

Monday, Jan. 2

Telephone Support Group for Women With Metastatic Breast Cancer. This Support Connection group offers the

continued on page 20

The Restaurant Examiner

Irvington's MP Taverna to Offer Special New Year's Eve Menu

By Jerry Eimbinder

MP Taverna in Irvington will hold its first ever New Year's Eve bash on Saturday night.

There will be a 9 and 9:30 p.m. seating where for \$75 per person, a three-course chef's tasting dinner will be served, said Executive Chef Michael Psilakis, who opened the Greek-influenced contemporary American restaurant in 2012. The evening's festivities include a DJ, dancing, noisemakers and a champagne toast at midnight.

MP Taverna will also offer dinners for its regular menu dishes and the chef's tasting menu for \$55 at 5, 5:30, 7 and 7:30 p.m.

Here is what will be offered for the three-course dinner.

First course: Choice of buttermilk potato soup with dill, fennel pollen and paddlefish roe; Saffron Risotto with mantilla clams, diver scallop, smoked paprika, Calabrian chile; or Brussels sprouts salad with mint, red onion, hazelnut and feta.

Second course: Choice of roasted lamb loin with turnip puree, turnip green and barolo jus; pan roasted chicken with black truffle, wild mushroom, cauliflower and black walnut vinegar; stuffed filet of sole with jumbo crab, purslane and Meyer lemon vinaigrette; or wild mushroom Cavatelli containing wild mushrooms, mushroom broth, pecorino and porcini powder.

Dessert: Meyer lemon tart, chocolate halva brownie or traditional baklava.

Psilakis was the executive producer and co-star of BBC America's new cooking competition series "No Kitchen Required," which premiered in April 2012. He began his restaurant career as a waiter at TGI Fridays, before moving to Café Angelica, a Long Island trattoria.

Eventually Psilakis bought out Café Angelica's owners, changed the restaurant's name to Ecco and managed the front of the restaurant. When the chef and cook didn't show up one night, he spent the evening helping out in the kitchen. That turned out to be the first day of his new career as a cook and chef.

Next, Psilakis started Onera, an upscale Greek restaurant on Manhattan's Upper West Side, and in 2006, he teamed up with celebrity restaurateur Donatella

Arpaia to open the Greek restaurant Dona. Dona was named one of Esquire's best new restaurants, but because of real estate issues, it was forced to close the following year.

Onera was transformed into Kefi, a neighborhood gathering place with a modestly priced menu in 2007, and moved the next year to a location that tripled its seating capacity.

Psilakis also opened an upscale restaurant in 2007 called Anthos to fill the void caused by the closing of Dona. Then, in July 2009, he opened Gus & Gabriel, named after his late father Gus and his four-year-old son Gabriel. He closed Gus & Gabriel when he opened Fishtag at the same location in November 2010. He launched MP Taverna in Roslyn, L.I. in May 2010.



Diners at MP Taverna in Irvington on New Year's Eve will be treated to a special three-course dinner.

His newest restaurant venture is MP Taverna in Brooklyn at 470 Driggs Ave. MP Taverna is located at 1 Bridge St.

in Irvington. For more information, call 914-231-7854 or visit www.mptaverna.com.

Get Ready to Party at Empire City Casino on New Year's Eve

By Jerry Eimbinder

Empire City Casino officials estimate that tens of thousands of revelers will celebrate the arrival of 2017 at its facilities in Yonkers on New Year's Eve. The festivities officially draw to a close at 6 a.m. New Year's Day.

Multiple dining venues are available including the Empire Terrace Restaurant overlooking the racetrack. Four bands and a DJ will entertain and guests can try their luck at one of 5,300 machines, including new high-tech blackjack and three-card power.

The Empire Terrace Restaurant offers dinner seating at 5 and 9 p.m. with tomato and baby mozzarella salad as an appetizer and a pair of entrée choices – lemon and herb salmon drizzled with beurre blanc or roast New York strip steak topped with demi glaze. A chocolate mousse cake with macerated berries and whipped cream will be served for dessert.

Seating at 5 p.m. is available to Empire Club members at \$59.95 and at \$69.95 for nonmembers. The 9 p.m. seating costs \$79.95 for members and \$89.95 for nonmembers. The dinner

includes a complementary glass of champagne for a midnight toast. The Gus Hayes Band will perform during both Empire Terrace Restaurant dinner times.

At the Good Time Room, the partying commences at 9 p.m. with an extensive dinner buffet and the music of the Bobby Lynch Orchestra. The buffet, for \$150 per person, includes an elaborate display of seafood on ice sculptures, a variety of hearty salads, an international cheese and charcuterie selection, sea-food paella, loads of pastas, meats, chicken and vegetables, a carving station featuring pork loin and New York strip and a pastry-filled and berry-lined Viennese table. There's a complementary champagne toast at midnight.

A \$15 cover charge includes one free drink ticket for those attending the Entertainment Lounge. The FDR Drive Band will play from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Front-row seats to the stage and midnight balloon drop are offered to patrons reserving bottle service (\$150 table minimum).

For bowlers, Alley 810 provides a high-end mixology lounge and

two vintage bowling lanes where visitors can enjoy cocktails and bottle service (\$150 table minimum) while listening to DJ LAX spin the beats all night long.

Inside the casino, take in the nail-art depictions of the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges, the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building that line the gaming floor wall.

Hampton Inn & Suites in Yonkers offers guests free shuttle service to and from the casino. (Patrons must be booked in advance and is based on availability.)

Tickets to New Year's Eve activities are nonrefundable and must be purchased in advance. Seating is limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Prices do not include tax and gratuity.

For more information or reservations for Empire City Casino's New Year's Eve packages, call 914-457-2457 or visit www.empirecitycasino.com.

Empire City Casino is located at 810 Yonkers Ave. (at Central Avenue) in Yonkers.

Steffi Nossen School of Dance Free Open House Begins Jan. 9

Experience the joy of dance at the Steffi Nossen School of Dance. During the school's Free Week of Dance Open House Jan. 9-16, every core and technique class has an open door. So start the New Year dancing.

