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Greeley Captures Swim Title
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February 14 - February 20, 2017

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 11, Issue 493

Pleasantville H.S. Seniors Face Trump National Prom Dilemma

By Anna Young

Instead of searching for the perfect prom date, seniors at Pleasantville High School may be looking for a new venue to hold the celebration.

The senior prom is scheduled for June 8 at Trump National Golf Course in Briarcliff Manor, but some members of the graduating class no longer want one of the most anticipated events of their high school career to be held in a place associated with President Donald Trump.

After Muslim-American students and many female students expressed their discomfort with the decision to hold the prom at Trump National, senior class Co-President Mary Kate Crowe said she met with student government members, the Human Rights Action Committee, a student group at the school, and district administrators to discuss moving the prom somewhere that could be considered

politically neutral.

"We realized the situation needed to be rectified once President Trump signed the executive order banning travel from seven primarily Muslim countries," Crowe said. "Muslim-American students expressed their discomfort with supporting a business led by a man who many believe is limiting the civil liberties of a certain population."

Crowe said some members of the student body don't mind attending the prom at the current location, but she said others feel it's inappropriate to hold a celebratory event at a place that at least a portion of the class would consider divisive.

"It is our wish that politics are not on anybody's mind for our celebration and that we may all come together for an evening without putting students in a

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Panther Power



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO

The Pleasantville High School wrestling team poses together late Saturday afternoon after capturing the Section 1, Division 2 team championship at Edgemont High School. For more details, see pages 28 and 29.

Voters Approve New Castle Fire District Land Acquisition

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle Fire District No. 1 voters comfortably approved a \$2.6 million referendum last Tuesday that will enable the district to buy the property adjacent to the King Street firehouse and maintain the possibility of future expansion.

Nearly a half-hour after the polls closed at 9 p.m., the board of fire commissioners announced the proposition passed 198-111.

After the tumultuous defeat of a pair of propositions on Oct. 25 totaling more than \$15 million, which included a firehouse expansion and the identical land acquisition proposal, commissioners were pleased with last week's results. The district is now ensured that no other entity will acquire the parcel, the old Chappaqua

Animal Hospital property, which would have ended the chance of ever building an addition to the facility.

"I hope to make the people understand that purchasing the property is smart," said Board of Commissioners Chairman John Buckley. "If someone else built on that property and if we need to do anything with our firehouse in terms of constructing more space, we would essentially be forced to find a new site for the firehouse as a whole. I don't think that's fiscally smart at all."

Before last week, Buckley said that if the re-vote on the property purchase failed the land would be sold to a private concern and would likely be developed the parcel.

Last week's result not only authorizes

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Armonk Developer Rails Against Affordable Unit Guideline, Seeks Reduction

By Martin Wilbur

Developer Michael Fareri last week indicated he would build his proposed 16-unit project in downtown Armonk if he receives approval but would like North Castle officials to reduce his affordable unit obligation.

The public hearing on Fareri's application request to obtain two special use permits for nine market-rate units and seven affordable apartments at 470 Main St. resumed last Wednesday evening and featured more verbal sparring between him and the town board during the hour and a half discussion.

Fareri spent a considerable portion of the hearing grumbling about being forced into building twice the percentage of affordable units compared

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MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Developer Michael Fareri floated an idea last week before the North Castle Town Board to reduce the number of affordable units connected with the lumberyard project.

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Pleasantville H.S. Seniors Face Trump National Prom Dilemma

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position where they feel uncomfortable attending their own prom," she said.

Despite a \$4,000 nonrefundable deposit that was paid last February, Superintendent of Schools Mary Fox-Alter said a series of questions still need to be answered before a decision can be made. The money for the deposit was

derived through fundraisers held by the Parent Council and the students.

School officials are currently meeting with student government representatives to review options, she said.

"It is important to remember that prom is a unifying capstone event and this discussion is an opportunity for students to engage in a meaningful

dialogue while respecting others' viewpoints," Fox-Alter said. "I know that this extraordinary group of students understand the ultimate goal – which is to have a meaningful and memorable prom experience."

Board of Education President Angela Vella said she supports the administration's decision to allow students to express their concerns but hopes the students realize that a prom's location doesn't endorse a political viewpoint.

"We don't want to alienate anyone, and we don't want this to be a political or divisive process," said Vella, who mentioned that Trump National was selected because it's in close proximity to Pleasantville. "Our hope, by allowing this to play out in a democratic way, is that we will make the best decision as a whole and the students can focus on celebrating their prom."

With many factors being considered before a decision can be reached, including cost and availability of other venues, Vella added that this will be a good civics lesson for students.

Crowe said the original decision was made before the future president secured the nomination last year. In retrospect, it is a move that some members of the school community wish they could have



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Some members of this year's Pleasantville High School graduating class want to find another venue to hold the senior prom instead of Trump National Golf Course in Briarcliff Manor.

Voters Approve New Castle Fire District Land Acquisition

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the district to borrow money to buy the property for \$1.62 million, but also pays for asbestos abatement before demolition the building and removes contaminated soil.

Buckley was uncertain how long it would take for the transaction to be completed and for the required work to be done at the site. The board will move forward with the process of having that done as quickly as possible, he said.

The absence of controversy for the Feb. 7 referendum also occurs as the new board is attempting to increase transparency and regain public trust that was lost in the fall. The polls were open for last week's vote from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. as opposed to October when voting was

allowed for three hours and scores of people left the firehouse before voting, frustrated because of long lines.

Buckley said commissioners have also agreed to videotape their meetings and post those tapes on the fire district's website.

"Hopefully, we're taking steps to gain the confidence of the public and if they have any questions I welcome them to reach out to us," he said.

On Oct. 25, the same proposition failed by a little more than 100 votes and the \$12.6 million firehouse expansion proposition was badly defeated. Within weeks following the double defeat, the previous board of commissioners announced it would put the land acquisition proposition before the voters again.

back.

"I was involved in picking Trump (National) as the first venue last year before Trump had even received the Republican nomination and it was a decision that I along with some members of the Parent Council deeply regret," Crowe said.

Students may hold a vote on how to proceed as early as this week, she said.



Could You Have A Kidney Stone?

Learn about symptoms, treatment and prevention...

Ask the Doctor

Dr. Warren Bromberg, MD, FACS

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Q: What are the symptoms of a kidney stone?

A: You might feel waves of severe pain in your back or side below the ribs. Pain might spread to your groin and lower abdomen. Nausea, vomiting and blood in the urine are possible. If you experience extreme pain, vomiting, or fever, go to an urgent care facility, or your hospital ER. Otherwise, have your symptoms evaluated by your primary care physician.

Q: What actually is a kidney stone?

A: A stone is rock-like material formed within the kidney. Most stones have a calcium component, and are caused by inadequate fluid intake, an overabundance of calories, and excessive salt intake. Stones with a uric acid component are caused by an excessive meat intake. When a stone passes out of the kidney and enters the ureter, the tube becomes blocked, urine backs up, the kidney swells and pain results.

Q: What are my treatment options?

A: A small stone may "pass" from your body naturally. If necessary, your physician can provide medication for pain and nausea and allow natural passage of the stone. Uric acid stones can sometimes be dissolved

with medication. A large stone blocking a kidney, or a stone associated with an infection, can be life-threatening and must be treated urgently. For stones that cannot pass on their own, a urologist may advise one of three outpatient procedures, depending on the size and location of the stone.

- External shock waves to shatter the stone, turning it to smaller stones that can then pass on their own.
- Inserting a small telescope to laser the stone into tiny fragments.
- If the stone is very large, a telescope is passed directly into the kidney through ones back to fragment and remove the stone.

Q: Can I help prevent kidney stones from forming?

A: Yes, however, once a kidney stone is removed, if a person does not change his or her diet or fluid intake, there's a 70 percent chance another will form. Help prevent calcium stones by remaining well-hydrated. Avoid consuming large amounts of dark leafy vegetables, peanuts, Vitamin C tablets and chocolate. To avoid forming a uric acid-type stone, limit meat, including red meat, chicken or fish.



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Armonk Developer Rails Against Affordable Unit Guideline; Seeks Reduction

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to other developers. He has been granted approval for 36 units at the lumberyard site on Bedford Road – 30 market-rate condominiums and six affordable units – but has maintained it is unfair for him to be saddled with having a 20 percent affordable threshold when other recent projects in town have only been required to provide 10 percent, as outlined in North Castle's and Westchester County's model ordinance.

Fareri has repeatedly stated it would be difficult to market the lumberyard

project if he had to mix the affordable residences with the market-rate condos and will not construct the 36-unit building. Instead, he has proposed to move the six affordable units to 470 Main St. while building 30 market-rate condominiums at the old lumberyard.

Fareri's Main Street application also calls for nine market-rate units which would require a seventh affordable residence at the site.

However, at the hearing he also said he would like the town to consider reducing the overall number of affordable units

on Main Street from seven to four and increase the number of market-rate residences to 10.

During a recent discussion with county officials Fareri that Westchester is no longer subsidizing the construction of new affordable units now that the county has met its obligation to the federal government in the housing settlement case.

"I would like you to consider my thoughts," Fareri said. "I don't think my thoughts are out in left field. I think they're right, I think they're fair. I don't know why the town would want to have more fair and affordable units than the county would require them to have."

He said because of the price difference between the market-rate and affordable condos, he would have to absorb the financial hit of about \$300,000 to build each affordable unit.

Board members reminded Fareri that he was required to provide 20 percent affordable units because his original lumberyard plan featured 35 percent middle income units, a town workforce housing program that was superceded once the town board approved the model ordinance in 2014. Fareri has also received a density bonus at the lumberyard site, which also played a factor.

"The change has nothing to do with the

county. The change has to do with you," said Councilman Stephen D'Angelo. "Two weeks ago you were willing to build seven (affordable units) and now the county tells you they're not going to give you the difference, you only want to do four."

Town Attorney Roland Baroni added that in order to reduce the affordable component from 20 percent, a new public hearing would have to be scheduled and the process would have to be restarted.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said there have been so many iterations of the lumberyard project and where to build the affordable units it's now difficult to ascertain what Fareri is asking the town to do.

"What do you want?" Schiliro asked. "It's so confusing because you're contradicting yourself."

Schiliro then questioned whether Fareri would build the Main Street project if he's approved for seven affordable units.

"That's not true, unless I can come back at a later date with your blessing to consider four (affordable units) and 10," Fareri responded. "I just think it's a benefit to the community. It's not a deal-breaker, but I think it makes sense."

The hearing was adjourned until the board's Mar. 8 meeting.

Seasonal Park Ranger Applications Accepted Now Through Feb. 27

The Westchester County Department of Public Safety is accepting applications for seasonal park rangers to patrol county parks this summer. Applications are due by Feb. 27 and are available online at <http://publicsafety.westchestergov.com>.

Uniformed park rangers assist park users, provide information on park rules and procedures, help in searches for lost children, perform

basic first aid on occasion and make regular security checks of buildings and facilities.

To qualify, applicants must be a high school graduate, at least 19 years of age, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Westchester County and possess a valid New York State driver's licenset. Accepted candidates must attend a three-week training program at the Westchester County Police Academy.



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Metro-North Train Car Derails After Hitting Tree in Hawthorne

By Martin Wilbur

A Manhattan-bound Harlem line Metro-North train struck a tree that had fallen on the tracks near Hawthorne early Monday afternoon causing a set of wheels on the front car to derail.

The tree had apparently been toppled as a result of the high winds that kicked up overnight and continued throughout most of the day on Monday. MTA reported that none of the passengers or crew members were injured in the accident.

About 90 minutes after the accident, roughly 200 passengers were transferred to a rescue train that pulled up alongside the train that had been involved in the accident.

Harlem line service was immediately suspended between North White Plains

and Mount Kisco. Service remained from Grand Central to North White Plains and north of Mount Kisco to Wassaic. By 4 p.m., MTA announced that most service had been restored after the tracks were cleared, although several trains were canceled or combined.

For the remainder of Monday there was also no southbound service from the Hawthorne or Valhalla stations. Commuters who were looking for Manhattan-bound trains needed to board trains from Pleasantville or North White Plains.

The MTA stated that full service was expected to return in time for the Tuesday morning rush hour.

Chappaqua resident John Ehrlich, who was aboard the front car of the train that



JOHN EHRLICH PHOTO

Dozens of Metro-North workers and emergency responders arrived at the scene where a train struck a tree that had fallen on the tracks on Monday. No one was injured in the mishap.

struck the tree, said as soon as there was impact, he knew something was wrong. However, he was surprised to later learn that a set of rear wheels on the car had come off the tracks.

"It felt like when you're in a car when you hit something but in an exaggerated fashion," said Ehrlich, who mentioned that it took some time after impact for the train to come to a halt.

Anna Young contributed to this article.

New Castle Democratic Committee Begins Identifying Potential Candidates

The New Castle Democratic Committee is interviewing candidates for the November 2017 election for town supervisor and two town board seats. According to Nominations & Candidate Development Committee Chair Jane Silverman, the committee has identified several potential candidates, but are looking for new people to get involved and bring new

strengths to town government. Anyone town resident who is interested, should contact Silverman at silvermanjfs@gmail.com.

Although the Board of Elections has not fixed the dates yet, petitions for supervisor and town board candidates are expected to be circulated in June and July for filing with the County Board of Elections in early July.

