



Chappaqua Man Arrested After Vulgar Remark at New Castle Meeting

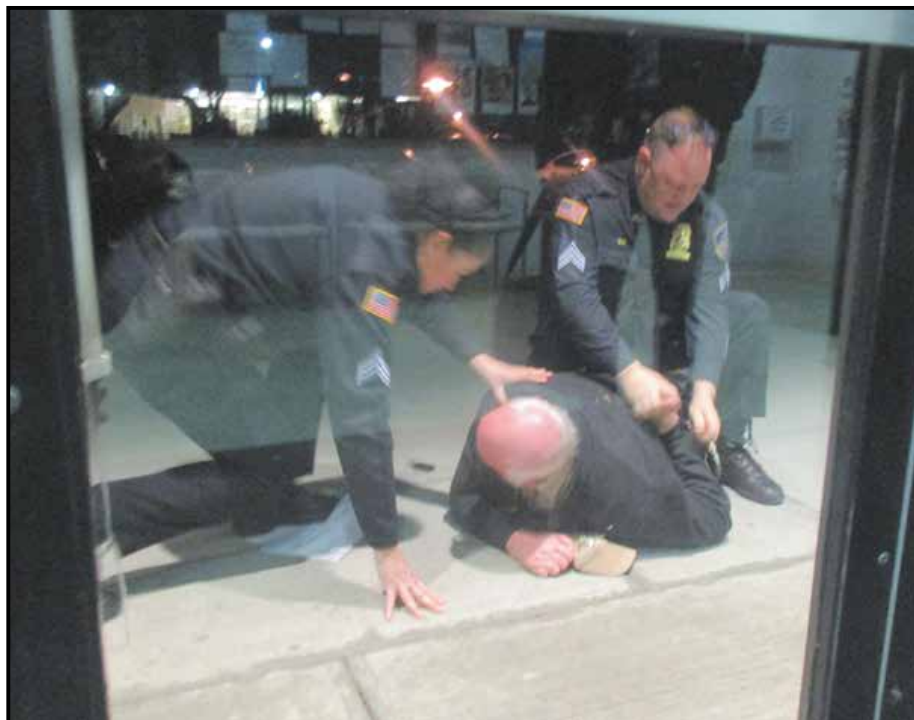
By Martin Wilbur

A critic of New Castle's review of Sunshine Children's Home proposed expansion was arrested at Town Hall last Tuesday night after he used profanity during a Planning Board meeting and refused to leave the room when ordered.

Chappaqua resident Will Wedge was charged with two counts of second-degree harassment, a violation, and one count of obstructing governmental administration, a Class A misdemeanor, following the rhubarb, town police said.

New Castle Town Justice Noah Sorkin issued a Temporary Order of Protection during the late-night arraignment. The order bars Wedge from the top floor of Town Hall where municipal meetings are held and most town offices are located. He is allowed to enter the lower level only, which houses the Police Department and Recreation & Parks Department.

At last week's Planning Board meeting, Wedge spoke for several minutes, harshly criticizing town staff in its investigation of Sunshine Children's Home unauthorized site work at its



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Police handcuff Chappaqua resident Will Wedge last Tuesday night at New Castle Town Hall after he used profanity during a Planning Board meeting.

Spring Valley Road property in late November. He also accused the Planning Board of abrogating its responsibility when it signaled that it was prepared to refer a slightly revised plan that requires amended permits back to the Zoning Board of Appeals, the lead agency for the project.

Sunshine demolished a shed housing one of three wells on its land without permits as it sought to make improvements to the well. The applicant also took down a tree.

Wedge called the town's inquiry into the matter "a hack job, it's a put-together of the applicant's materials regurgitated under town letterhead."

"These people have repeatedly violated, done work without permits, violated town code and they get the pat on the back, attaboy, go for it," Wedge said.

Jennifer Gray, the counsel for the Planning Board, responded that town staff had undertaken an exhaustive review of the matter and concluded that no action was needed by the board, in

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Guiney to Retire as Mount Pleasant Schools Superintendent

By Neal Rentz

Mount Pleasant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Guiney announced last week that she will retire in June at the end of the current academic year.

Guiney, who has led the district since January 2009, made the announcement at the Jan. 17 Board of Education meeting.

"It was 10 years ago this week that I joined the Mount Pleasant Central School District as the director of curriculum, and then as the superintendent," Guiney wrote in her newsLINK Superintendent e-mail. "Over the past 10 years, our school community has worked together

to create great success and to bring well-deserved recognition to Mount Pleasant as a high achieving school district."

Guiney was chosen to be interim superintendent in January 2009 after serving as the district's director of curriculum. She became permanent superintendent on July 1, 2009.

Guiney, whose current salary is \$280,000, said she intends to work with trustees and her eventual successor on a smooth transition.

"As the superintendent search begins to unfold and the proverbial baton is passed,

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P'ville Appoints Former Pace Faculty Member New Village Administrator

By Anna Young

The Village of Pleasantville announced the appointment Monday of its new village administrator.

Fredrick (Eric) Morrissey will take over the post on Feb. 15 succeeding longtime Administrator Patricia Dwyer. Dwyer, who is retiring from the position after serving Pleasantville for nearly 30 years, will stay on until March to help with the transition.

"Our esteemed administrator has threatened to retire and will make good on it," Mayor Peter Scherer said. "We are

delighted to welcome Eric."

Morrissey, who will start with a \$130,000 salary, has worked for nearly three years as the assistant to the administrator in the village manager's office in Croton-on-Hudson and previously served as the director of government and community relations at Pace University. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's in public administration.

In Pleasantville, he will be responsible for coordinating all municipal operations of the village on a day-to-day basis and prepare and present annual operating

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Chappaqua Man Arrested After Vulgar Remark at New Castle Meeting

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part because the unauthorized work did not affect the board’s four previously approved permits, including for wetlands, steep slopes, stormwater and tree removal.

“With all due respect, the town staff has spent, I can attest, countless, countless hours, days reviewing the information,” Gray said.

From his seat, Wedge then yelled out “bull---.”

“You’re out of order,” board Chairman Robert Kirkwood scolded Wedge. “You must leave. I’ll call the police if I have to, but you must leave.”

When Wedge, who apologized twice, refused to leave the meeting room, the board asked Town Engineer Robert Cioli

Wedge on the ground just outside the downstairs lobby doors attempting to handcuff him.

Police Chief Charles Ferry said that an ambulance, which could be seen arriving at Town Hall several minutes later, was called to take Wedge to Northern Westchester Hospital to be treated for a dislocated thumb.

However, following his Jan. 18 court appearance, Wedge said he suffered a broken thumb and a torn rotator cuff.

After receiving medical treatment, Wedge was transported back to police headquarters where he was arraigned by Sorkin, Ferry said. He was released without bail.

It was not initially known why the incident escalated. The matter is still being investigated, the chief said.

Wedge’s attorney, Lawrence Fisher, asked Sorkin at last Thursday’s court appearance to modify the terms of the Temporary Order of Protection so his client could attend public meetings.

Assistant District Attorney Livia Rodriguez said she objected to any modification until she’s had a chance to read the reports and speak to the protected party.

On the videotape of the meeting, Cioli could be heard telling Planning Board members after the commotion that “he hit me in the chest.”

This is not the first time that Wedge has caused a stir at a public meeting forcing police to respond. During the highly contentious period following the arrest of former Horace Greeley High School drama teacher Christopher Schraufnagel, town police visited Wedge’s home in early October 2016 for alleged threatening comments he was accused of making at a Chappaqua School District forum.


Later that month, police also arrived at a Chappaqua Board of Education meeting for what trustees at the time described as Wedge’s rude behavior.

Ferry said any past incidents played no role in how police handled last week’s situation.

“If anyone had acted the same way it would have ended up the same,” Ferry said.


Sunshine Children’s Home, which is looking to expand by about 128,000 square feet and more than double the number of beds from 54 to up to 122, has retroactively obtained three permits it needed in connection to the late November activity.


A group of residents who live near Sunshine Children’s Home in the far western edge of New Castle have initiated litigation against the town because the ZBA refused to call for a positive declaration that would have triggered a more robust environmental review.



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Q: Do I have sciatica?
A: You probably do if you feel a sudden and severe pain, along with numbness and weakness, radiating from the buttocks down the back of one leg to the foot. The pain can be crippling. It is usually intense when you walk, diminishing when you lie down.

Q: What causes sciatica?
A: The *sciatic nerve* branches from the spine in the lower back through the hips and buttocks and runs down the back of each leg to the foot. Sciatica occurs when this nerve is pinched in the lower back by spinal disc herniation – protruding disc material – or by a larger fragment of disc material. Disc herniation usually occurs during normal activities, such as rising from bed.

Q: Am I at risk for sciatica?
A: Sciatica is common. More than three million Americans are diagnosed with the condition annually.* Apart from the fact that 10 to 15 percent of patients have a family history of back problems, there are no risk factors. No behavior predisposes you to it.

Q: What are my treatment options?
A: If you have sciatica and it is not severe, you will typically receive oral steroids (anti-inflammatories) for seven days. Once you’re more mobile, you will engage in physical therapy for a period of time and then be re-evaluated. If your symptoms persist, you may receive an injection of steroids at the nerve root to reduce pain. If this regimen fails, physicians will offer surgery. However, if a patient comes in unable to stand – basically bed-bound – we advise surgery sooner. It is important to know that 80 to 90 percent of patients get better without surgery.

Q: What can I expect from surgery for sciatica?
A: This minimally invasive procedure takes under an hour, and consists of removing the disc material pressing on the nerve. Most patients are pain-free following surgery. We have seen patients who arrived unable to stand or walk for more than a few minutes, walk out the same day after surgery, completely asymptomatic. Sciatica recurs in ten percent of people, who may suffer recurrent bouts of the condition throughout their life.

* <http://umm.edu/health/medical/reports/articles/back-pain-and-sciatica>

New Castle Councilman Weighs State Senate Candidacy

By Martin Wilbur

First-term New Castle Councilman Jeremy Saland is pondering a run for the 40th state Senate District, a move that would see him attempt to follow in his father's footsteps to the state legislature.

Saland, 43, will decide in the next few weeks whether he will join the race that could ultimately pit him against incumbent Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown). Saland will first have to win the Democratic nomination over South Salem resident Robert Kesten, so far, the only other announced party candidate.

Saland said he has a deep commitment to public service and is eyeing a continuation and broadening of that role.

"One of the things that has really compelled me is the magnitude and overwhelming amount of support I've received in the district, in the town and beyond to run," said Saland, who won his seat on the New Castle Town Board in 2015 after spending five years as town prosecutor. "People have pledged not only their personal support but their financial support and whatever they can to make this happen. I'm grateful and honored by it. It's humbling to say the least."

Saland, a criminal defense attorney who began his career as a Manhattan assistant district attorney under Robert Morgethau, said ultimately his decision will be based on what is best for his family. He has three

young children and his wife is a physician.

For legislators, the burden of public service on a family, particularly with children, can be imposing. He watched his father, Stephen Saland, spend 32 years in the state legislature, winning his first election to the Assembly in 1980. Saland's father was then elected to the Senate from the 41st District, which includes Dutchess and Columbia counties, in 1990. He served through 2012.

"The other issue to me is I have a small law practice and I live in a community and in a county that has very high property taxes," he said. "So all the consideration is, as one of two breadwinners in my family, is how is this going to impact my small law practice."

When he first started out, Saland, like his father, was a registered Republican. However, as the party moved to the right on what would be considered social issues, he left the GOP, and in 2006 became an independent. He was endorsed by the New Castle Democrats in 2015, and after winning his Town Board seat, he registered as a Democrat last year.

While Saland said he has a healthy respect for Murphy as a public servant, there have been an increasing number of issues where he has strongly disagreed with the senator.

For example, he opposes Murphy's support for a voter ID law, which



New Castle Councilman Jeremy Saland is considering a run for the 40th state Senate District this year. He expects to make a final decision in the next few weeks.

perpetuates the myth of widespread voter fraud. Also, Saland supports the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act, which would add gender identity and expression to the list of bias crimes in the state, something the incumbent does not back.

Furthermore, he said Murphy is out of step with most New Yorkers regarding sensible gun control. While the SAFE Act has some drawbacks, it contains important protections for the public.

"I give Senator Murphy much respect

for serving the public, but I disagree with many of his principles and policy beliefs," Saland said. "We can keep taxes low, provide job opportunities, and make sure (the) commute into New York City is safe, but we can also protect those who need our help, give assistance to people in financial need, allow women to make decisions about their own bodies and make sure everyone has access to healthcare."

A statement released on Murphy's behalf said that he looks forward to the campaign regardless of his opponent, and appeared to take a veiled shot at Saland's evolving party affiliation.

"Senator Murphy is laser focused on the important issues facing Westchester and the Hudson Valley, regardless of who his opponent is, or what party they've currently switched to," said campaign spokesperson Martha Ruiz Jimenez. "He looks forward to running on his record of fighting the heroin epidemic, protecting our environment and holding Albany accountable to local taxpayers. His broad-based support has led to historic electoral and legislative victories in the past and we anticipate the same for 2018."

The 40th Senate District includes much of northern Westchester, including Yorktown, Cortlandt, Peekskill, Mount Kisco, New Castle, Mount Pleasant and Pleasantville, much of Putnam County and a piece of southern Dutchess County.

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Guiney to Retire as Mount Pleasant Schools Superintendent

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it will be business as usual in our schools," Guiney said. "There is still so much to do as we move forward in the second half of this school year."

The Board of Education did not mention a process or a timetable to find Guiney's successor.