Try unlimited age and level appropriate classes. Take this opportunity to experiment with a new technique or rediscover an old favorite.

The Steffi Nossen School of Dance holds classes in White Plains and Chappaqua. It offers a program of core classes in modern, ballet, jazz, tap and hip-hop for children three years old through the teenage years and a full complement of level-based technique classes in modern, ballet, contemporary and jazz.

Beginning Jan. 26, there will also be a Boy's Movement class (grades K-5); Ballet and Tap (for three- to five-year-olds); Ballet I and Modern I (for three- and four-year-olds); Ballet II and Modern II (for kindergartners and first-graders);



EZRA GOH PHOTO

Steffi Nossen School of Dance in Chappaqua and White Plains has an assortment of dance classes for all ages.

Beginner Jazz I (grades 1-3); and Hip-Hop I (grades K-2).

Dancing Tots gives the youngest dancers, from one to three years old

and their parents and caretakers, classes of their own. Moving Wheels and Heels, an adaptive class for dancers with physical, developmental and emotional disabilities, will hold a separate open house on Jan. 25.

Moms can treat themselves to a class as well. There is Monday Tap or Wednesday Jazz, both from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m., or Monday, Wednesday and Friday daytime Pilates and Yoga classes.

Classes take place Monday through Saturday at the Music Conservatory of Westchester studios on Central Avenue in White Plains across the street from the Westchester County Center, and on Mondays at The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin at 191 S. Greeley Ave. in Chappaqua.

For additional information, class descriptions, schedules, faculty bios or to make a reservation, call 914-328-1900 or visit www.steffinossen.org.

Happenings

continued from page 18

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. First Monday of each month. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Contact Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Tuesday, Jan. 3

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.

Music & Movement. Shake, shimmy and dance. For children two to five years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

Italian Language and Culture. Mara De Matteo, born and raised in Italy and passionate about her native language, 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 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Also Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31. Info: 914-273-3887.

Wednesday, Jan. 4

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 (except Jan. 16). 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 (except Jan. 16). 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 (except Jan 16). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Meditation Series: Midday Mind

Break. Benefits of meditation include increase focus and memory; increased health; reduced stress, anxiety and pain; and increased productivity and happiness. Led by Alka Kaminer. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 12:15 p.m. Free. Also Jan. 11, 18 and 25. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.com.

Chair Yoga With Alka Kaminer. Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and improved balance, strengthening and toning of muscles, better digestion, stress reduction, mental clarity, improved breathing, relaxation and an overall sense of well-being. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Also Jan. 11, 18 and 25. Info: 914-273-3887.

Mind Games. Fun exercises and tips for seniors to help stimulate the mind. Phelps Hospital boardroom, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration. 914-366-3937.

Breast, Ovarian and Gynecological Cancer Support Group. Northern Westchester Hospital at Chappaqua Crossing, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Meets the first Wednesday of every month. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Much to Admire When Looking Up at the January Sky

The end of the holidays would be better with some long, slow petering-out. I suggest more days off and extra soup.

Instead, we're plunged into the deep, cold winter. If your birthday isn't in January, there's not a lot to love. Though, it is a time to reflect and renew. So, if you take along a coat and maybe a friend, it's a great time to treat yourself and look toward the sky with your naked eye.

The days are slowly getting longer now that the winter solstice has passed, but January's sun still drops from sight during what was mid-afternoon back when we were seeing how many cannonballs we could do in a row.

As darkness falls over our last-minute trips for milk, the curtain of dusk pulls back and leaves behind the friendly constellation Orion, the hunter. That part of the sky isn't just familiar, it's full of interesting naked-eye objects. Orion is one of the sky's two



By Scott Levine

or three most recognizable constellations, and I love to take the time to stop to look at what's going on with it.

If you have an extra minute or two, look toward the southeast around 7:30 to maybe 8 p.m. any night this month. You'll see Orion rising above the houses and trees across the street. The line of three stars forming his famous belt and the four stars at the corners make Orion easy to find.

Betelgeuse, the orange star that forms Orion's left shoulder, and Rigel, the icy blue one that forms his right foot, are among the brightest stars we can see, even though their light started crossing the unspeakable emptiness between them and your eye more than 500 years ago.

Betelgeuse is a giant star, so big that if it were in the middle of our solar system, it would extend out almost all the way to the planet Saturn. It's old and unstable, and in the next million years or so it'll die off in an explosion

called a supernova, which will amaze whoever is living here.

Next, have a closer look at the middle star in Orion's sword. It's hazy, isn't it? Not a pinpoint like other stars. That's because it's not a star, but a nebula, a cloud of gas where new stars are being formed, a stellar nursery. It's amazing to think that we can watch stars forming just by looking up.

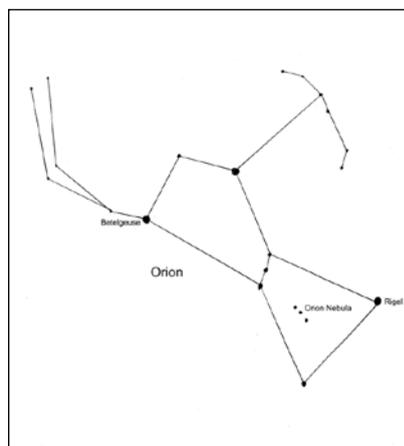
Meanwhile, toward the southwest in the early part of the evening you'll see the planet Venus, the second

brightest object in the night sky, shining brightly enough for some real drama. It'll move higher throughout the month, with dim red-orange Mars close by. Keep an eye on those two. In the evening of Jan. 2 and again on Jan. 31, beautiful crescent moons will join the two planets and smile at us from the deepening dusk. January's full moon, nicknamed the Wolf Moon, is on the 11th.

Telescopes are wonderful, but January's skies, if you're lucky to catch them without a thick overcast, are crisp and clear, a real treat, taken easy with the naked eye and shared with a friend.

Clear skies, everyone!

