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February 16 - February 22, 2016

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 441

DOT's Plans for Saw Mill Parkway Detours, Closures Finalized

By Arthur Cusano

Details were outlined last week of the planned Saw Mill River Parkway renovations in Pleasantville scheduled for this spring and summer and the headaches it is anticipated to cause area motorists.

The state Department of Transportation (DOT) project calls for closures and detours starting in April to replace parts of the roadway that will help alleviate flooding.

The first phase, scheduled for Apr. 3 to July 1, will be done overnight from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. forcing the closure of the parkway between Marble Avenue and Grant Street in both directions, said Village Administrator Patricia Dwyer. Starting at 9 p.m. each night, southbound traffic will be corralled into one lane and forced to make a left turn off the parkway onto Grant Street, Dwyer said. Drivers will follow the detour to the Marble Avenue parkway



ARTHUR CUSANO PHOTO

The Grant Street exit of the Saw Mill River Parkway, above, will be used for a detour during the spring and summer while renovations will force parkway closures.

entrance to continue southbound.

Northbound drivers will be forced to exit at Marble Avenue and re-enter the parkway at Grant Street. The traffic light cycle will be synchronized on

the detour route to reduce congestion. Meanwhile, Depew Street will be closed off to through traffic to avoid having motorists try and circumvent the detour.

The entrance and exit ramps at Pleasant Avenue will also be closed to keep residents from accidentally entering the parkway, Dwyer said.

Pedestrian traffic will be blocked from crossing the parkway by barriers at Grant Street during the detour hours because of safety concerns raised by the village police. Local residents looking to get across the parkway at night will have to cross a bridge over the Saw Mill on Pleasantville Road.

The more extensive summer phase will be an aggressive 21-day project in which the southbound lanes will be completely closed for the entirety of the work. During that time the northbound lanes will be split from Marble Avenue to Grant Street to allow traffic to proceed in both directions.

The three-week phase can start no earlier than July 10 and will end no later than Aug. 26, said William Cromeek of

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Chappaqua Affordable Housing Site Safety Concerns Raised to Conifer

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle officials bluntly told representatives for the developer of the controversial affordable housing project in downtown Chappaqua that key safety improvements must be addressed before the building should be constructed.

The comments from the town board came during a marathon three-hour public hearing on Feb. 9 to entertain Conifer Realty's request to allow modifications in the applicant's special use permit.

Randolph McLaughlin, the attorney for Conifer, which is hoping to build the proposed 28-unit building on Hunts Place, said that most of the 60-plus conditions needed to obtain a building permit from the town have been satisfied

by his client. In addition, leases are in place with the MTA and the state Department of Transportation (DOT).

However, after McLaughlin informed town officials that DOT had scuttled plans for the developer to erect a fence on the Route 120 bridge to protect pedestrians, many of whom would be building residents walking to and from downtown, Supervisor Robert Greenstein criticized Conifer's failure to compromise and improve the project, much the way Chappaqua Crossing developer Summit/Greenfield did with its plan at the former Reader's Digest site.

Greenstein urged Conifer to reduce the size of the Hunts Place building so it could more comfortably fit on the one-third of an acre site and also consider

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Armonk Developer Ponders All Affordable Units for Lumberyard Site

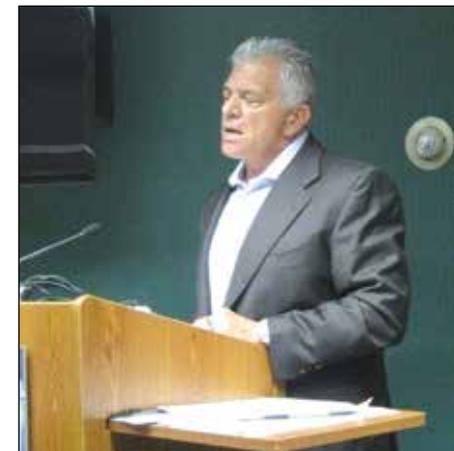
By Martin Wilbur

The owner of the former lumberyard property in Armonk is mulling another change in plans for the site.

Developer Michael Fareri is considering an alternate proposal to convert the already approved 36-unit condominium proposal with six affordable units to a building that would contain as many as 48 affordable residences.

Fareri said last week that he has had to consider the change because the North Castle Town Board has thus far refused to permit him to relocate the six affordable units to another property he owns at 37-41 Maple Ave. near Armonk Square. He has argued that Maple Avenue is preferable because it would move the affordable apartments to a more desirable location in

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Developer Michael Fareri may scuttle his plans for condominiums at the former lumberyard property on Bedford Road in Armonk in favor of all affordable units unless he is allowed to relocate six affordable units to another property he owns.



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Armonk Developer Ponders All Affordable Units for Lumberyard Site

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the heart of downtown and help ease the downtown parking shortage due to the less stringent residential parking requirements.

The matter is currently scheduled to be discussed before the planning board at its next meeting on Feb. 29.

Fareri said he is also pressing to get on

the Feb. 24 town board agenda in hopes of convincing officials that the relocation plan is the best way to go.

"The easy solution is to allow me to move the six units to a different location," Fareri said.

To make the move, however, he would need a zoning text amendment granted

by the town board because of restrictions on the percentage of residential space in a commercial zone.

In addition to the benefits to the town, the developer said it is more economically feasible if he didn't mix the different types of units because of the large disparity in price between the market-rate and affordable units.

Fareri said he would be able to ask for 48 units by reducing the size of each apartment to maintain the approved floor area ratio.

Director of Planning Adam Kaufman said any plan to switch to affordable units would only need planning board approval.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said he was puzzled by Fareri's latest move with the former lumberyard parcel, one of a series of changes he's made to his applications at the site at 162-170 Bedford Rd. since he was granted an initial approval about eight years ago.

He said that it appears as though Fareri is trying to use the leverage of changing his plans from a condo project to affordable housing as a threat to officials, which Schiliro doesn't see.

"People have approached me and said we need more affordable housing in our town," Schiliro said. "I don't view it as a negative."

This is the second time in less than six months Fareri would appear before

the town board in hopes of getting permission to relocate the affordable units. In September, he was rebuffed by council members who said the density bonus that Fareri had received was in large part due to the market-rate and affordable apartments being in the same location.

However, Fareri responded that there have been five other instances where the town has permitted an off-site location for middle income or affordable units, including Armonk Square. Brynwood Golf & Country Club is also being allowed to find an alternate location for its seven affordable units.

DOT's Plans for Saw Mill Parkway Detours, Closures Finalized

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ECCO III Enterprises, Inc. of Yonkers, the contractor overseeing the project. The village expects the work to begin Monday, July 11, Dwyer said.

Trustee Mindy Barard said her biggest concern is to make sure detour signs are clearly marked.

"We know, from the history of flooding, that people get off and they don't know where they are going," she said.

Village board members inquired whether additional police officers would be needed for the detours, but Dwyer responded that won't be necessary. Traffic enforcement for the project will not be handled by Pleasantville.

"If traffic regulation is needed, they

should provide it, not us," Dwyer said. "They should talk to the county police or state police."

A public information forum for residents will be held during the March 7 village board meeting. Representatives from the DOT are expected to attend to answer questions about the project.

Public notifications will also be mailed in the coming weeks. Cromeek said the letter would be sent to residents from Dutchess County to Mount Pleasant.

Mount Pleasant Police Chief Paul Oliva said he did not anticipate the parkway work to have much impact on the town. The Marble Avenue exit of the Saw Mill sits just outside of the village in Thornwood.

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John Abrahams, MD, FAANS

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Q: What can I do about my aching back?

A: Back pain is surprisingly common – nearly 80 percent of Americans will experience back pain at some point during their lives. For most, stretching, rest, and over-the-counter painkillers will resolve the issue. If your pain is persistent, your doctor might refer you to a physical therapist for guidance in how to sit, lift, and move in ways that won't exacerbate your pain. A physical therapist can teach patients stretches and exercises that will help prevent future back troubles.

Q: What causes back pain?

A: Strains are the most common cause of back pain and usually occur from awkward lifting or even a sudden movement. Structural problems are also a common source of back pain. Discs can bulge and press on the spinal nerves, the vertebrae can develop arthritis, narrowing and pressing on the spinal cord, or osteoporosis can develop. Although rare, it's possible to get infections or cancer in the spine.

Q: What if my back pain won't go away?

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Did You Know?
30 percent of Americans experience back pain on any given day.*

Brain and Memory Symposium Scheduled For March 12

Parents, educators, administrators, scientists, psychologists and guidance counselors are invited to a research symposium – The Brain and Memory – on Saturday, March 12 at 10 a.m. at Pace Law School, located at 78 N. Broadway in White Plains.

Sponsored by The Delany Center for Educational Enrichment – Pace University, the symposium will feature Andrew Watson, president of Translate the Brain.

“As an educator for more than 70 years, I have become increasingly frustrated with the general lack of understanding between why children struggle academically and what goes on in their brains when they learn,” said John Delany, director of the White Plains-based Delany Center.

At the symposium, Watson will discuss how to bridge the daunting gulf between the complexities of brain research and the practical needs of learning and teaching.

Registration is \$35. Tickets can be purchased at <http://tinyurl.com/brainsymposium2016> or by calling 914-422-4135.

Byram Hills Sued for Alleged Student Bullying

By Martin Wilbur

The parent of a former H.C. Crittenden Middle School student is suing the Byram Hills School District and two faculty members for failing to discipline students who severely bullied her daughter, which led to a suicide attempt.

According to the suit filed in state Supreme Court in White Plains on Feb. 4, the girl was subjected to verbal and physical abuse through nearly all of the 2014-15 school year, which caused her grades to deteriorate. The 13-year-old student then began cutting herself and attempted suicide last May.

The suit alleges that Crittenden Assistant Principal Kim Lapple and guidance counselor David Mack were repeatedly informed by the student and her mother of the bullying from late October 2014 but took no action to address the problem. The initials of nine students who allegedly bullied the student are listed in the complaint but there were other pupils who participated as well, it stated.

“The Byram Hills Central School District had an independent duty to investigate, take disciplinary action and prevent further acts of bullying, cyber bullying and harassment from being perpetrated by its student body against the minor A.M.,” the suit, filed by parent Lauren Milton on behalf of her daughter,

reads in part. “That duty was abdicated by the defendant’s in this case leaving the Plaintiffs to their own devices of which they are now availing themselves through the commencement of this litigation.”

Throughout the school year, the student was subjected to verbal insults urging her to “drink bleach” and to “kill yourself” and written taunts on the Internet wanting to see her “jump off a cliff” and to “go die in a hole,” according to the complaint. The student also endured physical abuse and had her locker broken into about 10 occasions at the school located on McDonald Avenue in Armonk. The vandalism caused some of her belongings to be destroyed.

The bullying became so severe that on some occasions the girl hid in the bathroom during classes or leave school grounds to avoid interacting with the classmates who were tormenting her.

The lawsuit mentioned that on May 5, 2015, the student wrote a suicide note while in school and placed it in the backpack of another student. The note was given to Lapple who failed to advise either school authorities or the student’s parent. Later that day, the student tried to commit suicide by cutting her wrists, the 16-page document stated.

As a result of the abuse, the student had to withdraw from Crittenden, the litigation said. When she briefly



H.C. Crittenden Middle School, where a student was allegedly bullied so severely that she tried to commit suicide. The student’s mother recently filed a lawsuit against the Byram Hills School District and two faculty members for failing to take action against the students responsible for the abuse.

returned to school, the student suffered panic attacks. Her family enrolled her in Soundview Preparatory School, which carries tuition of more than \$38,000 a year.

In addition, the school conducted no investigation, disciplined no students, took no action and failed to contact the North Castle Police Department or the superintendent as required by the New York State Dignity For All Students Act.

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Chappaqua Affordable Housing Site Safety Concerns Raised to Conifer

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developing the town-owned Washington Avenue site for both affordable and market-rate units.

“There’s not a member of this town board who thinks that this is a good project and who wouldn’t love to see this relocated to Washington Avenue, and we’ve done everything in our power to facilitate that,” Greenstein told McLaughlin.

“It is possible that we’re not against affordable housing but this is just a bad site, and your company has decided to dig their heels in and move ahead with a bad project,” he added.

Councilwoman Hala Makowska, while complimenting Conifer for its mission of building affordable housing across the United States, agreed that a smaller project would be better for the community.

“I think it becomes an opportunity for you guys to come work with the town board and work with the town to scale down the project where it is now or do a larger project in an alternate location,” Makowska said.

Last year the state Board of Review approved a series of variances for Conifer relating to firefighting regulations over the objections of town staff and officials. The project has been consistently criticized by opponents as being on a cramped and unsafe site unsuitable for people to live.

McLaughlin said that while he appreciated the concerns voiced over safety, the developer is committed to making the project on Hunts Place safe for everyone who would live there.

“I understand this safety issue is an issue,” McLaughlin said. “We don’t want to build an unsafe building. We want to make sure the children who come to live here (are safe), because we’re not building this building and walking away from it, we’re going to be here, we’re going to manage that building, so it’s going to be a safe building for all the residents.”

McLaughlin said that Conifer would be interested in other sites in town in addition to the Hunts Place property.

During the hearing there were also statements from Police Chief Charles

Ferry who questioned the safety for pedestrians near the building, particularly for children, without a fence on the Route 120 bridge. He predicted that a proposed sidewalk near the building will likely be ignored because people prefer the shortest distance.

“Every place where the children would go is on the other side of the bridge – the library, two playgrounds, the school, the gazebo – they’re going to have to cross for everything they’ll need to do,” Ferry said.

Previously, he had voiced safety concerns about the building’s proximity to the Saw Mill Parkway exit and the town’s DPW facility.

Chappaqua Volunteer Fire Department Chief Russell Maitland later reiterated his previously raised concerns that the site poses serious challenges for firefighters. One problem would be the closure of the closure of the Saw Mill Parkway to fight a blaze. Last year when the department asked that the parkway be closed because of a gas leak on Hunts Place, it took 28 minutes to accomplish, Maitland said.

By the end of the hearing, the town approved most of the special permit’s modifications but postponed making a decision on five points. The hearing was adjourned until March 29.

Carnations for Sale



West Patent Elementary School held its annual Valentine’s Day carnation sale last Saturday at Northern Westchester Hospital, selling nearly 800 carnations, including about 120 of those for patients. Families had the option to purchase carnations for friends, relatives, teachers or patients at NWH. Pictured are students Emily Sullivan and Mia Jacobowitz with three nurses.

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Nurse Practitioners Now a Greater Presence in Health Care

By Pat Casey

There have been many recent innovations in the health care field and some new laws passed in New York State. One new legislation, passed with the 2014 state budget, is the Nurse Practitioners Modernization Act (NPMA), which allows nurse practitioners (NP) to operate their own practices independently of physicians.

The law has been in place for over a year, and at the center of the seven years of efforts to get the measure passed was Dr. Stephen Ferrara, executive director of

the state Nurse Practitioner's Association, Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs and Assistant Professor at the Columbia University School of Nursing.

Ferrara began his career as a clinical nurse practitioner about 15 years ago, the same time he and his wife (also a nurse practitioner) moved to White Plains.

Holding a doctorate as a clinical nurse practitioner, it might seem confusing that Ferrara is often referred to as Dr. Ferrara, although he is not a medical physician. As a professional, Ferrara said he uses Dr. in

his title, but in the clinical environment he does not.