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North Castle Approves Contract to Expand Wastewater Plant

By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Town Board unanimously approved a \$1.1 million contract last week to expand the flow capacity of the town's Sewer District No. 2 wastewater treatment plant from 500,000 to 700,000 gallons a day.

Action taken by the board on Feb. 8 authorizes the town to enter the agreement with GHD Consulting Services, Inc. that will provide North Castle with sufficient leeway to attract and support potential new development and uses within the district. Sewer

expansion is considered a necessary component as the town pursues potential avenues to enlarge its tax base.

"It'll afford us the opportunity for more economic development in coordination with the Comprehensive Plan update," Supervisor Michael Schiliro said of the expansion.

Work includes the replacement of some equipment and updating deteriorated equipment at the plant that will allow for the increased capacity, said Sal Misiti, the town's director of water and sewer operations.

In addition, the project will include the design of a new 2,000-square-foot administrative building for the water and sewer department, Misiti said.

According to estimates from GHD, the capacity improvements reflects the majority of the cost - \$855,000 - while the will remainder of the design phase is estimated at \$165,000.

This will be the third time the 33-year-old plant has been expanded since it was built. When it opened in March 1984, there was a capacity of 350,000 gallons a day. That was increased to 450,000 gallons followed by a bump up to 500,000 gallons a day.

GHD also was contracted to do the prior expansions, Misiti said.

Pleasantville Village Board Candidates Missing as Deadline Nears

As the petition filing period entered its final day Tuesday (today) for next month's Pleasantville Village Board race, it seems like the election is still in search of some candidates.

Late Monday afternoon, with just over 24 hours remaining before the deadline for nominating petitions to be submitted, no one had turned in the requisite paperwork despite a wave of interest in running for the two available seats.

In January, Trustee Steven Lord, who is completing his first three-year term, announced that he will be seeking re-election. Trustee Mindy Berard had announced late last year that she would be stepping down after nine years on the board, saying it's time to allow new people to step up and serve.

Former village trustee Jerry Lynch also announced his decision last month to run for one of the seats. Lynch previously served on the village board from 1996 to 2002.

Although no one had filed a petition, it is not uncommon for candidates in local elections. to submit their petition right before the deadline. The election will take place on Tuesday, Mar. 21.

--Anna Young

Walking With a Purpose

This spring 11 communities and two colleges throughout Westchester have scheduled Relay for Life events, the world's largest fundraiser to save lives from cancer. Locally, Pace University will hold its Relay for Life Apr. 21-22 at the Goldstein Fitness Center while Relay for Life Chappaqua is scheduled for May 20-21 at Horace Greeley High School. For a complete list of events across the county, visit www.RelayForLife.org.



TRADITION AND FUN RETURN TO THE COUNTY CENTER

Tradition -That's what the Royal Hanneford Circus brings to the Westchester County Center each year. This President's Day Weekend, the tradition continues for the 42nd Consecutive year!

Traditional -That's what the Royal Hanneford Circus is - A traditional 3 Ring Circus. The Old Time, All Time Family favorite with 3 Rings of Action on and above the floor plus Tigers and Elephants. "We would like to keep the Show traditional but also add unique acts every year," said Adrian Poema, a 6th generation performer and husband to owner Nellie Hanneford.

Family - The Royal Hanneford Circus traces its roots back to 1690 England. There have been Hanneford's performing in the Circus ever since. This year the 7th Generation of the Hanneford Family in America will be performing. All four children of Nellie Hanneford and her husband, Adrian, will be part of this year's Circus. Kathryn, 20, will follow in her mother's footsteps as the aerial star. Mariana, 18, will be featured in the Elephant Act. Tommy,



Rick Purdue photos

10, will have a small cameo while Adrian Jr, will star in the acrobat and trapeze acts!



The Royal Hanneford Circus will perform 9 Shows over 3 days, President's Day Weekend Feb 18 - 19 - 20. Performers from around the World are part of the Show. From the Opening Dance number to the Grand Finale, they will thrill the crowd with unbelievable feats of dexterity and athleticism. The Hanneford aerialists, the acrobatic trampoline artists and the daring young men on the flying trapeze are just a small part of the program! The Hanneford Elephants and tigers are amazing. Grandma the Clown returns with a hilarious blend

of physical and slapstick comedy plus Jugglers like you have never seen and performers who do amazing things on Roller skates. There's also performing pets, horses, zebras, llamas, and ponies trained by Miss Terry. The final blast is just that- the Garcia blast- as the audience counts down and the daredevil is shot from one end of the 3 rings to the other. (acts subject to change). Face Painting will be available before the Show and at intermission as well as A Moon Bounce, Pony Rides, and photos with Elephants.

Tradition, traditional, and family! All in one place for one weekend. The Royal Hanneford Circus at the Westchester County Center in White Plains President's Day Weekend February 18 - 19 - 20. Three Shows daily at 10AM, 2PM, and 6PM! Tickets are on sale at the Westchester County Center Box Office (914 995-4050 countycenter.biz. Ticketmaster and ticketmaster.com).

Discounts available to select shows for groups of 20 or more. Ticket prices are \$27 for Regular Reserved seats. \$35 for Premium Seats.

Paradigm Commissioner's Hearing Scheduled for March 7

By Martin Wilbur

Representatives of the California-based residential teen treatment center that has proposed moving into and opening operations in an eight-bedroom house in Armonk will appear before a hearing officer on Tuesday, Mar. 7.

On Monday, the state Office of Mental Health (OMH) announced the hearing date for Paradigm Treatment Centers of Malibu, Calif. It will take place at 10 a.m. The location of the hearing and whether it will be open to the public has not yet been determined, according to an OMH spokesperson.

In a Feb. 1 letter, Joshua Pepper, the deputy OMH commissioner, informed attorney Robert Christmas, who represents Paradigm, that the proceedings will be scheduled.

Once a hearing is held, a decision must be rendered within 30 days, according to the OMH.

The request by Paradigm was expected following the North Castle Town Board's unanimous vote on Jan. 25 to object to its request to operate a facility at 14-16 Cole Drive based on an overconcentration of residential facilities in the area.

It has stirred major opposition not only among neighbors on Cole Drive and Davis Drive but throughout Armonk. There has been vocal outcry regarding an increase in traffic and safety and environmental concerns connected to the proposed

use. Paradigm ran into stern opposition, particularly after the original marketing materials stated that the Armonk facility would treat teens with substance abuse problems.

Paradigm has since contended that the facility would serve up to eight teens suffering from depression, trauma and anxiety and would not serve as a residence to treat adolescents with alcohol and drug dependency issues. Representatives for Paradigm have acknowledged that some residents could have co-occurring substance abuse disorders.

Meanwhile, North Castle's two state representatives, Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains) and Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye), have gone to bat for the town in the quest to stop Paradigm. The lawmakers collaborated on a three-page letter to OMH Commissioner Ann Marie Sullivan on Jan. 31, explaining why the Padavan Law, the 1978 measure that has helped to deinstitutionalize those with developmental disabilities, is being misapplied in this instance.

Currently, there are five facilities that fall under the law within two miles of this address, their letter stated. However, the law was geared to help permanent residents in group home settings, not a transient population.

"The establishment of such a transient facility does not promote the

deinstitutionalization of 'persons with developmental retardation' for whose benefit the Padavan Law was originally passed," according to the legislators' letter. "To the contrary, were the Commissioner to sanction this kind of abuse of the Padavan Statute, it would perversely impede the State's goal of deinstitutionalizing developmentally retarded persons."

Town Supervisor Michael Schiliro said he believes the point of allowing a short-term facility to be included under the law, thereby taking up a spot that could be used

by a more traditional group home, is one of the strongest arguments against the Paradigm application.

Paradigm representatives have said most of the teens would stay for 30 to 45 days.

"It's very well thought out by both of our representatives, also voicing concern about application of the Padavan Law," Schiliro said.

Last month, an OMH spokesperson told The Examiner that the Padavan Law does not address anticipated length of stay for residents.

Valentines for Vets

Assemblyman David Buchwald holds a few of the 4,000 valentines that elementary school students throughout his district produced for those who have served in the armed forces. The cards in this annual program were distributed to Westchester veterans and seniors, and for the first time, have been sent to active soldiers deployed in Iraq. Buchwald helped students at S.J. Preston Elementary School in West Harrison distribute cards to local veterans last Friday. Mount Kisco, West Patent and Katonah elementary schools were three of the 10 schools that also participated.



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STARTS MONDAY MARCH 6, 2017
For teens 8th - 10th grade

Session 1 4:30 pm - 5:45 pm
Session 2 6:30 pm - 7:45 pm
WEDNESDAY MARCH 8, 2017
Session 3 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm



Is your teen experiencing mood swings, anger, anxiety, worried they don't fit in with friends, stress over daily tasks? Are they with people that take advantage of them, mistreat them and afraid to speak up? Are they becoming more withdrawn, not wanting to interact with family or friends? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then our group might be for them. Your teen will learn techniques to decrease anxiety, address peer pressure issues and enhancing self-esteem and confidence. They will learn techniques by developing one's own identity, overcoming negative self-talk, and hear other young woman tell their stories.

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Two Medical Office Buildings Proposed for Mount Pleasant

By Neal Rentz

A developer is proposing two medical buildings for the corner of Lakeview Avenue and Bradhurst Street, but it is unclear if the Mount Pleasant Town Board would approve the zoning change needed for the project to proceed.

Town planning consultant Pat Cleary said that Bradhurst Realty is seeking to construct one 35,000-square-foot building and a second structure that would be 26,000 square feet.

While nearly the entire 12.5-acre site is zoned OB6, which allows office buildings, a small portion of the property is zoned half-acre residential.

The town board could refer the zoning change request to the planning board for its comments, ill ask questions about potential impacts of the proposed office buildings.

Councilwoman Laurie Smalley said she did not know if the two medical buildings would be successful since many similar facilities are currently being proposed.

The town board will compile a list of questions for the developer, including information on the potential traffic impacts of the project.

Comprehensive plan update

The board also discussed a potential updated of the town's Comprehensive



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Mount Pleasant planning consultant Pat Cleary at the Feb. 7 town board work session.

Plan for the first time in 45 years.

Fulgenzi said the Comprehensive Plan, formerly known as the Master Plan, was last updated in 1972. Councilman Denis McCarthy said no municipality has waited longer to update its plan than Mount Pleasant.

Cleary suggested that the main focus of an updated Comprehensive Plan could be the Hawthorne, Valhalla and Thornwood business hamlets.

Mount Pleasant Considering Gun Shop Restrictions

By Neal Rentz

The Mount Pleasant Town Board is considering tightly regulation gun stores by adding language to the town code, which is currently silent on the issue.

Building and Fire Inspector Salvatore Pennelle told the board at its Feb. 7 work session that there is no language in the town regarding gun stores. Controversy has raged in Harrison because the building department allowed a gun store to move into the municipality without the need for any approval because there is no regulation regarding their operation.

Pennelle said he was concerned the same situation could take place in the future in Mount Pleasant.

"We have to look at this," he said.

He suggested banning gun stores near schools in commercial residential (CR) zones. For example, the Rose Hill Shopping Center is located near the campus that contains Westlake Middle School and Westlake High School, Pennelle said.

The town is considering prohibiting gun shops in the commercial zone. Councilwoman Laurie Smalley said she saw no benefit in having gun shops in CR zones.

Town officials did not say when they might address the issue again.

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Historic Stepping Stones Provides Emotional Ties for Visitors

By Martin Wilbur

On a quiet residential street in Bedford Hills, there's a house that holds a deep connection for countless people.

From the outside, the Dutch Colonial Revival may appear nondescript, but it's what went on inside that makes it an indispensable treasure.

The property at 62 Oak Rd. is called Stepping Stones, and was the longtime home of Bill and Lois Wilson, the co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Al-Anon Family Groups, respectively.

Nearly destitute and having lived at more than 50 different addresses after Lois's Brooklyn family brownstone was foreclosed, the couple moved into Stepping Stones in April 1941 through the good grace of friends. The couple eventually paid off the \$6,500 mortgage.

The house and Bill's small, free-standing studio they later built is where they completed much of the work that established AA and Al-Anon. He wrote three of his four books in the studio, including "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions," principles that have since been adapted by dozens of other groups addressing various addictions. The property was designated a national historic landmark in 2015.

While many recovering alcoholics and their families are among the many visitors who make the pilgrimage to Stepping Stones, there are intriguing stories related to the Wilsons' journey and the eight-acre property that would resonate with almost anyone, said Sally Corbett, the executive director of the Stepping Stones Foundation.

"While a lot of the people who visit are in some kind of recovery, this is a great American story of hope," Corbett said. "Here's a woman, who's stuck with a guy with a lot of potential – he was a remarkable guy, she was a remarkable woman – and ultimately he not only recovers but ends up going on and giving this tremendous gift to the world."

Corbett said Stepping Stones has more pieces than many museums – 15,000 objects and another 100,000 items in its archives, including a treasure trove of letters, which the foundation hopes to digitize.

From the desk that Bill wrote his books, with burns near the edges where he rested his cigarettes, to the white enamel-topped wood kitchen table where his friend and former drinking buddy Ebby had a heart-to-heart talk that inspired Bill to believe in a power greater than himself, much of the home's interior is as Lois Wilson left it when she died in 1988 at 97 years old.