Scott Levine has loved astronomy since he was young and now watches and writes about the skies near his home in Croton-on-Hudson. In addition to this new monthly column, you can read his Scott's Sky Watch astronomy website, with its "Space, taken easy" approach to naked eye astronomy, at scottastronomy.wordpress.com, and find him at astroscott@yahoo.com or on Twitter @scottlevine13.



A diagram of the constellation Orion, the hunter

THERE'S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz

By Edward Goralski

See Here Young Man. "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" by James Joyce was published on Dec. 29, 1916. To mark the 100th anniversary of the event, the quiz this week is based on words taken from Joyce's first novel that traces the religious and intellectual awakening of young Stephen Dedalus.

1. **whet (v.)**
A) to suggest B) suppress C) stimulate
2. **viscid (adj.)**
A) instinctive B) sticky C) vivid
3. **desuetude (n.)**
A) extreme want B) a state of disuse C) freedom from bias
4. **raiment (n)**
A) mental calm B) a right of way C) clothing
5. **sodality (n.)**
A) an organized fellowship B) a source of solace C) one's native land
6. **vouchsafe (v.)**
A) to summon B) offer an opinion C) grant
7. **inanition (n.)**
A) loss of vitality B) lack of aptitude C) failure to pay attention
8. **collywobbles (n.)**
A) a hangover B) a bellyache C) a sore throat

- ANSWERS:**
1. C. To make keen or more acute; excite; stimulate
 2. B. Having an adhesive quality; sticky
 3. B. State of disuse or inactivity
 4. C. Clothing or garments
 5. A. An organized fellowship or fraternity; brother- and water; exhaustion
 6. C. To grant or furnish often in a gracious or condescending manner
 7. A. Loss of vitality that results from a lack of food
 8. B. Stomach pain or queasiness; a bellyache

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BUNGE GLOBAL MARKETS, INC. seeks a full-time Manager, Strategic Planning and Business Analysis (Resource Allocation) in White Plains, New York to be responsible for assisting in developing and driving the company's management and value chain reporting in order to facilitate operational optimization decisions. Duties include: assisting with the creation, maintenance, and distribution of Bunge Global Agribusiness's ("BGA") internal financial reports, including forecasts (EBIT, capex, OPWC/gross debt) and monthly and annual reporting packages; reporting and reconciling the commercial results for grains and oilseeds commodities; coordinating with and supporting all parties regarding the Hyperion Financial Management (HFM) hierarchies; working with the company's Finance, Operations, Risk, and Product lines to establish performance metrics, generate, analyze and report on metrics, and meet the automating and integrating information needs of the company; preparing presentations and other analysis for business and commercial review,

AG Directors, ExCo and Board meetings; drafting a monthly Segment letter from the CEO; supporting the strategic plan process by coordinating the plan development of BGA's various product lines and managing the capex prioritization process; support the periodic review of risk capital limits and participating in the review of the company's capital projects and Mergers and Acquisitions. The position requires a Master's degree in Business Administration, Finance or Economics or closely related field and 2 years of experience as a Business Analyst or in a Financial Planning and Analysis role in the Agribusiness industry to include 2 years of experience with consolidating strategic and business plans; ensuring capital investments are in compliance with policies and regulations; analyzing monthly forecast including P&L, capex, balance sheets, and cash flow forecasts and familiarity with financial systems such as HFM. **Apply online at <http://www2.apply2jobs.com/bunge>, requisition code: 16-3606.**

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DIABETIC SWEETS OR SYDELLES SWEETS. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 24, 2016. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to: **16 Scenic Drive, South Salem, NY 10590. Purpose: Any lawful acts.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: SKYHOOK PRODUCTIONS LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/01/2016. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: **The LLC, 215 Loring Avenue, Pelham, New York 10803, principal business location of the LLC. Purpose: any lawful business activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF BUSINESS CONCIERGE UNLIMITED, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 21, 2016. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **600 Mamaroneck Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MOST AND CO PRODUCTIONS LLC. Arts of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/17/16. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail

process to principal business address: **Michael Wong, 2 Pell Place, Pelham, New York 10803. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF T.C. INVESTIGATIONS, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY on October 17, 2016. Office location: Westchester County, New York. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail a copy of any process accepted on behalf of the LLC served upon him or her to: **103 Skyview Lane, New Rochelle, N.Y. 10804. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF UNDERSTORY BREWING LLC filed Arts. of Org. with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on November 22, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the NY LLC Law. Office Location: Westchester County. Principal Business Location: Understory Brewing LLC, 13 Rick Lane, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567. Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served and the SSNY shall forward process to **Understory Brewing LLC, c/o Corporate Filings of New York, 90 State Street, Suite 700, Office 40, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful business purpose for which LLCs may be organized under the law.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PEEKSKILL HOLDINGS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on July 26, 2016. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **Brendon Fitzgerald, 741 Shenandoah Ave., Peekskill, NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful acts.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LEONE LLC. Art.of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/30/16. Office location : Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to : **9 Cedar St. Tuckahoe. NY 10707. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF HARDBALL CONSULTING LLC. Arts of Org filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/01/2016. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **15 Bank St. #102A, White Plains, NY 10606. Purpose: any lawful acts.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Kids in Sports II LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 07/11/16. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY

designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the principal business address: **1420 Second Avenue, New York, New York, 10021. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SILVER RUSH PRODUCTIONS, LLC. ARTS OF ORG filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/05/2016. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ANDY ROBLES LLC/A ROBLES LLC RECENTLY WITH IRS. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on September 8th, 2016. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **17 Limerick St., Stamford, CT 06902. Purpose: Landscaping and hardscaping.**

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ExaminerSports

A Late Run Lifts Fox Lane Over the Indians

By Andy Jacobs

Just when the Fox Lane boys' basketball team needed it most, Xander Alvarado provided a big lift last Thursday evening.

The young point guard connected on back-to-back 3-pointers that ignited a late 11-0 spurt as the Foxes broke open a close game and defeated visiting Mahopac 48-38. Alvarado scored eight of his 12 points in the final quarter, helping Fox Lane finish the 2016 portion of its schedule with a 4-2 record.