Continuing his activism to get more nurse practitioners into private practice and to promote the field in general, Ferrara explained that NPs can diagnose and treat patients as well as prescribe medication. NPs are also trained in specific specialties.

Ferrara's specialty is family care and he treats children through seniors. Other NPs might specialize in areas such as women's health or mental health.

When asked why a patient would choose an NP over a medical physician, Ferrara said it depends on the case. NPs cannot do surgery, he explains. "Their care tends to be more proactive and preventative and the time an NP spends with a patient is usually more than the time they would spend with a medical doctor," Ferrara said. "There is more overall care, the type of care you would expect from a nurse, from wound cleaning to bandage changing, the taking of vitals and conversations about the patient's well-being." Sometimes if a patient does not have a primary care physician identified by their insurance provider, they will see a nurse practitioner first.



Stephen Ferrara

Because of changes in the health care industry prompted by the Affordable Health Care Act, the industry is changing. More of a focus is placed on preventative care.

"More patients are seeing NPs as a result. If the patient needs the care of a doctor, they are immediately referred," Ferrara said.

Nurse practitioners are licensed by the state Board of Nursing and they must carry malpractice insurance.

Aware that Westchester County has become a hub

for health care, medical research and hospital networks, Ferrara sees growth opportunities for NPs looking to open their own practices. The benefit of not needing a physician's oversight is that procedures can move along faster and paperwork is reduced making it easier for both the NPs and the MDs, Ferrara said.

With more young people exploring the health care field for careers, Ferrara encourages them to investigate becoming a nurse practitioner.

Information can be found at the Nurse Practitioner Association website at www.thenpa.org.

Rotarians Unite

Three local Rotary clubs worked together to sponsor and hold the sale of Christmas trees this past holiday season in Bedford Hills Park. Proceeds from the sale were distributed to local community organizations. Pictured above, from left, with the presentation of a \$1,500 check to the Community Center of Northern Westchester, are Bruce Desmond, president of the Mount Kisco Rotary Club; Clare Murray, interim executive director of the community center; Arthur Saltzman and Crystal Keets of the NEW Rotary Club; Gordon Aydelott, president of the Bedford-Armonk Rotary Club; and Noya Guerro, assistant director for client services at the center.



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Smoked Out: Pleasantville Mulls Public Smoking Ban

By Arthur Cusano

Smoking is already banned from businesses and public buildings in Westchester County, but Pleasantville officials are now considering prohibiting anyone from lighting up in village parks and some other public spaces.

Trustee Colleen Griffin-Wagner recently proposed the ordinance to ban smoking, which she said was inspired by a similar law passed years ago in Scarsdale and recently proposed in Yorktown.

"We have some challenges in the pocket parks and some of the other parks with groups of kids gathering together and there's really no legitimate reason why we have to ask them to move," Wagner said. "A great deal of them are smoking, so that would maybe give us some leverage, as far as crowd control in the parks."

In January, Yorktown officials proposed a law to prevent residents from smoking in town parks after receiving multiple complaints from residents. There is currently no law on the books to prevent smoking in that municipality's parks.

Village Administrator Patricia Dwyer said she could consider linking a smoking ban to the village sidewalk café ordinances to keep smokers away from people eating outside. She said smoking should not be

allowed where outdoor dining is allowed.

Trustees were divided on the idea. Joseph Stargiotti said the ban would affect older residents, who are more likely to smoke. Mindy Berard wondered if such a ban would hurt restaurants if customers were unable to step outside to smoke a cigarette.

"If you go to Iron Horse, he's got a pocket park on each side," Berard said. "So where does the pocket park end and where does the sidewalk begin? Where would they go to smoke?"

Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce President William Flooks said he did not believe a smoking ban would have much impact on village businesses. However, he said while it may help keep residents healthy, it may also infringe on people's rights.

"It's kind of a quid pro quo," he said.

If officials decide to advance the proposal, it would require a public hearing. Trustees asked Dwyer to review similar laws from other municipalities before discussing the matter again at a future meeting.

Mayor Peter Scherer was absent for Monday's meeting. Calls to Scherer for comment were not returned.

New Building Pitched as Win-Win for Downtown Mt. Kisco

By Neal Rentz

A developer is seeking to tear down the structure that formerly housed Eduardo's Restaurant on Mount Kisco's South Moger Avenue to construct a more than 8,000-square-foot, two-story commercial building.

Project architect Ira Grandberg, who helped the Florida-based Win Development introduce the project to the public at the Feb. 9 planning board meeting, said the proposed structure would be "a gateway building for Mount Kisco."

Charles Martabano, an attorney representing the developer, said the building could attract new commercial development to the downtown.

The existing structure is currently being occupied by another Italian restaurant, Terra Rustica Due. The roughly quarter-acre parcel at 77-91 S. Moger Ave. is in a central business district zone. A special use permit from the planning board would be required because the proposed 8,146-square-foot building would be larger than 8,000 square feet. A wetlands permit would also be needed because there would be encroachment into a buffer.

In addition, the proposal needs a

variance from the zoning board of appeals because the developer is seeking 12 parking spaces for the site, two less than what is required in the zone.

The building would have office space on the second floor and a retail component on the ground floor.

Martabano said his client hopes to meet with the village board on Feb. 29 to discuss the possibility of using village property for the vehicle entrance and exit. Village trustees would need to approve the developer's plan to connect his site over village-owned property to the Shoppers Park parking lot.

Grandberg said the new building's exterior would be zinc-coated copper or stone.

The proposal was praised by planning board Chairman Joseph Cosentino.

"It's a big improvement for downtown Mount Kisco," Cosentino said.

No tenant has committed to move into the building. Win Development co-owner Todd Albright said his company would like to attract an investment advisory company.

The applicant will return to the planning board at a future date for further discussion.

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Advertorial



The following is the third in a series of columns from **Matthew Fiorillo, of Ballard-Durand Funeral & Cremation Services.** The columns deal with issues families must deal with prior to and after a loved one passes away.

Question: A loved one is dying of an illness. We do not have enough funds to pay for their funeral. I do have a life insurance policy for them. Can this be used to help cover the funeral costs and everything associated with it? Also, how long does it take to get a life insurance check?

Answer:

Paying for a funeral can be a burden for family members, so many people choose to use a life insurance policy to secure funeral payments. A beneficiary of a life insurance policy can fill out an assignment form at the funeral home, which will allow payment of the settlement to go directly to the funeral home. If there is more than one beneficiary, each must sign an assignment form. Again, any money left over is given back to the beneficiaries named once the funeral expenses are settled. Typically, the forms needed for a beneficiary assignment are available through the funeral home directly or you can ask your life insurance agent to provide you with the necessary documentation.

Additionally, it is a great practice to update the beneficiary information on life insurance policies right away if family situations change such as divorce, death or change of heart.

You are right, however, to be concerned about timing, as insurers can be slow in paying. And if there is any question about the cause of death that may require further investigation, such as a suicide or criminal involvement, then payouts can be held up for as long as two years. But even when no suspicious circumstances are involved, companies vary widely on how long it takes to pay benefits. Check the policy. Some contain express promises about when the life insurance benefits will be paid to the beneficiary. If not, contact the insurer and ask for that information directly.

Finally, some funeral homes require payment in full prior to services being rendered. That is why pre planning and prepayment with the funeral home of your choice is always best.



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Millwood Learning Center Move to Mount Kisco Advances

By Neal Rentz

The Mount Kisco Planning Board last week called for a resolution to vote as soon as next month on Devereux Cares moving its Millwood Learning Center to the village.

The applicant, which provides educational programs for students with developmental disabilities, is seeking to move the school from 14 Schuman Rd. in Millwood to 27 Radio Circle, the site formerly occupied by Little Garden Day Care. The school, serving students

between five and 21 years old, has operated in Millwood for about 20 years.

Devereux is seeking a special permit and change of use approval from the planning board.

At the planning board's Feb. 9 meeting, attorney Michael Zarin said the school's representatives recently met with village planning staff to discuss aspects of the proposal. One issue is a plan to drop students off in the morning and transport them from the school in the afternoon without increasing area traffic, which has

been a planning board concern.

Zarin said the school would use vans to transport students, entering the site from Radio Circle and circulating through the property in a single lane to connect to the back lot. There would be no more than 12 vans on the property at one time, he said.

Students would be dropped off between 8 and 8:45 a.m. Vans would return to pick up students between 2:45 and 3:10 p.m. Staff would arrive at the school by 7:15 a.m. and start leaving at 3:15 p.m.

The board will continue its review of

the project and could hold a final approval vote at its March 8 meeting.

Devereux informed its landlord last year it wasn't going to renew its lease for the Millwood site. The move would save the agency \$100,000 annually in rent.

As part of its program, the school plans to have older students volunteer at off-site venues in the community, including Northern Westchester Hospital, to help prepare them for adult life. It serves individuals between the ages of 5 and 21.

Devereux has 48 students with 38 full-time employees and 17 part-timers.

United Way Celebrates 10th Anniversary of 2-1-1 Call Center

From connecting people to needed resources such as food and shelter, to serving as a lifeline during disasters like Hurricane Sandy, United Way's 2-1-1 Hudson Valley Call Center celebrated 10 years in operation on Feb. 11.

To commemorate the occasion, it launched a new campaign to make it a 24-hour service. Representatives from the United Ways serving Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster were joined by local officials to recognize the milestone and to "Take the 2-1-1 Pledge" to promote the free referral line.

"Since 2005, the 2-1-1 Call Center in White Plains has helped nearly 400,000 callers with hundreds of thousands of service requests, said Alana Sweeny, president and CEO of United Way Westchester and Putnam. "As we celebrate this milestone, we would like to thank government leaders for their support and ask them to help us continue to advocate by taking a pledge to promote the call center within their communities."

United Way's 2-1-1 is a free, confidential, multilingual information and referral helpline open 365 days a year. At the center, specialists speak

with callers who need help answering questions related to food assistance, elder care, housing and shelters, utilities, abuse prevention, suicide, recycling regulations, foster parenting, veteran services, medical assistance and more. United Way's 2-1-1 helpline is open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To find more information about United Way's 2-1-1 helpline serving the Hudson Valley, visit www.hudson211.org. For more information about United Way of Westchester and Putnam, visit www.uwwp.org/get-help.shtml.

Senior Housing Plan

Last week the planning board unanimously declared itself lead agency for the environmental review of the Maplewood Senior Living project. Maplewood is seeking site plan approval and a special permit from the planning board to create a 89,000-square-foot, three-story building with 94 units at Morgan Road and Radio Circle Drive.

The property is owned by Radio City Ventures LLC. The building would be located on land that had previously been used by New York City for a sewage treatment plant.

The applicant is seeking zoning text amendment from the village board because the 5.7-acre parcel is located in a Research and Development zone.

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P'ville a Training Ground for America's Youngest Olympian

By Martin Wilbur

Sometimes it's cliché whenever the oft-repeated phrase is uttered about how the next great star can train or come from anywhere.

In the case of Sharon Alguetti, a world-class table tennis star currently ranked 63rd in the world, it's actually true.

The 14-year-old Tenafly, N.J. resident has the distinction of being the first member of the Westchester Table Tennis Center (W TTC) in Pleasantville to make the U.S. Olympic team. Alguetti qualified for the honor on Feb. 6 at the Olympic Table Tennis Trials in Greensboro, N.C.

"I have to keep practicing hard," Alguetti said during a party that was held in his honor at the W TTC last Saturday. "I still haven't achieved what I wanted to do. Now I just have to play my game."

Although he's technically on the Olympic team, that doesn't mean the teenager, the youngest American Olympian so far, will be on a plane to Rio de Janeiro for the start of the XXXI Olympiad on Aug. 5. Under the sport's convoluted system to determine Olympic berths, there's still one more hurdle for Alguetti to clear. Competitors in most of the sports represent their country, but in table tennis there are

only four spots open for the North American team, which comprises the United States, Canada and Bermuda.

So Alguetti will be off to Toronto for the Apr. 8 North American Olympic Trials to see who will fill those spots. There are four Americans, including Alguetti, and four Canadians who will be competing for the honor.

Despite being the youngest competitor – the other players vying for the coveted spots range from 16 to 33 years old – Alguetti said he doesn't believe that will be a factor when he steps up to the table.

"My advantage is speed, their advantage is power, so it evens out at the end," he said.

His mother and father, Dorly and Eyal, immigrated to the United States with their three sons in 2010 from their home outside of Tel Aviv. Dorly said she recalled back in Israel when Sharon first stepped into a table tennis club and one of the players mentioned to her the potential he saw in him.

"He saw how he was holding the paddle and how he moved and he said he would be a champion – and we believed him," Dorly Alguetti said laughing. "But he didn't start playing table tennis for a long time. He played soccer."

He continued to play soccer after arriving in the U.S. W TTC manager Robert Roberts, who initially trained

him and was with him in Greensboro, said he first saw Alguetti's ability about three years ago, but at that time he still was splitting time between sports.

Once he devoted himself to table tennis a little more than a year ago he attained another level, said Roberts, who described Alguetti as "smart and crafty." More recently, he's been trained by Kai Zhang, another top player at W TTC, who will be eligible for the 2020 Games.

"When he decided table tennis is going to be his sport, I think he developed and his whole attitude changed," Roberts said.

One of the big challenges Alguetti faces is that he takes a regular load of classes at Tenafly High School, said his father Eyal. Other top-ranked competitors who are still in school have tutors and don't have to keep up with regular classes, he said.

Then every day after school one of his parents drives him from Tenafly so he can put in his daily three hours of



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Sharon Alguetti celebrated, along with his mother, his recent inclusion on the U.S. Olympic team last Saturday at Westchester Table Tennis Center in Pleasantville where he trains.

practice.

W TTC owner Will Shortz said having Alguetti train at his facility not only cements the center's stature in the table tennis world, but he has been an inspiration and a motivation for others, including the members who are novices.

"I think it validates what we do here," Shortz said. "It motivates people. When you see a member of our club get really, really good, we can't all be Olympians but we can all get better, and so Sharon is an inspiration for a lot of people."

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Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Feb. 8: An Amuso Drive resident reported at 11:11 a.m. that her car was damaged by a hit-and-run driver while it was parked near her home.

Feb. 9: A Mount Kisco resident reported at 9:54 p.m. that she had lost her Social Security card in or near the Mount Kisco Public Library on Jan. 26. The woman said she had been advised to document the lost card by filing a police report.

Feb. 9: Police responded to a Maple Avenue residence after a person arrived at the Green Street precinct at 11:54 p.m. to report that she was concerned for the mental health of a friend following a telephone conversation. Officers met with the resident and determined he was not a danger to himself or others.

Feb. 10: An Orchard Road resident reported at 12:32 p.m. an odor of gas coming from in or around her home. County police, the Mount Kisco Fire Department and Con Edison responded. Con Ed determined the leak was in the street and a repair crew fixed the problem.

Feb. 11: Report of an emotionally disturbed man on West Street waving a wrench at 9:18 a.m. Officers were able to calm the man before transporting him without further incident to Northern Westchester Hospital Center for evaluation.

Feb. 11: An employee at Target reported at 10:35 a.m. that a review of security video revealed that a man made off with about \$2,000 worth of merchandise at 9 p.m. the previous evening. The thief placed the items in a plastic storage container and left through an emergency door. The investigation was turned over to detectives.