The historic home of Bill and Lois Wilson, the co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon, respectively, in Bedford Hills.



STEPPING STONES FOUNDATION PHOTO

Bill and Lois Wilson

Bill predeceased her in 1971.

Tours of the grounds are given regularly by volunteers such as Levi Pearson, relating little-known stories of the couple and the significance of each one of the rooms in the house. There is the upstairs gallery where the floor is teeming with photos, letters and possessions, plus mementos received from the grateful legions that they helped around the globe.

"I do know that everything in this room is here for some reason of Lois's," Pearson said.

Many visitors who come to Stepping Stones often become emotional, especially those who are part of recovery groups.

"So when we get visitors here sometimes they're teary-eyed or gleeful," Corbett said. "We see the range of these wonderful emotions and some of them feel the work that Bill and Lois did in founding AA and Al-Anon, the family group for family and friends of alcoholics, saved their lives and saved their families."

Bill Wilson grew up in East Dorset, Vt., and met his future wife, who was four years older than him, when Lois's family would spend time at their nearby summer home, Pearson said. They



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Bill Wilson's studio at Stepping Stones where he did most of his writing and work for AA.

married in 1918.

He was a World War I veteran and his drinking can be traced to his Army days, Corbett said. It didn't take long for him to become a problem drinker.

While Bill had some success working on Wall Street, his drinking sabotaged him as did the Great Depression. During a difficult business trip to Akron in 1935, and after having abstained from alcohol for a few months, Bill desperately wanted a drink, but instead reached out to local churches where he hoped to speak to other alcoholics, hoping that would help, Corbett said.

He was put in touch with Dr. Robert Smith, who had his own struggles with alcohol.

"Lo and behold, these tall, low-key, intelligent men who had never met before, Bob felt Bill really understood him, and it was not only the founding of AA but the beginning of a friendship of a lifetime," Corbett said.

Still, there were years of struggle to follow, including their nomadic journey, until coming to Stepping Stones in 1941. By then Bill had anonymously written the first of his four books, simply titled "Alcoholics Anonymous." By 2015, more than 35 million copies had sold in English alone and millions more in other languages, Corbett said. A copy of the book is in the desk drawer in Bill's studio.

The site also features a welcome center and a small exhibit featuring a chronological history of the Wilsons. The property's garage was converted into the center.

Stepping Stones recently raised more than \$50,000 to rehab Bill's studio, Corbett said. The site holds meaning for so many people that donations were received from 35 states, Canada and Ireland.

Pearson said the couple was unable to have children; Lois miscarried three times. Somewhat mysteriously there is a cradle on the floor of the gallery.



The kitchen table where Bill Wilson and his friend Ebby met before the formation of Alcoholics Anonymous. Their conversation was a key moment in helping to inspire Wilson.



Lois Wilson's desk where she did most of her work.

Its presence is open to conjecture, but Pearson said many feel that the Wilsons had millions of children.

"I think a lot of people feel that they wouldn't have been able to leave the legacy if they had children, and we wouldn't have this wonderful place for people to tour and see," Corbett said.

Stepping Stones is open for tours for individuals and groups every Monday through Saturday at 1 p.m., except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day and other selected days throughout the year. The tours last 60 to 90 minutes. Reservations are required. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person.

The 66th annual Stepping Stones Lois' Family Groups Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 3. It features speakers and socializing, typically for those in recovery and their families.

For more information about Stepping Stones, visit www.steppingstones.org. To schedule a tour, call 914-232-4822 or e-mail info@steppingstones.org.

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Obituary

Martin Gold

Martin W. Gold – golfer, gardener and wine connoisseur, and most dearly beloved husband, father and grandfather – passed away on Feb. 6 from a brain hemorrhage. He was 81.

Gold is predeceased by his parents, David and Eleanor, and his sister, Bari Lipp. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; two children, Todd Gold of Encino, Calif. and Kimberly Stone of Rolling Hills, Calif.; and six grandchildren.

Born in Chicago, Gold graduated from the University of Minnesota and entered the U.S. Army Infantry Reserves. After leaving with the rank of captain, he began his career in his family's menswear business – an auspicious foundation for the axiom of his life: Marty Gold had style.

In 1981, after working as a senior buyer for Hart Schaffner & Marx, he was president of the eastern men's

retail clothing division of Genesco and president of Van Gils Imports. Gold turned his longstanding passion for wine into his next business venture and his life's work. He began working at Frederik Wildman & Sons, the fine wine division of Hiram Walker, serving as the national sales manager and becoming president in 1986.

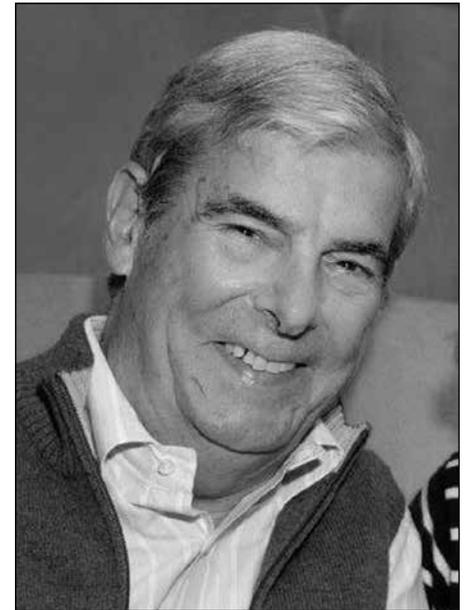
In 1989, Gold founded and became president and CEO of Martin Scott Wines, Ltd., a fine wine importer and distributor in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey that grew to represent over 450 wineries spanning several continents – and grew into a second family around the world. He sold the company and retired in 2013.

Outside of work, Gold was a vice chair of the New York City Ballet's New Combinations Fund; a member of the Investment, Finance and Audit

committees of the Katonah Museum of Art; and served on the Jacob Burns Film Center and Media Arts Lab Board of Trustees as chair of the Finance Committee and a member of the Investment and Development committees.

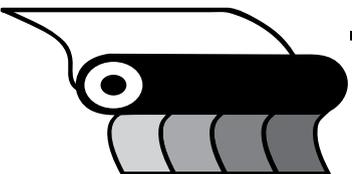
Gold loved Rodgers and Hammerstein, bread pudding, a good Burgundy and real butter. He was unfailingly generous, a consummate planner and a real gentleman. He was elegant. He never skipped lunch and he showed his family the world. He lived passionately and his love for family and friends will remain in their hearts forever.

Donations in his honor can be made to the Jacob Burns Film Center and Media Arts Lab in Pleasantville. A memorial celebration will be held at a later date.



Martin W. Gold

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Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Feb. 10: Mount Kisco Village Hall was evacuated at 10:45 a.m. after an odor of gas was detected in the building. Con Edison responded and determined that there was no gas leak and that employees could return inside.

Feb. 9: A Brookside Village resident reported at 1:21 p.m. that four boys threw snowballs at her as she walked on Park Drive.

Feb. 9: A 20-year-old New Rochelle man was issued a summons for disorderly conduct at 1:44 a.m., a violation, after he was found to be intoxicated and causing a disturbance in an East Main Street parking lot. The man was released at the scene and a taxi cab was called to take him home.

Feb. 8: At 12:09 p.m., a report of a 90-year-old woman having suffered a cut to her head when she fell inside her home on Spring Street. She was taken to Northern Westchester Hospital for treatment.

Feb. 8: Police responded to a North Bedford Road business at 8:25 a.m. on a report that a man was yelling at employees and causing a disturbance. The man left the area after he was advised he would be arrested if he did not leave the property.

Feb. 7: Police responded to a parking lot on the 200 block of East Main Street at 5:58 p.m. after a resident reported that his car had been booted there. The resident said he paid \$70 to a man to have the boot removed from his

car. County police have since advised residents that no company currently has the legal authority to boot vehicles in the village. Anyone whose car is booted is asked to contact county police at 914-864-7701.

Feb. 7: An electrical contractor reported at 7:56 a.m. that someone had vandalized an electrical box and cut some wires at a building on Foxwood Circle. The damage was estimated at \$2,000.

Feb. 6: A 32-year-old Maple Avenue man was arrested at 9:06 a.m. and charged with third-degree assault criminal obstruction of breathing, both misdemeanors, following a dispute with another person at his home over usage of a Playstation video gaming system. He is accused of slapping and choking the victim during the dispute.

Pleasantville Police Department

Feb. 4: A 21-year-old Bronx man was arrested on Marble Ave. at 1:26 a.m. for driving with a suspended license.

Feb. 4: A 17-year-old Elmsford girl was arrested at 11:24 p.m. and charged with disorderly conduct. She is scheduled to return to village court tonight (Tuesday).

Feb. 6: At 10:30 a.m., a 43-year-old Thornwood man was caught stealing DVDs from the Mount Pleasant Public Library on Bedford Road. He was arrested at 3:12 p.m. on Feb. 8 on an active warrant out of White Plains.

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Mt. Pleasant Towing Company Pays Tribute to Fallen Officers

By Neal Rentz

Mark Voeltz understands firsthand the dangers police officers face on a daily basis.

Voeltz is an officer in the Town of Fishkill, Dutchess County, and while he's at work, his son, Mark Jr., manages the family business, Mark's Towing on Claremont Avenue in Thornwood.

Now, Voeltz the police officer and the automotive side of the family have collaborated on a special tribute to fallen police officers.

Voeltz purchased a 2007 Crown Victoria, which had been used by the Connecticut State Police, and several volunteers offered their time and materials for about a month to fix and decorate the car.

Last August, he completed the project, which he named Wheels of Honor, to recognize police officers killed in the line of duty throughout the United States.

"Being a police officer, what we do every day out there is dangerous and the cops who are being killed in the line of duty should really be recognized for what they do every day," Voeltz said.

The names of each of the 140 police officers killed in the line of duty throughout the United States, beginning last year, are on the car. So is an image of St. Michael on the car hood with the Policeman's Prayer on the front. Painted on the vehicle are the color guards of the New York State and Westchester County departments, a



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Mark Voeltz, owner of Mark's Towing in Thornwood, created Wheels of Honor last year that pays tribute to police officers killed in the line of duty. He is standing next to the former police car that he decorated and drives to services for officers slain in the line of duty and other events.

picture of the World Trade Center and a police officer kneeling on one knee holding an American flag.

There's also a logo on the back of the refurbished car around the names of the fallen police officers.

"It's not how these officers died, it's how they lived their lives," it states.

The car has been driven to a variety of events and observances. It was first used

for the funeral for Ulster County Sheriff's Deputy Kerry Winters, killed in a water diving training accident, Voeltz noted.

"We had the car parked on the front lawn of the funeral home with the Ulster County Sheriff's Department dive truck," he recalled. "It was there two nights for the wake. On the last night, we're all lined up standing there and the wife (of the deceased officer) and the two little kids walked out of

the funeral home, got in the police truck to drive them home. They stopped halfway out of the driveway. They got out of the truck, walked over to the police car and they were looking with a flashlight for their father's name on the car."

"I get satisfaction out of it by seeing the reaction from the family members when we attend these funerals," Voeltz added.

The car was driven to the funerals of two New York State troopers, a funeral for a fallen Pittsburgh police officer, wakes and a 9/11 memorial ceremony in Dutchess County. It has also provided escorts for the Westchester County Motorcycle Unit.

Voeltz said he also wants the Wheels of Honor to be seen at law enforcement functions such as parades, memorial services and police benevolent association outings. If he is unable to drive the car to an event, he has friends who are police officers that do so.

Wheels of Honor volunteers have also participated in fundraisers, including 10-13 parties – the radio code for when a cop is in serious trouble – to assist families of fallen or seriously injured police officers.

"Everything's funded by me, the hotels, the meals, the fuel, the insurance, the car," he said.

The public reaction to the Wheels of Honor has been "phenomenal," Voeltz said.

continued on page 13



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Arts Organizations Share \$544G in Public/Private Funding Program

ArtsWestchester hosted a reception in White Plains last Tuesday to thank County Executive Rob Astorino and county legislators for their continued support of the arts, particularly their support of the Art\$WChallenge program, which has helped to generate new funding for arts organizations throughout the last 10 years.

During this week's reception, ArtsWestchester announced that 47 arts organizations raised a total of \$342,982 in new funds through the 2016 Art\$WChallenge program, and with the support of the County, ArtsWestchester was able to match those funds with an additional \$200,978.

Since the inception of the Art\$WChallenge in 2007, just over \$4 million has been raised for Westchester cultural organizations.

"Congratulations to ArtsWestchester and all of the award recipients," Astorino said. "The county is pleased to partner with ArtsWestchester and the private sector on this important program; it is our way of being creative. As we've learned over time, this approach helps

Mount Pleasant Towing Company Pays Tribute to Fallen Officers

continued from page 11

Voeltz has is forming a charity that will allow Wheels of Honor to accept tax deductible donations. He is also planning to use some of the donations to purchase a new second car. Once the second car has been decorated, Voeltz plans to donate the first car to the Law Enforcement Museum in Washington, D.C.

When Wheels of Honor its nonprofit status, Voeltz intends to provide donated money to the families of fallen police officers.

The car was also a popular attraction at the recently-held Westchester County Gun Show in White Plains, he said.

"(People) can't thank us enough," Voeltz said, adding that he has received letters of appreciation. He said one of those letters came from the Pittsburgh Police Department, noting the trip took about seven hours each way.