"There's a reason why he's there," said Foxes coach Mike Tomassi afterwards. "He steps up. You know, he's got ice in his veins and he was big tonight. I think that's got to be the model going forward. People have got to step up, and Xander did a great job tonight leading the team."

Facing an Indian squad that arrived with just one win in six games, Fox Lane never trailed all night. But Mahopac did manage to tie the game once in the third quarter and then again in the fourth as Zack Puckhaber made two free throws with 3:32 remaining. Soon after, though, Alvarado came through with the first of his 3-point shots, from the top of the key, beginning the 11-0 run that gave the Foxes a 46-35 lead and decided the outcome.

"He's a sophomore and we'll live and die by his mistakes," said Tomassi. "But his positives definitely outweigh the negatives. He's gonna keep getting better and I'm thrilled to have him in this program."

Long before heroics were needed from Alvarado, the Foxes limited Mahopac to just four first-quarter points, keeping the Indians off the scoreboard until Robert

Garcia made a free throw with 3:50 left. Nick Rosati, who finished with a game-high 18 points, had five of them shortly after the opening jump, but Fox Lane struggled from the field the rest of the period and only led 6-4.

Consecutive 3-pointers, first from Alvarado and then Rosati, stretched the Foxes' lead to 15-7 midway through the second quarter. They built their biggest advantage of the half, 20-9, when Will Meyers nailed a 3-pointer from straight away with 1:40 left on the clock. The Indians' Mike Cazzari, who scored a team-high 10 points, soon answered with another trey, trimming the Fox Lane lead to eight points at halftime.

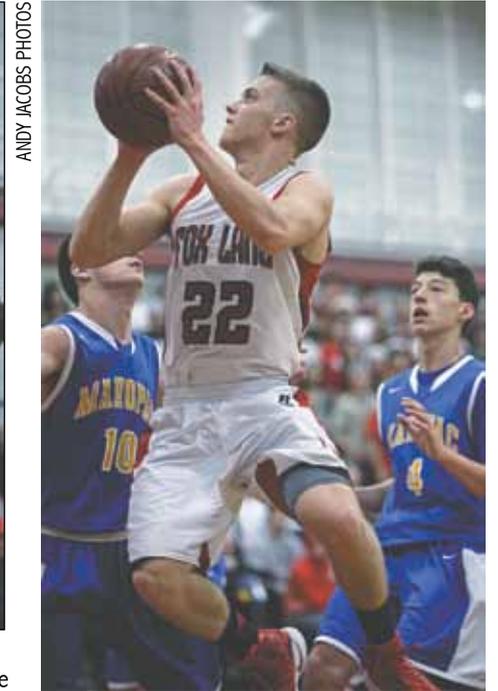
Mahopac scored the first six points of the third quarter, closing to within 20-18, and later tied the game on a pair of free throws from Noelle Hall. After Meyers drove the left baseline for a layup that gave the Foxes a 26-24 edge, the Indians had a chance to grab their first lead of the night. But Cazzari misfired on a 3-point shot and the fourth quarter began with Mahopac trailing 29-26.

"Yeah, we knew that was gonna happen," said Tomassi about the third-quarter improvement from Mahopac. "They're a tough team. They've got tough kids. And they just outworked us in the second half. Simple as that."

Rosati connected on a right elbow 3-pointer early in the fourth quarter that increased the Foxes' margin to six points. But 3-point baskets by Garcia and Augie Djerdaj enabled Mahopac to go on a 9-3 run that tied the game for the second time and set the stage for the decisive big



The Foxes' Joshua Olsen rises for a shot in the lane against visiting Mahopac.



Will Meyers of Fox Lane gets into the lane for a shot in the second half of last week's win over visiting Mahopac.

spurt by Fox Lane.

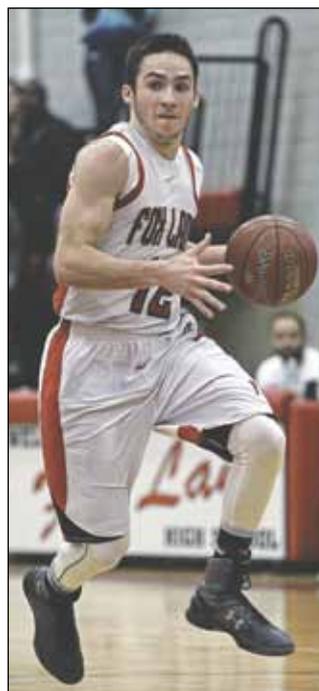
It began with Alvarado launching a trey that splashed through the net with 3:15 remaining. With 2:05 to go, he drilled another 3-pointer, this time from the left elbow, and suddenly the Foxes had their six-point cushion again. A Devin Hunter fast-break layup soon followed, and by the time Rosati capped the huge run with two free throws there were just 53 seconds to go and the Fox fans were taunting the Indians with chants of "start the bus." Two foul shots by Meyers, who ended up with

nine points, gave Fox Lane its biggest lead, 12, with 23 seconds on the clock.

"I'm happy about the defensive effort," said Tomassi, "and now we've just got to get better offensively because we're getting good looks. Until we can learn how to put the ball in the basket, it's gonna be a struggle. So hopefully our defense travels everywhere, and hopefully we just keep getting better offensively or else we're gonna be in for a long, long season."



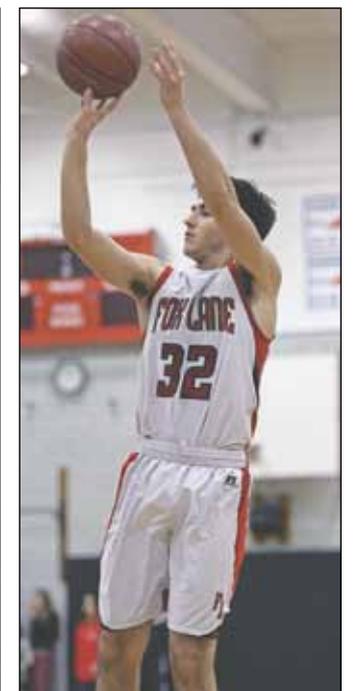
Fox Lane guard Devin Hunter dribbles past Mahopac's Robert Garcia in last Thursday's game, won by the Foxes.