Feb. 11: Police conducted a welfare check at a Carpenter Avenue residence at 4:41 p.m. at the request of the Brookdale, N.J. Police Department. Brookdale police were investigating a complaint that a man had made threats to harm several relatives, including one in Mount Kisco.

Feb. 12: An employee of The Gap on South Moger Avenue reported at 1:44

p.m. that a man stole more than \$1,700 in merchandise two days earlier. The employee provided video of the incident to an officer. The investigation was turned over to detectives.

Pleasantville Police Department

Jan 29: A 25-year-old Massachusetts man was arrested at 12:57 a.m. on Bedford Road and charged with driving while intoxicated, a misdemeanor, following a traffic stop.

Jan. 30: A 23-year-old Pleasantville man was arrested at 12:47 a.m. in the parking lot of Memorial Plaza and charged with unlawful possession of marijuana, a violation.

Feb. 6: A 60-year-old Chappaqua man was arrested at 1 a.m. on Bedford Road and charged with driving while intoxicated, a misdemeanor, following a traffic stop.

Feb. 7: A 20 year-old Bronx man was arrested at 2 a.m. on Bedford Road and charged with indecent exposure, a violation.

North Castle Police Department

Feb. 5: A complainant reported at 11:13 a.m. that his co-worker fell off a truck on Bedford Road and injured his ankle. The call was transferred to 60 Control and the injured party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Feb. 5: Report of a larceny on North Broadway at 4:01 p.m. The White Plains Police Department stated that a party named Alexis called them reporting that he was to buy a pair of sneakers from another individual. The other party received the money but did not provide the sneakers.

Feb. 6: A complainant reported at 6:25 p.m. that a male party had taken two leather jackets from Tru Grace Fashion Lounge on Main Street and left the premises without paying. The responding officer took a larceny report.

Feb. 8: An Emmalon Avenue resident reported at 6:37 p.m. the larceny of a Playstation. Depositions secured.

Obituaries

Thomas Morzello

Thomas A. Morzello of Valhalla passed away on Feb. 10.

He was 76.

Morzello was born on Oct. 15, 1939, to the late Anthony and Mary (nee Luchi) Morzello in White Plains. He served proudly in the U.S. Army from 1960-63 as a Specialist 4th Class in the transportation division. Morzello was a licensed master electrician for more than 45 years in IBEW Local 501 and Local 3 and worked for Belway Electric. He was an avid boater, hunter and automobile enthusiast, but above all, loved and cherished the time he spent with his family.

Morzello is survived by his loving wife, Christina "Dina" (nee Belmont) Morzello; his loving sons, Thomas Morzello (Linda Hatfield) of Garrison, Stephen Morzello (Theresa) of Carmel,

Anthony Morzello (Cathleen) of North White Plains and Christopher Morzello (Maria) of Valhalla; his brother, Andrew Morzello (Marianne), of White Plains; his seven cherished grandchildren, Nicolette, Thomas, Christian, Ashleigh, Sean, Sophia and Jack Morzello; his mother-in-law, Filomena Belmont; his brothers-in-law, Michael and Ron (Carol) Belmont; and many loved nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Feb. 12. A funeral Mass was held at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Valhalla on Feb. 13 followed by interment at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Greenburgh.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Thomas' name can be made to Autism Speaks at www.autismspeaks.org.

Florindo Vassallo

Florindo "Tom" Vassallo of Pleasantville and formerly of the Bronx passed away peacefully on Feb. 8.

He was 87.

He was the son of Josephine (Nee Kovac) and Ralph Vassallo; loving husband of Joan (Krasinski); father to Tom (Dr. Annemarie McAllister), Susan (Gerard) Cecchetelli and Diane (Mark) Suchanek; and proud grandfather to seven grandchildren, Dan, Julie, Chris, Alyssa, Matt, Jaclyn and Will.

Vassallo was born on May 11, 1928, and served his country in the Army in the 8th Infantry, HV Mortar Company from 1950-52 in Germany. He worked

in the printing and graphic arts industry for over 50 years in New York City.

He participated in many club activities over the years including Uniford Bowling League, Rams Rod and Reel Club and Pleasantville's Clinton Street Senior Center where he enjoyed calling and playing bingo. He was an avid New York sports fan, supporting his Yankees, Giants, Rangers and Knicks.

The family received friends at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Feb. 11. His funeral service was held at Beecher Flocks on Feb. 12.

Rosina Taurone

Rosina DiNola Taurone of Yonkers died on Feb. 8.

She was 97.

Taurone was predeceased by her husband, Vincent; her son, Vincent Gerard; her father, Giacomo; her mother, Guiseppina Alma; and her sisters, Ausilia and Carmela. She is survived by and deeply beloved by her nieces and nephews, Joan, James and Betty, Ralph and Theresa and Dominic; her great-nieces and great-nephews, Deborah and Larry and their daughters Gina and Lori; Kathy and Joseph and their son Scott; Robert and his children Ashley, Jennifer and Robert; Kristin and George and their daughter Meli;

Lauren and Matt and their son Forrest; Christina and Brad and their children Kelsie and Bronson; Rick and Tammy and their sons Lucas and Corbyn; John and Tiffany and their sons Mitchell and Blake; Michael and Tiffany; Maria and her daughters Hannah and Faith; and Barbara and Ron and their children Victoria and Ronald.

Visitation is at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Feb. 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. A funeral Mass will be held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne on Feb. 11 at 10 a.m. Interment to follow.





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Local Non-Profit REAPs Rewards for Helping Children in Rwanda

By Martin Wilbur

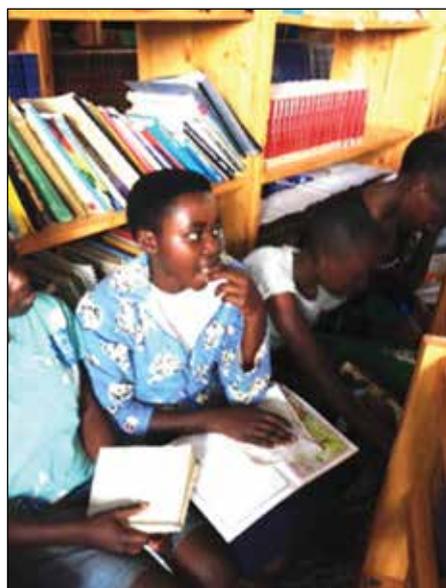
Ten years ago Ed Ballen accompanied his daughter, Rachel, to volunteer at the Hameau des Juenes orphanage in Rwanda's rural Eastern District. For someone who had long been attracted to working on social justice issues, it didn't take long for Ballen to return.

He was so moved by the children who longed for better education even amidst crippling poverty that the seed behind the Rwanda Education Assistance Project (REAP) had been planted.

In 2008, Ballen founded REAP, a nonprofit organization, to help raise money for extra programs, supplies and facility enhancements at the Duha Complex School, a large and severely challenged public school not far from the orphanage where that region's children go to class.

"Rwanda has become a part of my life and we have people who we're very close to there," said Ballen, a Katonah clinical social worker with a private practice. "I'm in it for the long haul and I've been involved with it since 2006. Sometimes the challenges inspire you, sometimes they defeat you."

This Saturday evening, REAP's annual fundraiser will be held at the Katonah Village Library. It will be a three-hour program with hors d'oeuvres and wine and a musical performance by folk rocker Marc Black. In between the food, drink



Students in the library at the Duha Complex School in Rwanda, built by the efforts of the Katonah-based Rwanda Education Assistance Project, learn how to read.

and entertainment, Ballen will help make a presentation about the organization and the cause.

Ballen said this year the event was moved to the library to encourage the local community to get involved as much as possible.

"It very much represents what we do in Rwanda, which is a very, very grassroots organization, so what we tried to do is relate to the grassroots this year and it

reflects in many ways a certain mission," Ballen said.

During the past eight years REAP has supplemented the Rwandan government's funding at the Duha Complex School to introduce a variety of improvements. The organization has established a computer lab, a library with about 1,000 books, a nearby dairy farm, construction of a community center adjacent to the school and a variety of clubs.

Moving forward, Ballen said he hopes to concentrate on establishing leadership programs at the school, a critical component in education.

In Rwanda, which is still recovering from the 1990s civil war and genocide, any outside donations for public schools must go toward specific programs and not actual instruction since the government prohibits one school from having curriculum advantages over another.

Ballen said he hopes the work REAP has done at this school, which has more than 3,000 students from preschool through 12th grade, will be a model for private donors to do the same with other public schools. The growing number of private schools in Rwanda receive the bulk of outside donations.

Still, the challenges in Rwanda's public education make problems in American schools seem insignificant. Teachers' wages remain at poverty level making it difficult to attract stronger talent and

some children have to walk an hour each way. First grade alone has 768 children enrolled, creating an average class size of more than 60 students. About six years ago the Rwandan government made English the primary educational language, which has posed additional hurdles in finding enough quality teachers.

Despite the many obstacles, the Duha Complex School is being transformed into the model that Ballen had hoped for.

"While we've been there we've kind of changed the reputation of the school," said Ballen, who visits for a few weeks each summer and sometimes returns one other time during the year. "There's been great enthusiasm and they've seen the change in the quality of education."

If there is anything that the experience has taught Ballen over the past eight years is patience and resilience. Early on in his work, a local told him to expect his heart to be broken many times.

"It's not about a program working sometimes," Ballen said, "it's about it not working and then to figure out what can't work and what can work a little bit."

This Saturday evening's program runs from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Katonah Village Library, located at 26 Bedford Rd. in Katonah. Advance registration, which is recommended, costs \$35. Admission at the door is \$40. For more information about the event and REAP, visit www.reaprwanda.org.

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P'ville Officially Joins New Energy Program in Hopes of Cost Savings

By Arthur Cusano

The Village of Pleasantville has formally entered into an agreement to purchase energy in a group-buying effort with other Westchester municipalities to try and save costs for consumers.

Pleasantville agreed to join the community choice aggregation program of Sustainable Westchester, a non-profit consortium of Westchester local governments. Under New York State home rule, a municipality authorizes itself to join the program by adopting a local law. Passing the law does not commit the

municipality to the program, but enables them to participate if officials choose.

Last Monday, the village board formally gave Mayor Peter Scherer permission to sign a memorandum of understanding allowing Pleasantville into the program. A request for proposal (RFP) to be sent out includes about 134,000 energy customers in more than 20 municipalities countywide.

The program enables Sustainable Westchester to put out for bid in those municipalities the total demand for electricity natural gas of participating

homes and small businesses and to purchase energy on their behalf. Proponents of the program contend that by pooling purchases lower rates with private suppliers would likely result.

Mayor Peter Scherer submitted a letter that was read aloud last Monday by Deputy Mayor Mindy Berard supporting the program.

"It provides our residents and small businesses with new energy purchase options," Scherer's letter stated. "It will produce savings for customers and it helps to realize the right-minded goals

of free market competition for consumer energy services. These benefits come with very little risk. Anyone who prefers not to participate can opt out before the program begins or at any point thereafter without penalties of any kind."

Berard said she opposed the program because residents would have to actively opt out rather than opt in and it would add to the village's responsibilities.

"This is an opt-out program, and the village has a pretty substantial role in the procurement of our residents' and our commercial properties' purchases and a huge responsibility to communicate effectively with residents," she said.

Berard was the dissenting vote against the program, which passed by a 3-1 margin.

Pleasantville has 2,134 Con Edison customers who are eligible for the program, Berard said. Those residents will receive a letter in the mail informing them of their inclusion in the program, at which time they will have 20 days to opt out.

A separate group of 549 households in the village have a separate agreement, Berard said. Another 53 have blocked Con Edison from releasing their information.

Recently, Mount Kisco and New Castle also signed on to participate in the community choice aggregation program.

Armonk Resident Ryan Named WLS Representative

The Westchester Library System (WLS) welcomes Julie Mills Worthey of Mount Vernon as the District XIII representative covering Mount Vernon and Sean Ryan of Armonk as the District V representative covering Armonk, Bedford Village, Mount Pleasant and Pound Ridge.

After more than 30 years of experience, Ryan retired from IBM in 2004 serving as a general manager of their distribution sector and vice president of retail industry outsourcing at their global services in Somers and as a laboratory director of retail systems products in Raleigh, N.C.

In his retirement, Ryan has been an active member of the North Castle Public Library

Board of Trustees since 2013 and is currently president. Prior to that, he served as a member of the Friends of the North Castle Public Library since 2004 and was its president from 2009-12.

During his experience as track and cross country coach at Briarcliff High School, Ryan became involved with the coordination of an annual 5K race sponsored by Armonk's Chamber of Commerce. His vision brought a fun community event to the town that benefitted the Friends of the



Sean Ryan

North Castle Library. Ryan continues to support the race, which is now known as Jamie's 5K Run for Love, in memory of Jamie Love, a Byram Hills High School graduate who passed away from an undetected heart ailment in 2013.

Mills-Worthey is an attorney specializing in family law. Her private practice follows decades of public sector service with a nonprofit agency and in state government.

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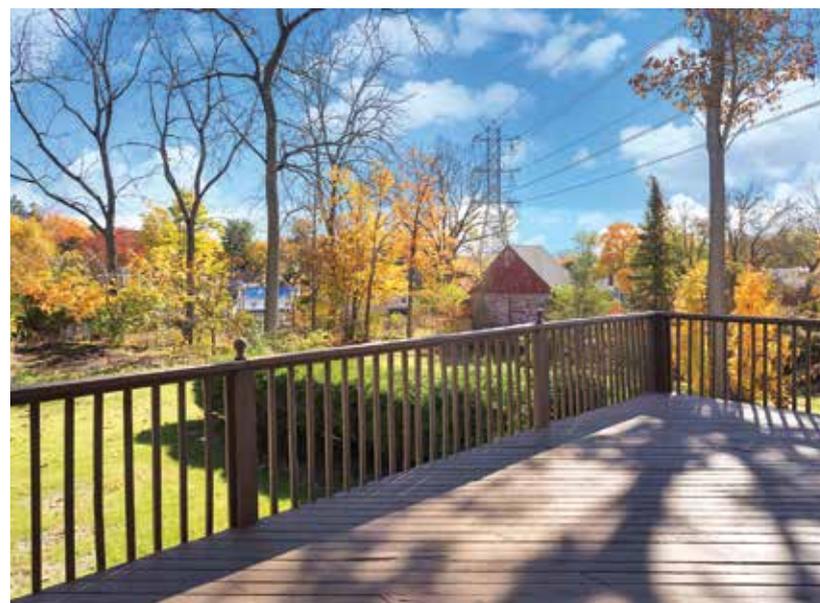
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Editorial

Parks, Playgrounds the Right Places for Smoking to Be Outlawed

There are certainly all sorts of nasty smells that can be encountered in public places, some worse than others. You can't always control what you might run into when heading into a public space.

That said, at the top (or bottom) of the list is walking past someone holding a lit cigarette and getting a whiff of second-hand smoke.

Fortunately, with the price of cigarettes these days and years of a strong public education campaign highlighting the risks of smoking, a seemingly smaller percentage of people, young people in particular, begin experimenting at all.

Last week, the Village of Pleasantville discussed a prohibition of smoking in outdoor municipal places. It's a well-intentioned idea and officials should pursue further discussion. Some municipalities already have more stringent restrictions on the books,

although the possibilities for difficult interpretation seem endless depending on the types of spaces available in each town or village.

A good place to start, which is an obvious no-brainer, would be municipal parks and playgrounds. Anywhere that children or families may go is a smart choice to have a smoking ban in effect. There's no need to subject young children to such junk.