"These cops need recognition, more than they're getting," Voeltz said.

For more information about Wheels of Honor, call 914-769-6807, send an e-mail to info@wheelsofhonor.com or visit www.wheelsofhonor.com.

Westchester maintain its reputation as a place where people want to live, work and play; it shows Westchester is a place where our cultural resources match our economic strengths and our intellectual capital. The Arts, and ArtsWestchester, play a vital role in all of this."

There were 47 arts organizations that were awarded funds in the 2016 Art\$WChallenge match, including the Pleasantville-based Arc Stages and Axial Theatre Company, the Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation, located in White Plains and Chappaqua, the Hudson Stage Company in Armonk and the Jacob Burns Film Center.

"We are thankful to the county executive and county legislators for their unwavering support towards arts and culture in Westchester," said Janet Langsam, CEO of ArtsWestchester. "We are equally pleased to see the Art\$WChallenge program grow each year. Since the program started, we've seen the list of participants grow more than 50 percent and the County's economy has benefited as a result of the increased cultural activity and tourism."

For more information about ArtsWestchester, visit www.artswestchester.org.



Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino; Seth Soloway, Performing Arts Center at Purchase College; Laurent Fisher, Neuberger Museum of Art; Westchester County Legislator and ArtsWestchester board member Francis Corcoran and Chairman of the Board of Legislators Michael Kaplowitz at ArtsWestchester's Art\$WChallenge Award reception on Feb. 7.





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2010 Subaru Forester	125,965	F346A-16	JF2SH6DC8AH725648	\$9,995
2009 Subaru Forester	77,230	P7569A	JF2SH636X9H747237	\$11,995
2009 Subaru Forester LTD	93,573	P7522A	JF2SH64679H783689	\$13,995
2007 Subaru Outback	110,951	P7553	4S4BP61CO77300070	\$9,995
2007 Mini Cooper Conv.	84,716	P7536A	WNWRF33547TF66539	\$7,995
2007 Subaru WRX S/W	81,945	16-089A	JF1GG74657G814041	\$14,995
2006 VW Jetta	117,670	12VW-109A	3VWRG71K86M840963	\$5,995
2005 Subaru Legacy	97,776	16-342A	4S3BL616557209271	\$7,995
2004 VW Beetle Conv.	84,972	P7537	3VWCM31Y24M323828	\$7,995
2009 Subaru Legacy	50,803	F197A-17	4S3BL616397222963	\$11,995
2010 Toyota Camry	56,500	F067A-17	4T1BK3EK5AU604454	\$10,995
2002 Subaru Outback	93,541	17-173A	4S3BH675127634076	\$6,995
2009 GMC Acadia	94,217	P7605	1GKEV23D89J15575	\$12,995
2012 Ford Focus	42,500	P7607A	1FAHP3H2XCL166153	\$9,995

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Five Things to Know if Someone You Love is Addicted to Painkillers

Every day 52 people die from opioid overdoses nationwide, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported more than 12 million U.S. residents used prescription painkillers non-medically in the past year.

Unfortunately, even a small dosage can depress respiratory function, and these drugs can be especially dangerous when combined with other common substances like alcohol and sleeping pills. What's more, prescription drug abuse can be addictive, and even lead to heroin use.

If you love someone who may be addicted to prescription painkillers, here are five things the National Safety Council says you should know.

1. Addiction is a chronic disease that affects the brain. Addiction, like heart disease or diabetes, leads to increasingly poor health, and can be fatal if it's not effectively treated and managed. People who suffer from addiction still have self-worth and should be treated with dignity. Unfortunately, shame and discrimination prevent many individuals from seeking treatment. Recovery can be achieved in many different ways and all recovery efforts should be celebrated.

2. Medication Helps. Opioid and heroin addiction cause a chemical imbalance in the brain, which medication can help repair. There are three major medications typically used as part of a comprehensive

treatment plan that includes counseling and participation in social support programs: Buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone. Buprenorphine and methadone diminish the effects of withdrawal and cravings restoring brain chemistry. Naltrexone blocks the euphoric effects of opioids and heroin. Buprenorphine and naltrexone can be administered by health care providers. Methadone is delivered in specialized clinics.

3. Traditional treatments aren't always effective. Recovery is a lifelong journey. Unfortunately, some traditional treatments focus on quicker fixes like attempting it alone or by going cold turkey, which ultimately can be detrimental. Indeed, rates of relapse and overdose are higher for people who have gone through 30-day treatment programs, and 56 percent of people who leave treatment centers relapse within the first week. However, medications, can offer longer-term solutions, and are often less expensive than in-patient treatment. If traditional substance abuse programs haven't worked, consider medication.

4. Support is critical. A failed cycle of detox and inpatient therapy, then relapse, can leave a person feeling hopeless. This is why support is critical. Doctors and treatment counselors are important, but even more so is a well-informed support group of family and friends.

"Addiction is not a broken arm that can be fixed. It's like being on a permanent diet with a piece of candy staring at you every day," said Avi Israel, a survivor advocate who lost his son after battling a prescription drug addiction. He advises friends and family of patients to, "Know the signs of addiction. Don't judge. Throw tough love out the window. Love. But love with structure."

5. Understanding addiction is crucial. Both patients and their friends and family should understand that addiction is a disease, and know what is needed to manage it.

"My son had Crohn's disease, and I knew everything about that. I wish I had known as much about addiction," Israel said/

There are more options than traditional 30-day-treatment programs and 12-step programs. In addition to medication, there are support programs like SMART recovery, which provide attendees with tools based on the latest scientific research, as well as a worldwide community with self-empowering, science-based support groups.

A road of recovery is paved by many people – not just those in recovery. With the right support systems in place, a successful and sober life is possible.

This article was reprinted by permission of statepoint.net.

Inaugural Walk for Women Veterans at Pace May 21

The Barbara E. Giordano Foundation will hold its inaugural Walk for Women Veterans in honor of National Military Appreciation Month on Sunday, May 21, at Pace University in Pleasantville.

Everyone must register in order to walk. There is no fee to register. The first 200 registrants receive a Walk for Women Veterans wristband and any individual walker who raises \$150 or more receives a commemorative 2017 Walk for Women Veterans T-shirt.

Money raised from the walk will go toward establishing and delivering the much-needed services and programs for woman veterans and their families. These will include peer counseling, peer support groups, employment

assistance, childcare, housing, specialized programming, healing from military sexual abuse, creative arts for self-expression, skills to help cope with transitioning to civilian life, resource guides to services (VA and non-VA) and educational forums (holistic health, job training, stress management).

This family friendly event is stroller and handicap accessible. No pets are allowed except for service dogs. Kacey Grean of Radio 100.7 WHUD will serve as MC.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. The walk kicks off at 9:30 a.m., and will take place around the campus.

For more information, to register a team, or walk as an individual, call 914-686-8002, visit www.giordanofoundation.org or e-mail

walkforwomenvets@gmail.com.

The Barbara E. Giordano Foundation provides holistic health and education programs and services that "fill the gap" between what is already available and what is still needed to help women veterans and their families live productive and healthy lives. The foundation is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization and is named after the late Barbara E. Giordano, a nurse, hospital administrator and author who championed the cause for every patient, demanding the best of care for each individual. While she possessed an incredible knowledge of traditional medicine, she had a strong dedication to holistic health education programs for women.

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Herbert Hadad
Writer/Journalist, Pocantico Hills

By Martin Wilbur

Herbert Hadad never could have imagined that an essay he wrote for The New York Times nearly 32 years ago would spawn an on-stage production.

But that's what happened last month when The Jewish Women's Theatre in Los Angeles contacted Hadad out of the blue asking his permission to use an op-ed piece of his as the basis for a new play.

"I was bewildered in a happy way," Hadad said. "It couldn't be bad news."

The piece, which printed on Aug. 3, 1985, was titled "Both Jewish and Arabic," and outlined his hope to keep his family's Arabic roots alive in his three children. Hadad's father immigrated to the United States from Aleppo, Syria as a young adult in the early 1920s.

The article was reprinted 20 years ago in the book "Sephardic American Voices," a collection of essays. That is where the theater company spotted the story.

It didn't take long for Hadad to give his permission. The company has been writing the script and the play is scheduled to run 15 to 20 times next month. Hadad

said the company's mission is to transform stories from the page to the stage.

"I'm getting a small honorarium, which is nice, but more importantly it's going to be videotaped, the production, he said.

The play is the latest twist in Hadad's long and satisfying career, dating back to his first job rewriting copy at The Boston Globe shortly after he graduated Northeastern University. Wanting to do actual reporting, Hadad left for a job with the Keene Evening Sentinel in New Hampshire before returning to The Globe.

"I had the good fortune, which I didn't realize at the time, to become a midnight copy boy at The Boston Globe, and that opened my eyes to the excitement and pleasure of journalism, and then ultimately become a reporter there," Hadad said.

After five years, he returned to his native New York City where he would eventually work for the New York Post and The Times. There was also a brief stop at a public relations firm, which is where he met his wife Evelyn in 1972. She initially rebuffed his overtures because



if it didn't work out there would be the awkwardness of having to see each other daily. The day Hadad was abruptly fired, he asked Evelyn out again on his way out the door.

"I was stressed for five or 10 minutes and then I went down the hall to her office and said 'Can we go out? I don't work here anymore,'" Hadad recalled.

Hadad would freelance for years, writing for a wide cross-section of publications. The pressures of having three children, however, forced him to look for full-time work.

His journalism connections led him to an 18-year stay as a press officer for the U.S. Attorney's office in White Plains. He retired from that job in 2015.

While journalism was Hadad's career passion, the 1985 op-ed piece also highlights his deep connection to both his Middle Eastern and Jewish heritage.

"I had a lot of Jewish friends in Boston, made more in New York. It's unavoidable,"

Hadad said. "I love the Jewish sense of humor. I had no trouble, except my dad, the way he understood the religion and from the way he spoke Hebrew, was strange to the Ashkenazi brethren.

"I was very proud of him and I became more Arabic because of my admiration for him," Hadad continued. "We didn't speak Arabic in the household but I've been taking courses ever since."

He would also teach his children, who are now grown – or at least try to.

Hadad's father never realized his dream of revisiting Aleppo, but the family scheduled a visit in 2008. It pains Hadad to see Syria decimated from the unending civil war.

"It's only been eight years (since the trip). Frankly, it's tears every day," Hadad said.

Despite retiring two years ago, Hadad's love of writing hasn't waned. He's an instructor at the Hudson Valley Writers' Center in Sleepy Hollow and has recently self-published a book, "Finding Immortality: The Making of One American Family," which is the story of his own family. Hadad is also putting together another book, a collection of his essays.

He's grateful that he has the material to write about his family and his experiences, culled from his years as a freelancer, which afforded him the opportunity to often work from home and be close to his children as they grew up.

"If I wasn't around I wouldn't know them half as well," Hadad said.

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Based on information from The National Association of Realtor's Economics' Outlook Report 11/17/2016 and the Hudson Gateway Multiple Listing Service: Pleasantville School District; in 2016; by office; sale of single family homes, condos and co-ops.



Family Photos Used as Home Décor Increasingly Popular

While realtors normally advise their home-selling clients to remove family photographs from refrigerators and other personal photography from walls and tables, not everybody takes that advice.

Some homeowners use their photographs, especially wedding photos, as decoration. I must confess one of my guilty pleasures as a realtor is to sneak a peek at those special mementos.

Interior decorating is a personal statement and, as a decorative accessory, use of portraiture is as personal as one can get. Eyes fixed on a camera lens or a portrait artist capturing what he or she sees results in eyes looking directly at us, as though trying to communicate who the subjects are, or questioning who their beholder is.

In my home, many pairs of eyes are staring at me because I collect old paintings of people who are mostly unknown and long departed, but I still feel their essence and energy.

Through the ages, before photography, only the wealthy could afford to be immortalized through portraiture. Here in America, the art of portraiture was claimed by more common folk in the



By Bill Primavera

early 19th century as itinerant artists made a living by visiting households with paint, brushes and canvases in hand, ready to capture family members in their best pose.

To save time, the artist would sometimes paint the backgrounds and even the bodies in advance and fill in only the heads at the home, allowing the subject to choose the headless "clip art" they liked best.

The art and business of photographic portraiture started more than 150 years ago with America's first well-known photographer, Matthew Brady.

Brady's first portrait of Abraham Lincoln revealed a man so sincere, open and honest that Lincoln felt that it projected him favorably to his public. At Cooper Union, when Lincoln came to the podium to make his first major address in the presidential campaign, the crowd was aghast to find that he looked and spoke like a country bumpkin, but he won the crowd over by what he said. A combination of his speeches, published alongside engravings made from Brady's photograph, inadvertently became the first media campaign for president.

Photography, developed in America

just two decades before Lincoln's famous pose, captured the imagination of the country during the Civil War when every officer and draftee wanted to be photographed in uniform for loved ones before going off to battle. After the war, a popular theme was to reveal peoples' trades by posing with the tools of their crafts. A baker would pose with his rolling pin, a carpenter with his saw. By the turn of the century, families from all walks of life were going to photography studios to pose and to freeze a moment of family history.

Rather than languishing in photo albums that are seldom viewed, photographic portraits can be featured in the home with flourish. Most commonly, wedding photographs are displayed on furniture or walls of the living room or master bedroom, and series of children in various stages of development grace the walls of hallways.