Fox Lane's Harry Brown takes the ball to the basket in the second half of Thursday's home game.



Sophomore guard Xander Alvarado dribbles the ball near midcourt during Fox Lane's 48-38 win over the Indians.



Nick Rosati, who scored a game-high 18 points, fires a first-half jumper in Fox Lane's home win last Thursday.

Greeley Struggles in a Road Loss to the Admirals

By Andy Jacobs

There were some early hints last Wednesday that the Horace Greeley boys' basketball team was in for a long afternoon against the Arlington Admirals up in Freedom Plains. The Quakers turned the ball over three times in the opening few moments and, when they did get shots away, three of their first four attempts were airballs.

A 14-0 Arlington spurt to begin the second quarter left Greeley playing from far behind the rest of the way and the Admirals went on to a 72-59 victory, handing the Quakers' their third straight loss after starting the season 4-0.

"We played terrible, played terrible," said Quakers coach Dave Fernandes after his team's fourth-quarter comeback bid fell apart down the stretch. "I don't want to take anything away from Arlington, they played great. We were terrible today. I don't really know what to say. It did not look like Horace Greeley basketball."

Despite 27 points from Jack Baron and 16 more from Brian Unger, the Quakers struggled to keep pace with the Admirals, who built a 16-point first-half lead, then turned back a last-gasp challenge in the final few minutes.

"We've got to start from scratch again," said Fernandes. "I think we got complacent, you know, when you win your first four games, or you come out with a big start and they think everything's gonna fall in place. I don't have excuses. I thought Matt (Hoyt) coached a great game. He played up on us, took us out of our cutting lanes and we just had no energy, it seemed like."

The Quakers did manage to take the lead three different times in the opening quarter, starting with a Baron 3-pointer that finally got them on the board with 4:42 remaining in the period. A bit later, a basket by Justin Abrams, followed by

Unger's 3-point shot from the left elbow, gave Greeley a 10-9 edge.

But Arlington's John Smith, who finished with a team-high 16 points, answered with a 3-pointer from the left corner that gave the Admirals a two-point lead after one quarter and they never trailed again. That's because the second period began with 14 consecutive Arlington points, from five different players. By the time the Quakers finally got on the board again, on a fast-break lefty layup by Baron with just 2:44 left in the half, their deficit had grown to 16 points.

The Admirals' built their largest lead of the day, 29-12, following a Zac Dingee trey with just under two minutes left in the half. Greeley went to the locker room trailing by 12 points and Fernandes had some questions for his players, who allowed four 3-pointers in the second quarter.

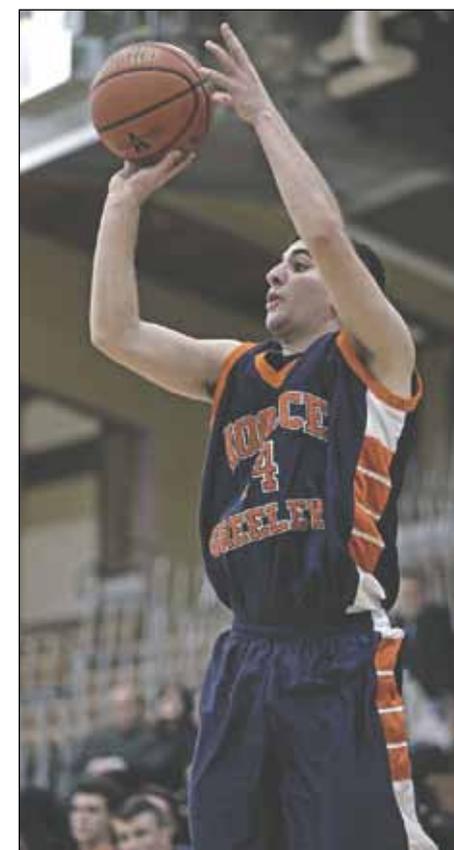
"Well, at halftime, I was like, 'What are we doing?'" he said. "You've got to go out there and play with the same intensity as the other team. We're covering in front of the guys with our hands down. The kid turns right in front of you shooting the three without a hand up. That doesn't make any sense."

Midway through the third quarter, Baron scored seven straight points within 40 seconds as the Quakers went on a 12-4 run that trimmed the Arlington lead to 43-36. The Admirals had a nine-point cushion heading to the fourth quarter, then scored the first seven points to stretch their advantage to 54-38.

"You could see when we came out and pressed a little bit, we got our energy up



Jeremy Block takes the ball to the basket in Greeley's road loss last Wednesday afternoon.



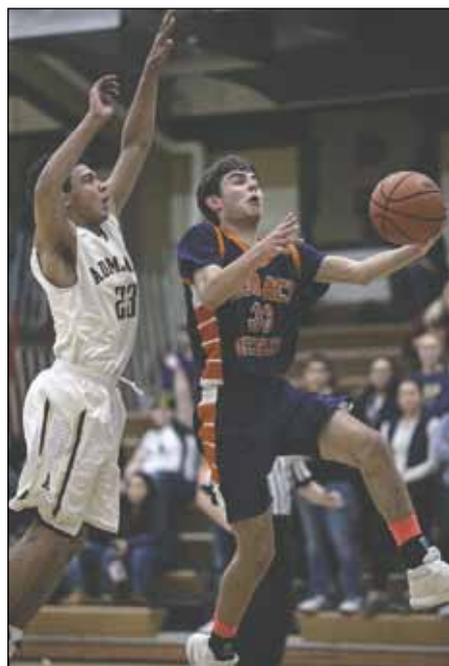
The Quakers' Brian Unger launches a 3-point shot in last week's game at Arlington.

a little bit, made a little bit of a run," said Fernandes. "And then, all of a sudden, boom, they got two quick baskets. Again, they hit a three in transition. We don't even have a guy there."