Through her tenure in Mount Pleasant, Guiney has overseen major changes in education and funding, helping the district to make it through fiscally in the aftermath of a crippling recession and the advent of the tax cap. She was also able to get an infrastructure bond passed.

"The past 10 years have been incredible and it has been a tremendous honor and privilege to serve the community as your superintendent," Guiney stated.

In an interview last Friday, Guiney said it wasn't a difficult decision for her to retire.



Mount Pleasant Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Guiney announced last Wednesday that she will retire at the end of the school year in June.

"I want to spend time with my family and do part-time work," said Guiney, who plans to do consulting work.

One of the biggest challenges for Guiney came from the state government imposing the property tax cap in 2011.

"It truly constrains what a school district can do," she said.

Guiney said she believed her greatest achievement as superintendent has been the institution of learning centered classrooms. Learning centered classrooms provide students with an atmosphere and the chance "to think deeply, confront new challenges, consider diverse perspectives, evaluate information, explore solutions, use imagination freely, create and apply knowledge

and skills, and develop original works as a means of personal or group expression," according to the district's Strategic Plan.

In keeping with that philosophy, the district has in recent years introduced block scheduling at Westlake High School as well as the International Baccalaureate program at its middle school and high school.

Other achievements were voter approval of a \$39.6 million capital projects bond in October 2016 after larger bonds were voted down by residents on two previous attempts and helping to turn around the district's finances after the state comptroller's office gave Mount Pleasant a negative review early in her tenure.

In response to the report, the district implemented new internal financial controls. In 2015, the comptroller's office returned with a positive financial report.

P'ville Appoints Former Pace Faculty Member New Village Administrator

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budgets to the Village Board. In addition, Morrissey will advise the board on the organization, employment, hiring and discipline of employees and develop and establish rules, regulations and procedures necessary for the efficient operation

of the village.

Morrissey, a Somers resident, will attend every executive session and public meeting scheduled by the Village Board and perform the duties that are customarily performed by an organization's chief operating officer.

"Lots of change is going on but we're excited and pleased to welcome Eric into the fold," Scherer said. "He is obviously well-positioned to reinforce and help grow the positive interaction and relationship we have with Pace. When he arrives in

February we'll be making the rounds to introduce Eric to the community. Exciting news for the Village of Pleasantville."

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Sunshine Children's Home Neighbors Rankled by Planning Referral

By Martin Wilbur

The New Castle Planning Board referred the amended Sunshine Children's Home permit application back to the Zoning Board of Appeals last week as angry neighbors criticized the lack of enforcement after recent unauthorized activity at the site.

In late November, neighbor property owners reported to the town that excavation work had been performed on a portion of Sunshine Children's Home's Spring Valley Road property without permits. The Planning Board tabled the referral in December as town staff launched an investigation.

Sunshine retroactively obtained tree removal and demolition permits for removing a shed over one of three wells on the property and clearing a tree. A third permit was also needed to shore up a retaining wall that may have been compromised by the activity.

The applicant was looking to make improvements to Well No. 1, according to the county Health Department last month.

Planning Board Chairman Robert Kirkwood said that the site work "was not significant enough to trigger an application before this board" and was handled by town staff. The board's counsel, Jennifer Gray, said staff completed "a very

comprehensive investigation" into the matter.

The Planning Board's previously issued permits - steep slopes, tree removal, wetlands and stormwater management - were unaffected by the activity, Gray said.

Despite neighbors and project opponents urging the board to clamp down on the applicant and delay or refuse the referral, Kirkwood said enforcement in this matter is not in the Planning Board's purview because it doesn't have policing powers.

If it needed to decide on an application it could take action, but it was weighing in on a referral from the ZBA, which will decide whether to grant amended permits.

"I understand that there's angst and disappointment and issues and concerns," Kirkwood said. "This is not the place for those, and in my judgment, the proper place at this point is where it is and that's in the courts. So it's in the courts and let the courts decide it."

Board member Richard Brownell did take issue with Sunshine's sloppiness, which he said could have jeopardized the project.

"The applicant was careless in what they did and if it had been anything more, the whole project would have been in danger," Brownell said. "It was unnecessary to do that, just unnecessary, but I don't believe

it's in our purview."

However, one neighbor and the attorney for another nearby resident said the Planning Board shirked its responsibility by punting the issue to the ZBA, the lead agency for the project, rather than taking action.

Attorney Adam Stolorow, who is representing Cynthia and Jeffrey Manocherian, said that a report from the Planning Board in October stipulated that there would be no demolition on the property outside the areas that were on the site plan.

"They have full authority to revoke their tree removal permit, but they just passed the buck," Stolorow said.

Ossining resident David Whitlinger, whose property also is near Sunshine, said the Planning Board has given Sunshine Children's Home preferential treatment by failing to hold it accountable for the work the unauthorized activity.

Whitlinger said another applicant that was heard by the Planning Board last week had his application denied for proceeding without permits.

"It seems completely inconsistent with the way they handled an applicant earlier in the evening (who) hand done the exact same thing, the exact same thing, he said. "It really rankles the public to hear that."

The Manocherians filed their own

Article 78 against the town and ZBA in late 2016 while Whitlinger joined with other property owners as part of a separate Article 78.

Stolorow said any hope for a resolution of the matter through the town's permitting and review boards has likely vanished.

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Mount Kisco Officials Support ShopRite Move to Diamond Property

By Neal Rentz

Mount Kisco officials last week expressed support for a proposal to move a ShopRite supermarket from Bedford Hills to the Diamond Properties complex on North Bedford Road.

Diamond Properties has signed a lease to move ShopRite supermarket from its current location at 747 Bedford Rd. to The Park, the company's sprawling property at 333 N. Bedford Rd. in Mount Kisco. The new supermarket would be 70,000 square feet.

For the proposal to advance, developer Jim Diamond must first obtain a zoning text change from the Village Board because a supermarket is not a permitted use in the Light Manufacturing (ML) district.

Diamond said changes in the area marketplace are forcing him to seek changes to what is allowed at the property. Some of his tenants have already vacated and the empty spaces are unlikely to be filled by owners of large warehouses, he said.

In 2016, Wine Enthusiast, which occupied 20 percent of the space, moved its warehouse operations to New Jersey. Last year, HCLI and It's About Time publishing also relocated.

Cosentino, which operates a marble and quartz showroom and warehouse, and Seaport Lighting also plan to leave later this year, Diamond said.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Developer Jim Diamond discussed his proposal last week to construct a ShopRite supermarket at his North Bedford Road property The Park.

The complex also houses the Grand Prix New York go-kart facility and entertainment facility and Saw Mill Club East, among other operations.

Diamond is looking to attract general retail sales businesses to the property by having the language regulating the ML district changed. He is asking the Village Board to allow retail businesses of up to 80,000 square feet of gross floor space.

The property, which has 31 acres in Mount Kisco and a small portion in Bedford, is the only parcel in the village

zoned Light Manufacturing. There is a little more than 600,000 square feet of space.

Planning Board and Village Board members said they supported the concept of bringing the ShopRite to the northeast corner of the property. Planning Board member Ralph Vigliotti said he wanted the supermarket plan to work in the building.

Mayor Gina Picinich and Trustee Peter Grunthal were among the Village Board members expressing support for the proposal. Grunthal said trustees should amend the zoning to allow the

supermarket to move in but wait for the village's Comprehensive Plan to be updated before allowing other currently non-permitted uses at the site.

Diamond replied that he preferred the board change language for the ML zone now to allow other types of retail in his facility aside from a supermarket rather than waiting.

The Village Board could consider allowing retail other than just a supermarket when revising the zoning text, Picinich said. However, there should be a minimum square footage requirement to avoid having small shop retail that is better suited for downtown.

In addition to the zoning text change, Diamond would need a special permit from the Planning Board.

Grand Prix membership requirement

Village officials also indicated that the developer should wait for approval to eliminate the membership requirement for Grand Prix New York, which was a condition of the Planning Board's original special permit approval.

Vigliotti said a plan to eliminate the membership requirement should be a separate matter from the ShopRite issue.

The Planning Board originally included the membership requirement as a special condition for Grand Prix, taking into consideration traffic and parking, among other issues.

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Mt. Pleasant Officials Dismiss Hawthorne Apartment Complex Plan

By Neal Rentz

It is back to the drawing board for a developer who sought to construct a three-building, 340-unit apartment complex on a portion of the former Green Valley Nursery property on Route 9A in Hawthorne.

The Mount Pleasant Town Board last week expressed deep reservations about the plan for six-story buildings at 211 Saw Mill River Rd. near the new Acura car dealership.

A zoning change from the Town Board would have been required for approval to build the project in the commercial zone.

The one- and two-bedroom units, which would have rented for \$2,500 and \$3,500 a month, respectively, and marketed to young professionals and seniors.

Acquest Development LLC President Michael Huntress, whose company owns the 15-acre property, said an 85,000-square-foot light assembly plant is currently being constructed on a portion of the property. Huntress declined to provide additional details about the facility following his appearance before the Town Board.

However, the residential plan was met with skepticism by the board. Councilman Mark Rubeo said he had serious problems with the proposal because he wanted a better mix of commercial and residential development for the property. A zoning



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Acquest Development LLC President Michael Huntress, right, and project manager Timothy Weber, discussed their proposed Hawthorne apartment complex last week before the Mount Pleasant Town Board.

revision to accommodate the apartment complex could be viewed as spot zoning, he said.

"It's got to be the right fit," Rubeo said.

Councilwoman Laurie Smalley said she was looking for something different for the site such as an upscale supermarket or other types of higher end retail. Councilman Nicholas DiPaolo, who also indicated he was looking for an upscale supermarket, said that would be an

"absolute home run."

While the town needs new housing to attract young people, it should be located in downtown areas, Smalley said. Residents should be able to walk to the businesses they patronize.

Another concern for Rubeo was the speeding traffic on Route 9A.

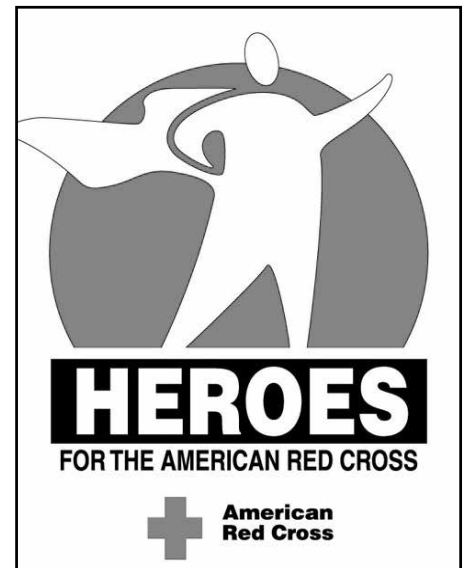
Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said while he supports additional housing for seniors, he did not want the project to hurt other

areas of town. Mount Pleasant will soon begin revising its Comprehensive Plan with a goal to revitalize the downtown areas, he said.

Some board members said a restaurant could be a more appropriate use for the land. If the right establishment was chosen it would be popular and attract customers from outside Mount Pleasant, Fulgenzi said.

In addition to the three buildings, the proposal included a centrally located clubhouse and 511 parking spaces.

Huntress said he would revise the plan in the coming weeks before returning to the Town Board.



Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Jan. 15: An officer on patrol observed wires down on the 100 block of East Main Street at 11:36 p.m. The phone wires were removed and secured to a telephone. Notification was made to the phone company.

Jan. 16: Staff members at a Barker Street building reported at 9:34 a.m. that a tenant made violent threats against them and said that he believes that people are entering his apartment when he is not home. Officers requested assistance from the county Department of Community Mental Health. The tenant agreed to be transported to Northern Westchester Hospital for evaluation.

Jan. 17: A patron at a health club on North Bedford Road reported at 10:39 a.m. that someone took her cars keys from her coat and then stole multiple items from her car, including a wallet, credit cards, sunglasses and items of clothing. The victim had placed her coat in an unsecured locker while she worked out.

Jan. 17: Report of an odor of smoke in a laundry room on Carlton Drive at 3:15 p.m. Some smoldering lint was found in the lint trap of a dryer.

Jan. 18: Police responded to Mrs. Green's on Lexington Avenue at 11:28 p.m. on an activated burglar alarm. It was determined that a fan left on in the store was blowing paper items around, triggering the alarm system's motion sensor.

Jan. 19: Police responded to Willet Road on a report of a strong gas odor at 10:01 a.m. Con Edison crews advised that they would need to make entry into several unoccupied homes to identify the source of the leak. The Mount Kisco Fire Department came to the scene to assist with making entry into the homes.

Jan. 19: The owner of an East Main Street business reported at 4:07 p.m. that someone cashed a fraudulent check from his store for \$3,877. The case was turned over to detectives for additional investigation.

North Castle Police Department

Jan. 12: A Hobby Farm Drive resident reported at headquarters at 12:41 p.m. that she has been receiving harassing phone calls on her cell phone for about the past month.

Jan. 13: An animal complaint was received from a Chestnut Ridge Road resident at 2:05 a.m. The complainant

stated that a squirrel is running around her bedroom and requests assistance. The responding officer removed the squirrel from the house.

Jan. 13: A Miller Circle resident arrived at headquarters at 12:34 p.m. to report that jewelry was stolen from her residence. A report followed.

Jan. 14: An officer reported at 4:40 a.m. that he is out with a female party in front of police headquarters on Bedford Road. The woman believes someone is in her residence. Two officers went to check the interior of the residence with no findings. The subject is in altered mental status and will be transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Jan. 15: Report of an attempted larceny on Brookwood Road at 6:33 a.m. The complainant reported noticing that someone had apparently entered and rummaged through his vehicle overnight. Nothing was observed to be taken. A witness deposition was secured.