But, more and more, homeowners are creating groupings of portraits, both large and small, in the living room or central hallway, rather than saving them for the bedroom or interspersing them singly



BILL PRIMAVERA PHOTO

Portrait of my wife, Margaret, taken in her bridal veil adorns the wall of our living room.

throughout the house.

In my former home, I had a harpsichord in the central hall and the flat surface of it was covered with dozens of pictures in frames of our family and friends. Arranging such a large display is best done according to the size of the frame. Or, it can be done by generation. Whichever method is chosen, arrangement can be an art in itself, especially when the styles of frames vary greatly.

Another venue of photographic portraiture is for business purposes, and those of us in real estate establish our brands with it. We are frequently reminded to update our likenesses regularly on business cards and websites so that a prospective customer won't think that we're still in high school.

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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Business of the Week

Travellati Tours

By Colette Connolly

Travel was at one time a necessary facet of Elizabeth Kemble's profession. Now it's her passion and something she has successfully turned into a growing business.

"This had been on my mind for at least five years or so," Kemble said of Travellati Tours, the company she started in 2015 that organizes themed interactive travel tours to Paris and Berlin.

To provide her customers with a more personal travel experience as opposed to taking them on run-of-the-mill sightseeing tours, Kemble believed she could provide more intrigue in the form of literary travel journeys.

Watching the romantic comedy "Midnight in Paris" for the third time gave Kemble the inspiration for "Papa's Paris Tour."

"A light bulb went off," said Kemble, who was born in France and moved with her family to Cincinnati and later to New Jersey as a child. "I wanted to go back in time."

With the help of a scriptwriter, she developed her first tour, a weeklong saunter through Paris where visitors follow Ernest Hemingway's footsteps throughout the city.

She has since developed another excursion called "Bowie's Berlin Tour," which takes visitors to places that David Bowie frequented during his three-year stay in the German city when he composed the Berlin Trilogy albums "Low," "Heroes" and "Lodger."

Two accomplished playwrights help create what Kemble describes as "pop-up theater" in both travel tours. She hired local playwright Angelo Parra, the author of "Playwriting for Dummies" and a theater and playwriting teacher at Rockland Community College, and the Los Angeles-based Lucy Wang, who wrote the Berlin tour script.

During the second day of the Paris tour, travelers get to meet the Hemingway character in one of his favorite cafes, La Closerie des Lilas.

"He tells us what Paris is like, he

interacts with us and he has a drink with us," explained Kemble, who worked as an IT project manager and is also an actress, having played dramatic and comedic roles in local theater groups in upstate New York and improv in Westchester.

The Paris tour also includes encounters at the favorite haunts of American novelists Gertrude Stein and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

The Berlin tour includes three custom-designed interactive experiences with actors and musicians

portraying Bowie's flat mates Iggy Pop and Brian Eno and features a visit to Dschungel, the quintessential 1970s Berlin club where Bowie often partied.

The tour takes participants to Bösebrücke, the site of the border crossing where the wall came down, and The Mauer Memorial, where remains of the wall can still be seen.

"Both travel experiences foster community and intimate conversations," Kemble said.

Kemble's tours has attracted an "underserved market" of solo travelers



Elizabeth Kemble, owner of Travellati Tours, which specializes in themed interactive trips to Paris and Berlin.

and baby boomer women, she said. Tour travelers don't need extensive knowledge of either Hemingway or Bowie to enjoy the trips, which are given in English.

The cost of both tours includes hotel accommodations, meals and admission to various attractions. Airfare is included in the "Papa's Paris Tour" as is luggage transportation fees and a car service to the airport.

Kemble said she books hotels where she has stayed previously and takes visitors to restaurants that she personally recommends. Both tours accommodate six to 12 people.

Working from her base in Tarrytown, Kemble maintains a busy schedule organizing tours, arranging auditions for actors in both cities and approving scripts. She hopes to add additional tours in the future.

"These are not educational tours, per se," said Kemble. "I like to say they are fun tours for educated people."

To find out more about Travellati Tours, visit www.travellati.com or e-mail Kemble at liz@travellati.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF TAX-SOLUTION4EXPATS.COM, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/14/2016. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **Seung Yup Kang, 27 Overlook street, Mount Vernon, New York 10552.** **Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF HARD-CORE REALTY LLC FILED WITH SSNY ON 12/6/16. 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: **829 Franklin Avenue, Thornwood NY 10594.** **Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WOLVERINE SECURITY LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/26/2016. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **373 Downing Dr., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598.** **Purpose: Security Business.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LEARNING ANALYTICS GROUP, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/07/2011. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **2435 Pinetree Pl Yorktown Hts, NY 10598** **Purpose: any lawful acts.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONE HOME INSPECTIONS, LLC. Filed with SSNY on January 3, 2017. Office in Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC. upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **Lisa Stone 2245 Mark Rd., Yorktown Heights NY, 10598.** **Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF THE FORMATION OF: HALITE GROUP, LLC. ART OF ORG. filed with SSNY on 12/30/16. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process: **156 Great Oak Lane, Pleasantville, NY 10570.** **Purpose: any lawful acts. Provides management consulting services.**

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF BEVERAGE MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC, a foreign limited liability company ("LLC") Cert. of Authority filed with Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/14/16. 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: **David B. Petshaft, P.C. 222 Bloomingdale Rd, Ste 116, White Plains, NY 10605.** **Purpose: any lawful activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF: RAY BLUE MUSIC, LLC. Articles of organization filed with NY Sec. of State (SSNY) on 11/29/16. Office in Westchester County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **107 Armstrong Avenue, Peekskill, NY**

10566, which is also the principal business location. **Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

LEGAL NOTICE G ELITE SPORTS AND FITNESS, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/22/16, with an existence date of 01/01/2017. Office: Putnam County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, **39 Hilltop Dr., Mahopac, NY 10541.** **Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FRUIT & PEPPER, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/30/2017. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **109 Robins Rd., New Rochelle, NY 10801.** **Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING SERVICE WESTCHESTER, PLLC. Arts of org filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/26/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **110 Washington Ave., Pleasantville, NY 10570.** **Purpose: To provide Mental Health Counseling.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: **DGOLDCONSULTING, LLC** Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/04/17. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: **The LLC, 24 Larissa Lane; Thornwood, New York 10594,** **principal business location of the LLC.** **Purpose: any lawful business activity.**

PUBLIC NOTICE: The Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville approved

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Winter Birding: The Common and the Uncommon

By Brian Kluepfel

It's a funny thing, the naming of birds. Some names seem to fit perfectly, like the Scarlet Ibis or the Snowy Owl, while others don't make as much sense. There's the Red-bellied Woodpecker: you'd be hard-pressed to find any red on their breast. And the Common Merganser: while they may be plentiful, there is nothing really common about this aquatic bird.

Last week, in the midst of a rather awful work day, I took a short drive over to the Tarrytown Lakes. Taking a bumpy exit off the serpentine road, I walked to the metal border fence and spied some mergansers ("common mergs" in the birding world) in my binocular.

This is an uncommonly beautiful bird. The Cornell Lab describes them as a "streamlined duck" and I can think of no better designation. Male Common Mergansers are white, with a dark green head and a thin, bright red-orange bill. Often in the bird world, males take the cake in terms of good looks, but the female common merg is a spectacle herself: cinnamon-brown head with white chin and a Sid Vicious crest, atop a grey body.

I was shivering in my dress coat, and steamy breath issued from my mouth as



SUE O'ROURKE PHOTO

A female Common Merganser can be spotted in our area.

I looked at a flock of about 40 common mergs. The closer I crept, the more special these birds appeared. But honestly, I had a short break from work and I was cold. I dashed back to the car and was back in the salt mines of technology in about 10 minutes.

For The Birds

It only took those few moments to shake off the effect of a disagreeable day. Birds are everywhere, and the more attuned we become to their presence, the more we see and recognize. For me, this fun multiplies with the more I learn and the more expert birders I hang out with. For example, just days after my fowl experience, I stopped near the same point and met a fellow birder with

a powerful spotting scope, who pointed out not only mergs, but an individual Common Loon among the flock. (Insert joke about lone loon here.)

Birding can be rewarding at all levels of experience, which is why – drum roll please – each year the Cornell Lab of Ornithology conducts the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) for four days in February. This year it runs Feb. 17-20. Check out <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/> for the details; all they ask is that you count birds for a minimum of 15 minutes on one of the days. That's a cup of coffee, folks, with your iPad or a notepad by your side.

GBBC is, like the annual Christmas Counts, an example of citizen science that allows birders of any age to contribute to

our collective knowledge. Tracking birds is one way of observing changes to our planet that may also affect us humanoids. On a lighter note, keeping a list with your kids or your partner is a fun way to spend part of a morning, and you never have to leave your home.

You could make it a friendly competition among friends or classmates – or the beginning of a cool science project for school. You might try to photograph the more interesting avian visitors. You may even discover species you never knew existed in your own backyard. (You can also do similar armchair birding at the Croton Nature Center's Project Feeder Watch, from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays.)

So, this weekend, stock up your feeders and linger over your coffee, tea, cookies and scones and jot down what you see. Maybe it will be the first page of entries on your life list of birds.

Brian Kluepfel is a longtime birder and board member of the Saw Mill River Audubon. He's authored guidebooks throughout South America for Fodor's and Lonely Planet, and also blogs on nature at brianbirdwatching.wordpress.com. For local birding events, check out www.sawmillriveraudubon.org.

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. 14

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

Italian Language and Culture. Mara De Matteo, born and raised in Italy and passionate about her native language, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes. She creates interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and even photography. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Also Feb. 21 and 28. Info: 914-273-3887.

"Only Angels Have Wings." A screening of Howard Hawks' classic. Jean Arthur is a traveling nightclub pianist who gets more than she bargained for when she meets a handsome, daring pilot (Cary Grant) during a stopover in a South American port town. Part of the Retro Revival film series, sponsored by Wine Enthusiast.

Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:15 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

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.

Spirituality Workshop: Praising God in Synagogue and Church. A workshop on spirituality presented by Rev. Dr. Carole Johannsen, coordinator of pastoral care at Phelps Hospital and Cantor Amy Goldstein. Phelps Hospital Auditorium, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 9 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact Ellen Woods at 914-366-3937 or e-mail ewoods@pmhc.us.

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Every Monday: Public Bird Walks, 8:30 am
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3rd Saturdays: Young Birder Walks, 4:00 pm

Upcoming Public Programs

Thu, Feb 16: Exploring Québec's Gaspé Peninsula
Thu, Mar 2: Climate Change: Birds, Bees, & Bushes
Thu, Mar 16: Field Guide to the Birds of New York

Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org for event details and to learn about our eight local wildlife sanctuaries

Happenings

continued from page 23

Pound Fitness Program. A 45-minute full-body jam session that combines cardio, Pilates, plyometrics and isometric movements and poses with the excitement and euphoria of drumming. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix, you'll rock your entire body into beautiful shape while torching calories, isolating core muscles and strengthening coordination and balance. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greely Ave., Chappaqua. 10:15 a.m. \$20. Every Wednesday. Also Saturdays at 11:15 a.m. RSVP required. Info and registration: Contact Peggy at 914-960-4097.

New Mommy Meet-up. Whether you just gave birth to your first or fourth child, join us and enjoy time to meet and chat with other new moms in the Rompereer Indoor Playground. This is not a structured class, but rather an opportunity to hang out with your new baby. We also invite guest speakers to come and share their expertise about various topics that interest parents of new babies. World Cup Schools, 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua. 10:15 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday through June 21. Info: 914-238-9267.

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

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday (except Feb. 20). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Feb. 20). 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 (except Feb. 20). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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

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

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

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.library.org.

Art Series: Huntington Gallery. It might be cold out but take a look at the collections housed in sunny California's Huntington Gallery. Located on the Huntington Estate in San Marino, Calif., this institution is home to wonderful rose gardens and two major collections – one of European art from the 15th to the early 20th century and the other of American art from the late 17th to the mid-20th centuries. Discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

"Off the Rails." Pleasantville SEPTA presents this screening of the remarkable story of Darius McCollom, a man with Asperger's syndrome whose overwhelming love of transit has landed him in jail 32 times for impersonating New York City bus drivers and subway conductors and driving their routes. Despite never having injured anyone or damaged property, the film addresses society's failure to turn

one man's passion into a productive life. Followed by a Q&A via Skype with Jacob Burns Film Center Managing Director Dominick Balletta and director Adam Irving. Jacob Burns Film Center Media Lab, 405 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. SEPTA members: Free. Non-members: \$5. Info and tickets for members: E-mail events@pvilsepta.com. Info and tickets for non-members: Visit www.pvilsepta.com.

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

Thursday, Feb. 16

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 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday (except Feb. 20). 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: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.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.

Bereavement Support Group. For adults dealing with the loss of a loved one. Led by Bereavement Coordinator Bess Steiger. Phelps Hospital, Room 225, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 2:30 to 4 p.m. Suggested donation: \$10 per session. Also Feb. 16 and 23. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-366-3957 or e-mail bsteiger@pmhc.us.

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.library.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.library.org.