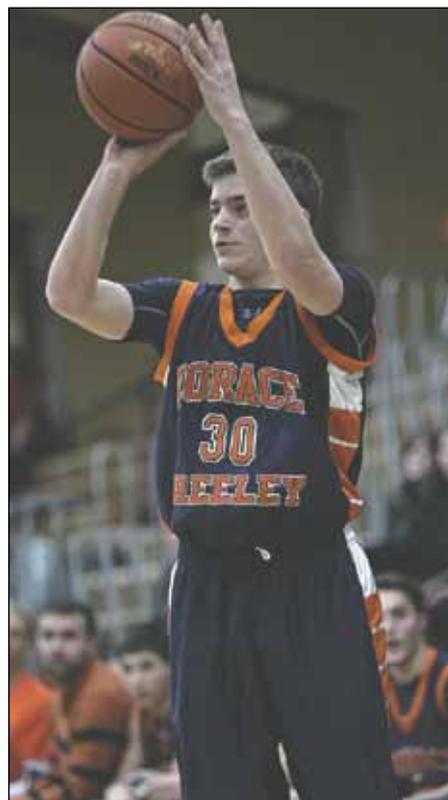
Still, the Quakers weren't quite finished. Unger caught fire from the perimeter, connecting on three straight 3-pointers, and Greeley outscored the Admirals 16-5 over a three-minute stretch to close within 59-54 with 3:01 still on the clock. A layup by Greg Karr with 2:29 to go cut the Arlington advantage to 62-56, but that was as close as the Quakers would get as the Admirals responded with a 10-0 burst

to clinch their first win of the season after starting with two losses.

"We laid an egg," Fernandes said. "This was a terrible game for us and we've got to pick it up after the holidays. All five guys have to play team defense and all five guys have got to play offense. It can't be just two. It can't be just three. You've got to get everybody in the mix. We didn't do that at all today."



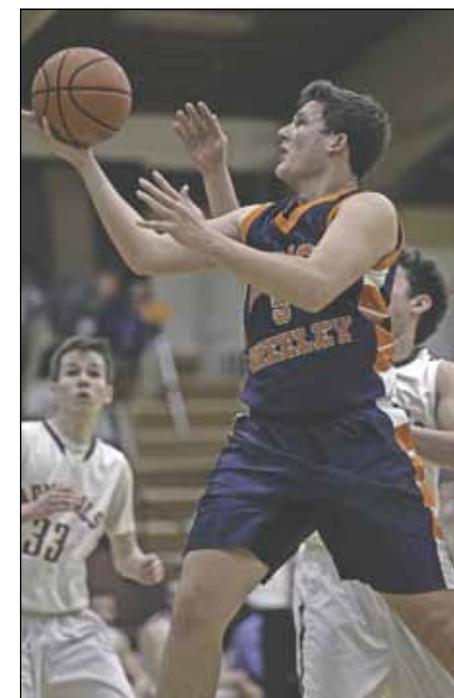
Horace Greeley senior Jack Baron scores on a fast break in the first half of last Wednesday's game at Arlington.



Sophomore guard Will Frieder shoots the ball in the fourth quarter of Greeley's game against the host Admirals.



Greeley freshman Chris Melis tries to drive past Arlington's Shane Walczyk in the second half of last Wednesday's game.



Greeley's Justin Abrams sails into the lane for a shot in the first half vs. host Arlington.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Wildcats Fade in the Final Quarter and Fall to Haldane

By Andy Jacobs

The Westlake girls' basketball team seemed well on its way to a fifth straight win to open the season when Viktoria Hudd nailed a 3-pointer nearly a minute into the fourth quarter of last Tuesday's game against Haldane.

But the visiting Blue Devils quickly erased their seven-point deficit by scoring the next 11 points and later gained control by holding the Wildcats scoreless over the final three minutes. Led by Allison Chiera's game-high 26 points, they emerged with a 55-50 victory, sending Westlake into the holiday break with a disappointing first loss.

Four key turnovers in the game's final 73 seconds spelled doom for the Wildcats, who were trying to win their second game in 24 hours following Monday's triumph at Byram Hills, which was described by head coach Sean Mayer as "really back and forth, just like this game."

Despite 18 points from star senior Natalie Alfieri and a lead they held the entire third quarter, the Wildcats could not duplicate the outcome versus the Bobcats. But even after Haldane's big fourth-quarter run left them suddenly trailing by four points, the Wildcats soon managed to tie the game on a Jesi Oswald 3-point shot with 3:17 still on the clock.

Unfortunately for the Wildcats, they never scored another point the rest of



Viktoria Hudd drives along the right baseline in the second half of Westlake's home game vs. Haldane.

the way and Haldane seized command by scoring the last five points, all of them coming from the charity stripe.

"I really thought they played hard man-to-man defense," said Mayer about the victorious Blue Devils. "That was a little challenging, coming off a game from the day before. We could've been a little sluggish to start."

Still, back-to-back fast-break layups by Angelina Guarnieri late in the opening quarter gave Westlake a 12-7 lead. The Blue Devils closed to within a point three times in the second period before Jamie Perfito connected on a 3-pointer with three and a half minutes left. Haldane used a 5-0 spurt late in the half to grab a one-point lead, but two free throws by Alfieri with 51 seconds to go closed the first-half scoring and enabled the Wildcats to take a 25-24 edge into intermission.

Oswald, who



Westlake's Jesi Oswald pushes the ball up the court in the Wildcats' 55-50 loss last Tuesday afternoon.

finished with 11 points, one more than Hudd, provided a pair of 3-pointers early in the third quarter that gave Westlake a 31-26 advantage. Alfieri, who was honored before the game for becoming the first girl in school history to reach the 1000-point plateau, scored eight of her points over the final six minutes of the period, which ended with the Wildcats leading 43-38.

Alfieri, though, never scored another point after making two free throws with 2:20 remaining in the third quarter. Mayer tried to give his point guard some rest midway through the fourth, but the Wildcats immediately turned the ball over and Alfieri's break lasted just one possession.

"Our bench is getting a little smaller," conceded Mayer. "And it's hard. If she's not in the game, we have some girls that under pressure it hurt a little bit today. They made a couple of silly passes and their guards did a great job jumping the ball. If I saw that she was out of the game, I would put a press on too."