If a restaurant has outdoor dining it would make sense that anywhere in the seating area should be off limits to smokers, a sort of extension of what's indoors.

But there is plenty of opportunity for stickiness. In Pleasantville, for example, there is a pocket park on one side of the Iron Horse restaurant on Wheeler Avenue, then a common area on the other side, with a bench or two and a

few outdoor seats for the pizzeria in the warm weather.

But it also is an area where commuters get off the train and walk through. Other pedestrians use it as a shortcut going between Wheeler Avenue and Memorial Plaza. Would a smoker not be able to indulge using that cut-through over the tracks?

Taking it a step further, would Pleasantville or any municipality consider barring smokers from lighting up on a sidewalk or getting out of their vehicle in a municipal lot?

While this is an important issue, any town or village that is considering a ban should go after the low-hanging fruit, enforcing the measure where children and crowds gather for any length of time.

But let's not go too far and try to legislate everyone's behavior all the time.

Letters to the Editor

Lowey's Letter to NRC Chairman Regarding Indian Pt. Tritium Leak

As you may be aware, radioactive tritium-contaminated water was recently reported to have leaked into groundwater at the Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan. Entergy, the plant's operator, notified the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) last week.

This is merely the latest in a long history of safety lapses that pose significant risks to the health and safety of families and businesses in the area. In early 2005, traces of strontium-90 and tritium were detected in the ground under Indian Point and in the Hudson River. In May 2014, two groundwater-monitoring wells detected spikes in

the tritium levels in groundwater and bedrock under the plant. It is unacceptable that these leaks continue to occur. The NRC must take steps to address these leaks and prevent further contamination.

I understand that Entergy has committed to installing a low-flow pumping system to decrease the local concentration of tritium, minimize the spread of tritium and monitor the presence of tritium in the future. Given the continued tritium leaks and potential health and safety impacts, the NRC must take steps to expedite these improvements so that they are implemented well before the scheduled

completion at the end of this summer.

As you know, the licenses for Units 2 and 3 have both expired. Despite decades of problems, which now include multiple tritium leaks, at Indian Point, the NRC continues to approve Entergy's requests for exemptions of safety regulations, while you consider the renewals of the two unit licenses. Given this serious situation, I strongly urge the NRC to work with its relevant partners to thoroughly investigate the ongoing leaks at Indian Point to protect the health and safety of the public.

Rep. Nita M. Lowey,
17th Congressional District

Developer Should Build Athletic Fields at Bioscience/Tech Complex

There is a great need in Westchester County for more athletic fields. All the fields in the county are used by interscholastic, recreation and physical education programs. There is little downtime and many sports teams are begging for the opportunity to practice/play on fields. In many communities fields are used during the day, nighttime and weekends. Football, soccer, field hockey, baseball, softball, lacrosse teams use the fields during the fall and spring seasons.

Let's provide student athletes with more fields and practice time – train them so one day some can excel and become professional athletes.

Recently, the county executive

announced a \$1.2 billion private investment to build a bioscience and technology complex on a vacant site owned by the county in Valhalla adjacent to the Westchester Medical Center and New York Medical College. I believe that since the land is owned by the county and since the county desires to make this a public/private venture that some of the 43 acres to be preserved as open space should be developed as athletic fields – for use by students and sports teams based in Westchester County. The developer should be required to pay for the costs of the construction of the fields and a field house.

The development comprises three

major, multiphase components: West Research Village, Central Village and East Research Village. Fully built out, the new center would include 2,252,600 square feet of biotech/research space; 400,000 square feet of medical offices; a 100,000-square-foot hotel with 100 rooms; 114,000 square feet of ground-level retail space; and a 34,000-square-foot Children's Living Science Center.

If the Board of Legislators and Mount Pleasant approve this initiative new athletic fields would be a great enhancement.

Paul Feiner
Greenburgh Town Supervisor

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Holly Blum The Word Whisperer, Chappaqua

By Martin Wilbur

Holly Blum attended a wedding where the best man's speech was 20 minutes too long, filled with inside jokes and a lame attempt at a David Letterman-type Top 10 list. The experience was cringe-worthy, one of many that Blum recalled hearing over the years.

But frightfully embarrassing toasts and speeches at weddings, milestone birthday parties or Bar and Bat Mitzvah celebrations don't have to be inevitable.

Last summer, Blum launched A Speech to Remember, a service that helps a best man, maid of honor or parents witnessing their child's special day find the right words for some of the biggest moments of their lives.

"(My) experiences inspired me to realize that this is something that comes naturally to me but a lot of other people struggle with it," Blum said. "If I can take something that brings me such joy and passion and help other people in the process and get involved with their

special celebrations, weddings, a Bar or Bat Mitzvah or a milestone birthday, if I could play a small part in it, it's a win-win."

For Blum, a 15-year public relations professional and eight-year Chappaqua resident who refers to herself as The Word Whisperer, she uses her skills as a writer but in a more creative manner than during her years in corporate PR.

In order to craft that special speech or toast, Blum meets with a client for about two hours, focusing on the types of words they use, intonation and manner in which they talk. She also learns about the person her client will be toasting and what the client wants to convey.

"A lot of times people have a lifetime of memories to sort through and they're completely overwhelmed with the thought of picking one or two," said Blum, who still works in public relations on a freelance basis. "What I try to do is look for the broader themes and find ways to connect one story to another that all ties

in to the main speech because that helps with the tone, it helps with the flow and it makes for a more organized speech."

Once Blum writes the draft of a speech, she'll go over it with the person to make sure it is an authentic representation. Brevity – a speech should be between three and five minutes – and touching on themes that all guests can relate to are crucial, she said.

"One of the things that I'm very focused on is making sure that the end result is in the person's voice," Blum said. "In other words, if they get up there and are in a voice that doesn't sound true to who they are, then I haven't done my job well. It has to be as if the person wrote it themselves. They just got a little professional help along the way."

Blum discovered the power of the written word at an early age. When she was in second grade growing up in Warwick, R.I., she wrote a letter to her mother explaining why she loved her. Blum saw her mother cry when reading the letter and those tears of joy left a lasting impact on her.

Continuing to write, she studied French



and communications at the University of Pennsylvania, where she met her future husband, Gary, a financial planner. They moved to Manhattan for 10 years and relocated to Chappaqua a little more than eight years ago. The couple has two daughters, ages 8 and 11.

She said many speech givers try to be funny, even when they don't have a great sense of humor, and focus too much on themselves rather than the person or

people who entrusted them to address a party that could have several hundred people.

Blum said she has a simple rule for those trying some off-color humor: if you wouldn't want your grandmother to hear it then leave it out of the speech.

So far, Blum has enjoyed getting the word out about her business, working with event planners, photographers, clergy and others.

"I definitely see a slow build. It's a niche and it's not for everyone, but I've already seen the results of the power of social media and it's just amazing," Blum said.

For more information about A Speech to Remember, contact Holly Blum at 917-538-9300, e-mail aspechtoremember@gmail.com or visit www.aspechtoremember.com.



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With Master Baths So Large, They Can Be So Much More

A home stager recently pointed out to me that of all the staging offenses she had witnessed on a listing photograph was a bathroom shot showing a toilet with the lid and seat in the up position, highlighting the classic argument between male and female members of a household.

I must confess that in my own listings, I frequently don't post photos of bathrooms because, let's face it, they can be the least attractive rooms in the house.

Maybe it's just that there's a mental process we must go through to find beauty there. Or maybe it's an evolutionary kind of thing, considering that the bathroom is the very latest room to appear in American households and hasn't had time to catch up in our consciousness when we think about decorating our homes. It's probably last in the lineup.

It wasn't until the 1840s that architects who made pattern books – books that everybody could buy and then build according to the patterns in the book – added a small room that was called a “bath room” for the first time. It signaled



By Bill Primavera

that eventually there would be fixed plumbing in that room.

But that wasn't to be until well into the 1920s. Until that time, especially in rural places, people would just move a tin tub into the kitchen on a Saturday night, fill it with warm water, and everybody in the family, one by one, would get into the same water and bathe.

As for me, I've always been lucky to have exceptionally large bathrooms because they didn't start out that way. When my antique homes were built, there was no indoor plumbing, thus no bathrooms. In those days,

outdoor privies served for eliminating body waste and indoor bowls, pitchers and washtubs for personal hygiene. With the advent of indoor plumbing, bathrooms were carved out of smaller bedrooms.

That kind of spaciousness gave me the opportunity to play and reach beyond the practicality of bathrooms to make them so much more. In my experience as a realtor, I've found many instances where other homeowners have been playful as well. And in new

homes today, master baths are designed so spaciously that any homeowner has the opportunity to make them really interesting to enjoy an experience beyond hygiene while they relax in the Jacuzzi or shave leisurely.

While it might be as simple as installing a television from the ceiling, in my own case I've always treated my large bathrooms as mini art galleries. There was one exception to that rule during a period when I had put on more weight than I ever thought my frame would accommodate. Rather than art, I placed large mirrors on each of the three walls that didn't have a window so that I couldn't escape surveying all the damage every morning. It worked like a charm and during the course of a year, I whittled that excess weight away. For good measure, I kept those mirrors there for another couple of years after I had achieved a normal weight, serving to double-check the bathroom scale.

There was another period when the theme of my master bath was seascape paintings and seashells, started after a trip to the Caribbean. Other themes followed: a collection of paperweights were lined up along our new double sink counter, then there was my collection of large crystals.

In our latest master bath, on the inside wall of a condo there is no window, so

we've decided to bring the indoors inside. Our Jacuzzi is set catty-corner, which leaves a large triangular space for placing things in the corner. We've also brought in outdoor sculptures from our former poolside – a large metal heron perched next to a fern and the fancy stone capital from a Corinthian column.

Creative decorating in bathrooms extends an otherwise perfunctory experience and, further, offers an opportunity to invite guests to the master bath, rather than the powder room, to share your whimsies as they spend time there.

And in that regard, there is one bathroom practice I've occasionally seen which I've never understood – the idea of placing a basket of magazines or even books on the tank or next to the toilet. It seems to me that anyone who has to sit long enough to read a magazine article waiting for that final stage of peristalsis to take place should be thinking about visiting a gastroenterologist.

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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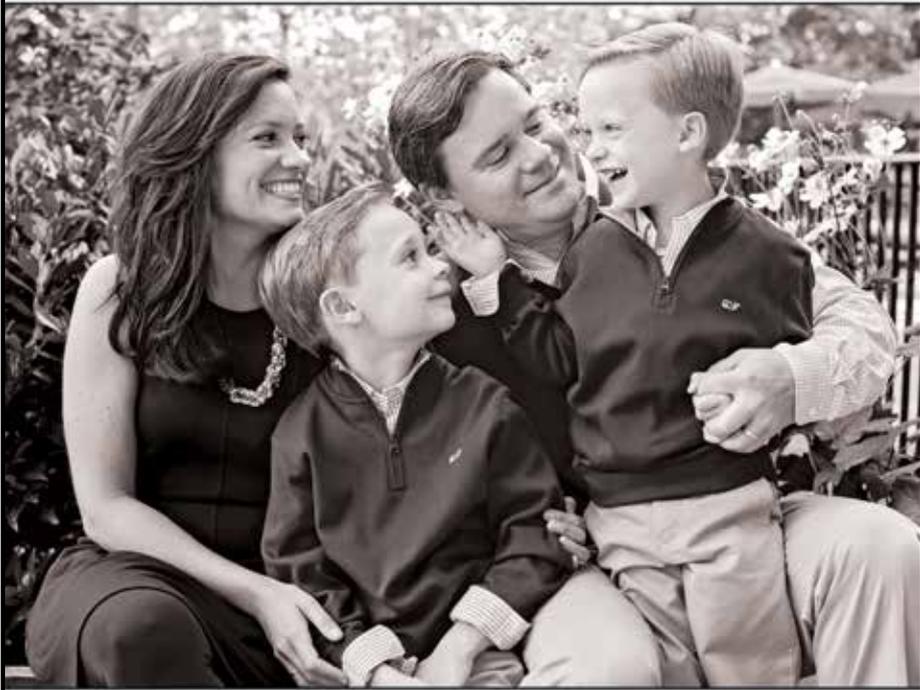


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Determining the Age-Worthiness of Wines: Nature or Nurture?



By Nick Antonaccio

"I purchased a wine that I thoroughly enjoyed and would like to save a few bottles for consumption over time. Will my wine age well?"

I am frequently asked this question. Invariably, my response is "It depends."

As a living, breathing organism, every wine undergoes changes as it ages. Yet each ages differently, depending on its heritage, construct and the imprint of its winemaker. Certain grape varieties have ageworthy genes; many do not. Certain regions produce grapes that mature under ideal terroir conditions; many do not. Certain harvests are vinified in the hands of winemakers whose express intent is to produce wines that will mature over time, even foregoing early drinkability; many are not.

A fine wine's life cycle can span a long period, as it evolves from a raw, unbalanced bottling to a complex, nuanced embodiment of the influence of its maker. This evolution in a bottle, if you will, takes place with varying results. In many ways, this is similar to the developmental stages of a child, who 1)

is born into the world with the imprint of his or her genealogy, 2) is nurtured in unique familial surroundings and 3) ultimately matures as a unique representation of his or her upbringing.

Just as human development is impacted by an individual's history and environment, so is it with wine. Certain wines reach their peak early in their life cycle, never to improve, while others have an intrinsic potential that evolves and blossoms over time. These latter wines require the patience of a wine consumer, often measured in decades, before their full potential is reached and a superior product is achieved.

Which brings us to the ultimate question: Is fine wine a result of nature or nurture? Which exerts the greater influence, genetic code or environmental circumstances?

My personal viewpoint is that each is equally influential in determining the age worthiness of wine. Without a certain genetic makeup, the ability of a wine to develop and mature over time is limited, despite the skills of a winemaker. Likewise, in the hands of a less inclined or unskilled winemaker, wines produced from highly lauded grapes or growing regions may be stunted and their potential may dissipate after several years.

However, when the alchemy of nature

and nurture are in sync, the result can be extraordinary. This is why I believe select wines from Bordeaux and Napa Valley command such high regard and concomitant prices, compared to other regions or winemaking traditions.

This pontification on my part carries a natural caveat. The influences on wine are not always in alignment. Many examples exist of widely varying results from highly regarded grapes in the hands of highly regarded winemakers. Long-lived wines may not be pleasing to the palate; they may age without deteriorating, but there is no assurance their aromas or taste will excite a discerning palate. This is the essence of one of life's paradoxes: consistent excellence, in spite of esteemed genetics and environment, can be highly elusive.

Experts agree. Kevin Zraly, a Pleasantville native, and author of the highly acclaimed book "Windows on the World Complete Wine Course," states: "More than 90% of all top wines made in the world should be consumed within a year, and less than 1% of the world's wines should be aged for more than 5 years."

How does nature influence a

wine's longevity? There are four basic components of wine, each present in varying degrees and exerting varying influences: tannins, acidity, taste and alcohol. The combination of each determines the final style and life cycle of wine. More on these in a future column.

The influences of nurturing on a wine's longevity are more evident. A select group of winemakers have garnered reputations for producing fine, ageworthy wines. Seeking them out is just a mouse click away, but be sure your

PayPal account link has a three- or four-digit balance.

Just as we observe our fellow humans as they age and mature, developing our own perception of their personality and character, so too with wine. But don't

overthink either.