"People Say I'm Crazy." A documentary about schizophrenia made by someone with schizophrenia. This film tells the story of John Cadigan, who develops schizophrenia at 21 while attending college. Initially devastated by his diagnosis, John eventually finds appropriate treatment and works his way into recovery, with the help of family and friends. The spotlight is turned on John's family as they struggle to understand his disease. With courage and love, the family learns how to support John in his efforts to resume living an independent and fulfilling life. Followed by a panel discussion that includes leading professionals on schizophrenia and individuals living in recovery. The Picture House, 175 Wolfs Lane, Pelham. Doors open at 6 p.m. Screening at 6:15 p.m. \$15. Tickets must be purchased by Feb. 12. Info and tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/event/nami-westchester-presents-people-say-im-crazy-tickets-29225534360>.

"A Gesture and a Word." Join us for a special tribute for singer/songwriter Rob Morsberger, a musician's musician and Croton-on-Hudson resident who collaborated with countless artists including Patti Smith and Marshall Crenshaw, and called on his classical training to compose musical scores for "Masterpiece Theatre" and the PBS television series "Nova." Filmmaker Dave Davidson's riveting, nuanced portrait features appearances by friends and collaborators. Followed by a Q&A with Davidson and Marshall Crenshaw

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Is DNA Research the Future Solution for Winemakers' Woes?



By Nick Antonaccio

Since the Romans began planting vines throughout their empire in the centuries before the birth of Christ, man has had to adapt to environmental issues and problems.

Since the European monks began toiling in their sophisticated vineyards and wineries in the Medieval and Renaissance eras, man has had to deal with the vagaries of weather and natural disasters.

Today's vineyard owners and winemakers are dealing with these centuries-old issues in a manner similar to the trial and error methods of their predecessors – until recently.

The research and success in dealing with nature's proclivities and calamities is beginning to shift from artisans in disheveled, stained work clothes in field laboratories to trained scientists in crisp, spotless lab coats in science laboratories.

Throughout history, winemakers have relied on traditional means of developing, hybridizing and grafting grapevines to produce more disease-resistant rootstock and grapes with unique traits. By unraveling the DNA of grapevines and

grapes, the future impact of science on the wine industry seems destined to overcome many of the issues that have plagued winemakers for millennia.

For centuries, winemakers realized that developing the best grapevines was the function of two factors. First, the need for strong rootstock that withstands diseases such as fungus and mildew, and predators such as insects. Second, the hybridization of growth shoots, grafted onto rootstock, that produce the optimal quality fruit for a particular environment.

Let's review several instances in which man's trial-and-error methods persevered, but over a protracted period and at significant unrealized profits. A question looms large: Will DNA altering be a radical divergence from nature or a logical progression of man's interaction with it?

1. Before the advent of evolving DNA discoveries, winemakers across nations were continual victims of nature. In the late 19th century, French winemakers, in an effort to improve their grapevines, imported rootstock from the United States. Unfortunately, these hybridized clones transported an insect (Phylloxera) that, while not harmful to American rootstocks, were devastating to European plants. Thousands of acres throughout Europe were wiped out in a matter of a few years.

Belatedly, the desperate French wine

industry discovered that the American rootstock was immune to the Phylloxera. What a vicious circle: American rootstock unknowingly spread the disease and then was discovered to be the cure. In the 21st century, similar circumstances might be rapidly resolved in a science laboratory. Will DNA altering be a radical divergence from nature or a logical progression of man's interaction with it?

2. Before DNA research, regional producers dependent on traditional grape varieties were victims of changing consumer palates. In Tuscany, sales of Chianti Classico wines began declining in the 1990s as consumers' preferences for more balanced, less acidic, wines emerged, relegating Chianti Classicos to also rans.

Growers in the region reacted by investing significant research dollars to develop hundreds of clones of their signature Chianti Sangiovese grape. Winemakers then conducted their own experiments to determine which of the new clones were best suited for their unique terroir. Today the quality and popularity of Chianti Classico wines is at an all-time high. Will DNA altering be a radical divergence from nature or a logical progression of man's interaction with it?

3. In the United States, winegrowers have gone one step further than the Tuscans. Rather than seeking a singular clone that meets a particular profile, they have selected and planted clones that optimize grape quality and quantity in small plots within a single vineyard. I've visited one such winery, Siduri Winery in California, that plants clones to meet specific terroirs of plots of several acres in size or several rows of vines. All in the name of manipulating nature to meet their objectives. Will

DNA altering be a radical divergence from nature or a logical progression of man's interaction with it?

Science is stepping in to replace the time-worn efforts of winegrowers experimenting in their

vineyards. The science of genomics is rising in popularity; stay tuned for further developments.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. A member of the Wine Media Guild, Nick 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.

You Heard It
Through the
Grapevine

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds 020717

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the transfer of funds for a Police Vehicle in accordance with the adopted Fiscal Year Budget 2016-17 of \$44,000 from the Reserve for Capital Expenditures at their meeting held on Monday, January 30, 2017. Said authorization is subject to a permissive referendum period of thirty (30) days **Judith Weintraub Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville, Westchester County, New York**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF NO-ZELGOV, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on Jan. 06, 2017. 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: **Yves Jerome 60 Morrow Ave. 5KS Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

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Happenings

continued from page 24

followed by live musical performance. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$20. Non-members: \$25. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Maceo Parker in Concert. This saxophonist embodies the legacy of soul and funk music like no other musician can. Always at the forefront, Parker has been a common thread in the history of funk — helping to pioneer the sound of the genre in collaborations alongside seminal icons like James Brown, George Clinton and Prince while honing his own signature brand of showmanship. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$38, \$42 and \$48. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Friday, Feb. 17

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

"Twisted Valentines." A quirky collection of eight one-act plays sharing an offbeat and unsentimental take on the Feb. 14 paean to love. An Axial Theatre production. St. John's Episcopal Church's Community House, 8 Sunnyside Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$25. Seniors and students: \$20. Also Feb. 18 at 3 and 8 p.m. and Feb. 19 at 4 p.m. Info: 914-286-7680. Tickets: Visit <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2762854>.

"Sylvia." Pleasantville theater company Arc Stages will present this production from its professional company, The Next Stage, that carries a timely message of the need for connection in an increasingly alien and impersonal world. In a New York City upper West Side apartment in the 1990s, Greg and Kate, a middle-aged, upper middle class married couple, experience their empty nest in very different ways. Tensions increase between them when Greg brings a stray dog home named Sylvia. He becomes completely obsessed, causing the couple to reevaluate their marriage. Directed by Ann-Ngaire Martin. Arc Stages, 147 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. Adults: \$36. Seniors and students: \$28. Also Feb. 18. Info and tickets: 914-747-6206 or visit www.arcstages.org.

Let it Be: A Celebration of the Music of The Beatles. Direct from London's West End and Broadway, this sensational

international show has been seen by more than two million people worldwide and is jam-packed with over forty of The Beatles' greatest hits accompanied by gorgeous lighting and video production. Relive The Beatles' meteoric rise from their humble beginnings, through the heights of Beatlemania, to their later studio masterpieces, with live performances of early tracks. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$35, \$45 and \$55. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Sha Na Na in Concert. These rock 'n' roll doo-wop legends combined their love for the classics of rock with a dynamic theatrical approach as fellow college students at Columbia University in New York in 1969. They appeared just before Jimi Hendrix 45 years ago at Woodstock in just their eighth professional gig. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 8 p.m. \$40.03 and \$45.75. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 or visit www.paramounthudsonvalley.com.

Saturday, Feb. 18

The Great Backyard Bird Count. Join Bedford Audubon President and biology Professor Dr. Alan Clark to learn how to identify common feeder and yard birds and enter your data for the Great Backyard Bird Count, which runs through February 20. Coffee, hot cocoa and donuts will be served. A family-friendly event; children must be accompanied by an adult. Bylane Farm, 35 Todd Rd., Katonah. 9 to 11 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact Susan at 914-302-9713 or e-mail info@bedfordaudubon.org.

Pleasantville Farmers Market. The Pleasantville Farmers Market is the largest, year-round farmers market in Westchester and the one voted "Best of Westchester" in 2014 to 2016 by the readers of Westchester Magazine. With over 40 vendors participating in the indoor market, the delicious good time continues. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Every Saturday through Mar. 25. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

Third Saturday Bird Seed Sale. The sale supports the local conservation work of the Saw Mill River Audubon. Prunyan 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 Whipoorwill Rd. East. Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Also Feb. 25. Info: 914-273-3887.

Meditation Workshop. Michael Cardillo will help you reach peace and a clear vision in meeting your life's goals. An AA member, he will share his knowledge and meditation techniques. Open to all. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. to noon. 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.

Saddle Up Saturdays With Jonathan Demme: "The Naked Spur." This series returns to try and recapture the heady thrill of settling into the theater for the delicious ritual of getting immersed in a full-tilt Saturday Western matinee. Demme will appear at select screenings. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. Noon. Members: \$8. Non-members: \$13. Most Saturdays through March 25. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

"Landfill Harmonic." This is the message of the Recycled Orchestra, the most unlikely musical group you can imagine, which performs on instruments made of tin cans, scrap metal, old tubes and other bits of junk that were tossed in the trash. Based in a notorious slum outside the Paraguayan capital — home to one of the largest landfills in South America — follow a visionary music teacher, a resourceful craftsman and an intrepid group of children who build something unimaginably beautiful out of other people's trash. With kids' activities. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. Noon. Members: \$8. Non-members: \$13. Children (13 and under): \$7.50 Also Feb. 19 at noon and Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. (Both additional dates do not include kids' activities). Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Winter Family Day. A creative afternoon of printmaking activities inspired by the artists in the current exhibition POP! Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 1 to 4 p.m. \$10 per

child. Family Circle Members: Free. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit www.neuberger.org.

Book Signing. Sharon Tomback, North Castle Co-Historian and author of the new Arcadia Publishing book "North Castle," will be signing copies of the work. Barnes & Noble City Center, 230 Main St., White Plains. 2 to 4 p.m. Free.

Winter Howl for Pups of All Ages. Enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour — dusk. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why it's a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will take a short sunset hike to howl with the center's ambassador wolves and critically endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves. Includes hot beverages in a woodstove-heated classroom. Please dress for cold weather and bring flashlights. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 5 p.m. Adults: \$16. Children (under 12): \$13. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

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

Saturday Night Jazz at Chappaqua Station: Kimberley Hawkey & The Swingaroos. With a hat tipped to New York's musical renaissance, Chappaqua Station welcomes local and international musicians to the historic train station. Think intimate lounge setting, warm bourbon glow, farm fresh cuisine and an inclusive spirit of Westchester's vibrant culture. Chappaqua Station, 1 Station Plaza, Chappaqua. 7 to 10 p.m. \$10 per person for table reservation. First come, first served at bar with no cover charge. Tickets available through Eventbrite. Info: 914-861-8001 or visit www.chappaquastation.com.

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. 19

Project FeederWatch. Whether you're a beginning birder or a budding ornithologist, we've got you covered in this new program for nature and bird lovers. Join a naturalist for morning bird watching, gather data for Project FeederWatch and brush up on local bird identification. For children seven years old and up. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 10 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Sunday and Monday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

ExaminerSports

SWIMMING Section One Championships

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017 Felix Festa Middle School West Nyack, New York



Declan Ahearn of Briarcliff/ Byram Hills/ Pleasantville/Valhalla/Westlake swims the 500 yard freestyle at last week's sectional championships.



Horace Greeley junior Bopaiah Paruvangada swims in the 100 yard butterfly at Felix Festa Middle School last week.



Fox Lane's Liam Loveless swims to a first-place finish in the 100 yard breaststroke with a time of 59.30 seconds, just ahead of Greeley's Andrew Schmitt and Suffern's Sean Flynn.



Garrett Kiesel of Greeley swims in the 500 yard freestyle race at the Section One championships.



Greeley senior John Koster displays the championship plaque after the Quakers captured another Section One swim title last Wednesday evening.



The victorious Horace Greeley swim team celebrates in the water after capturing the sectional championship once again.



John Koster is on his way to victory in the 100 yard butterfly at last week's sectional championships.



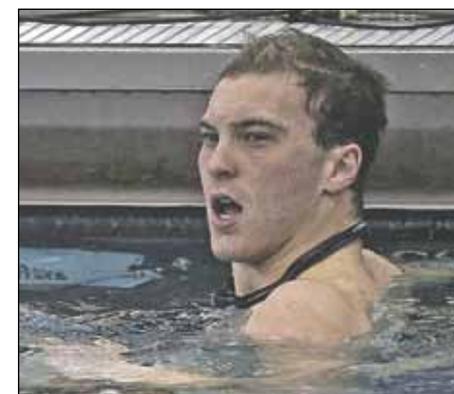
Alex Gagliardi of Fox Lane competes in the 100 yard breaststroke at last Wednesday evening's sectional championships.



Greeley's Tyler Hill gets set to hit the water in the 100 yard backstroke, one of two individual events he won at last Wednesday's championships.



Brian Glat of the combo team Briarcliff/ Byram Hills/ Pleasantville/ Valhalla/Westlake finished third in the 100 yard backstroke.



Garrett Kaufmann of Fox Lane checks the board after finishing his 50-yard freestyle race.



Horace Greeley's Andrew Schmitt finished in second place in the 100 yard breaststroke.

Family Tradition Continues at the Sectional Championships

By Tony Pinciario

When the final whistle sounded, signifying the conclusion of the Section 1 Division II 106-pound final, Pleasantville freshman Len Balducci walked off the mat with a huge smile and continued a family tradition.