Haldane took its first lead of the second half when, in the midst of the key 11-0 spurt, Alzy Cinquanta made a 3-pointer that gave the Blue Devils a 48-46 edge with 4:23 left. Chiera scored on a layup 13 seconds later to increase the lead to four points, but one free throw by Hudd and then Oswald's trey from the right corner tied the game again with 3:17 to go.

Haldane went ahead for good as Chiera sank one of two foul shots with 2:23 on the clock. She added another free throw just over a minute later, then the Wildcats proceeded to turn the ball over four times in the waning moments. The biggest might have been with 16 seconds to go as they came out of a timeout trailing 52-50 and Alfieri inbounded the ball to the left corner to Perfito, whose foot was ruled out of bounds.

"We wanted to try to inbound it and then get it back (to Alfieri)," said Mayer. "We caught it in the short corner. Her toe



Jamie Perfito of Westlake shoots the ball from the left corner in last week's home game.

went on the line. It was a tough break."

After a free throw by Haldane's Missy Lisikatos with 14.2 seconds left, the Wildcats had one last chance to get even, but Hudd's 3-point try from the right corner landed well short of the rim. Two fouls shots by Julia Rotando with six seconds to go clinched the Blue Devil victory.

The Wildcats' late fade put a damper on an afternoon that had begun in celebration as Alfieri was recognized for her lofty point milestone, which she arrived at nearly two weeks earlier with one of her patented driving layups in a win at Blind Brook.

"She's meant a lot to our program," said Mayer. "She's made all of her teammates better, she's made our program better, she's made me a better coach."



Westlake's Angelina Guarnieri battles for rebound position with Haldane's Olivia Monteleone during last Tuesday's game.



Westlake senior guard Natalie Alfieri, who recently became the first girl in school history to score 1000 career points, sends up a shot vs. Haldane.

Midway Through the Season, Foxes in Search of Improvement

By Andy Jacobs

With the departure of its two primary goal scorers and one of the section's elite goalies after last season, the Fox Lane hockey team figured to take some lumps this year. And as the 2016 portion of the schedule came to an end on Friday night, the Foxes were still stuck with just one win but hoping to make some modest improvement after New Year's.

"Look, we have a young team," said head coach Charles Berger shortly after the Foxes had fallen to 1-8 this season with a lopsided 9-3 loss to Lakeland/Panas at Brewster Ice Arena. "The biggest thing is setting a culture of no quitting, no matter what, and sportsmanship and class. I think tonight we took a step towards that, and that's the most important thing we'll get out of tonight."

Just six days after the two teams had played a wild, seesaw contest the Rebels wound up winning 8-7, they took to the ice again late Friday and it quickly became apparent the outcome this time would not be in doubt. Lakeland/Panas scored three times in the first eight minutes and cruised the rest of the way. AJ Cappello and Christian Jiminez scored three goals apiece, while Matt Sillcocks added two others, as the Rebels defeated a Fox Lane squad missing five of its players.

"We never make excuses here about people being out of the lineup because our philosophy is just next man in, next person's got to step up," said Berger. "You know, it just didn't happen tonight. I think they capitalized on their chances early. They took a lead, we took way too many penalties and we didn't kill 'em off. And then when we had some opportunities, we didn't finish. So it kind of got away from us a little bit early."

The Rebels, who earlier this season had put an end to their own humbling 43-game losing streak, jumped ahead with a shorthanded goal just over three minutes in as Cappello knocked a rebound past Will Brunner from right of the crease. Two and a half minutes later, Cappello scored again to give L/P a 2-0 lead. The speedy Jiminez provided his first goal of the night with 6:58 left in the period, outskating the Fox defense down the left wing before slipping the puck past Brunner.

The Foxes tried to respond with four and a half minutes to go as Eric Maiorano

sent a cross-ice pass to Jared Goldstein left of the net, but Rebel goalie Matt Piciocchi made a save. With 2:10 on the clock, a big slap shot from Maiorano from the left point was gloved by Piciocchi. A goal by Kyle Carroll in the final minute gave the Rebels a commanding 4-0 cushion after the first 15 minutes.

"Get the next goal, that was the message," said Berger about what he told his players in the two minutes between periods. "We said we weren't playing Fox Lane hockey. We've got to get more pucks to the net, we've got to get the next goal."

Instead, though, Cappello scored his third goal of the evening just 51 seconds into the second period, leaving Fox Lane facing a five-goal deficit. Just moments after getting thwarted on a point-blank chance, Charlie Della Penna finally got the Foxes on the scoreboard as his slapper from straight away trickled through the pads of Piciocchi with 12:23 left in the second period.

Unfortunately for the Foxes, Lakeland/Panas added three more goals before the second period ended, including one by Jiminez on a penalty shot after he was tripped up on a breakaway with the Foxes just beginning a power play.

"Yeah, they made a nice play where they chipped the puck in the air," said Berger about the Rebels. "My defenseman did exactly what he's coached to, step up and knock it down. The puck takes a bounce and the kid's off to the races. And my weakside defenseman (Maiorano) was flying. He gave all he had. He dove and he tripped the kid up and it ends up being a penalty shot. I think 50 percent of the time, or more, my goalie's gonna make the save. He didn't make the save that time."

Trailing 8-1 after two periods, Fox Lane stepped it up in the third, outshooting the Rebels 8-5 and getting goals from Stephen Mains and Mickey Paletta. The goal by Mains came just over four minutes into the period as he blasted a shot while falling to the ice right of the cage that wound up in the far side of the net. Paletta scored his goal five minutes later, on a rebound,



Fox Lane's Charlie Della Penna moves the puck up the ice in Friday's game vs. Lakeland/Panas at Brewster Ice Arena.



The Foxes' Eric Maiorano tries to skate around Matt Sillcocks of Lakeland/Panas in the third period of Friday night's game.

not long after the Foxes had successfully killed off a two-man advantage for the Rebels.

"We're getting better," said Berger, back in charge of the Foxes' program for a second time. "Today was not indicative of that, but the guys are fighting. It's a great group of players. They're working hard and I think our best hockey is yet to be played."