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

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| PINNACLE <i>vodka (1L)</i> | \$17 | \$14.99 | FRONTERA <i>malbec, shiraz & chardonnay</i> | \$11 | \$8.99 |
| LUKSOSOWA <i>vodka (1L)</i> | \$18 | \$15.99 | CA'DONINI <i>pinot grigio</i> | \$13 | \$10.99 |
| SMIRNOFF <i>vodka (1.75L)</i> | \$25 | \$21.99 | YELLOWTAIL <i>big bold red</i> | \$13 | \$10.99 |
| DEEP EDDY <i>vodka cranbury (1L)</i> | \$25 | \$21.99 | BAREFOOT <i>sauvignon blanc</i> | \$14 | \$11.49 |
| BROOKLYN REPUBLIC <i>vodka (1.75L)</i> | \$40 | \$34.99 | CONO SUR <i>cabernet & sauvignon blanc</i> | \$14 | \$11.49 |
| BROOKLYN REBULIC <i>vodka flavors (750ml)</i> | \$27 | \$23.99 | LE PETIT COQ <i>rouge & blanc</i> | \$15 | \$12.49 |
| ABSOLUT <i>vodka (1L)</i> | \$28 | \$24.99 | PROTOCOLO <i>red</i> | \$15 | \$12.49 |
| HIGH WEST <i>vodka (750ml)</i> | \$30 | \$26.99 | COLUMBIA CREST <i>two vines cabernet</i> | \$16 | \$13.49 |
| JOSE CUERVO <i>tequila (1L)</i> | \$23 | \$19.99 | IL CONTE <i>montepulciano & pinot grigio</i> | \$16 | \$13.49 |
| PATRÓN CAFÉ XO (750ml) | \$27 | \$23.99 | LUCKY STAR <i>pinot noir</i> | \$17 | \$13.99 |
| PATRÓN <i>silver tequila (750ml)</i> | \$50 | \$44.99 | ROBERT MONDAVI <i>private select cabernet</i> | \$20 | \$16.99 |
| SEAGRAM'S 7 (1.75ml) | \$27 | \$23.99 | | | |
| CROWN ROYAL (750ml) | \$38 | \$33.99 | | | |
| WILD TURKEY <i>bourbon 101(750ml)</i> | \$30 | \$26.99 | | | |
| WOODFORD <i>reserve bourbon (750ml)</i> | \$42 | \$35.99 | | | |
| BLADE & BOW <i>bourbon (750ml)</i> | \$55 | \$49.99 | | | |
| JOHNNIE WALKER <i>black label (750ml)</i> | \$45 | \$38.99 | | | |
| BRUICHLADDICH <i>the laddie 10 (750ml)</i> | \$55 | \$49.99 | | | |

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Business of the Week

Platinum Drive Realty Chappaqua

By Martin Wilbur

Shopping for a new house is typically the most important purchase made in someone's lifetime. Having a top-notch real estate agency that makes the house-hunting task successful and enjoyable can make all the difference.

Chappaqua's newest realtor, Platinum Drive Realty, arrived on South Greeley Avenue in December, offering prospective home buyers a chance to find their dream home not only in New Castle but in many of the surrounding communities in northern Westchester with one of the top real estate brokers in the region.

"Our company really prides itself on making real estate a more professional and rewarding experience," said Heather Harrison, who co-founded Platinum Drive with her husband, Zachary, in 2006. "We've been very successful in southern Westchester in Scarsdale and Larchmont and we felt that Chappaqua was another great community with a lot to offer, a great destination, great schools, a great community overall, and we thought it was

like a natural fit to expand our brand."

The Harrisons are using many of the same ingredients in the Chappaqua office that has made for a winning formula in their office in Scarsdale, where they both grew up and still live. (Platinum Drive was named by Inc. Magazine as one of the fastest growing private companies in America and the fastest growing real estate brokerage firm in the tri-state area the past two years.)

Zachary Harrison said employing agents that have an assortment of professional experience, including lawyers, former educators and those with financial backgrounds, gives their company-wide 75-agent team a broader perspective and clients a leg up.

"So it's not a first job for them," he said. "They bring a lot of professional experience and they speak the language of today's buyer, in terms of what they're looking for, in terms of analysis and really giving that inside scoop in certain areas."

Managing the Chappaqua office is Seth Keslow, the first agent the Harrisons hired



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Heather and Zachary Harrison, co-founders of Platinum Drive Realty.

nearly a decade ago and one of the top producing brokers in the region. While the communities that the Chappaqua offices also serves, such as Armonk, Bedford, Pound Ridge, Mount Kisco, Pleasantville and Briarcliff are all highly sought after communities that aren't as susceptible to the gyrations in the real estate market, Keslow said there are other demands.

Platinum Drive must stay on top of their clients' expectations, he said; therefore, technology plays a key role for today's successful realtor.

"Everybody wants to see the best pictures, virtual tours and we bring these picture to our clients," Keslow said.

Heather Harrison said staying on top of the trends, both financial and real estate-

related is another important component of their business.

"We're really on top of all of that, she said. "What we're really successful with is staying on top of the marketplace and helping people to really get an education on what they're buying into. That's what we really pride ourselves on, giving people that education before so they never have buyer's remorse and they get detailed analysis."

It's fitting that Harrisons have found success with Platinum Drive. Heather's grandmother, Sunny Dubbs, owned her own real estate company in Westchester in the 1970s and 1980s. One thing she learned is that since many of the clients are younger families, keep the office an inviting and low-key atmosphere.

Zachary Harrison said he and Heather feel fortunate to have found and moved into a visible, ground-level storefront in the heart of downtown Chappaqua. They also look forward to being a place that people will drop in and say hello.

"We want to be a comfortable space, that's a key part of being in the community, and not only (to) talk about real estate, but just to come and engage in different aspects," Zachary said. "They'll come in with their kids. It's a very comfortable space."

Platinum Drive Realty is located at 27 S. Greeley Ave. For more information, call 914-238-0676 or visit www.platinumdr.com.

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Happenings

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

Tuesday, Feb. 16

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 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Also Feb. 23. Info: 914-273-3887.

Mount Kisco Housing Authority Meeting. Open to the public. Community building, 200 Carpenter St., Mount Kisco. 7 p.m.

Oscar Talk 2016. Join former film critic Janet Maslin and the uncannily knowledgeable "Oscarologist" and film writer Mark Harris for a lively, opinionated discussion. Harris is the author of "Pictures at a Revolution: Five Movies and the Birth of the New Hollywood," "Five Came Back: A Story of Hollywood and the Second World War" and a forthcoming biography of Mike Nichols. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$12. Non-members: \$17. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 17

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.

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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. Greeley 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. A great way to get out of the house, meet new friends and enjoy time with your baby. For babies up to eight months old and their moms. Romperiee Indoor Playground at World Cup Nursery School and Kindergarten, 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua. 10:15 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday through June 24. Info: Contact Kim Bremer at 914-238-9267 ext. 20.

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

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.

Preschool Storytime. This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Also Feb. 24. Info: 914-273-3887.

The Explorers Club. A new literacy/activity program this fall. Join Miss

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

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

NT Live: "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" National Theatre Live brings this Donmar Warehouse's highly anticipated production to cinemas by broadcasting live from the Donmar's London home. Directed by Josie Rourke and starring Elaine Cassidy, Janet McTeer and Dominic West. Part of the World Stage on Screen series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 6:30 p.m. Members: \$25. Non-members: \$35. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

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

Handmade: Craft, Material and Skill in Contemporary Art. Glenn Adamson, director of New York's Museum of Arts and Design, and Jennifer Scanlan, independent curator and lecturer at Parsons, analyze and contextualize the work of Liza Lou, one of a growing number of contemporary artists who use methods and materials traditionally associated with craft. Moderated by Purchase College professor Sarah Warren. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Neuberger Circle Level members: Free. General admission: \$10. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit www.neuberger.org.

Art Series: "Archibald J. Motley, Jr." Born in New Orleans in 1891, Motley developed as an artist while growing up in Chicago and was one of the major players of the Harlem Renaissance. Combining classical sensibility with his own unique vision, this African-American artist forever changed the way the world saw America's South. Discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Thursday, Feb. 18

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. Info: 914-273-3887.

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.

Mahjongg 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: 914-864-8041 or www.mountkisco.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.mountkisco.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.mountkisco.org.

American Encounters: Anglo-American Portraiture in an Era of Revolution. The John Jay Scholars Lecture Series continues with this presentation by Kevin M. Murphy. Looking at the art of Gilbert Stuart, Benjamin West, Jean-Antoine Houdon and John Trumbull, there might not be the signs of growing

continued on page 24

The Restaurant Examiner

125 Westchester Restaurants Sign Up for HV Restaurant Week

By Jerry Eimbinder

There are 125 Westchester County restaurants participating in the spring program for Hudson Valley Restaurant Week.

Offered from March 7-20, are prix-fixe, three-course menus (lunch at \$20.95 and dinner at \$29.95). The prices do not include tax, gratuity and in most cases, beverage. Many of the restaurants have time and date restrictions and exclusions. Regular menus are also available at these restaurants during Hudson Valley Restaurant Week.

As of Feb. 12, 38 of these restaurants had released their menus. Shown below are the dinner entrées offered by these eateries. Entrées that require a supplementary charge are not included in this listing. For more information, visit www.valleytable.com.

A record-setting 231 eateries have joined the program. There are also participating restaurants in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster counties. Hudson Valley Restaurant Week is held twice a year. The program debuted in 2006 and became a semiannual event in 2012.

At press time, the following Westchester restaurants had announced their menus.

A to F

Angie's Prime Cut, Mohegan Lake. Filet mignon, prime rib, chicken scarpello and grilled salmon.

Beehive, Armonk. Frittata, moussaka, salmon, enchilada and roasted chicken and cheese.

Benjamin Steakhouse, White Plains. Sirloin, Norwegian salmon, chicken parmesan and penne alla vodka.

Bistro Z, Tarrytown. Roasted tomato cavatelli, swordfish, short rib quesadilla, artichoke and tofu.

Cellar 49, Tarrytown. Burger with bacon, Cuban sandwich, black bean burger and chicken sandwich.

Chat 19, Larchmont. Chicken paillard, salmon wrap, Scottish salmon, burger, pasta and turkey panini.

Chef Antonio, Mamaroneck. Chicken Caesar salad, chicken or shrimp parmigiana, cheeseburger and more.

Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant, Cortlandt Manor. Prime rib, pork shank, lobster tail, salmon and more.

Delfina's, Harrison. Fettuccini, lobster avocado omelet, salmon, bacon, egg and cheese sliders and more.

Emilio Ristorante, Harrison. Chicken on the bone, hanger steak, stuffed rigatoni, chicken and more.

Frankie & Augie'Z, Jefferson Valley. Penne alla vodka, chicken scarpello, shrimp scampi and more.

Frankie & Johnnie's Steakhouse, Rye. Strip steak, salmon, filet mignon medallions and pork chop.

G to M

Guadalajara, Briarcliff Manor. Fajitas, mole poblano, fajita taco salad, burritos, enchiladas and more.

Il Castello, Mamaroneck. Veal marsala, chicken alla scarpello, penne alla vodka, sole and more.

La Lanterna, Yonkers. Beef short rib, half rack of lamb, pork chop, rigatoni and lobster and more.

La Panettiere, Rye. Atlantic seared salmon, roast pork tenderloin and duck leg confit au jus.

La Riserva, Larchmont. Gnocchi, fillet of sole, jumbo shrimp, sole, pork chops, rigatoni and more.

Lenny's Seafood & Steakhouse, Larchmont. Veal scaloppini, strip steak, red snapper and more.

Lexington Square Cafe, Mount Kisco. Rigatoni, hanger steak wrap, shrimp risotto and noodle bowl.

Madison Kitchen, Larchmont. Choose three small plates from menu, plus Bona Bona ice cream.

Morgan's Fish House, Rye. Angel hair

caponata, crabmeat stuffed sole, short ribs and salmon.

Moscato, Scarsdale. Branzino, chicken, veal, pork chop and parmigiano encrusted sautéed veal.

N to W

North Street Tavern, White Plains. Filet mignon, chicken martini and pan seared salmon.

The Melting Pot, White Plains. Hudson Valley feast, Hudson Valley delight and Hudson Valley fusion.

The Olde Stone Mill, Tuckahoe. Penne all vodka, linguine, red snapper, pork chop and more.

The Parlor, Dobbs Ferry.

Appetizer, pizza, dessert and drink.

Peter Pratt's Inn,

Yorktown. Salmon, short ribs of beef, chicken, Moroccan lamb burger and more.

Primavera, Croton Falls. Pappardelle, ravioli, chicken, tilapia with clams, salmon and filet mignon.

Red Hat on the River, Irvington. Mussels, Scottish salmon, hanger steak frites, burger and more.

River City Grille, Irvington. Chicken in the oven, ravioli, short ribs, salmon, jambalaya and more.

RiverMarket Bar & Kitchen, Tarrytown. Duck pizza, salmon, pork shoulder and lamb ragout.

Ruby's Oyster Bar & Bistro, Rye. Shrimp provencal, chicken, roast pork medallions and trout.

Sonora, Port Chester. Sautéed filet mignon, salmon, chicken, paella, pork and short ribs.

Spice

Kitchen,

Mamaroneck.

Vegetarian/paneer, chicken, lamb and goat.

Tap House, Tuckahoe.

Short rib ravioli, half roasted chicken and broiled flounder.

Toscana Ristorante, Eastchester. Quail, short ribs, chicken, salmon/shrimp ravioli and Branzino.

Trattoria Vivolo, Harrison. Spaghetti, rigatoni, salmon, pork chops, sea bass livornese and more.

Winston, Mount Kisco. Pan seared salmon, grilled short rib and mushroom pasta.



New Rochelle's Alvin & Friends to Host Tango Night

By Jerry Eimbinder

Alvin & Friends, a Southern and Caribbean restaurant in New Rochelle, will host Tango Night this Friday, Feb. 19. The program will include a tango lesson, a performance by dancers Junior Cervila and Guadalupe Garcia, a Flamenco exhibition by Mayte Vicens and DJ Edit Fasi playing dance tunes. The cover charge is \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door – with a one-drink minimum.

Tango Night will be held in a private rear room at Alvin & Friends, with the lesson beginning at 7:30 p.m. Limited food service is available in this room. Guests interested in ordering from the full menu can dine up front and move to the back at 7:30 p.m.

In the main dining room, the salad prices begin at \$6. A bowl of curry clam chowder with potato, corn and crab costs \$10 and white chocolate bread pudding is priced at \$7. The entrées offered are:

Traditional menu entrées

Butternut squash-quinoa "Risotto" with sizzled kale (\$16.50).



Buttermilk fried chicken. Greens, smoked turkey, three-cheese macaroni and cheese (\$23).

Cornmeal fried catfish. Stone-ground grits, black-eyed pea salad and lemon caper tartar (\$24).

Shrimp and grits. Grits, peppers and onions, baby spinach, pot likker butter sauce (\$24).

Slow-simmered oxtail with coconut

rice and peas and Haitian piklis (\$25).

Caramelized Atlantic salmon. Rice and peas, callaloo and Escovitch vegetables (\$26).

Creole seafood linguine. Shrimp, fish, crab meat, spinach and grape tomatoes (\$26).