Jan. 15: An officer reported at 8:14 a.m. that he is on Mianus River Drive investigating a possible vehicle larceny. There was also another possible vehicle larceny being investigated on Mianus River Drive at 8:33 a.m. and a third on

Brookwood Road at 8:53 a.m.

Jan. 16: A Pine Ridge Road resident reported at 7:16 a.m. that someone removed mail from his mailbox and opened up some boxes. The caller does not believe anything was taken at this time. He also reported this occurred the previous day. The complainant stated that he has camera footage of possible suspects.

Pleasantville Police Department

Jan. 12: A distraught Pleasantville woman arrived at police headquarters at 9:58 p.m. that her purse was stolen while she was on the Metro-North platform. The case was turned over to MTA police.

Jan. 19: The regional manager at Mavis Tire on Marble Avenue reported at 12:08 p.m. that he caught an employee on a security camera stealing money from a customer's car. The 30-year-old employee from Mount Vernon was arrested. Police are investigating the situation.

Jan. 20: A 25-year-old Bronx man was arrested on Hobby Street at 1:26 a.m. after police investigated a suspicious person. Pleasantville police found that state police had issued a warrant for him. Following his arrest, he was transported to state police in Hawthorne.

Support for Mt. Kisco Senior Housing in Commercial Zone Gains Steam

By Neal Rentz

A senior housing plan for commercial property on Radio Circle received a mostly positive response from Mount Kisco officials last week.

A four-story, 142-unit complex is being proposed by the Hawthorn Retirement Group of Vancouver, Wash. for the site. The plan is for a 40,432-square-foot main building and 4,243 square feet of accessory buildings. The parking lot for the 5.7-acre site would include 114 spaces.

The project needs a zoning text change from the Village Board because the facility would not be a permitted use in the Research and Development District.

Plans call for studio suites of about 380 square feet, one-bedroom units of about

500 square feet and 900-square-foot two-bedroom suites. The units would not contain kitchens.

The facility would include a chapel, beauty salon, exercise room, game room, library, coffee lounge, movie theater and private rooms for family gatherings. Hawthorn Retirement Group has built and operated about 400 independent living facilities throughout the United States and Canada.

Mayor Gina Picinich and trustees Jean Farber, Peter Grunthal and Isi Albanese have said they support the project's concept. Late last year they instructed village staff to submit a letter to the Planning Board to convey their opinion.

Trustee Karen Schleimer opposed

the concept, contending the Research and Development District was an inappropriate location for senior housing. At last week's joint Village Board and Planning Board meeting, Schleimer also said the complex would add traffic to the area.

But Charles Martabano, an attorney representing the developer, said more traffic would be generated by an office building rather than a senior housing complex.

Vigliotti added the post office generates far more traffic than the housing complex would.

Picinich said traffic and other issues would be reviewed by the Planning Board.

"This is the start of the process," she said.

Mark Lowen, a senior land specialist employed by Hawthorn Retirement Group, said the proposed project was needed.

"It allows your seniors to stay in the area," Lowen said.

"It's a great use for this particular site," Martabano said in response to a question from Planning Board Chairman Doug Hertz about whether Radio Circle is an appropriate site for senior housing.

Albanese said the proposed complex would be the kind of place he would like to reside in the future.

"It's good for the whole town," Grunthal said.

Community Solar Project Proposed at Mt. Kisco Cemetery

By Neal Rentz

A proposal for a community solar power project on a portion of the Oakwood Cemetery on Lexington Avenue received generally favorable comments during a joint Mount Kisco Village Board and Planning Board meeting last week.

The project is proposed by Sunrise Solar Solutions, LLC of Briarcliff Manor on about 4.2 acres of the northern portion of the cemetery's property. Sunrise Solar Solutions President Doug Hertz, who is the Planning Board chairman, addressed the two boards last Thursday evening. He said he would recuse himself from the project review.

Hertz said community solar is a system where mounted solar panels are installed at a specific location and power is generated into the grid. Energy subscribers within the utility territory can have the solar power credited to their accounts, he said.

Solar power is typically less expensive than what a utility charges, Hertz said. Con Edison is the utility that provides energy to Mount Kisco.

The project also includes a plan to create a garden on the site which would reduce pollution.

The village is one of a number of



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Sunrise Solar Solutions President Doug Hertz discussed a proposed community solar project on a portion of the Oakwood Cemetery site during the Jan. 18 joint meeting of the Mount Kisco Village Board.

municipalities whose zoning code does not address solar panels, Hertz said. He asked the Village Board to consider a solar farm overlay district to allow community solar use.

While the boards were largely supportive of the project, the main

concern was the tree removal that would be necessary. Trustee Karen Schleimer said taking down trees troubled her and that the land would be better utilized as open space.

It was not known last week how many trees would have to be removed at the

cemetery to accommodate the project.

Planning Board member Ralph Vigliotti said he was also worried over losing trees. The land should be preserved as green space, he said.

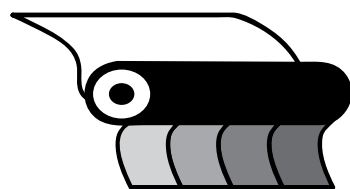
The boards agreed to Vigliotti's request to schedule a site visit.

Trustee Peter Grunthal said he supported the project because increased solar power is needed to reduce the risk of climate change. Oakwood Cemetery needs the additional revenue Sunrise Solar Solutions would pay to lease its land, added Trustee Jean Farber, who also supports the project.

Trustee Isi Albanese said community solar appears to be a positive for the village but he first wanted to take the site visit before supporting the project.

Mayor Gina Picinich, whose major concern also was tree removal, called on Hertz to submit his proposal to the village's Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) and Tree Preservation Board for their comments. Picinich said she was uncertain if creating an overlay district was the right approach.

Hertz said he would ask that the CAC and Tree Preservation Board be added as interested parties.



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Obituaries

John Accardo

John B. Accardo of North White Plains died on Jan. 17.

He was 89.

Accardo was born on Sept. 11, 1928, to the late Mariano and Mariana (nee Mirabella) Accardo in Brooklyn. He served proudly in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. Accardo was a retired printer with Gannett Suburban Newspapers in White Plains.

He was predeceased by his devoted wife, Angela Accardo, in 2009, and by his sister, Rosalie Hanson. Accardo is survived by his loving sons, John (Barbara) Accardo, of Danbury, Conn. and Michael (Jina) Accardo of Eastchester; one sister, Pauline Rizzo, of Centereach, N.Y.; and his two cherished grandchildren, Adam and Katie Accardo.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Jan. 19. A funeral Mass was held at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Valhalla on Jan. 20 followed by entombment at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Putnam Valley.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Heart Association would be appreciated.



Nick Antonazzo

Nick Antonazzo, a former Hawthorne resident, died on Jan. 17.

He was 88.

Antonazzo was born on Feb. 24, 1929, to the late Giovanni and Antonia (nee Paone) Antonazzo in Torregrotta Prov. Messina, Sicily. He was retired from retail men's clothing with Wallach's in White Plains and later with Family Britches in Chappaqua.

Antonazzo was predeceased by his devoted wife, Lucia (nee Casertano) Antonazzo, in 2005 and by his brother, Joseph Antonazzo. He is survived by his loving daughters, Antonetta (Vincent) Lozupone of Yorktown Heights and Ann-Marie (Thomas) Burke of Poughkeepsie; one sister, Carmela Conte, of East Meadow, N.Y.; sister-in-law Nicolina Antonazzo of Connecticut; his two grandchildren, Amanda and Brian Burke; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Jan. 21. A funeral Mass was held at The Church of Saint John and Saint Mary in Chappaqua on Jan. 22 followed by entombment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Alzheimer's Association would be appreciated.

Grazia Carrozza

Grazia Carrozza passed away on Jan. 14 surrounded by her family.

She was 96.

Born and raised in Solano Superiore, Reggio Calabria, Italy, she was the daughter of Francesco Antonio and Angela Cutri. Carrozza and her husband migrated from Italy to Mount Kisco in 1966.

She was the beloved mother of Lina Buetti and mother-in law of Antonino Buetti; the loving grandmother of Nancy (Sal), Antonio and Pasquale (Toniann); and great-grandmother of Grace and Anthony. She was preceded by her loving husband, Pasquale Carrozza, and her only brother, Giovanni Cutri.

Carrozza took pride in all she did. She worked hard, loved her family and was passionate about life and her Catholic faith. She will be dearly missed.

Family and friends visited Cassidy-Flynn Funeral Home in Mount Kisco on Jan. 18. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Grazia at St. Francis of Assisi Church on Jan. 19. Entombment will be in Italy.

Heidi Eschweiler

Heidi Lais Bunker Eschweiler, daughter of Harry Damon Bunker, Jr. and the late Doris Elizabeth Rundt Bunker, died in her sleep on Jan. 12.

She was 58.

Eschweiler will be remembered as a good friend and a great wife and for her love of animals, especially her cat Gray C. and her dogs, Lady, Heather, Ross, Honey and Piper. Her love of animals also included horses. She rode for the Equestrian Team at Westchester Community College, and won numerous ribbons in competitions well into her 50s.

She is survived by her husband, Steven Eschweiler; her sister, Mitzi (Allen) Chan; their grown children, Clara (Chan) Fonda and Toby Chan; and her beloved Shetland Sheepdog Piper.

Memorial visitation was on Jan. 20 at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville.

John O'Brien

John C. (Jack) O'Brien of Valhalla died on Jan. 18.

He was 76.

O'Brien was born on Dec. 31, 1941, to the late Daniel and Mary (nee McCarthy) O'Brien in New York City. He proudly served in the U.S. Army in the mid-1960s. O'Brien was a retired sales rep with Holmes Security in New York City. He was a lover of history, animals and was a Civil War buff. He liked political discussions and was a very kind, loving and gentle man.

O'Brien is survived by his devoted

partner, Sondra Larson, of Valhalla; his loving children, Daniel and Peter O'Brien, both of San Francisco, Kyle Larson of Valhalla and Kathy Feliciano of Bridgeport, Conn.; two sisters, Eileen O'Brien and Maureen Reck, both of Valhalla; and several nephews.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Jan. 22 followed by a funeral Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Valhalla. Interment was at Kensico Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to www.woundedwarriors.org would be appreciated.

Joseph Parte

Joseph Angelo Parte of Hawthorne passed away at Northern Westchester Hospital on Jan. 18.

He was 66.

Parte was born in Mount Kisco on Oct. 31, 1951, to proud parents Vito and Josephine Parte (nee Cotellessa). He



was the beloved husband of Joyce (nee Roberto); the loving father of Joseph Parte and his wife Meghan; the dear brother of Thomas Parte (Joanne) and Loretta Maples (Gary); the cherished stepfather of Judy Boulton (William), Joseph Olszewski, Diane Olszewski and Charles Olszewski (Linda); the devoted grandfather of seven and loved by his loyal dog Skippy. Parte is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews. Professionally, Parte was in the pool construction business and was an avid car and boat lover.

Visitation was at Pleasant Manor Funeral Home in Thornwood on Jan. 21 and 22. Private committal services were scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 23.



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Hope for Millwood Sewers Buoyed in New Feasibility Study

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle officials were told last week that sewers for downtown Millwood are feasible if Westchester County moves forward and connects Random Farms to the county trunk lines.

That was the Town Board's takeaway after a Jan. 16 presentation of the Millwood Sanitary Sewer District Feasibility Study by representatives of the engineering firm Woodard & Curran, which conducted the study.

"After speaking with property owners, and as you know and I know, there are many property owners who would love to see sewers in Millwood and take advantage of that," said the town's Director of Planning Sabrina Charney Hull. "There's a real possibility that we can change Millwood and put sewers in."

Ken Kohlbrenner, project manager for Woodard & Curran, told the board that the study estimated that the difficult and

expensive project of running a connection down Route 100 to the existing county trunk near Chappaqua Road would be out of reach for Millwood property owners. That was estimated at \$14.1 million.

However, if Random Farms, which was included in a county sewer district more than six years ago, can be connected it would reduce the distance and the cost for Millwood parcels to tie into the system. Estimates peg that option at about \$7.9 million.

Kohlbrenner said part of the challenge for the town will be to allow for development in accordance with the recently updated Comprehensive Plan to expand the number of parcels in a local district. Currently, the 50 parcels that are in the area that was studied by the consultant would result in a \$158,000 cost for each parcel owner, a prohibitive and unrealistic expense to impose, he said.

If the expense is apportioned through

Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU) by counting each single-family residence as one unit and basing the commercial properties' EDUs based on their flow, it would reduce the capital cost to \$35,000 per EDU, Kohlbrenner said.

Based on that formula, there are currently 84 EDUs and 141 EDUs for future development to reach that cost, according to Kohlbrenner's presentation. If the town included the Pheasant Run condominium complex on Route 100 that would immediately count as another 84 EDUs.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein said the critical challenge is to get the Random Farms diversion to the county system done. The town has been talking to Mount Kisco about diverting the sewage from Riverwood, another community that was included in the county sewer system in 2011, to that village.

"The first step is getting that pipe in the ground," Greenstein said. "Nothing can

happen without getting that pipe in the ground."

Hull said it's critical for the town to work with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to approve new land uses in the city's watershed.

"We need to make sure we preserve our right as a community and that we protect a connection, a public connection for Millwood for (the) public good so we're not paying astronomical connection fees," she said.

Kohlbrenner said the town would have to work on drawing the border for the and get that approved in a referendum.