The Foxes don't play again until an afternoon matchup with Byram Hills on Friday, January 6. Before then, Berger will watch a lot of film and hope his optimism rubs off on his players.

"We addressed a couple things that happened tonight," he said. "We left on a positive note. And we talked about how when we come back we're gonna work even harder than we have so far this year. We have to start fighting for wins."



Fox Lane goalie Will Brunner awaits a move from Christian Jiminez of Lakeland/Panas during a penalty shot in Friday's game, won by the Rebels.



Fox Lane head coach Charles Berger talks to his players during a timeout in the second period of Friday's game at Brewster Ice Arena.

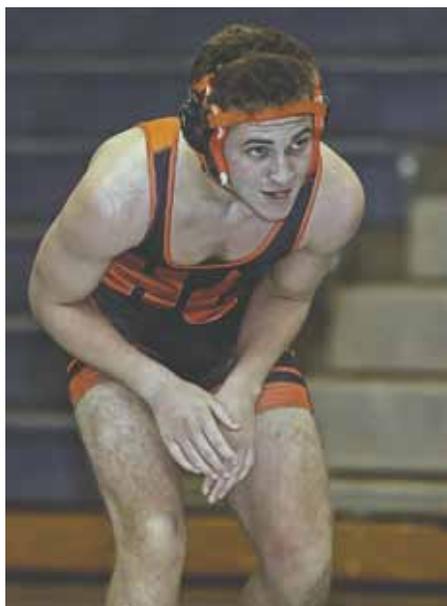


Jared Goldstein of Fox Lane controls the puck in the neutral zone during the second period of Friday's game vs. the Rebels.

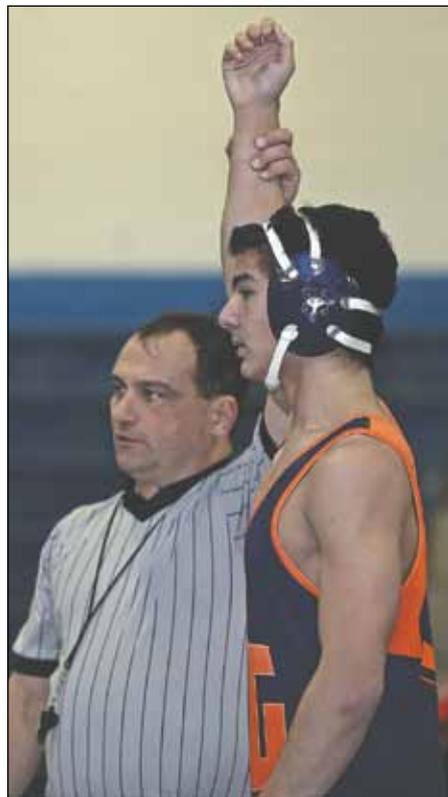


Fox Lane players congratulate teammate Stephen Mains after he scored a goal in the third period at Brewster Ice Arena.

focus on GREELEY Wrestling



Chris Dorner of Greeley looks for a takedown as he wrestles at 145 pounds in the recent meet at John Jay.



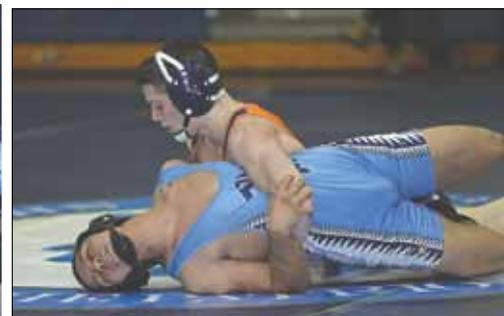
Aaron Wolk has his arm raised by the official after winning his match at 160 pounds at John Jay.



Horace Greeley's Matthew Schreiber has control during his match at 106 pounds vs. host John Jay of East Fishkill.

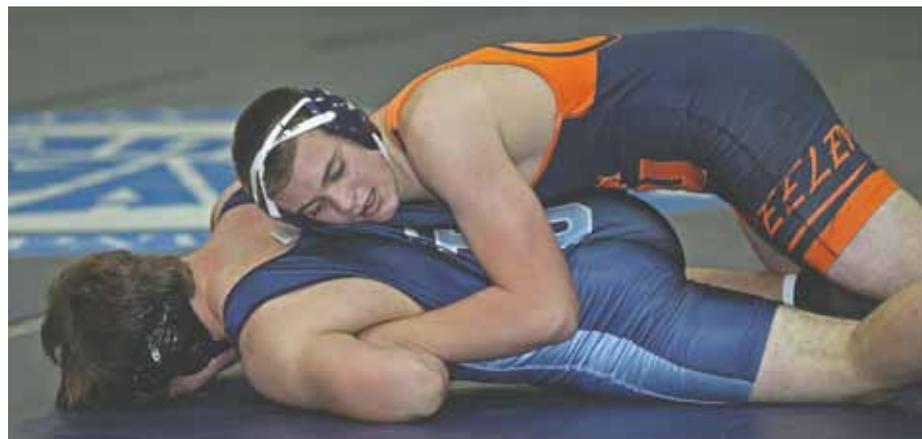


Greeley 132-pounder Essad Ashraf tries for a first-period takedown in the Quakers' road match vs. John Jay.



The Quakers' Joe Sasso is just moments away from earning his 100th career victory as he wrestles at 138 pounds vs. the host John Jay Patriots.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



The Quakers' Josh McMillan has command during his match at 182 pounds last week up in East Fishkill.

Pleasantville Loses at Home to Dobbs Ferry



The Panthers' Amanda Skopetos lines up a 3-point shot during Thursday's home game vs. Dobbs Ferry.



Pleasantville's Jenna McAllister searches for a teammate to pass to in the third quarter vs. the visiting Eagles.



Kristie Guttridge calls out a play as she dribbles near midcourt in Pleasantville's loss to Dobbs Ferry.



Paige Long gets set to shoot the ball from the left corner in the first half of Thursday's home game.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

DEVILISH DRIVE



Westlake's Jesi Oswald Dribbles to the Basket in Last Tuesday's Game Against Visiting Haldane

ANDY JACOBS PHOTO



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