Bacon-wrapped pork tenderloin. Butternut squash-quinoa "risotto" and apple cider gastrique (\$27).

Jerk rubbed duck breast. Sweet plantain bread pudding, wine reduction and watercress (\$34).

Seasonal menu entrées

Grilled rainbow trout. Mashed potatoes, sautéed chayote and "Ting" butter sauce (\$28).

Grilled skirt steak. Cayenne roasted potato wedges, asparagus and barbecuse aioli (\$32).

Curry lamb shank. Sweet potato grits and sizzled kale (\$34).

Alvin & Friends is located at 14 Memorial Highway in New Rochelle. For more information, call 914-654-6549 or visit www.alvinandfriendsrestaurant.com.

Happenings

continued from page 22

Revolutionary fervor but attendees will learn how to look for them. John Jay Homestead's Iselin Wing, 400 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. Registration and refreshments at 6:15 p.m. Lecture at 7 p.m. John Jay Homestead members: \$20. Non-members: \$25. Info and tickets: 914-232-8119, e-mail friends@johnjayhomestead.org or visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.

"Dramatic Escape." A film that provides a look at a group of maximum security prisoners who are attempting to stage a production of "A Few Good Men" as a part of the Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA) program at Sing Sing in Ossining. Through creative expression in theater, dance, voice, writing and visual art, the RTA program gives the men the opportunity to learn social and cognitive skills that act as a springboard to education, family reconciliation, and ultimately, successful re-integration into community life. Followed by a Q&A with Katherine Vockins, RTA founder and executive director, and Laura Rossi, executive director of the Westchester Community Foundation. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

"Gruesome Playground Injuries." Arc Stages presents this work by Pulitzer Prize finalist Rajiv Joseph for the final show in the inaugural season for its professional company, The Next Stage. A story of scar-crossed lovers who meet again and again, brought together by injury, heartbreak and their own self-destructive tendencies. Arc Stages, 147 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. Adults \$36. Seniors and students: \$28. Also Feb. 19 and 20. Info and tickets: 914-747-6206.

Friday, Feb. 19

Zumba With Amy. Low-impact Zumba for the older active adult or beginners. Ladimax Sports & Fitness, 1 Commerce St., Valhalla. (The Cliffs complex). 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Drop-in rate: \$10. Every Friday. Info: 914-643-6162 or e-mail olin.amyj@gmail.com.

Zumba With Amy. Low-impact Zumba for the older active adult or beginner. Addie-tude Dance Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11 a.m. Drop-in rate: \$12. Every Friday. Also Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Info: 914-643-6162 or e-mail olin.amyj@gmail.com.

Friday Night Cinema: "The Search for General Tso." This 2014 documentary/road trip investigates the history of Chinese food in America through a search for the perfect order of General Tso's chicken. A comedic look at how Chinese food is more American than apple pie. Discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19

Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Saturday, Feb. 20

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

Chappaqua Farmers Market. Bringing locally-raised and produced food to the community in a weekly market, creating a connection between shoppers and small-scale food producers in the region. First Congregational Church of Chappaqua, 210 Orchard Ridge Rd., Chappaqua. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through April. Info: Visit www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org.

Third Saturday Bird Seed Sale. The sale supports the local conservation work of the Saw Mill River Audubon. Pruyne Sanctuary, 275 Millwood Rd., Chappaqua. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Third Saturday of each month. Info (including bird seed descriptions and prices): Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/seedsale.

Practice Tai Chi With Larry Atille. Learn specific feldenkrais and chi kung breathing techniques for deep relaxation and apply them to tai chi movement. This is a hands-on class that will be geared to the level of experience of the class and challenge all participants. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a floor mat or towel. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Also Feb. 27. Info: 914-273-3887.

Mount Kisco Conservations Advisory Council Meeting. The council plans to encourage the public to participate in the creation of a natural resources inventory for Mount Kisco. The village is in the process of compiling an inventory of all precious natural resources. No training or scientific background required; no formal commitment required. Mount Kisco Public Library meeting room, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Info: Contact Jim Gmelin at 914-666-5757 or jrgmelin@verizon.net or Harry McCartney at 914-589-9784 or mcctney@gmail.com.

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

or www.mountkisco.org.

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

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

"Boy and the World." This Oscar nominated work for best animated feature about a boy whose rural life is shattered when his father leaves for the city, prompting him to embark on a quest to reunite his family. The story depicts a clash between village and city, hand crafted and mechanized, rich and poor – and throughout the tumult, the heart and soul of the people beats on as a song. The film's music is on equal footing with the stunning visuals, a soundscape of pan-flute, samba and Brazilian hip-hop mixing with the whirling carnival colors and exploding fireworks. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. Noon. Members: \$8. Non-members: \$13. Also Feb. 21. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Learn and Practice Bridge. Led by Joel Goren. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Also Feb. 27. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Feeding Fun. Come see what's on the menu and learn how we keep the critters healthy. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Bird Feeders. Make your own bird feeder to attract them to your yard this winter. Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains. 2 to 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-428-1005.

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

Argentine Tango Dances. Great music and dancing on a 3,500-square-foot dance floor. Enjoy a pleasant time with friends. Refreshments served. Broadway 26 Dance, 26 Broadway, Hawthorne. 8 p.m. to midnight. \$16. Also the first Sunday of each month from 3 to 6 p.m. \$12. Info:

914-725-3023 or 914-484-5101 or e-mail sampelayo@optonline.net.

Sunday, Feb. 21

Alexander Hamilton: Washington's Indispensable Partner. Celebrate the birth of George Washington with this presentation by Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society founder Rand Scholet that describes each period of Washington's public service and to what degree some of the key founding fathers contributed to his success, including Hamilton, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, Adams, Jay and Knox. Also includes a flag raising and refreshments. All welcome. Jacob Purdy House National Historic Site, 60 Park Ave., White Plains. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-328-1776 or visit www.whiteplainshistory.org.

"We Walk Together: Multi-Faith Service for Victims of Violent Extremism." Featuring music, prayers, learning and opportunities to celebrate and commit to the compassionate spirit of all faiths. A coalition representing the leadership of the region's Jewish community, the four major Protestant groups, Catholics, Mormons and Muslims with 11 Larchmont and Mamaroneck houses of worship. Preceded by an optional pre-event march from Mamaroneck Harbor. Followed by a dessert reception. All welcome. Westchester Jewish Center, 175 Rockland Ave., Mamaroneck. Pre-event march at 2:30 p.m. Service at 3 p.m. Free. RSVP requested. Info and RSVP: 914-948-5585 or visit www.ajc.org/westfair/wewalktogether.

Ballroom Dancing and Dinner. Dancing followed by a complete dinner. All proceeds to go to the scholarship fund at Fox Lane High School and New York Boys' State. Third Sunday of every month. Moses Taylor American Legion Post 136, 1 Legion Way, Mount Kisco. 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. \$18 per person. Info: 914-241-0136 or contact Commander John A. Graziano at 914-248-7134.

Monday, Feb. 22

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

Zumba Class. Open to all. Drop-ins welcome; no membership needed. PFX, 101 Castleton St., Pleasantville. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. \$10 a class. Every Monday. Info: Contact Amy Olin at olin.amyj@gmail.com.

Young Explorers Story Time. Nature discovery for youngsters. Enjoy a nature-themed story and discover the wonders of nature while exploring fields, forests

continued on page 25

Lustgarten Foundation Fundraiser at Grand Prix New York Feb. 26

The second annual Lustgarten Foundation Race 4 A Cure will take place on Friday, Feb. 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Grand Prix New York, a fun-filled family and corporate entertainment complex in Mount Kisco.

The fundraiser will be open to the public and is for children of all ages. Admission includes passed hors d'oeuvres from highly acclaimed Restaurant North and Kira Sushi, open bar, buffet dinner and dessert stations, music from Total Entertainment, "Arrive and Drive" indoor go-kart racing, bowling at Spins Bowl lanes, bounce house and a \$20 credit for the arcade.

All proceeds will benefit The Lustgarten Foundation, the nation's largest private funder of pancreatic cancer research, and will help accelerate the path toward a cure for this aggressive, life-threatening disease.

"I was inspired to honor my father's memory and make a commitment to ensuring that other families don't have to suffer like we did," said Bedford resident Hope Wolfe, the event co-



Garrett Wolfe of Armonk speaking to the crowd at the inaugural Lustgarten Foundation Race 4 A Cure fundraiser last year.

founder and committee chairperson. "We are on the verge of scientific breakthroughs in pancreatic cancer, and I am hopeful that with increased funding raised through Race 4 A Cure and other community events, the Lustgarten Foundation's researchers

will continue to move us significantly closer to a cure."

Lisa LaRocca of News 12 Westchester will emcee the event. Tickets and sponsorships are still available. For adults, admission is \$100 in advance and \$125 at the door; for children and

teens (17 and under) it costs \$60 in advance and \$75 at the door. Admission is free for children three years old and under.

Last year's inaugural Race 4 A Cure event drew 400 attendees and raised more than \$140,000 to benefit the foundation. This year, the goal is to surpass that amount. With the support of Cablevision Systems Corp., 100 percent of every dollar donated to The Lustgarten Foundation goes directly to pancreatic cancer research.

"Grand Prix New York is an important venue for local charity fundraisers and we're thrilled to be able to support a cause as important as this one," said Nat Mundy, executive vice president of sales and marketing at Grand Prix New York Racing. "We look forward to another successful event."

To purchase tickets or to join as a sponsor, call The Lustgarten Foundation at 866-789-1000 or visit www.race4acure.kintera.org. Grand Prix New York is located at 333 N. Bedford Rd. in Mount Kisco.

Happenings

continued from page 24

or landscaped grounds. Dress for outdoor activity. Except in extreme weather conditions, a portion of each class is spent outdoors. For children three to five years old; with a parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$9 per child. Non-member: \$12 per child. Every Monday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Graham Nash in Concert. Legendary singer/songwriter Graham Nash, a Grammy Award winner and a two-time Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee – with Crosby, Stills and Nash and with the Hollies – has a passionate voice in support of peace and social and environmental justice. The No Nukes/Musicians United for Safe Energy concerts he organized with Jackson Browne and Bonnie Raitt in 1979 remain seminal benefit events. In 2011, Nash was also instrumental in bringing a concert to benefit Japan disaster relief and groups promoting non-nuclear energy worldwide. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$48 to \$95. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusicchall.org.

Tuesday, Feb. 23

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.

Point Insurance Reduction Program Defensive Driving Course. This state-approved six-hour course saves drivers 10 percent on liability and collision portions of their auto insurance premium for three years and removes up to four points from the insurance. Will be offered once or twice a month throughout 2016. Next session: March 8. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 3 to 8 p.m. \$55. Info and registration: 914-600-7180 or visit www.drivercourse.net.

Books and Coffee With Lisa Ragano. What are the latest hot titles? What is everyone reading these days? Join a lively conversation over coffee to discuss the newest bestsellers and suggest some great book club titles. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info and registration: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

"Jim: The James Foley Story." On Thanksgiving Day 2012, American photojournalist James Foley was kidnapped in Syria and went missing for two years before the infamous video of his public execution sent shockwaves throughout the world. Executive producer

Peter Kunhardt and director Brian Oakes, Foley's close childhood friend, tell the story of Foley's life through intimate interviews, including fellow hostages who reveal never-before-heard details of his captivity. Followed by a Q&A with Oakes. Part of the Global Watch: Crisis, Culture & Human Rights series. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 24

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.

"From Darkroom to Daylight" Film Screening and Book Signing. Join photographer, author and filmmaker Harvey Wang for a screening of his new documentary film. In this project,

Wang explores the shift in photographic technology from analog film to digital practices. Through interviews with more than 40 important photographers, inventors and prominent figures in the photography world, he explores how this monumental shift in practice has impacted their work. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 6 to 8 p.m. \$10. Purchase College students, staff and faculty and museum Art Circle members: Free. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit www.neuberger.org.

"Things No One Ever Told Me After My Son Was Diagnosed With Autism."

Pleasantville SEPTA presents this program and discussion led by Frank Campagna, the Autism Daddy, the father of a 12-year-old boy with classic autism. This program aims to show, in a humorous way, how to be a great special needs parent without losing all of your former self in the process. Pleasantville High School Library, 60 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Pre-sale: \$5. At the door: \$10. SEPTA members and teachers: Free (but must register in advance). Info and registration: Visit www.pvillesepta.com.

Art Series: "The Guardi Brothers and Venetian Painting." Gian Antonio and Francesco Guardi were Venetian school of painting with its value of color over line Francesco. Discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PARANDA MEDIA, LLC, ARTS OF ORG. filed with Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/11/2006. 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: **80 Vaughn Ave, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

Notice of Formation of Jenny Dobell Gardening, LLC Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/17/15. Offc. Loc: Westchester Cty. SSNY desig. as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, **10 Central Ave. Rye, NY, 10580. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

Notice of Formation of Sabina Global Communities, LLC. Sabinagc.com filed with Department of State of New York on 8/28/15. Office location: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents, Inc. Suite 202; 7014 13th Avenue Brooklyn NY 11228 designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **United States Corporation Agents, Inc. Suite 202;**

7014 13th Avenue Brooklyn NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of HSN Property, LLC Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/27/15. Offc. Loc: Westchester Cty. SSNY design. As agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, **2 Overhill Road Suite 260, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: any lawful business activity.**

Notice of Formation of Invariably Digital, LLC Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 9/9/2015. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **Invariably Digital LLC, 143 Park Dr, Eastchester, NY 10709 Purpose: any lawful purpose**

LEGAL NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SO MULCH MORE, LLC. Art. Of Org., filed with SSNY on 1/07/16. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **28 Fox Lane, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

Notice of Formation of CGC Solutions LLC filed with the Department of State on 09/30/2015. Putnam County, SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **The LLC, 74 Hillside Park, Brewster, NY 10509. General Purpose.**

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ExaminerSports

Ice Cats Fall Just Short Against North Rockland

By Justin Thomas

On a Saturday evening that saw record-low temperatures, the ice rink inside the Westchester Skating Academy was an ironic reprieve from the cold, especially once the Mt. Pleasant Ice Cats and North Rockland began to turn up the heat.

Unfortunately for the Ice Cats, who began the night with a 10-8 record, they fell just short after a third-period goal by the Raiders gave the visitors a 4-3 win.

It was a slow start for the Ice Cats, who found themselves in a 2-0 hole at the end of the first period. About six minutes after the opening faceoff, North Rockland forward Matt Posillipo took the puck behind the net and sent it in front to Bryan Jenson, who stuck it in the back of the net for a quick 1-0 lead.

Mt. Pleasant goalie Lucas Van Bramer continued to be under fire early, facing 10 shots on net in the first period. The relentless North Rockland attack eventually paid dividends for the Raiders late in the period.

A shot by Posillipo was deflected away by Van Bramer, but the puck made its way out near the blue line, where it found the waiting stick of North Rockland captain Brian Bohlander, who sent a slap shot right through the five-hole for a goal near the end of the period. Mt. Pleasant needed the break between periods to regroup.

"We came out a little slow," Mt. Pleasant coach Josh Isenberg said. "We got down 2-0. We showed a great effort in the second and third, but, again, a little too late."

The Ice Cats came out for the second period and were almost immediately put back on their heels after an interference penalty left them a man down. North Rockland threatened to stretch its lead a couple of times, but Mt. Pleasant eventually killed off the power play.