Councilwoman Hala Makowska said she was encouraged by the prospects for sewers as a result of the study and has little doubt that it would be successful under the \$35,000-per-EDU scenario.

"I can assure you that referendum would pass," Makowska said.

Redesigned Committee Structure, Chairs Named for County Board

By Pat Casey

Citing clarity as the main purpose for redesigning the Westchester County Board of Legislators committee structure, newly elected Chairman Ben Boykin (D-White Plains) and Vice-chair Alfreda Williams (D-Greenburgh) have assigned committee chairmanships for the 2018-19 legislative term.

The Westchester County Charter mandates that the board maintain two specific committees, the Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Legislation Committee. Additional committees and the membership are determined at the chairman's prerogative.

"We wanted committees put together so when people look at the name, they understand what it means, Chairman Boykin said in an interview last Friday. "When you see Labor and Housing, you know what that means. It is clear. Public Safety is very clear. We wanted clarity so people in the county would understand the oversight responsibilities of each committee."

Working together with Williams, Boykin said they had a shared goal to enhance the status of the Board of Legislators through outreach and education.

"We want people to understand the role

of county government and the role of their county legislator," Boykin said.

To do this, Boykin wants legislators out in their communities. Part of that outreach will be at Town Hall meetings held in each legislative district with newly elected County Executive George Latimer.

"We want the people of Westchester County engaged, so we can move forward with our progressive policies. The first items we plan to deal with, and the discussion is happening as we speak," Boykin said, "is to ban gun shows on county-owned property and to pass the Immigrant Protection Act." Both items had been approved in bipartisan fashion by legislators last year, but were vetoed by former county executive Rob Astorino.

After consulting with the board's 17 lawmakers, Boykin and Williams ensured that each legislator had an assigned committee chairmanship or would serve in a Board of Legislators leadership position during the 2018-19 term.

"Much of the important work of creating legislation and performing oversight of county operations takes place around the committee table. I believe that in order for a legislative body to be robust and



Board of Legislators Chairman Ben Boykin



Board of Legislators Vice-chair Alfreda Williams

effective, all legislators must be engaged and accountable," Boykin said of the assignments. "In determining the membership of each of these committees, my aim was to match the experience and skill sets of individual legislators with the mission and objective of their committee assignments. The Board of Legislators will be taking on many critical pieces of legislation quickly and I am confident that we have the right people and committees in place to fully and objectively review those proposals."

"I congratulate my colleagues on their committee appointments and leadership positions," Williams said. "Over the next two years, every member of this Legislature has a tremendous opportunity to help restore the fiscal health of Westchester County and to help us return to social policies of inclusion and fairness for all of our residents."

The board's leadership positions for 2018-19 are: Boykin, chairman, Board of Legislators; Williams as vice-chair; Catherine Parker, majority leader; John Testa, minority leader; MaryJane Shimsky, majority whip; and Gordon Burrows, minority whip.

The committees, regularly scheduled meeting days and times and the chairs, are as follows:

Budget and Appropriations: Mondays at 10 a.m., Catherine Borgia.

Legislation: Mondays at 1 p.m., Virginia Perez.

Rules: As needed, comprised of board leadership.

Law and Major Contracts: As needed, Lyndon Williams.

Appointments: Mondays at 4:30 p.m., Christopher Johnson.

Public Works: Tuesdays at 11 a.m., MaryJane Shimsky.

Labor and Housing: Mondays at 2 p.m., Damon Maher.

Social Services: first, second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 10 a.m., Kitley Covill.

Environment, Health & Energy: Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Nancy Barr.

Seniors and Constituents: Third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m., David Tubiolo.

Parks, Planning and Economic Development: Mondays at 9 a.m., Mike Kaplowitz.

Public Safety: Mondays at 3 p.m., Margaret Cunzio.

Intergovernmental Services: Mondays at noon, Jim Maisano.

All committee meetings are open to the public and are streamed live on the Board of Legislators' website. An archive of previous meetings can be viewed on its website as well.

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Westchester County DA Ends Bail for Most Misdemeanor Cases

In an effort to promote fairness and end unnecessary incarceration for impoverished defendants, Westchester County District Attorney Anthony Scarpino announced Monday that his office will no longer seek bail in most misdemeanor cases.



Westchester County DA Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr.

“This outdated practice is discriminatory, and will end here in the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office,” Scarpino said.

He noted that too often defendants who pose no risk to public safety are locked up to await trial simply because they lack the financial means to post bail.

Scarpino issued a directive Monday instructing prosecutors not to request bail for defendants accused of nonviolent misdemeanors.

“After a review of our existing policy pertaining to bail applications in misdemeanor cases, the district attorney’s office has issued guidelines for local court branches to ensure all defendants are treated fairly and equally while providing adequate assurance that he or she will

return to court when required,” Scarpino said.

“While our current policy has not resulted in a large number of defendants being detained on misdemeanor charges, it is essential that we revisit these policies from time to time.”

Scarpino’s new bail guidelines follow Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s call for legislation eliminating bail for misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies. He now joins with other local district attorneys who have imposed similar guidelines for assistants prosecuting misdemeanors in local court.

Scarpino said the new guidelines have

already gone into effect and noted there may be exceptions where bail would be appropriate including cases involving a victim (e.g., domestic violence, sex crimes, child abuse, elder abuse, assault cases); cases where the defendant injures a police officer, firefighter, EMT or other first responder or violently resists arrest; cases where the defendant has a prior felony conviction within the past 10 years; cases where the defendant has a prior sex crime conviction (felony or misdemeanor); cases where the defendant has a pending felony case, or multiple pending misdemeanor cases; cases where

the defendant is on parole, probation or supervised release; and cases where the defendant has prior bail jumping charges or a history of warrants.

“No one should languish in jail for a minor offense because of his or her inability to post bail,” Scarpino said. “In most cases, these defendants are not dangerous and have not even been found guilty of a crime. It is unjust and a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars.”

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Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Libido

All Men are Created Equal

By Richard Cirulli

Over the course of this column the author has made an earnest attempt to shed some objective light on the Baby Boom generation by debunking some of the myths, and highlighting some of the achievements. The author would be remiss for not commenting on the current wave of sexual harassment now being exposed in Hollywood and government. Though these alleged perpetrators are a diverse group, the majority appear to be Baby Boomers.

First, we must debunk the myth of the sexual revolution. Baby Boomers did not invent it. Credit should go to Adam and Eve, with special credit given to their mutual friend and tempter the serpent -- a Ménage a Trois of the highest order. At best the Baby Boomers were afforded the benefit of a very supportive mass media. This generation, often referred to as the "Youthquake," can be credited for exposing what was already being done behind closed doors. At best, the Baby Boomers removed some taboos by taking them out of the bedroom and into the living room via television. It can be said that they let the genie out of the bottle. The rest is history as America was set on the course of a slippery slope into sexual abuse and sexual deconstruction.

As a nation that loves new clichés, the sixties were given the moniker of "Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll." Soon thereafter, our living rooms were filled with news broadcasts of sexual escapades and bacchanalian orgies, supported by movies free of censorship that revealed all of the human geography in all its natural form. The shock value made the networks and box-office very profitable.

The youth of the sixties cavorted around absent of any form of modesty as a protest against their parent's "plastic"

and puritanical morals, and their capitalist economy. These young "sexualists" believed they were shaking the foundations of capitalism unaware Wall Street was raking in their cash by marketing to their new morality.

As the Youthquake shouted "capitalist pig," the agenda-driven oligarchy laughed all the way to the bank, while they themselves engaged in all of the "taboos" behind closed doors. Ignorance and youth both share bliss as their common denominator. Baby Boomers proved ignorant of the power of branding, which made their nemesis, Wall Street, rich on their anti-establishment protests. Like love, even ideologies can be blind and ego driven.

As the sixties ethos ebbed, many Baby Boomers jettisoned their pseudo hippie garb and donned pinstriped suits along with power ties. They headed down the dark tunnel of capitalism to find the light at the end of the tunnel in the form of high salaries, bonuses and success, driven by power and greed. They took their devil may care rebellious attitude from Main Street to Wall Street.

The "Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll" generation found a new mantra to better suit their ambitions as they perched in their Wall Street corner offices, high above the commoners on Main Street. Now they shout: "Sex, Power and Money." It is a linear trifecta where money leads to power that promotes all forms of abuse, sexual harassment being just one.

How did we allow it to get so out of hand?

If we were afforded the ability to peer into the minds of today's alleged sexual predators, we would most likely find their abuse and harassment is not limited to women. One could contend that their abusive behavior also extends to staff,

clients and the public at large for the benefit of their self-promotion and unbridled greed. The recent Wall Street debacle of 2008 is just one example of such abuse and public harassment.

We must take a hard look at the realities of the workplace in light of our frail human condition where desire and human needs at times trump one's morals for the sake of survival and/or opportunities. This fact recognizes that more women are entering the workforce and are spending the majority of their waking hours with men. As a result, the infidelity rate of women is close to their male counterparts. We should ask ourselves if these numerous allegations that have ruined the careers of so many powerful men will place the genie back in his bottle. Will the current movement help level the playing field and prove to be a deterrent for future predators? Have we raised the bar of humanity another iota?

In closing, sexual harassment in the workforce has finally received the media attention it rightly deserves. Also, the author is not posturing to imply capitalism is the cause of this abuse, though it does create fertile ground for this weed to grow.

Regrettably, "civilized" history has a poor track record of emotional evolution and is quite tardy in its ability to transform psychological anthropology. Throughout mankind's history "great" leaders and nations have come into power and caused wars, death, destruction, genocides, plunder, slavery and last, but not least, rape.

What can we do to improve our lot? Well, at least we can attempt to improve ourselves. Hopefully, it will become an epidemic.

Dr. Richard Cirulli is a retired professor, business consultant, writer, columnist, and innocent bystander at large. He welcomes your comments at Profirulli@optonline.net.

Letter to the Editor

Immigration and America: Our Special Values and Obligations

We are Christians, citizens of the great experiment – The United States

of America, and because of this we have difficult duties and obligations not given upon any citizen of any other nation including accepting immigrants from all parts of the world no matter economic status. Our savior came for the marginalized, the poor, the sick. What is our duty?

Our great historical, unique nation is a combination of factors coming together unseen in human development. Because we are followers and believers in the New Testament with the foundation of Judaica – both of high demands and values – we must fulfill obligations, face challenges or fail and fall to the lowest of human sins, a disrespect of all life. These obligations become more difficult with each generation, but to fail we fail not only our souls but the entire human race

and our unlimited future – one united in all our differences. Shall we fall, casting out all that is different?

We cannot make decisions based on fear, for these decisions will determine a short-sighted future. Future generations will judge us on our failures arising out of these fears. We have a duty that is sustainable.

America, an idea made tangible, incarnated into a beacon of light by the blood of the many, creating various incomprehensible forms of wealth with the many unseen, arriving and seeking; seeking more than what can be achieved anywhere. We can be the Samaritans of the future or follow narrow-mindedness and poor leadership – the New Pharisees?

Glenn Slaby
New Rochelle

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Entropy brings you...

know your **Neighbor** Scott Mason, Haiku Poet, Mount Pleasant

By Martin Wilbur

It would have been impossible to predict that a trip to Japan about 25 years ago would provide Scott Mason with the spark to become a published poet.

That excursion marked the first time that Mason was exposed to haiku, a Japanese form of poetry. Its practitioners write small works containing three lines of five, seven and five syllables, respectively, usually about some aspect of nature.

"Even though I've always been a pretty good writer, if you had told me 20 years ago you're going to be a published poet, you're going to win awards, I would have looked at you like you had three heads," Mason said.

"Whatever my vision of what a poet was, that wasn't my self-perception. I was always interested in art and literature, but I went into business. I had a business career in marketing and advertising."

Mason, 65, hasn't just been published, but over the past two decades he has become one of the world's preeminent haiku poets, capturing well over



100 awards.

The turning point was about 10 years after his Japan trip. Mason enrolled in a weekly poetry course in Manhattan. As it progressed, he found himself writing shorter and shorter poems increasingly connected to nature, and perhaps unwittingly, gravitating to haiku.

Not long after, he sent off a batch of works to an online haiku journal. Originally, he had 19, but quickly wrote one more to make it an even 20. It was the last poem that was selected for publication.

"That really got me to explore and delve into haiku because I was so intrigued by the fact that this was one (poem) that I felt was intriguing but a little bit of an oddball was the one they selected," said

Mason, who lives with his wife in Mount Pleasant. "As it happens, now that I know more about it, it was a very good haiku but at the time I had no knowledge of it or why."

Haiku soon became Mason's passion. Not only did he write prolifically, but in 2010, he was invited by the online haiku journal The Heron's Nest to become one of its editors.

Mason explained that as short as haiku is – it's looked at as a poem that can be spoken in one human breath – it always contains two parts. There's a fragment that is either the first or third line while the other two lines are considered the phrase, he said.

The most important part of haiku, according to Mason, is the space between the fragment and the phrase.

"So, in a sense it's very unusual, unsurprisingly, because it's a foreign form of poetry to most people here because it isn't completely without the reader or listener, and you need the reader or listener in how you connect the two aspects of the haiku," Mason said. "That's where the magic happens."

When Mason became an editor for The Heron's Nest, he organized the roughly 10,000 published submissions into five main categories when it comes to haiku: Think Small, Come to Your Senses, Feel the Moment, Prepare for Surprise and

Only Connect.

That became the foundation for his first book that he published last year, "The Wonder Code." Those categories are the book's five chapters, which help explain the phenomenon of how something written in 17 syllables or less can have significant impact.