Balducci won the title and earned a berth in the New York State Division II Wrestling Championships, Feb. 24-25, at the Times-Union Center in Albany.

The Division II and Division I champions earn automatic berths. The wild-card recipients will be released mid week.

Fox Lane junior Matt Grippi won the Section 1 Division I 152-pound title and will be making his third consecutive trip to Albany. Byram Hills sophomore Luca Errico was the Division I 132-pound champion.

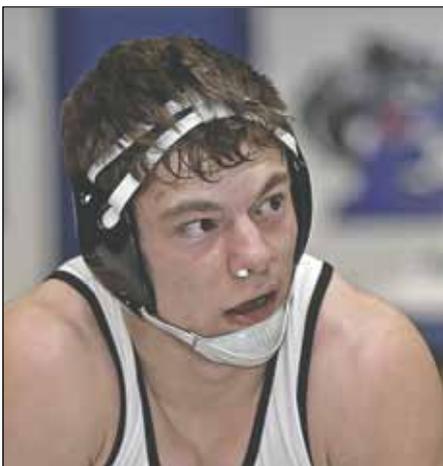
More importantly, though, Balducci joined his father, Lenny (1983), and uncle, Chris (1988 and '89), as Section 1 wrestling champions. Balducci also became the third family member to be guided to a title by coach Bob Bernarducci. The highly-respected Bernarducci was the Irvington coach when Lenny and Chris wrestled.

Along with Len winning, younger brother Michael took third at 99 pounds and both were instrumental in Pleasantville winning the team title. The Panthers had 12 place-finishers, led by Len Balducci and 112-pound champ Victor Perleshi. Pleasantville also won the team title in 2010.

Following his 15-0 technical fall over Putnam Valley's Owen McDonald, Balducci was embraced by his father.

"It felt really good and is definitely one of the best days of my life, but I got really emotional and it was kind of hard for me to process, at first, being a section champ like my dad and uncle," said Balducci, who is 32-1 on the season. "It was really nice to have my dad there, but he was probably more nervous than I was. He's always been there for me and always been proud of me and my brother.

"It's also amazing and really special for



Greg May of Pleasantville listens to some instructions during a break in his championship match at 152 pounds.



Pleasantville's Victor Perleshi pinned Edgemont's Andrew Williams in the title match at 120 pounds.

coach Bernarducci to have coached my dad and my uncle, and now me."

Bernarducci could not have been happier for the younger Balducci.

"I've been coaching for 37 years and Len's father was the first sectional champ I coached, so we have had a special bond since," Bernarducci said. "I believe I am the only coach to coach a father and son champ. I have known young Len since he was an infant and have seen him grow as both a wrestler and a great young man."

Balducci was introduced to wrestling as a kindergartner and immediately was hooked.

"I always had fun going and really loved it, rolling around mostly with the older kids and playing games at the end of practice," Balducci said.

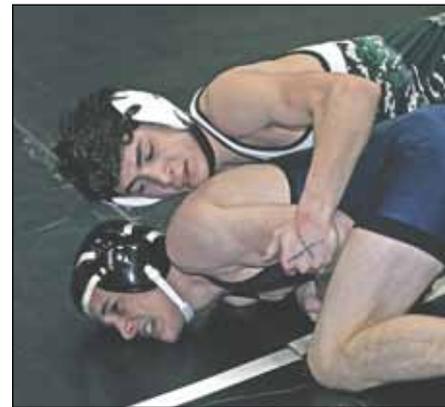
He debuted on varsity last year and was a sectional finalist. The runner-up status drove Balducci for a return trip to the final with a crowning conclusion.

"After losing last year I was a little disappointed, but I came back and did a lot of offseason work and it paid off," Balducci said. "I worked a lot on perfecting moves and conditioning."

The result was an outstanding freshman year and a dominant performance in winning the section. Prior to the technical



The Panthers' Victor Perleshi is about to pin Edgemont's Andrew Williams in the 120-pound championship match on Saturday afternoon.



Len Balducci of Pleasantville has control on his way to defeating Putnam Valley's Owen McDonald for the championship at 106 pounds.

fall in the final, Balducci pinned his first two opponents.

"Len was very determined and put in the work necessary in the offseason," Bernarducci said. "He was close last season and used that as motivation for the past year."

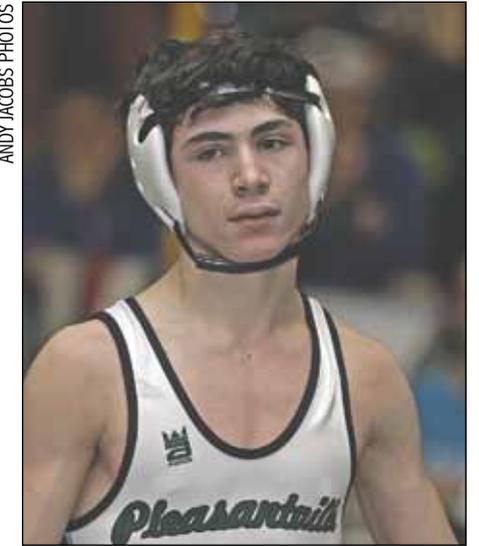
While winning a sectional title and team title was exciting, Balducci was also psyched for his brother.

"I felt really good for Michael," Balducci said. "Watching him take third in sectionals, in a tough weight class, as an eighth-grader is great. I was very proud of him and happy for him."

Bernarducci and assistant coach Steve Tornambe were proud of the team. Twelve place-finishers equaled Pearl River for the most in Division II.

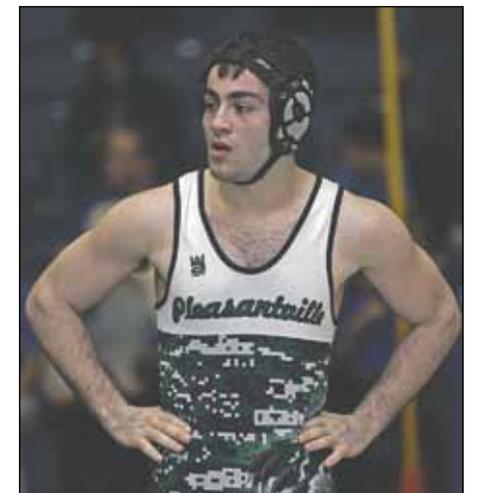
"We have stressed, all year, about the strength of our team was our overall depth," Bernarducci said. "We were led by five seniors, who were not individual section champs, but always set a positive example for our younger wrestlers both on and off the mat.

"I think some of our wrestlers were underestimated by a lot of people. Doug Crocitto, Greg May, and Henry Cuniffe all battled to make the finals. The consolation round was probably what won the

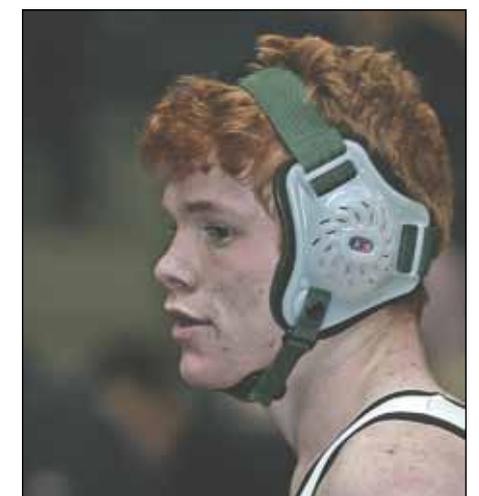


The Panthers' Len Balducci will be heading to Albany after capturing the sectional title at 106 pounds.

tournament for us. Jaden Kammer placing third, Carlos DeJesus defeating two wrestlers who had previously beaten him, Nayshawn Marks placing fourth, Chris May battling to fifth, Michael Perleshi placing fifth and Luke Pregiato placing sixth. Michael Balducci secured a huge pin to place third and, of course, our two champs, Len and Victor, who scored



Pleasantville's Doug Crocitto reached the finals at 145 pounds in the Section 1, Division II championships.



Pleasantville's Henry Cuniffe was a finalist at 182 pounds in Saturday's Division II wrestling championships.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

bonus points in the finals.”

Errico joined older brother, Jon, as a sectional champion. Jon won the 2014 120-pound title.

Errico, seeded second and now 28-4 this season, decisioned Mamaroneck's Crew Fullerton, 7-1, in the final. Fullerton upset top-seeded Joe Sasso of Horace Greeley in a semifinal. Errico reached the final with a hard-fought 7-6 decision over John Jay-Cross River's Louie Cree.

“Luca definitely had a tough road to the finals,” said Byram Hills coach Joey Grippi, a two-time sectional champion at Fox Lane. “He wrestled Cree the very first match of the year and Luca won in overtime. Throughout the tournament, I kept telling Luca to wrestle smart and if he did I believed he would end up on top. The main message was to take it one match at a time. You can't overlook anyone in this sport, so I was just trying to keep him focused on his next opponent.”

After Fullerton upset Sasso, it would have been understandable if Errico went in overconfident. Grippi would not allow that to happen.

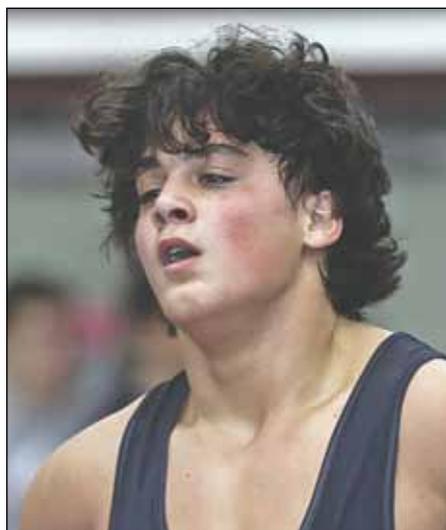
“When we saw Fullerton pulled off the upset and Luca advanced, I kept the message consistent -- wrestle smart, stay focused and you will win,” Grippi said. “Luca is very talented and has put in a lot of hard work and it paid off this weekend.”

Grippi was twice a sectional champ and witnessed younger brothers, Tommy and Matt, win a pair of sectional titles. Now Grippi is the coach of a section champ and he hopes Errico's accomplishment will be recognized by his peers.

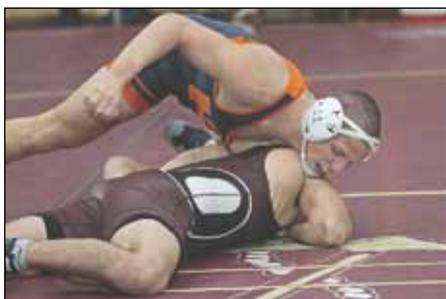
“It was a great feeling to get my first section champ as a coach,” said the Springfield College graduate. “It's funny because I get way more nervous for my brothers' and my wrestlers' matches than I did for my own.”

“It's been a rebuilding process at Byram these past two years, so to get a section champ was a great feeling and huge for the program. Hopefully, kids around the school see this and it makes them want to wrestle.”

Grippi will have the opportunity to



Luke Simon of Byram Hills won his opening match at 195 pounds on Saturday morning.



Greeley's Jacob Ferreira, a finalist at 170 pounds, is on his way to defeating Ossining's Charles Rios during their quarterfinal-round match.

get nervous for his brother as Matt won the 152-pound title. It was Matt Grippi's second consecutive title, tying him with Joey and Tommy, but it will be his third straight trip to Albany. He earned a wild card his freshman year.

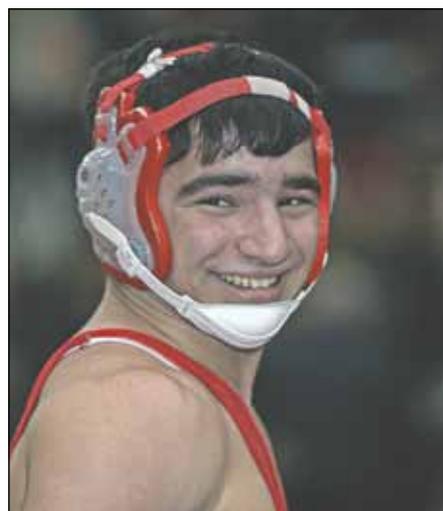
Grippi posted a technical fall and two pins, raising his record to 37-1. Grippi was expecting to see Connor Melbourne of John Jay-Cross River in the final, but an injury sidelined Melbourne for sectionals.

The only surprise was the Section 1 Division I tournament was condensed into one day because of an anticipated snowstorm on Sunday.

“I was expecting a two-day tournament, so that was hard to adjust to at the last



Ben Antin of Fox Lane has the upper hand in a 138-pound match at the Division 1 championships this past Saturday at Arlington.



Fox Lane's Matt Grippi had reason to smile on his way to another sectional title, this time at 152 pounds.

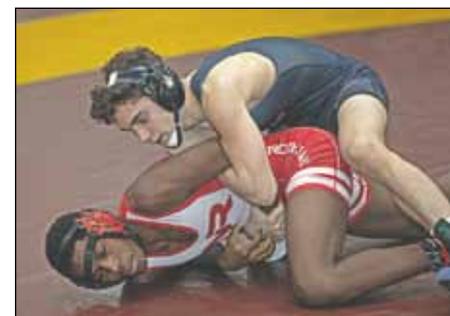
second, but I was prepared and expecting to win no matter what or where we were,” Matt Grippi said.

Grippi is looking forward to having coach Joey Grippi with him in Albany.