After the Raiders' close calls, Mt. Pleasant was able to get back in the game by converting on back-to-back power plays. Ice Cats defenseman Shayan Farjam took a wrister from the top of the attacking zone and scored a power-play goal with just under three and a half minutes left in the second period to slice the North Rockland lead in half.

All of a sudden, there was life in the Ice Cats' game and North Rockland was soon forced to commit a hooking penalty to slow them down. Mt. Pleasant took full advantage of the sudden momentum shift and its second power-play opportunity in a row, scoring just six seconds after gaining the man advantage.

After the Ice Cats won the faceoff, the puck found its way to Farjam up top. Farjam passed it across the ice to



Greg Kramer of the Mt. Pleasant Ice Cats controls the puck in Saturday night's game vs. visiting North Rockland.



The Ice Cats' Shayan Farjam skates with the puck along the right wing in Saturday night's game.



Mt. Pleasant goalie Lucas Van Bramer has that sinking feeling after a goal by North Rockland in Saturday's game.

fellow Westlake defenseman Dominick Fensore, who blasted a wrist shot from the top of the attacking zone top shelf into the back of the goal, tying the game at 2-2 with three minutes left in the second period.

Regrettably for the Ice Cats, their momentum was soon halted by a roughing call on Henry Gartner that gave North Rockland a power play for the rest of the period. The Raiders wouldn't need anywhere near that long, as James Morina converted the rebound of a Charles Lowther shot right in front of the net seven seconds into the power

play, enabling North Rockland to take back the lead and end the period with a 3-2 advantage.

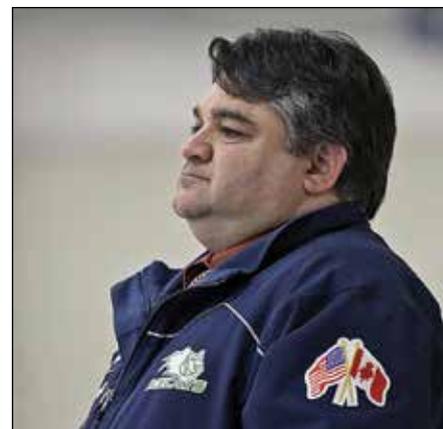
Mt. Pleasant tied the game once again five minutes into the third period on yet another power-play goal. A Farjam shot from up top was saved, but Fensore was there to put in the rebound for his second goal and even the score at 3-3.

Van Bramer ended up with 23 saves, but they still weren't quite enough as North Rockland took the lead back for good with just under seven minutes left. A Trent Kirsckel shot was turned away by Van Bramer, the only player from Valhalla on the squad, but the puck was then put home by Chris Hilliard to give the Raiders their winning margin.

But there was no quit from the Ice Cats, as a barrage of shots rained in from Matthew Bramson, Fensore and Farjam. They even found themselves on a power play with less than 40 seconds left. Farjam took the puck and ripped it towards the top-left corner of the net, where it was deflected away by a great blocker save by Kenny Hoppe.

The buzzer soon sounded, marking the Ice Cats' second straight loss. However, the two losses have been close games against strong North Rockland and Suffern teams and are sure to give the Ice Cats some added confidence heading into the playoffs.

"Obviously we did it on purpose," Isenberg said. "We wanted to schedule two really tough games going into playoffs, which we did. I think they're a little frustrated with the end result



Coach Josh Isenberg looks on from the bench as his Mt. Pleasant Ice Cats skate vs. North Rockland this past weekend.



The Ice Cats' Dominick Fensore, who scored two goals, takes the puck up the middle of the rink vs. the Raiders at Westchester Skating Academy.



Mt. Pleasant Ice Cat players celebrate after scoring a goal in the second period vs. North Rockland.



Mt. Pleasant's Michael Sala tries to poke the puck into the net in the second period of Saturday's game vs. North Rockland.

tonight, but I think the last two games showed them that they can play with anybody in this section. I think if we show up, we could be dangerous."

Mt. Pleasant heads into the Division 2 playoffs knowing what needs to be improved and with confidence galore about the state of its game.

"They don't think there's anybody really that can stop them getting through D-2 until we get right to the end," Isenberg said of his players. "So they're pretty confident going in."

Fox Lane's Matt Grippi Captures a Sectional Championship

By Tony Pinciario

Matt Grippi has grown up on a wrestling mat, witnessing numerous memorable moments of his older brothers, Joey, Peter and Tommy, including four sectional titles.

The Fox Lane sophomore watched and also participated in the excitement and jubilation of his brothers' sectionals successes. Grippi has been waiting for his opportunity since joining the varsity team in seventh grade. What made winning a sectional title even more special each time was his brothers' initial reaction after the match.

"They would immediately point to my dad when I saw them do it," Grippi said. "I've been waiting three years for it and I finally got my chance today. It was awesome."

Following his 11-3 major decision on Sunday afternoon over Clarkstown North's Maxin Kutsepau in the 138-pound final of the Section 1 Division I Wrestling Championships/New York State Qualifier, Grippi looked to his parents and pointed to his dad. He also had the opportunity to share it with his brothers, who were in the coaching corner during the match.

Grippi, 43-1 on the season, earned an automatic berth in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Wrestling Championships, Friday-Saturday, Feb. 26-27 at the Times Union Center in Albany. It is Grippi's second consecutive trip after earning a wild card last year.

Along with Grippi, Josh Rauch was a finalist, in the 132-pound weight class, but lost to Carmel's Kevin Knox, a repeat champion. Jon Clune advanced to the championship semifinals, lost to eventual champ Jake Sprekman of Clarkstown South and finished fourth.

Not only did Grippi want to join his brothers as sectional champs, he was fueled to win the title after the bitter disappointment of the 2015 132-pound-final loss to Suffern's Daiton Powell.

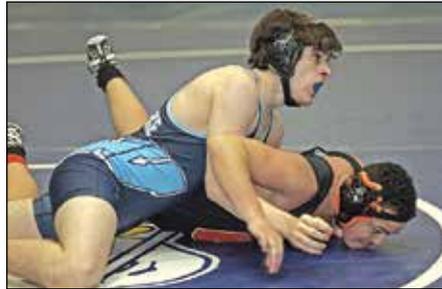
"A day does not go by that I don't think of it, but I used it as motivation and I was never going to let it happen again because I never wanted to feel like that again," Grippi said. "It made me a better wrestler because I pushed harder knowing that



Zach Chapins of Westlake after winning a wrestleback match at 126 pounds at Pearl River High School.



Colin Grimm of Byram Hills looks for a takedown in his match at 120 pounds at Arlington High School on Saturday.



Westlake's Matt Knapp is in control of his Friday evening match at 160 pounds.



Matt DeSousa of Pleasantville is in total command in his Friday match at 285 pounds.

there is always someone out there training hard to beat me."

Wrestling in the title match at Clarkstown South High School on a bitterly cold afternoon, Grippi secured the first takedown of the match in the first minute, and asserted himself. He did not allow Kutsepau to generate any offense. Instead, Kutsepau was always on the defensive.

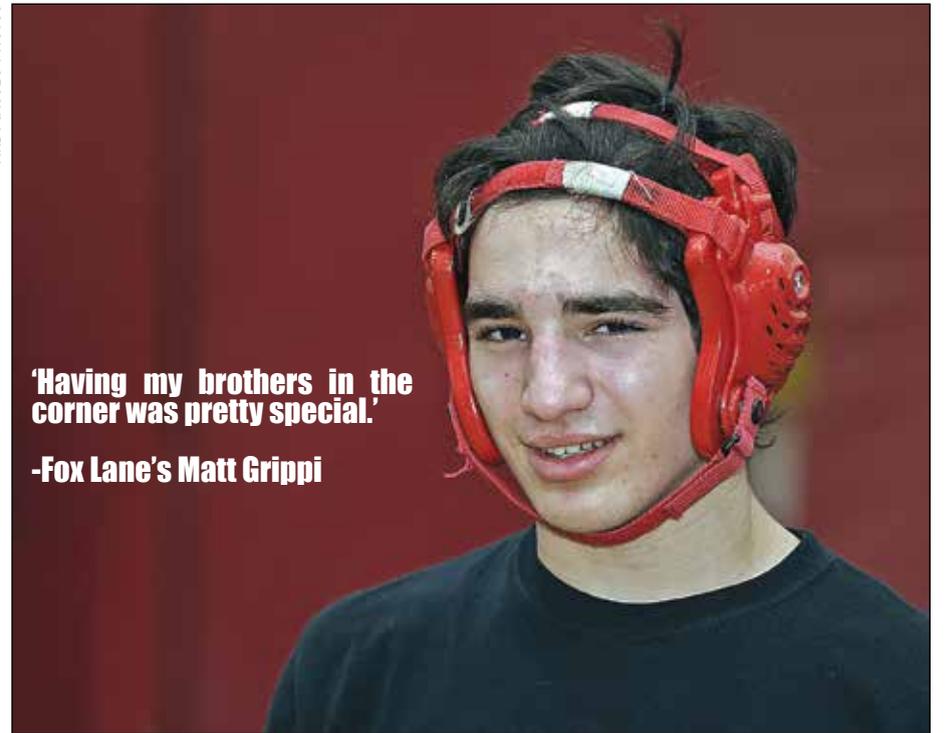
"I thought I wrestled very well and winning the sectional title pleased me the most," Grippi said. "Having my brothers in the corner was pretty special."

Rauch, a junior who finished with a 36-9 record, earned a title-match berth with a 7-6 semi-final win over second-seeded Ray Cotto of John Jay-Cross River.

Pleasantville had 10 wrestlers place among the top six in the Section 1 Division II Wrestling Championships/New York State Qualifier, fueling the Panthers to a fourth-place finish with 165 points. Pearl River was the champion, Putnam Valley was second and Hen Hud finished third.

The Panthers were highlighted by runners-up Lou Quintanilla (160 pounds), Henry Cunniffe (170) and Len

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



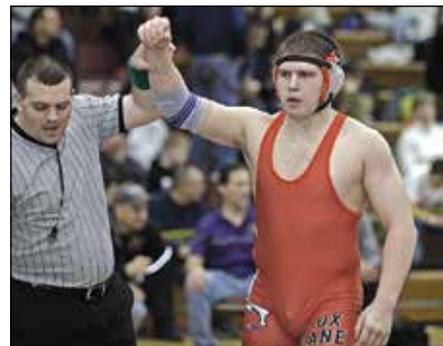
'Having my brothers in the corner was pretty special.'

-Fox Lane's Matt Grippi

Fox Lane's Matt Grippi captured the title at 138 pounds.



Luca Errico of Byram Hills has command on his way to a 9-3 decision in the Division I quarterfinals.



Fox Lane's Jon Clune pinned Chris Marchena of Clarkstown North in the opening round Saturday morning at Arlington.

Balducci (99 pounds). Balducci is the son of sectional champ Lenny Balducci, who won a sectional title (when it was just one division) for Irvington and coach Bob Bernarducci, the current Pleasantville head coach.

Victor Perleshi (113) took third, Michael Perleshi (220) and Matt DeSousa (285) placed fourth, Doug Crocitto (138), Greg May (152) and Omeed Ansari (195) finished fifth and Luke Pregiato (126) was sixth.



Greeley's Jacob Ferreira won with a pin in his quarterfinal-round match Saturday at Arlington High School.

"Overall, we had 10 finishers, eight of whom will be back next year," Bernarducci said. "I'm particularly pleased with Lenny Balducci's performance. He gave a two-time all-section wrestler everything he could handle."

Bernarducci was referring to Putnam Valley's Mike Bruno, who decided

continued on next page

Fox Lane's Matt Grippi Captures a Sectional Championship

continued from previous page

Balducci, 7-6. However, Balducci was pushing the pace and pressuring Bruno the entire third period, looking for the decisive points on a takedown. Balducci finished the season with a team-best 36-2 record.

“What a lot of people don't realize is that Henry (Cunniffe) made it to the finals last year, as well,” Bernarducci said. “He made it again this year and did a good job getting to the finals.”

Quintanilla was upset in the 160-final by Hen Hud's Sebastian Burbano, who had an escape and takedown in the final 20 seconds for a 10-8 victory.

“I think we're heading in the right direction,” Bernarducci said. “Victor Perleshi is a ninth-grader and our 106-pounder, Sebastian Senande, had a good year and will be back.

“We should have a pretty good wrestler coming up in the lighter weights. Our lower weights are going to be strong and with Greg May and Henry Cunniffe also returning, we will have a pretty well-



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Michael Perleshi of Pleasantville looks for a takedown during a match at 220 pounds.



Horace Greeley's Andrei Nesbit was a 6-0 victor over Clarkstown North's Ming Chang in a 120-pound opening-round match.



Pleasantville's Greg May tries to gain control in his 152-pound match at Pearl River High School Friday night.

balanced team.”

Horace Greeley had four top-six finishers for veteran coach Mike DeBellis and assistant coaches Anthony Tortora and Dan Hall.

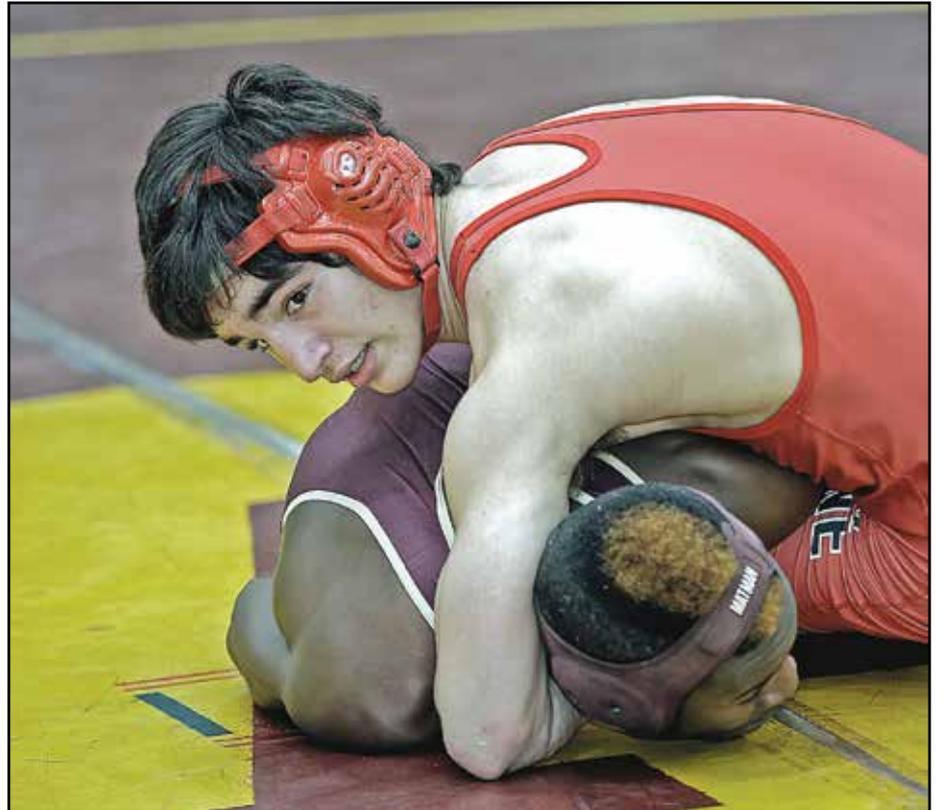
Freshman Aaron Wolk established himself as a sectional contender next year after a third-place finish at 145 pounds. Seeded sixth, Wolk beat third-seeded Romello Bradley of East Ramapo in the quarterfinal round and in the third-place match.