Poetry of any form never interested Mason growing up in Bay Shore, L.I. He spent his early years on the water and actually had a summer clam digging business during his summers off from Dartmouth.

Mason then went to Harvard Business School and for about 30 years worked in the corporate world, the first five years for Young & Rubicam, the Manhattan ad agency, followed later at Prudential's headquarters in Newark, N.J.

He may have been successful in life's other pursuits, but haiku has enabled Mason to appreciate the world's small wonders.

"Writing this has improved my life," Mason said. "I had a nice life before. It's not like I had a terrible life. But that's one of the reasons why I'm so excited about this. This is something that has really been such a positive thing for me and it's not about me. I've seen it with others that are into this."

Mason will be speaking at the Chappaqua Public Library on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. For more information on haiku and to find out more about his book, visit www.thewondercode.com.

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Jacob Burns Opens the Eyes of Next Generation of Filmmakers

By Anna Young

It was a beautiful Saturday morning last weekend, but inside the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville more than 50 children were learning firsthand the magic of moviemaking.



Children try their hand at the stop-motion animation station, one of several activities last weekend at the Jacob Burns Film Center Kids Open House.

Local kids, families and Burns media students were scattered throughout the upstairs Jane Peck Gallery as the Pleasantville film center hosted an open house encouraging the young visionaries to get behind the lens and learn how movies are made.



ANNA YOUNG PHOTOS

Parents and children were captivated at last Saturday's Jacob Burns Film Center Kids Open House where youngsters were introduced to the magic of making movies.

Emily Ohara, Jacob Burns' kid's curator, creative producer and program and curriculum developer, said the event was an opportunity for the community to explore everything the theater has to offer, including student work from various educational programs. Visitors were also given a tour of the state-of-the-art Media Arts Lab down the street, where education programs are held.

"We found (this event) is a way to build community," Ohara said. "We want families to come in and feel welcome in our theaters and we want them to realize this is an identity of Pleasantville."

Throughout the nearly four-hour program, children from three to 13 years old participated in hands-on activities, including 3D modeling, stop-motion animation and illustration. Every half-

hour families were given the chance to enjoy a series of family-friendly short films featuring recent student work and film festival favorites.

"You can watch a short film but then realize you can do 3D sculpting on the iPad or take a class and make a movie," Ohara said. "It's really showing the whole picture and being more interactive with the medium that we're showing in the theater."

Tarrytown resident Terrence Murphy said Saturday's event gave his eight-year-old daughter a chance to explore diverse methods of media, adding how she's grown up with an interest in technology.

Devon Russo, an eight-year-old student at Claremont Elementary School in Ossining, said it was exciting making an animated movie called "Yummy," at the stop-motion animation station.

"I was thinking about how it was going to turn out at the end and how it was going to look," Russo said after her experience.

Parent Melissa Russo added how much her kids enjoyed the open house, praising the film center for providing children with the confidence and ability to create a movie.

"Both of my kids are so into it," Russo said. "It's so cool and I think it empowers them to think about what they can do themselves."

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Why it's Necessary for Realtors to Talk a Lot

You'd never know it to meet me today, but I was born with some kind of neurological condition that resulted in my reaching the age of five without speaking a word.

That was in the days before autism spectrum disorder had been diagnosed and certainly there was no treatment available for kids like me who were non-social, withdrawn and didn't verbalize.

But from what my mother told me, I completely and miraculously recovered from whatever that condition was on the final day of a nine-week novena she made at St. Donato's Roman Catholic Church in West Philadelphia. Far be it from me to question miracles, but I haven't shut up since.

While I was able to speak, I still had to challenge myself to become more socially interactive. I debated and wrote for the school newspaper. Once out of college, I was a newspaper reporter and later became a public relations practitioner, all jobs that require verbal communication.

But only when I ventured into real estate did I find myself talking all the time. And from what industry studies show, that's a good thing.

At a convention I attended early in my real estate career, I was impressed with the message of one of the keynote speakers who identified the chief "irk" that sellers and buyers have with realtors – lack of communication. Specifically, the speaker said that the most common real estate

situation that negatively impacts realtors' clients is inadequate disclosure.

She went on to paint scenarios that might convince potential homebuyers and sellers to have frequent heart-to-hearts with their realtors to know as much as they can about the entire process, particularly what is likely to happen next.

In defense of myself and my fellow real estate professionals, I would say that out of self-preservation, we're way ahead of the game. I've never heard any group of people who talk as much as realtors do in their mission to inform clients.

But the real estate purchase or sale process is so complex and so all-encompassing a discipline that the totally unexpected or unknown can happen at any time. And it's the realtor who can get blamed for lack of disclosure.

There are the standard disclosures, which sellers and realtors sign when taking a listing: the disclosure of agency that identifies the relationship of the realtor to the seller; a lead disclosure if the house was built before 1978; and the affiliated



By Bill Primavera

business disclosure so that sellers can be aware of the other businesses which the realtor's company owns.

The big disclosure that most buyers and sellers relate to is the property condition disclosure in which the seller identifies all the known defects of a house to its buyer. While it is required in many states, such as California where the code is particularly stringent, in New York the seller may choose not to issue such a disclosure, but rather pay \$500 at closing to the buyer. The overwhelming majority of sellers choose this option rather than risk being liable for serious house defects.

Above and beyond these expected disclosures are those that require a simple explanation before the fact rather than after. Nobody likes surprises or hearing, "Oh by the way," when it may be too late to be informed. This is best accomplished by the realtor preparing a list of frequently asked questions such as "Do I need a lawyer?" or "Who pays the commission?"

Besides asking such questions, realtors might also present a list of what sellers or buyers can expect along the way, including

realtors who make appointments to show your home will sometimes be late or not show up; know that the HGTV shows are scripted; expect that the closing date will be delayed; and expect that you won't know until the last moment how much money you must bring to the closing.

The more realtors paint a futuristic picture, especially accompanied by stories of personal experience, the better sellers and buyers will feel empowered to make informed decisions. That kind of clear and open communication is what helps avoid a misunderstanding, missteps and/or unlawful acts.

Recently I was in Philadelphia and happened to pass the church where my mother told me I was miraculously granted my ability to speak. I looked at the impressive church doors and recalled walking up and down the granite steps, holding my mother's hand all those years ago.

It brought a lump to my throat, nudging alongside my voice box that has had a lot of practice in recent years as a realtor who blabs on and on to clients about what's going on.

While Bill Primavera has enjoyed careers as a journalist and publicist, he is now a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate, specializing in upper Westchester and Putnam Counties. To engage the services of The Home Guru Team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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Business of the Week

Sew Sisters Workshop

By Lisa Mockel

They like to say they're bringing a bit of the West to Westchester.

Mount Kisco resident Megan Goett and Cheryl Sabanosh of Somers recently launched Sew Sisters Workshop selling handmade items including Disney-inspired hooded towels, custom yoga mats, soft toys, frilly tutu bags, Tooth Fairy pillows and more.

The pair was introduced by a mutual friend at their Mount Kisco church about five years ago and quickly bonded over a shared love of sewing – something they call a “lost art” – canning, gardening and other do-it-yourself activities.

“It was love at first sight,” Goett said of meeting Sabanosh, adding that she rarely meets anyone who sews nowadays. “And luckily the husbands get along too!”

Within six months of meeting, Sabanosh had recruited Goett to accompany her on one of her trips to Pennsylvania’s Amish country where she likes to explore the area’s many fabric shops in search of high quality material for her crafts. Eventually the trips became annual family vacations, with Sabanosh, Goett and their husbands and children renting a house

together for a week.

Sewing was something Goett and Sabanosh enjoyed most growing up in their native states of Wisconsin and Idaho, respectively. That continued into adulthood, a beloved pastime that has produced handmade special occasion outfits and toys for their children, personalized gifts for family and one-of-a-kind party favors, including personalized superhero capes, for their kids’ friends.

Others took notice of the quality of the items Goett and Sabanosh were making and encouraged them to start their own business.

Using sewing and embroidery machines and employing techniques such as double stitching and serging to ensure durability, they can have most items shipped within a week.

After opening their Etsy shop in November, they were excited to receive their first online order from a woman in Arkansas.

“It was truly validation having people you don’t know see something you made and want to buy it,” Goett said.

The “sisters” say sewing also helps keep them connected to their roots.



LISA MOCKEL PHOTO

Megan Goett, left, and Cheryl Sabanosh, the founders of Sew Sisters Workshop, which sells handmade gifts and other items.

“My mom was always crafting, scrapbooking – she crochets a lot – sewing, a lot of hand embroidery, she was always doing something,” Sabanosh said “I just grew up around it.”

Sabanosh, who moved to the East Coast in 2000 to become a Connecticut family’s nanny, recalled the joy she felt stitching together her own volleyball-emblazoned sweatshirt in a sixth-grade home economics class.

“It was my first project. We had four pieces we attached together and we got to choose the middle piece...I wore it forever. It was so ugly but I wore it forever,” she said. “I loved that class.”

Goett, who has lived in Mount Kisco for about 10 years, remembers sewing with her grandmother in California and watching her mom mend clothes on an old Singer sewing machine.

Describing herself as having been a “practical 16-year-old,” she volunteered in her high school’s theater department costume shop. There she helped make, modify and mend costumes for the school’s stage productions.

That experience would help her gain admission to the University of Wisconsin where she majored in apparel design. The school offered an option to complete the last year of the program at New York’s Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT).

Goett jumped at the opportunity to move to Manhattan to complete her education, citing the limited fashion opportunities in Wisconsin. After graduating, she worked in the industry for several years, focusing on clothing and textile design. She is currently a stay-at-home mom to her daughter Norah, 8, and son Riley, 6.

Sabanosh, a Somers resident since 2004, manages a pediatric dental practice in Connecticut while raising her daughter Morgan, 7, and son Ryan, 4. She said she and Goett aren’t looking to become wealthy off their new venture. They just want to continue doing what they love – and maybe one more thing.

“Our original joke was if we could just make enough to pay for our Amish country trips each year,” she laughed.

For more information, visit www.etsy.com/shop/SewSistersWorkshop.

THERE’S A

WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz

By Edward Goralski

Making a List.

The Wayne State University Word Warriors have released their annual list of top 10 words “that deserve to be used more often in conversation and prose. Bringing these words back into everyday conversation is just another way of broadening our horizons” as well as your vocabulary. Visit wordwarriors.wayne.edu for more information.

1. couth (adj.)	A) flattering	B) marked by respect	C) cultured
2. frangible (adj.)	A) partly frozen	B) brittle	C) changeable
3. insurable (adj.)	A) impossible to overcome	B) impossible to detect	C) impossible to leave
4. compunction (n.)	A) a feeling of guilt	B) potential danger	C) understanding
5. bilious (adj.)	A) imposing an obligation	B) bad-tempered	C) surging
6. recondite (adj.)	A) adventurous	B) little known	C) calm and composed
7. nugatory (adj.)	A) of no importance	B) devoid of emotion	C) mysterious
8. eucatastrophe (n.)	A) guiding beliefs	B) intrepid boldness	C) a happy ending

ANSWERS:

1.C. Cultured, refined and well mannered

2.B. Fragile; brittle; capable of being broken

3.A. Impossible to overcome; insurmountable

4.A. A feeling of guilt or moral scruple that prevents or follows the doing of something bad

5.B. Spiteful; bad-tempered

6.B. (Of a subject or knowledge) little known; abstruse

7.A. Of no value or importance

8.C. A sudden and favorable resolution of events in a story; a happy ending

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914.747.4411

www.pctv76.org

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

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

Please consider a tax-deductible donation during our Annual Appeal drive currently underway. Visit our website at PCTV76.org or mail your check to PCTV, 2 Jackson Street, Pleasantville, NY 10570.

Happenings

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

Tuesday, Jan. 23

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

Vaping 101: When the Smoke Clears. A forum that addresses what parents need to know about vaping, including the lingo, the devices, the health risks and the law. Discussion includes an expert panel consisting of Judith Mezey, assistant director of community-based programs for Student Assistance Services Corp., Dr. Richard Stumacher of Northern Westchester Hospital and Westchester County Police Drug Recognition Officer Jack Brito. Presented by the Mount Kisco Drug & Alcohol Abuse Prevention Council, Mount Kisco Partners in Prevention and Northern Westchester Hospital. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free.

Chappaqua Library Board of Trustees Meeting. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7:45 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

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

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

Ambassadors for Successful Aging. Are you aware of the benefits available to you as a Westchester County senior? Information can be provided to you

on housing, home care, transportation options, counseling options, memory care, nutrition, vision and dental services along with SNAP, HEAP, EPIC and STAR and other programs that can save you money and help you plan for the future. Feel free to discuss a Westchester County "ambassador." No appointment necessary. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Also Mondays at the North White Plains branch, 10 Clove Rd., North White Plains. Info: 914-273-3887 or 914-948-6359.

New Mommy and Daddy Meet-Up. Whether it's your first child or your fifth, this is a great way to get out of the house, meet new friends and enjoy time with your baby. World Cup Nursery School, 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua. 10:25 to 11:10 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-238-9267 ext. 20.

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

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

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

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

and Friday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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

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

Meditation Series: Midday Mind Break. Benefits of meditation include increasing focus and memory; increased health; reduced stress, anxiety and pain; and increased productivity and happiness. Led by Alka Kaminer. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill 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 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Affordable Care Act Navigator. A trained navigator provided by the county Department of Health will be available to help people with choosing and signing up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act and the state health marketplace. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 2:30 to 7 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Also Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointment required. Info and appointment for Wednesday sessions: 914-336-6026. Info and appointment for Thursday and Saturday sessions: 914-813-5192.