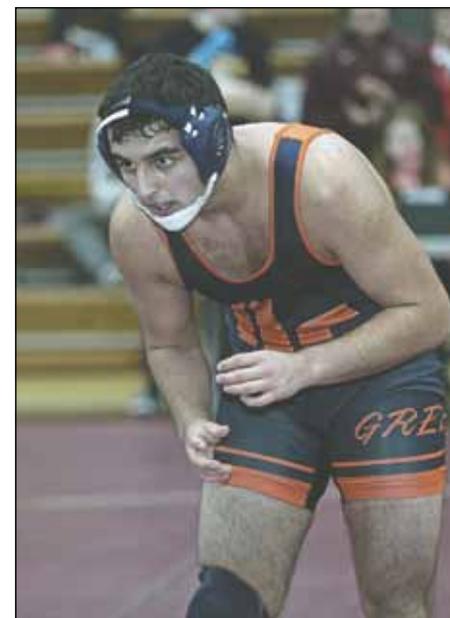
“It is really cool because now Joey will be down in the tunnel with me, giving me advice and helping me prepare for my matches,” he said.

Fox Lane had a second finalist in Johnny Santos (195). Amos Rivera (120) and Josh Rauch (160) each placed sixth.

Horace Greeley finished fourth with 118 points, buoyed by six place-finishers, including a pair of finalists – Aaron Wolk (160 pounds) and Jacob Ferreira (170). Wolk was defeated by Brewster's Grant



Luca Errico of Byram Hills, the champion at 132 pounds, is in control against North Rockland's Solomon Thomas on Saturday morning.

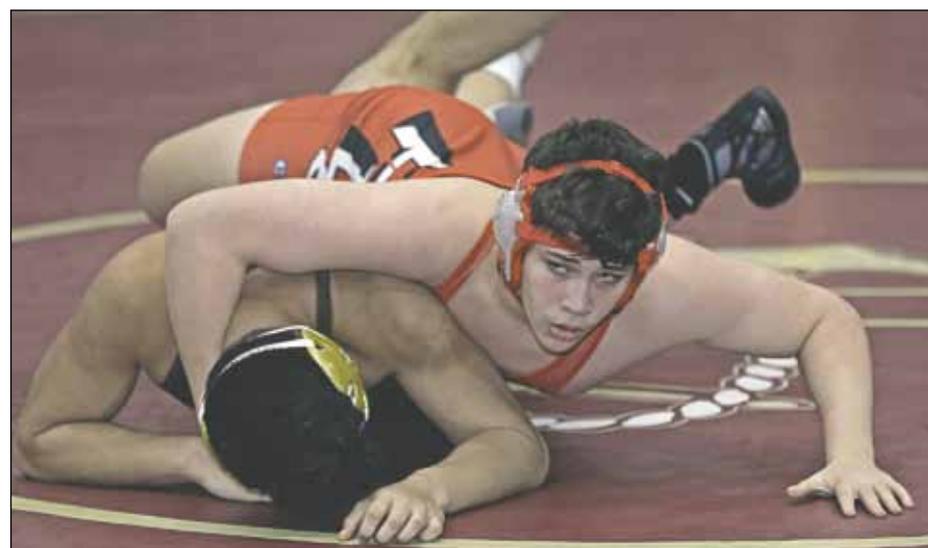


Nic Phillips of Greeley looks for a takedown during a match at 195 pounds.

Cuomo, a two-time section champ, and New Rochelle's Jordan Wallace eclipsed Ferreira.

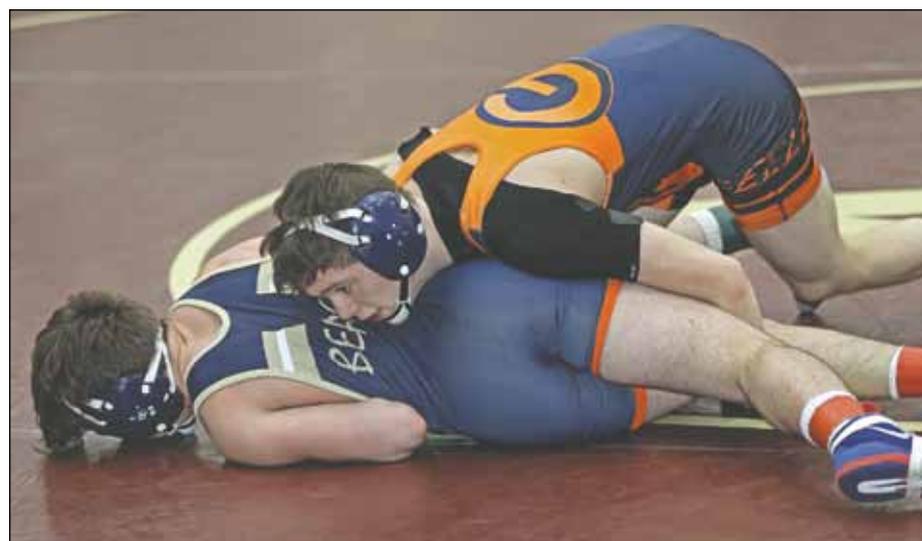
Joe Sasso (132) and Stephen Nadler (220) both finished third, Matthew Schreiber (99) advanced to the championship semifinals and placed fourth and Nathan Ferreira (126) was fifth.

Wolk, Jacob Ferreira and Schreiber, a sophomore, all finished with 33 wins and Ferreira, a freshman, accumulated 28 victories.



Fox Lane's Johnny Santos pinned Wynnum Sabile of Clarkstown South in the opening round at 195 pounds.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Horace Greeley's Joe Sasso tries to turn Beacon's Paul Cohn during the quarterfinals at 132 pounds on Saturday at Arlington High School.

Foxes Struggling as the Regular Season Comes to an End

By Andy Jacobs

Ideally, with the sectional playoffs about to begin later this week, this would be the time for a basketball team to be peaking.

But these aren't ideal days for Fox Lane.

The Foxes have struggled the past couple of weeks and whatever momentum they built earlier this season has all but disappeared. On Monday evening, they had one last chance to regain some of their diminished confidence with a game at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Unfortunately for the Foxes, the host Warriors did little to help change their fortunes. With a dominant performance in the paint by 6-6 senior center James Anozie, Lourdes overcame a three-point halftime deficit and went on to a convincing 52-37 victory over a dispirited Fox Lane team playing its final game of the regular season.

"We're not executing, we're not doing the proper things that we need to do, and our fundamentals are completely lost," said Fox Lane coach Mike Tomassi. "So we're gonna struggle the rest of the way. We play on Saturday (in the sectionals) and if we play like we've been doing, our last game'll be Saturday."

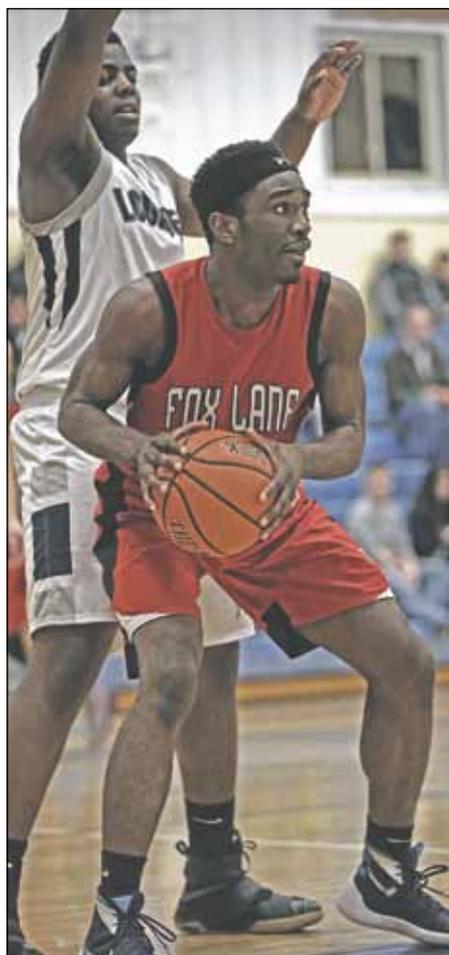
The Warriors' Anozie scored 13 of his game-high 30 points in the third quarter as Lourdes erased the Foxes' 21-18 halftime lead. OLL scored the first seven points of the period and the last seven, building a six-point edge heading to the final quarter. Anozie, too big and too



Fox Lane guard Xander Alvarado dribbles the ball in the second half of Monday night's game.

strong for the Foxes' frontcourt, wound up scoring six buckets in the third quarter.

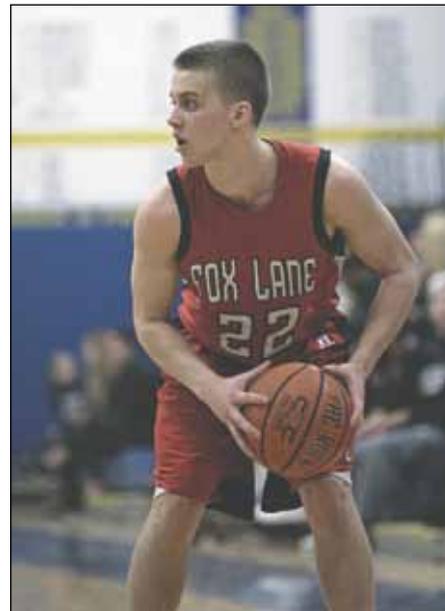
The Foxes never trailed in the first half. They got a put-back basket from Daniel Watson, a short flip in the lane by Josh Olsen and then a right-corner 3-pointer by Will Meyers to grab a 7-0 lead less than three minutes after the opening jump. Anozie finally got the Warriors on the board with a layup nearly four minutes into the game and provided a hint of things to come by scoring all seven of OLL's points in the first quarter.



Daniel Watson of Fox Lane gets set to pass the ball as Lourdes center James Anozie blocks his path to the basket on Monday night.



The Foxes' Devin Hunter comes down with an offensive rebound in the second half of Monday night's game at Lourdes.



Fox Lane senior Will Meyers searches for an open teammate in the first half vs. the Lourdes Warriors.

"He's a load, a really good player," said Tomassi, who was forced to watch as Anozie had his way under the basket and also intimidated at the defensive end, especially in the second half.

Still, Fox Lane built a 19-13 advantage when Nick Rosati, who led the team with 12 points, connected on one of his four 3-pointers with 1:22 left before halftime. When Lourdes moved within a point, Devin Hunter drained a jumper from the right corner with 26 seconds remaining, enabling the Foxes to leave the court at intermission leading by three.

The Warriors began to take command with their 7-0 burst over the first three minutes of the second half. A 3-point shot by Rosati from the top of the key tied the game at 29-apiece. With 1:45 left in the third quarter, Rosati's final trey of the game, from the right elbow, gave Fox Lane a 32-31 edge. But the Warriors' Aidan



Josh Olsen shoots the ball in Fox Lane's final game of the regular season.



The Foxes' Nick Rosati eyes the basket as he rises in the lane during Monday's game at Lourdes.

Hilderbrand answered with a reverse layup 20 seconds later and Lourdes never trailed again.

Fox Lane began the fourth quarter trailing 38-32 and never got any closer than six points the rest of the way. The Foxes only managed five points in the final period, on a Watson put-back, a driving layup by Alvarado and one free throw by Harry Brown, who fouled out with 2:20 left on the clock. By then, the Lourdes lead was 11 points and it was apparent the Foxes were about to absorb their second loss in 48 hours.

"You know, we came out of the gate hot," said Tomassi. "We were able to secure a high seed and we had destiny in our own hands, and we just let the ball drop. I don't know if we think that by wearing a Fox Lane jersey teams are gonna roll over against us. These kids need to understand that by putting that jersey on, you actually have a bull's eye on your back and everybody wants to beat you."

The Foxes, who wound up the regular season at 12-8, have recently dropped games to Ossining, Yorktown and Woodlands, in addition to Monday's loss to Lourdes. Tomassi knows they won't make much of a run in the playoffs if things don't start turning around immediately.

"Yeah, we're definitely going backwards," he said. "If you don't execute, you're gonna struggle to score. I can't put the ball in the basket for 'em, I can't be playing. So they have to dig deep and want it more than the other team, and that's pretty much it. Until we match other teams' intensity and go back to our fundamentals and execute, like I said, we'll have one more game in our season."

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

1,000 POINT CLUB



Valhalla guard Kevin Kelly reached the 1000 point plateau on Friday by swishing a jumper off the dribble from just inside the 3-point arc in the Vikings' impressive win over Rye. Kelly finished with a career-high 34 points in the 72-65 victory.



Pleasantville guard Mike Manley drained an NBA-range 3-pointer from the right elbow nearly three minutes into Friday's 58-55 win at Somers to reach 1000 points for his career. In a game the Panthers led by 15 points midway through the third quarter, it was free throws by Manley in the waning seconds that decided the outcome.

Quaker Celebration



It was a special night at Horace Greeley last week when the three senior captains of the boys' basketball team — Justin Abrams, Jack Baron and Brian Unger — were honored. In addition, head coach Dave Fernandes, completing his 25th season at the Quakers' helm, was recognized for his longtime contributions to the program.

In a brief tribute to Fernandes, former assistant coach Gary Abrams said, "Five or 10 years from now, when our boys look back on their careers, it will not be the wins and losses that they remember, but the environment he created and the caring that Coach Fernandes always had for them."

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