Josh Rauch of Fox Lane wrestles to a win over Yorktown's Mauricio Arango in the opening round Saturday.



Sergio Castillo of Fox Lane won by a 5-3 decision over Ketcham's Liam Wilson at 126 pounds.

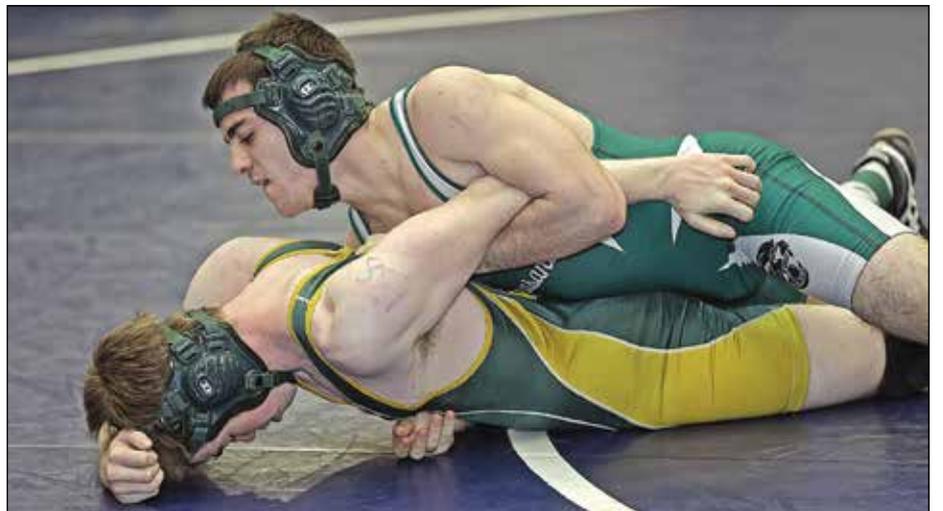


Fox Lane's Matt Grippi is in control on his way to the Division 1 title at 138 pounds.

Joe Sasso finished fourth at 126 pounds and Andrei Nesbit and Stephen Nadler were both fifth in the 120- and 195-pound weight classes, respectively.

Byram Hills' representative Luca Errico finished fourth in the 113-pound

weight class. Errico advanced to the championship semifinals, but lost a close match to eventual runner-up, Michael DaBramo of Scarsdale, before rebounding to beat Arlington's Ulises Olmedo in a consolation semifinal.



Pleasantville's Doug Crocitto has the upper hand in a wrestleback match at 138 pounds at the Division II championships.



Greeley's Aaron Wolk inflicts some pain en route to a 5-2 quarterfinal win over Ramapo's Romello Bradley.

Despite a Big Comeback, Pace Falls to the Yellow Jackets

By Andy Jacobs

After erasing a 15-point first-half deficit, the Pace University men's basketball team still faced one more challenge late Saturday afternoon — closing the deal on a big comeback victory.

Unfortunately for the Setters, visiting American International College ended the contest on a 12-4 run to halt all the Pace momentum and escaped with a 72-64 win in a Northeast-10 Conference game witnessed by a huge crowd at the Goldstein Fitness Center.

"I thought we played hard enough to win today. It just didn't happen," said Setters coach Matt Healing shortly after his team dropped to 9-16 this season and 6-11 in the NE-10. "I was just proud that even though we had a tough half, we go into the locker room at halftime, we talk about what we want to do differently and how to do it and they really executed. I mean, that was just a tremendous second half from them from an effort standpoint."

Facing a Yellow Jacket team they had already beaten on the road by 10 points back in early December, the Setters only led once all day — after an Austin Mofunanya layup nearly four minutes in that gave them a 9-8 edge. A pair of 3-pointers by both Jayvon Pitts-Young and Cameron Dodds ignited a 20-7 run by AIC that turned a two-point lead into a 33-18 cushion with eight minutes remaining in the first half.

Dobbs, a senior guard with a lightning-quick first step, finished the opening half with 17 of his team-high 22 points and the Yellow Jackets, shooting 15 of 29 from the field, left the court with a 43-34 lead. The Setters were outscored 21-3 from beyond the arc over the first 20 minutes and were still in the contest thanks to Mofunanya, the junior forward who provided 14 first-half points and eight rebounds.

"He's doing a great job for us, doing a great job offensively," said Healing. "We tried to feature him in the post a little bit today and he was doing an excellent job with it. He had a good week of practice, a good week of preparation. I knew he'd play well today and he did."

Even though Mofunanya was whistled for his third foul just 15 seconds into the second half, and teammate Luke McLaughlin picked up his third a few moments later, Pace still managed to quickly move within five points after back-to-back baskets from Bryan Rivers, who wound up with a game-high 23 points, and Shelton Mickell.

The last basket of the game from Dobbs gave the Yellow Jackets a 56-48 lead with 8:17 remaining, but Pace answered with five straight points, getting a jump hook in the lane from Mofunanya, one free throw by Rivers and then a 15-foot, fall-away jumper by



Pace freshman Luke McLaughlin protects the ball from AIC's Rasheed Howard on a drive to the basket in the first half of Saturday's game.



The Setters' Ryan Peterson tries to dribble past AIC's Juwan Moody late in Saturday's game at the Goldstein Fitness Center.

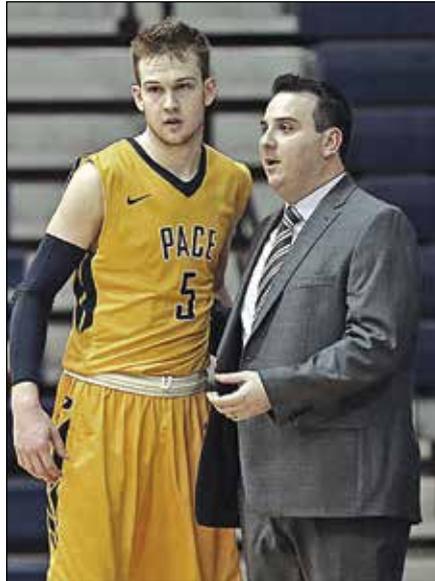
McLaughlin with 6:35 to go.

A jump shot from the top of the key by Rasheed Howard later gave AIC a 60-55 edge before Rivers responded with a right elbow 3-pointer late in the shot clock with just over five minutes remaining. Mofunanya, who finished with 18 points and 13 boards, provided two free throws with 4:33 left to tie the contest at 60 apiece. But the Setters were never able to grab the lead and only managed to make one basket down the stretch, on a spin through the lane by Mickell with 47 seconds left on the clock.

By then, the Yellow Jackets had built their lead back up to five points. After Mickell's bucket, AIC all but clinched the victory as Juwan Moody nailed a 3-pointer from right of the key that left Pace trailing 70-64 with just 21 seconds to go. The Setters' last gasp came when



Bryan Rivers of Pace flips a shot toward the basket after driving the right baseline vs. American International College.



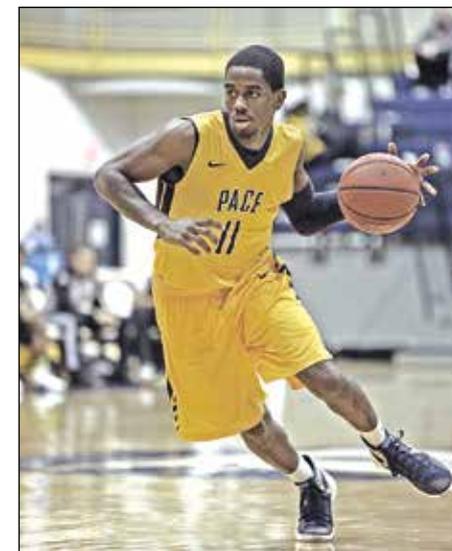
Pace head coach Matt Healing chats with Ryan Peterson in the first half of Saturday's game.

Ryan Peterson, suffering through perhaps his worst shooting game of the season, misfired on a 3-point shot with 15 seconds left.

"Yeah, maybe we dug ourselves a little bit too much of a hole," said Healing. "I don't know if we ran out of gas as much as they executed down the stretch and we didn't. We've got to do a better job of that. Either way, it was just nice to see us compete the whole way. I knew we would, but I'm proud of that."

Healing, the Setters' first-year head coach, was also proud that his players were able to overcome a double-digit lead and get in position to steal the game in the final minutes.

"The characteristic of our team and the integrity of our team is that no



Pace's Shelton Mickell handles the ball out beyond the 3-point arc vs. the visiting AIC Yellow Jackets.



Pace University forward Austin Mofunanya scores a basket in the first half of Saturday's game.

lead is too insurmountable and we continued to chip away," he said. "We tied the game with four minutes to go and we just couldn't close it out."

The Setters, still battling for a berth in the NE-10's postseason playoffs, had a chance to collect a couple of big wins this week, but couldn't beat 7-15 Le Moyne on the road or the struggling Yellow Jackets, who arrived in Pleasantville with just six conference wins in 17 games.

"The silver lining for us is there's still more games to play," said Healing. "Our season didn't end today. It's not like we're all walking out of the locker room and the season is over. That's not the case. We still probably need to win another game to make the playoffs. We've got a couple more to go. So as long as there's games ahead of us, we'll keep competing and we just hope it goes our way."



Greeley senior River Elms finished first in the 200 yard freestyle.



John Koster of Greeley swims the butterfly portion of his 200 individual medley.



Tyler Hill of Greeley took first place in two individual events and two relays.

2016 Section One SWIMMING Championships Thursday, February 11 Felix Festa Middle School West Nyack, New York



Horace Greeley's Wesley Ford heads for the finish in the 100 yard breaststroke.



Fox Lane's Liam Loveless swims in the 100 breaststroke last Thursday evening.



Brian Glat of Briarcliff/Pleasantville/Valhalla/Westlake competes in the 200 individual medley.



Brian Glat of B/P/V/W competes in the 100 yard backstroke during the Section One Championships.



Horace Greeley's Tyler Hill relaxes moments after winning the 100 yard backstroke.



John Loveless of Fox Lane competes in the 500 yard freestyle race at Felix Festa Middle School.



Andrew Schmitt of Greeley competes in the 100 yard breaststroke.



Declan Ahearn of the combo team B/P/V/W swims in the 500 yard freestyle at last week's sectional championships.



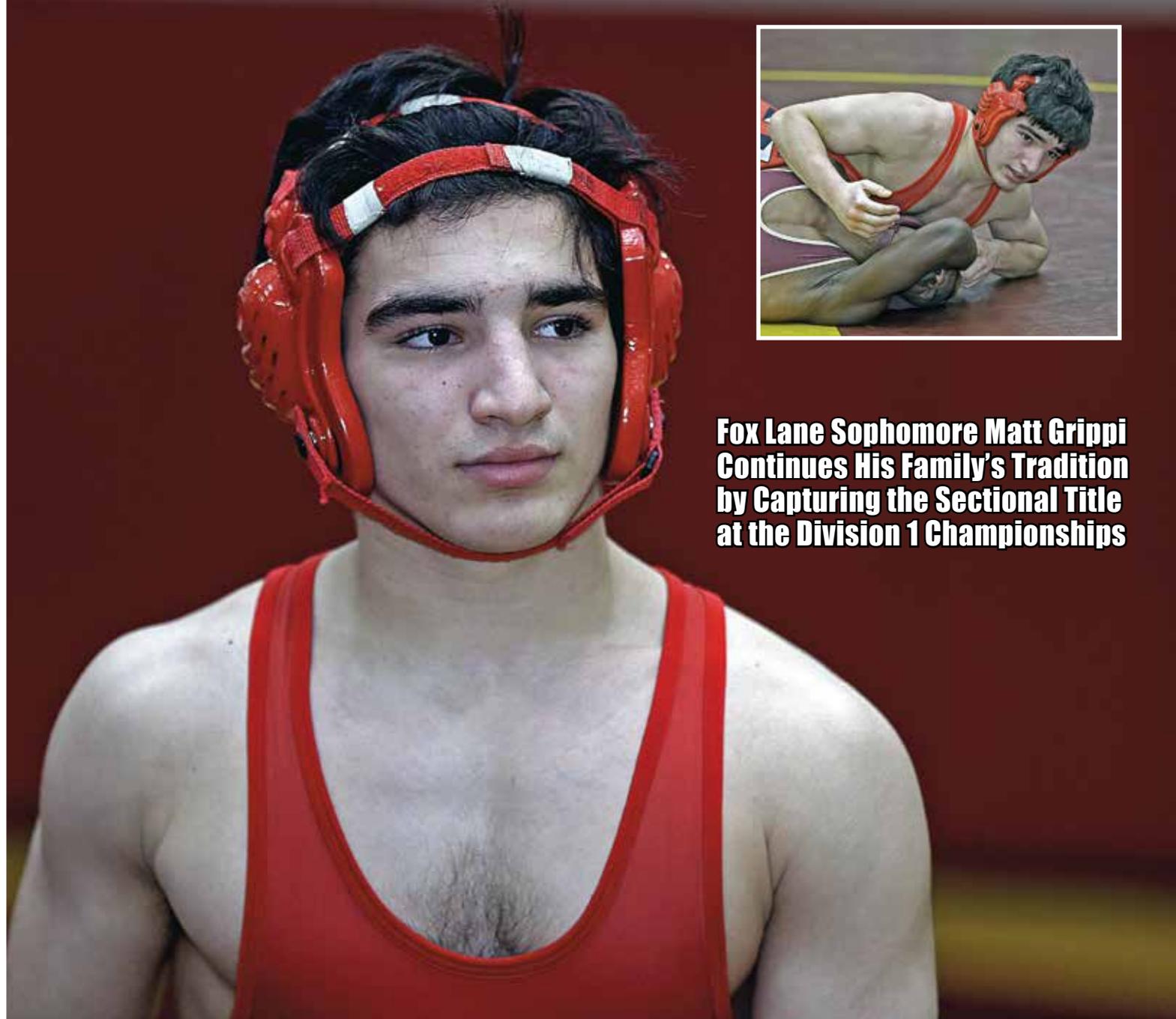
Abvoe: Carl Ranieri of Briarcliff/Pleasantville/Valhalla/Westlake swims in the final event of the evening, the 400 yard freestyle relay.



Right: River Elms of Greeley is on his way to a third-place finish in the 500 yard freestyle.

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HEAD OF THE CLASS



Fox Lane Sophomore Matt Grippi Continues His Family's Tradition by Capturing the Sectional Title at the Division 1 Championships

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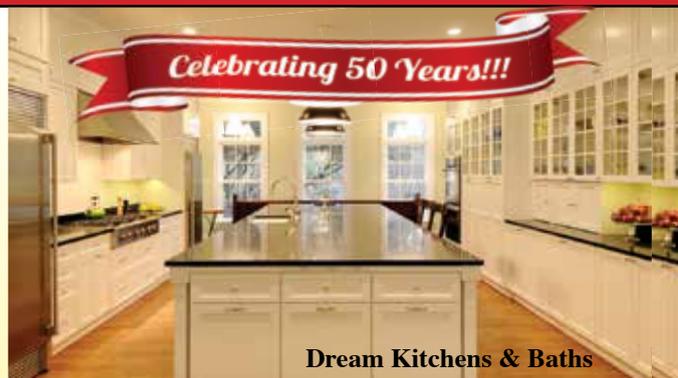
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