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 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-864-8041 or www.mountkisco library.org.

NAMI Westchester Advocacy Event. Learn about 2018 local and state issues relating to mental health. Featuring Matthew Shapiro, associate director of public affairs for New York State NAMI. St. Vincent's Hospital Conference Room, 275 North St., Harrison. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/nami-westchester-2018-advocacy-town-hall-tickets-40943972524.

Author Talk. "Rough Patch: Marriage and the Art of Living Together" by clinical psychologist Daphne de Marneffe will be discussed. She offers a wise, radical and optimistic approach to marriage that considers both an individual's development and the often relentless demands of a relationship. A warm and hopeful book for people trying to understand where they are on the marriage continuum, from newlyweds to those with miles of marriage behind them. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Art Series: Constantin Brancusi. One of the inventive forces behind modernism, Brancusi's sculptural style is recognizable the world over. Born in Romania but active in Paris, he was also a painter and photographer. From carving farm tools as a child to studying the arts in Paris, Brancusi's sculptural work is iconic for its clean strong geometrical lines. Discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

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, Jan. 25

Knitting Circle. This group is open to everyone who has an interest in knitting.

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Genome Sequencing and Analysis in the Vineyard and on Your Palate



By Nick Antonaccio

Now that science has broken the code to examine and explore our DNA, and the DNA of multiple, diverse organisms, there has been a surge of commercial products coming to market that enable exploration of the DNA of the components of grapes.

Recently, several groups have unlocked the genetic makeup of grapevines and grape varieties that will have far-reaching impacts on the quality, resistance and taste components. This research is providing winemakers previously unfathomable tools to engineer, in their vineyards and in their wineries, wines that optimize their local environmental conditions.

For example, science is developing new grapevine clones utilizing DNA advances and sophisticated modeling programs. These grapevines are more drought tolerant, disease resistant, and better

suited to specific soils and microclimates.

Another effort is underway at the University of California-Davis. Scientists are attempting to unlock the genome of specific grape varieties affecting flavor, aroma and hardness. First up: Cabernet Sauvignon's 19 chromosomes. The ultimate goal? Higher yields of quality grapes, which translate to greater winery profits. The benefit to consumers?

Many more quality wines, at reasonable prices, available on retail shelves.

With science advancing at a rapid pace into analyzing the DNA from the perspective of vines and grapes, it would seem logical that a new focus would address DNA from the opposite perspective: consumer DNA. Just as analyses now permeate methods and techniques by which wine can be advanced (altered?) to suit a consumer's palate, why not a scientific approach to determine

how a consumer's DNA may be suited to a particular style or varietal of wine?

DNA breakthroughs have recently crossed over from the vineyard to the tasting room.

You've all heard of – and perhaps indulged in – ancestry DNA kits. Perhaps you've sent your saliva sample to Ancestry.com or 23andme.com. Several new businesses have begun to lever off the results of these ancestry analyses. Is there

a bit of Asian ancestry in your European lineage? Then why not a latent genetic preference for Pinot Noir rather than Cabernet Sauvignon?

These trait tests are now commercially available.

A company, Helix, has gained a following in the new subset of genomes dubbed lifestyle DNA. Levering off the saliva-based DNA tests submitted to the ancestry web companies, it offers a marketplace of products that supposedly drill deeper into an individual's DNA fingerprint. For an additional \$25 to \$100 at their genome app store, you may wish to venture into other DNA strand tests for your subliminal preferences or even your innate predilections.

One of the products in the genome app store is from the vendor Vinome, titled "Wine Explorer."

It purports to identify those genes in our DNA that influence our senses of smell and taste. Your genes enable you to detect certain characteristics in wine. If you are genetically predisposed to favor the taste of black cherries, you likely prefer

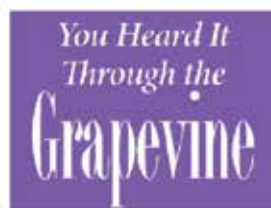
a Cabernet Sauvignon to a Pinot Noir. If your genes align with citrus fruits, you will be more inclined to enjoy an Albarino than a Chardonnay. This sounds as valid as the genetic and health tests.

But what happens if your DNA says Albarino and your subliminal learned life experiences say Pinot Grigio? Is there a disconnect? Wine Explorer can align these potentially disparate results. A subset of the app is a list of questions aimed at discerning your psychological preferences. It then recommends wines you may enjoy – and purchase on their website. This sounds quite self-serving; I don't recommend going beyond the saliva test.

According to Vinome, "there are over 400 genes that code for the cells on your tongue and in your nose that allow you to distinguish between different tastes and smells. Even small variations in the DNA code for these genes can result in big changes in the way you perceive tastes and smells. Take the guesswork out of buying wine by harnessing the science of taste."

Is Vinome (such a clever name), when coupled with your genetic test results, worth the \$29.99 investment? How much is genetic sequencing versus old-school trial and error worth to you?

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



Diet, Fitness Concerns the Focus at Equinox Armonk Seminar

By Anna Young

If you've ever had questions or concerns about your diet and fitness regimen, come to Equinox in Armonk on Thursday evening as health professionals gather for a special workshop to ease your dietary woes.

The gym is holding a free event called A Nutritious Evening on Jan. 25, where Equinox trainer John Codella and registered dietitian Melissa Rifkin will discuss diet myths and the essential guidelines to meal planning, healthy grocery shopping, eating out and how to save time, calories and money.

"I am eager to share my knowledge and expertise with our members to create a healthier community that is more advanced in nutrition so that they can share with their families, friends and more," Rifkin said. "The smarter we are about health and wellness, the better the life we can lead, and ultimately reap those benefits long term."

Rifkin, who rejoined the Armonk fitness center last fall, said she inquired with Equinox about hosting a diet education program after becoming concerned with her peers' eating habits. While Equinox members are dedicated to their fitness, Rifkin said she wanted to share her knowledge and passion with those who need help.

Codella, an Equinox personal trainer, will discuss the relationship between diet and exercise during the seminar and provide attendees with a free assessment. He said people often have a good concept of what a healthy diet consists of but don't necessarily understand meal preparation and the proper dietary intake. Members

have become lightheaded during workouts for fear of overindulging.

"I want to make sure in your workouts you're having enough before and/or after, so you don't feel fatigued, you don't feel lightheaded and you don't feel your blood pressure go down," he said. "While there are professionals like me to help you, and make sure everything moves well, if you don't have the nutritional aspect on point nothing will come together."

The 75-minute seminar, which is open to non-members as well as Equinox members, will be catered and feature wine and drinks from Armonk Wines & Spirits. The Kids' Club will be open for anyone in need of babysitting services during the event. Equinox will also hold a raffle for a chance to win a free month at the gym, and attendees will receive a goody bag filled with nutritional products and a three-day guest pass to the fitness center.

Following their presentation, Rifkin and Codella will answer questions. They will also stress the importance of dispelling nutrition myths and make sure people focus on their dietary goals.

"I feel it is my duty to educate on how to eat a balanced, healthy lifestyle while debunking myths and providing useful tools to last a lifetime," Rifkin said. "This is really a night for the members to ask me anything and everything nutrition related."

A Nutritious Evening will be held at Equinox Armonk, located at 99 Business Park Drive, this Thursday from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. To RSVP or for more information, call 914-219-1601 or e-mail Amy.jethmal@equinox.com.

Airline Adding Nonstop Flights from Westchester to Myrtle Beach

By Anna Young

Elite Airways will soon offer travelers from Westchester County Airport a new destination spot this spring.

The airline announced last Wednesday that it will schedule nonstop flights between White Plains and Myrtle Beach International Airport. The twice-weekly service, scheduled for Thursdays and Sundays, is scheduled to begin Apr. 5 with early-bird fares starting at \$199 each way.

"Elite Airways is pleased to expand service at White Plains with nonstop jet service to Myrtle Beach and believe this new route will be very well-received by families and golf enthusiasts alike," said John Pearsall, president of Elite Airways. "We've enjoyed a tremendous response from the White Plains community with our Sarasota-Bradenton service and Vero Beach service, and look forward to opportunities to expand to more destinations here in the future."

Pearsall added that passengers will receive one checked bag up to 50 pounds or an oversized golf bag per traveler for free. There will be no ticketing change fees.

Bill Golden, CEO of Gold Tourism Solutions, said the airline's decision is vital to Myrtle Beach's continued growth as a golf destination. He said providing players nonstop service to visit the nearly 80 golf courses during the peak spring season will have an immediate impact.

Brad Dean, president and CEO of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, expressed his excitement adding how the additional flights will provide travelers with fast and affordable service to enjoy the popular vacation destination.

"We are thrilled with today's announcement and look forward to inviting new visitors to the Grand Strand," he said. "This will help us in our goal in bringing in 20 million annual visitors by 2020."

Elite Airways is a boutique airline that operates a fleet of Bombardier CRJ-200 and CRJ-700 jet airliners. The pet-friendly carrier provides passengers with free onboard snacks and beverages. Tickets are now on sale at 877-393-2510 and by visiting www.EliteAirways.com.

Happenings

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Live, love, laugh, learn and have fun together during these creative journeys. Come share patterns and ideas and celebrate creative spirits together while enjoying the ancient art of knitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887.

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

Preschool Storytime. This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Mahjongg Club. Intermediate players welcome. Participants must bring their own set. Henry V. Kensing Memorial Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco library.org.

History of the Hudson River Valley. Westchester Community College Mainstream Institute for mature adults presents the first of four presentations discussing how the modern local towns developed, local folklore and historical characters. Led by WCC Course instructor Leon DiMartino. For adults 60 years old and up. Briarcliff Manor Public Library, 1 Library Rd., Briarcliff Manor. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Also meets Feb. 1, 8 and 22. Registration is required by Jan. 19. Info and registration: 914-941-6560 or e-mail srossi@briarcliffmanor.org.

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

Gaming Old School. Join old school gaming enthusiasts to play board games like a kid again. Open to all ages. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St.,

Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco 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.

English for Speakers of Other Languages Classes. Provided in partnership with Southern Westchester BOCES. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 5:30 to 8:45 p.m. Free. Tuesdays and Thursdays through Mar. 29. Spacelimited; registration required. Info and registration: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Painting Class. An instrumental class in which you will work with acrylics to create your own still-life plants. Have fun following along and creating your own masterpiece. Supplies will be provided. No experience necessary. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-273-3887 ext. 6.

A Naturalist Explores Belize and Costa Rica. Costa Rica and Belize are naturalist delights. As a small escape from winter, come explore these renowned neotropical ecotourism destinations through the beautiful photography and engaging commentary of Fran Greenberg. Presented by Saw Mill River Audubon. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-6503 or visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org.

Healthcare Town Hall. Hosted by Sleepy Hollow Indivisible and Robert Kesten, 40th State Senate District candidate, this meeting will focus on healthcare, what is best for New York and what is best for you. An open discussion on what is happening in the state on healthcare reform, women's health and other related issues, some passed by the Assembly, but bottled up by the Senate. Ask questions, voice your opinion and meet others who are concerned about one of the top issues facing our community and nation. James F. Galgano Building, 55 Elm St., Sleepy Hollow. 7 p.m. Free. Info: Visit www.rkesten.com.

Winter Floral Workshop. Participants will learn the basic floral design principles of style and will create unique arrangements they can take home in this hands-on class. Adults only. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 7:45 to 9:45 p.m. Members: \$45. Non-members: \$50. (Plus additional \$55 materials fee.) Info and registration: 914-738-2525 or visit www.pelhamartcenter.org.

Friday, Jan. 26

ZUMBA® With Amy. Fun cardio dance fitness workout, low-impact approach, easy learning environment. This feel-good workout is exercise in disguise. Free trial class available. Addie-Tude Dance Center, 42 Memorial Plaza, lower level, Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. \$12 drop-in fee. Every Friday. Also Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Walk-ins welcome. Info: Call or text the instructor at 914-643-6162 or visit www.amyolin.zumba.com.

45th Annual Art Show: Bedford. Featuring more than 40 participating artists, selling paintings, photographs and sculpture, along with glass and pottery items. The works range from contemporary to traditional styles. Organized by the Women of St. Matthew's, the show is the major annual fundraiser for outreach programs at St. Matthew's Church. Show proceeds benefit at least 20 local charities. Bedford Historical Society, 612 Old Post Rd., Bedford. 1 to 5 p.m. Free admission. Also Jan. 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Jan. 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: Visit www.artshowbedford.org.

Friday Night Cinema: "Whiplash." With three Academy Awards, this drama dives into the study of jazz like nothing before or since. An exploration of what results when a student obsessed with his drums collides with a Svengali-like instructor who demands perfection. Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Chappaqua Library Film: "The Lost City of Z." Discussion to follow the screening. Led by Carol Durst. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Saturday, Jan. 27

Pleasantville Farmers Market. The largest, year-round farmers market in Westchester, and the one voted "Best of Westchester" from 2014 to 2017. With over 40 vendors participating in the indoor market, the delicious good time continues. Pleasantville Middle School cafeteria, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Mar. 31. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

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

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.

Rainbow Crow: Native American Animal Tales. Learn why "Crow" is black, why animals love the trickster "Coyote," and a time when "Squirrel" was bigger than "Bear" and redder than "Fox" in this children's story time led by master storyteller Jonathan Kruk. Accompanied by live music, kids partake in each story with animal masks. Part of a new children's storytelling series by Westmoreland Sanctuary Nature Center and Wildlife Preserve and the Bedford Hills Free Library. For children four to 12 years old. Bedford Hills Free Library, 26 Main St., Bedford Hills. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Info: Registration required. Info and registration: 914-666-6472 or visit www.BedfordHillsFreeLibrary.org.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The Hudson River Patriots Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution invites the public to this special program featuring a film by the U.S. Holocaust Remembrance Museum, "The Path to Nazi Genocide," and a candle lighting ceremony. Suited for adults as the film contains graphic material. Irvington Public Library, 12 S. Astor St., Irvington. 2 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Info: Visit www.irvingtonlibrary.org.

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center: Brahms & Dvorak. The musical and personal friendship between Brahms and Dvorak is the stuff of legend. This pairing brings to life the creative energy that reverberated between the German neo-classicist and the champion of Czech folk music, producing a glowing array of classical music's most essential works. Purchase College Recital Hall, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 5 p.m. \$60. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit www.artscenter.org.

Songs That Changed the World. This concert will highlight how music has reflected and inspired change throughout history. Cantor Randall Schloss, Cantors Erik Contzius, Shira Ginsburg and soprano and Cantor Schloss's wife Leah Schloss perform to the accompaniment of organist Christopher Creaghan, pianist Isaac Ben Ayala and oboist Alan Hollander. Temple Israel's youth choir Kol Simcha, will sing an original composition, "This is Just a Song (But a Song Can Change the World!)." Temple Israel of New Rochelle, 1000 Pinebrook Blvd., New Rochelle. 7:30 p.m. Adults: \$36. Seniors and students: \$18. Children: \$5. Children (under 6): Free. Info and tickets: 914-235-1800 or visit www.tinr.org/SongsThatChangedTheWorld.

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WBT Cast Lights Up the Stage This Winter With 'A Chorus Line'

By Anna Young

The Westchester Broadway Theatre (WBT) has kicked off its 2018 season with the beloved and iconic musical "A Chorus Line."

The powerhouse ensemble cast takes to the Elmsford stage reprising the emotional Tony Award-winning story about the endless devotion and struggle chorus dancers experience as they audition for a chance to live out their dream, even if it's in the background.

Based on the book by James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante, "A Chorus Line" was created in 1975 and centers on the real-life experience of Broadway dancers. As each dancer stands on "the line" waiting for Zach (Brian Elder), the show's director, to give them the spotlight, issues of image, abuse, sexuality, art, failure, conflict and misogyny are addressed, proving that the show's themes continue to resonate with audiences more than 40 years later.

"A Chorus Line" opens to the company dancing in groups on a bare stage during an audition for a musical as the dancers conceal their desperation for work as they perform "I Hope I Get It."

Under the direction of Mark Martino, the ensemble lights up the stage throughout the two-hour production with their



WBT PHOTO

The dancers in the popular musical "A Chorus Line" are on stage at Westchester Broadway Theatre now through Apr. 1.

powerful voices, energetic dance moves and vulnerable story arcs that allows each cast member an opportunity for their character's personality to shine through.

But while several characters stand out on their own, including Val (Emma Degerstedt), Paul (Michael John Hughes),

Cassie (Erica Mansfield) and Sheila (Lauren Sprague), the cast is strongest when together the classic musical numbers "I Can Do That," "One" and "What I Did for Love" are belted out.

The cast also features Drew Carr (Mike); Tiffany Chalothorn (Connie);

Erika Conaway (Tricia); Joseph Cullinane (Greg); Kevin Curtis (Richie); Brian Dillon (Larr); Tim Fuchs (Al); Danielle Marie Gonzalez (Vicki); David Grindrod (Roy); Tyler Jimenez (Don); Emily Kelly (Maggie); Ashley Klinger (Kristine); Joey Lucherini (Frank); Alexandra Matteo (Diana); Logan Mortier (Bobby); PJ Palmer (Mark); Kelsey Walston (Bebe); and Caitlin Wilayto (Judy).

The production is choreographed by Martino, who was at the helm of last season's WBT hit "Mamma Mia." He is joined by musical director Bob Bray, set designer Steve Loftus, lighting designer Andrew Gmoser and sound designer Mark Zuckerman. The production stage manager is led by Victor Lukas, who is joined by assistant Duane McDevitt and associate producer Lisa Tiso.

Performances of "A Chorus Line" are scheduled for Thursday through Sunday evenings as well as matinees on Thursday and Sunday through Apr. 1. Ticket prices for dinner and show range from \$59 to \$89, plus tax, with discounts offered for seniors and children at select performances. Beverage service and gratuities are not included in the ticket price.

For more information, call 914-592-2222 or visit www.broadwaytheatre.com.

Arc Stages to Present a 'Brilliant' One-Actor Production of Hope

By Martin Wilbur

Centering a show around the subject of suicide may seem to be a depressing way to spend a weekend evening at the theater.

But Duncan MacMillan's one-actor play, "Every Brilliant Thing," provides the audience with a message of hope and some comic relief along the way. There will be seven performances over three upcoming weekends starting Feb. 2 at Arc Stages in Pleasantville.

"It's about hope, is what it's really about," said director Ann-Ngaire Martin. "It's about taking on life after multiple tragedies or damage or just thinking about staring into your future and making choices and how we don't always choose those things at different times in our life. We don't always make the right choices or what to focus on. This takes us on a journey of all those kinds of decision."

The show features Joan Hess as the play's lone actor who must deal with the loss of her mother through suicide. Hess, who worked with Martin on a production of "The Bridges of Madison County," said she came across the play at a reading series and loved it.

At the time, Hess wasn't aware of Arc Stages, but she told Martin about the great script she came across.

"There's enough universal material and themes that I think that anyone can come and be entertained," Hess said of the show. "It's a great time to be doing a play that's about hope in our world now."

Martin said when she read the script

and she also fell in love with it. Moreover, she knew it would work perfectly in the intimate 75-seat space at Arc Stages. Martin asked Hess to sign on to do the show.

For Hess, who appeared in HBO's "Flight of the Conchords" and played Tanya in the Broadway production of "Mamma Mia!" among many other credits, it will be the first time she will be part of a one-actor production.

She said unlike having even one other actor, there's no place to hide on stage. Then again Hess loves challenging herself when it comes to her acting.

"And then I wake up in terror every morning as we're putting this together because it's so much to learn. But we're having a ball putting it together," Hess said.

"It's a story that just takes you in so many different directions but it is largely chronological so that is different for my storytelling part of it. I'm just learning how to work in a new way."

What should be enjoyable and different for those who attend is there will be some light audience participation as part of the production. Martin said she hopes that doesn't scare off audiences.

"It is designed to make the audience engaged and comfortable with the play,



Joan Hess stars in the upcoming Arc Stages production of "Every Brilliant Thing" starting Feb. 2.

not feel threatened," she said. "It's not like they have to do anything. She (Hess) does all the work. It makes it easy for someone to have just one little word or something like that. I think it's a very unique experience for the audience."

Arc Stages Artistic Director Adam Cohen said the show's character could be a man or a woman, and he was thinking about using alternating actors. But it became more complicated than they had

bargained for, so Hess will do all seven performances.

"Every Brilliant Thing" opens on Friday night, Feb. 2. It continues on Feb. 3, 16, 17, 18, 23 and 24. All performances are at 8 p.m. except for the 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Feb. 18. Tickets are \$36; \$28 for students and seniors. For tickets and more information, call 914-747-6206 or visit www.arcstages.org.

Arc Stages is located at 147 Wheeler Ave. in Pleasantville.

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Happenings

continued from page 22

Skatetacular Dreams on Ice. Bring the family and join an all-star cast of world famous professional ice skaters, singers, dancers and cirque performers in this unique ice musical. Dream through the seasons in search of eternal winter, but beware, nothing is more powerful than imagination. Help the heroine glide out of a fiery solstice storm to find the path back to her winter dream. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 8 p.m. \$30. Seniors, students and faculty and staff: \$28. Children (under 13): \$24. Info and tickets: 914-606-6262 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/smartarts. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for cash only.

Sunday, Jan. 28

Creatures of the Night. While we are in bed fast asleep, some of our animal friends are using their senses to find food and make their way through a mysterious nocturnal world. Meet some nocturnal animals and find out why they only come out at night. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: \$5. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Opening Reception for American Folk Art: Rug Hooking. The Hudson River Rug Hookers, a group of fiber artists in the Croton-on-Hudson community, have been holding creative friendship meetings for more than 25 years. The artists produce textile art for walls, floors and other decorative use. This exhibit will feature works by 17 artists, inspired by the Rockefeller State Park Preserve and the Hudson Valley landscape. A unique friendship rug hooked by the whole group and all the individually hooked Hudson Valley scenes tie together the preserve's beauty with the group's friendship. Rockefeller State Park Preserve Gallery, 125 Phelps Way, Pleasantville. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. The exhibit continues daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Mar. 4. Info: 914-631-1470 ext. 0.

Noah's Beasts: Sculpted Animals From Ancient Mesopotamia. Lecturer Sidney Babcock, curator and head of the Department of Ancient Near Eastern Seals and Tablets at the Morgan Library and Museum, discusses beautiful and durable artworks that provide insights into the sacred, profane, sacrificial and practical realities of the early Sumerian society, considered the cradle of Western civilization. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Pleasantville Chamber Music Society Concert. Featuring a distinguished international trio of performers: Ani Kalayjian, Ayano Ninomiya and Maurycy

Banaszek, who have all received widespread accolades for their performances. Armenian-American cellist Kalayjian enjoys a prolific career that has taken her around the world. Japanese-born and American-raised violinist Ninomiya is the winner of awards and has performed with numerous orchestras around the globe and most recently at Carnegie Hall. Polish-born violist Banaszek has performed at the Marlboro, Seattle, Santa Fe, Aldeburgh, Moritzburg, Mozart, Kingston, Martha's Vineyard, and Warsaw Autumn festivals. He regularly tours with the Musicians from Marlboro and appears at the Barge Music in New York. Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, 400 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3 p.m. Free. Info: Visit www.pvillechambermusic.org.

Monday, Jan. 29

Master Networker Meeting. Join this high-energy interactive membership network of learning-based, service-oriented entrepreneurs and business leaders. Come be a guest any Wednesday to learn more about this world-class business training and referral program. 719 Bedford Rd., Bedford Hills (next to ShopRite). 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday. RSVP suggested. Info and RSVP: Contact Tina Campbell at 914-441-1383 or e-mail tinacampbell@masternetworks.net or just drop in.

Here We Are Together: Story Time for Children. From newborns to school-age children, with a parent or caregiver. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Monday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberaly.org.

"Some Like It Hot." Two down-on-their-luck jazz musicians, played by Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis at arguably their finest and funniest, find themselves out of a job and on the run after the police raid the speakeasy they perform in, and they inadvertently get wrapped up in a gang war. With no money and nowhere to hide, a Florida resort gig with Sweet Sue and her Society Syncopators seems like the perfect getaway. There's just one problem: the Syncopators are an all-female band, so Joe and Jerry need to improvise. Armed with some dodgy wigs and wobbly falsettos, they manage to join the Syncopators, where they meet Sugar Kane (Marilyn Monroe). Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Members: \$8. Non-members: \$13. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Slow Food Fundraiser. Slow foods – nutritious, local and sustainable – are becoming popular at a fast pace. Two of Westchester's top chef, Jay Lippin of Crabtree's Kittle House Restaurant & Inn in Chappaqua and Bernard Janssen of Zwilling Cooking Studio in Pleasantville, are at the forefront of the conversation on the local level, hosting this Slow Food USA

+ Chefs' Alliance Fundraiser. The evening offers an exclusive cooking class with the chefs, followed by a three-course plated dinner incorporating locally sourced ingredients and vendors. Also includes a panel discussion, local cheeses and light hors d'oeuvres. All proceeds to benefit Slow Food USA, Chefs' Alliance and Ark of Taste. Zwilling Cooking Studio, 270 Marble Ave., Pleasantville. 6:30 p.m. \$150. Info and tickets: Visit www.intoxikate.come/slowfood.

Belly Dancing. Learn this captivating Middle Eastern dance and enrich your cultural knowledge. Whether you want to dance professionally or just have fun and get in shape, this is the place to start. Josie's International School of Dance, 42 Memorial Plaza, Level B, Pleasantville. 7 p.m. \$20. Every Monday. Info: 914-332-8670 or visit www.josiedance.com.

Square Dancing Fun Nights. The Friendly Squares Dance Club will hold two announces sessions on consecutive Mondays. Square dancing is fun and great exercise for the body and the mind. It is an enjoyable activity for all ages and also an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. Open to singles, couples and families. Casual attire; no experience necessary. Katonah Methodist Church Parish Hall, 44 Edgemont Rd., Katonah. 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free. Also Feb. 5. Info: Contact Tee Cotter at 914-433-2919.

Tuesday, Jan. 30

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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

Paintings of the Dutch Golden Age: A Virtual Tour. Get to know the part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art devoted to the pictures of Frans Hals, Jan Vermeer and Rembrandt von Rijn. Along the way, learn about the Dutch Republic in its 17th century heyday, including its tulip mania and the Flying Dutchman. Presented by Michael Norris. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 31

Art Series: Herman Maxy. This Romanian-born painter is yet another artist whose life was impossibly altered by his experiences fighting in World War I. A member of the November Group

of painters, Maxy practices a variety of styles, including modernism, realism and constructivism. Discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Author Talk. "This Could Hurt" by Jillian Medoff will be discussed. Five HR colleagues face professional and personal challenges in this razor-sharp novel's illumination of the pivotal role of work in our lives. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Rescheduled from Jan. 17. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Thursday, Feb. 1

Pleasantville Garden Club. Guest speaker Joyce Tomaselli, community horticulture resource educator at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County, will discuss the topic "Growing Orchids." Pleasantville Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 400 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. Membership meeting at 9:15 a.m. Program at 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillegardenclub.org.

Go Red for Woman: Celebrating Women. Come celebrate women's health and wellness at this event. The evening begins with a reception with hors d'oeuvres followed by three 30-minute presentations focusing on different aspects of women's health and well-being. Topics include getting better sleep, heart health and understanding the numbers of health. The James House at Phelps Hospital, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. Reception at 5:30 p.m. Program at 6 p.m. Free. Registration required. Registration: 914-366-3837. Info: Visit www.gored-celebratwomen.eventbrite.com.

Poets and Writers Series. Ramya Ramana is an author, activist and former New York City Youth Poet Laureate. In 2014, she won the New York Knicks Poetry Slam. She has performed at the Apollo Theater, New York City Hall, Hammerstein Ballroom and at the inauguration of New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Davis Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-606-6716.

"Spettacolo." Once upon a time, villagers in a tiny hill town in Tuscany came up with a remarkable way to confront their issues: they turned their lives into a play. Monticchiello's annual tradition has attracted worldwide attention for decades, but the town's 50th anniversary performance might be its last. The story weaves episodes from Teatro Povero di Monticchiello's past with its modern-day process as the villagers turn a series of devastating blows into a new play about the end of their world. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$14. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Chappaqua's Bell Middle School Hosts its First LEGO Tournament

By Erin Maher

Eighteen teams from across Westchester and Rockland counties filled the Robert E. Bell Middle School gymnasium on Saturday to test their tech prowess at Chappaqua's inaugural First LEGO League (FLL) Tournament.

The competition, sponsored by the Hudson Valley LEGO League, was the 10th annual Hudson Valley FLL event. Hudson Valley FLL is a local chapter of the First LEGO League, a national program designed to ignite interest in robotics, science, technology, engineering and math through hands-on science and technology challenges for students.

FLL events each have a theme and are divided into two categories, with all competitors combining technology with the childhood favorite building set, LEGO, to create



The Pusheen Cats from Chappaqua, one of the two teams to advance to the First LEGO League's semifinals next month, at last Saturday's LEGO tournament at Robert E. Bell Middle School.

robots that compete to carry out specific functions. Junior FLL is for six- to nine-



Medals and trophies at last Saturday's First LEGO League tournament.

year-old students but is non-competitive. Children display and share what they have learned with adult listeners and are recognized for their efforts.

The theme at Saturday's competition was water. Junior FLL teams spent the day presenting a number of revolutionary water systems. The Hackley Tridents, a team from The Hackley School in Tarrytown, unveiled an irrigation station for farming, complete with a LEGO farm and fields.

Senior FLL is for 9- to 14-year-olds who engage in the competitive tournament. The event involves each team building and programming their own robot. Each robot then is placed on an obstacle course and it has two and a half minutes to complete a series of tasks. Competitors cannot touch the machine, unless it is at the base.

"It's really key at this age," event organizer Alex Eichenberger said of the collaborative effort that's needed for the tournament. "Getting them to work together, I don't want to say it's a challenge, but it's harder for kids. They need to share with others and come with a common goal to rise to the challenge."

Scoring is based on four criteria: robot performance, robot design, the research that went into building the robot and



The competition was fierce among the 18 teams from throughout Westchester and Rockland counties at last Saturday's First LEGO League tournament.

teamwork.

While the competition was fierce, the event was fun for those who participated.

"I guess it's like the innovation, how it's fun, how you get so creative with the attachments," said seventh-grader and Senior FLL competitor Advait Hoggahalli.

Competitors were not the only ones to feel the pressure. Ossining resident Linda Salvador-Robertazzi, whose son is a member of the Anne M. Dorner Middle School team in Ossining, noted how exciting it was.

"It's nerve-racking. I never expected it to be this stressful for the parent," Salvador-Robertazzi said. "The kids seem more relaxed."

On Saturday, hometown advantage ruled as two Chappaqua teams were victorious. The Pusheen Cats and the odd and hilariously named [insert team name here] reached the semifinals on Feb. 10, which will be held at the Poughkeepsie Day School.



ERIN MAHER PHOTOS

Students from Ossining's Anne M. Dorner Middle School watch the competition at last weekend's event.

Bedford 2020 Climate Action Summit at Fox Lane HS Feb. 3

Wildfires, floods and hurricanes are not the story. What we are doing about it – that is the story. New York State promises a 50 percent renewable energy supply by 2030 and 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The Bedford 2020 Climate Action Summit will demonstrate how to get there. On Saturday, Feb. 3, the group is hosting its Climate Action Summit at Bedford's Fox Lane High School.

Participants will consider a world in which every town in Westchester County, the Hudson Valley and Long Island has a 100 percent locally generated renewable energy supply; all communities throughout the region have electric vehicle infrastructure; the pollinator crisis is solved by adding pollinator-friendly plants to ground-mounted solar arrays throughout the state; local school buses

emit no diesel fumes but are electrically powered and their batteries generate revenue by providing battery storage over the summer; and meatless meals reduce GHG emissions.

"The Climate Action Summit is for anyone and everyone who is itching to move the needle on climate change," said Summit Co-chair and Bedford 2020 Co-president Ellen Rouse Conrad. "This event will be laser-focused on bottom-up action to address climate change. We will share information about successful projects as well as the obstacles."

The Summit's goal is to create and promote a pipeline of projects to meet the goals of 50 percent renewable energy and 80 percent reduction in GHG emissions and to empower elected officials, individuals and communities to take action against climate change.

The event will bring together policymakers, elected officials, climate activists and funders to drive solutions forward. Attendees will represent more than 50 environmental entities and elected officials from the Hudson Valley, Westchester and Long Island, a region that includes 11 counties, 314 municipalities and a population of about five million people.

The Summit will kick off with a call to action from two renowned environmentalists and influential leaders at the forefront of tackling climate issues: David Gelber, creator and executive producer, "Years of Living Dangerously," the award-winning series on climate change and climate action, and David Yarnold, president and CEO of the National Audubon Society. There will be local, regional and national experts

and leaders participating in workshops throughout the day addressing a wide array of topics.

The Bedford 2020 Climate Action Summit is being co-hosted by the New York League of Conservation Voters and the Bedford Central School District. Sponsors are Curtis Instruments; Healthy Home Energy and Consulting; Betsy Davidson; J.M. Kaplan Fund; Ladle of Love; Rowan Energy Integration; Wizard Studios; Con Edison; and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

Attendees may choose to attend up to four sessions and the Expo. A sustainably sourced lunch is included in the ticket price of \$30. To register or for more information, visit <http://bedford2020.org/climatesummit2018> or contact Bedford2020 at 914-620-2411.

EXAMINER MEDIA Classifieds ⁰¹²³¹⁸

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Notice of formation of SIXTH BOROUGHS CLOTHING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/10/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **LEGALINC CORPORATE SERVICES INC. 1967 WEHRLE DRIVE, SUITE 1 #086, BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14221. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WISEN, LLC. ARTS. Of Org. files with SSNY on 10/6/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it

may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **LegalZoom, 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CZOU & CO., LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/18/2017. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail copy to 9 Highview Dr, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ADVANCED PROFITS, LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of state of NY on 5/11/17. Office loc: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to PO BOX 112, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF @CE-SARCAPJR, LLC. ARTS. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/15/17. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MAN ON FIRE PRODUCTIONS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 20th, 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: **Joel Fendelman, 8 Fox Hill Road Pound Ridge, NY 10576. Purpose: Film Production.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FRANK MARKETING GROUP LLC. ARTS. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/10/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to **109 Robins Road, New Rochelle, NY 10801: Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE TUMMI GROUP, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/11/17. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **The Tummi Group, LLC, 7 Triumph Court, Flanders, NJ 07836. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KRK-NY, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/05/2016. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against may be

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MAYA-B, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/05/2016. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **88 Pietro DR, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

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ExaminerSports

Foxes Win Team Title at County Wrestling Championships

By Tony Pinciario

Another Saturday, which meant another wrestling tournament, which resulted in yet another Fox Lane championship.

The Foxes turned in a dominating performance at Yonkers High School in winning the fourth annual Westchester County Wrestling Championships.

Fox Lane outdistanced runner-up New Rochelle by 55.5 points, 196 points to 140.5 points.

The county title is the fifth team championship this season. Fox Lane opened the season winning the Ossining Dual-Meet and Carlucci Dual-Meet tournaments. The Foxes followed it up with the Section 1 Division I Dual-Meet title and opened 2018 taking the Ted Murphy/Jim Guccione Shoreline Classic.

Fox Lane will now prepare for the first annual New York State Division I Dual-Meet Championship at Onondaga Community College this coming Saturday.

Johnny Santos (195 pounds), Matt Grippi (145) and Matias Rivera (120) won their respective weight classes while Quincy Downes (152) and Jake Hoffman (99) were runners-up. Fox Lane placed nine wrestlers in the top six.

"What really helped us throughout the week was that we knew we had counties, so our coaches were preaching about getting bonus points," said Santos, who decisioned Somers' Matt Kelly 6-2 in the final. "Coach Steven (Rodrigues) has been really helping us to score more points and get more bonus points.

"We had a lot of place-finishers, which means everyone contributed to us winning."

Grippi secured a technical fall in his title match and Rivera posted a 5-1 decision in the championship. Rivera had to beat teammate Amos Rivera (no relation) in a semifinal.

Santos had lost in the semifinals of the previous two county championships, so he did not want a similar result. Instead, Santos pinned in the semifinals against an opponent he had beaten earlier in the season. Ironically, he faced Kelly, who also trains at Iowa Style Wrestling in Somers, in the final.

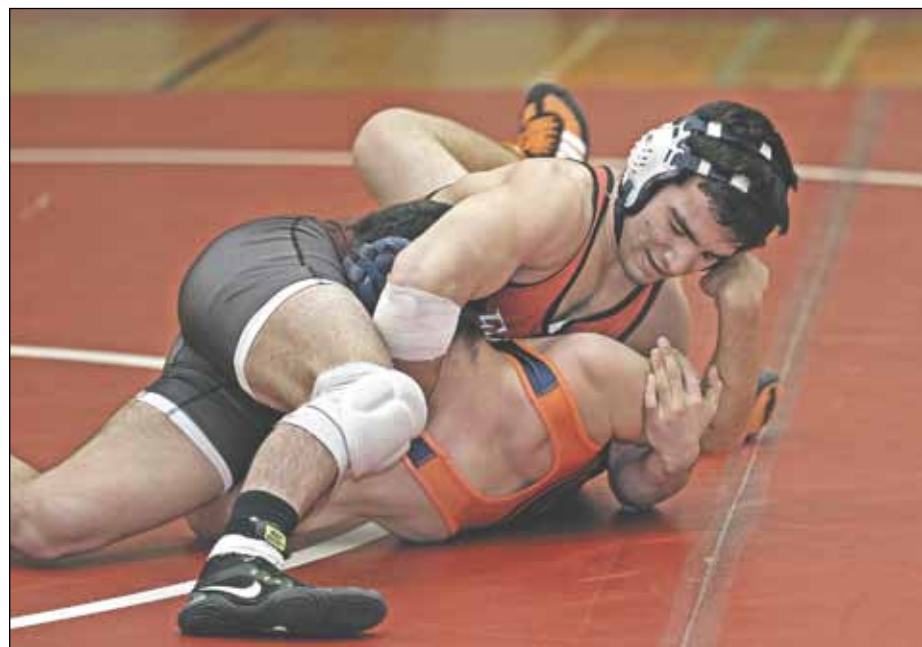
"Losing in the semis the last two years really fueled me, and it's a pretty cool belt to win, too, so I wanted to win for the team," said Santos of the championship belt the victor receives. "I had wrestled my semifinal opponent before and pinned him, but I knew he had improved and I knew he was going to come at me hard. But once I got the first takedown, I felt good."

Santos said Fox Lane is preparing itself for the state dual-meet championships, as well as the divisionals and sectionals. The Section 1 Division I qualifiers will be Saturday, Feb. 3.

"When we were first told about it, we were really pumped up about it and it gave us that extra motivation," said Santos of the state dual-meet championship. "We want to go out and win a state title as a team."

Horace Greeley junior Matthew Schreiber said he had the Westchester County Wrestling Championship circled on his calendar.

"It's a big tournament because I look at it as an opportunity to compare myself to the rest of the competition," Schreiber



Fox Lane's Matt Grippi won the title at 145 pounds during Saturday's Westchester County Championships, helping the Foxes finish first in the team standings.

said.

Following his performance, the competition will have a difficult time comparing itself to Schreiber, who won the 99-pound title.

Schreiber and 160-pound champion Aaron Wolk led Greeley to a third-place finish, behind champion Fox Lane and runner-up New Rochelle.

The Quakers had six place-finishers, including finalists Jacob Ferreira (182) and Josh McMillan (285).

Schreiber registered a technical fall in the title match and Wolk completed his day with his fourth first-period pin of the tournament.

"Last year I took second place and it taught me some valuable lessons," Schreiber said. "I didn't want to see another kid holding the belt, again."

Schreiber accomplished what he set out to do – win the tournament and wrestle his style.

"I felt like I pushed the pace during my matches and went after it," Schreiber said. "I wasn't scared to take shots and make mistakes because I knew that I would be able to recover and defend their re-attack. I was able to control the ties and wrestle my match. Also my hand fighting and defense felt strong."

Schreiber was happy for his friend and classmate, Wolk.

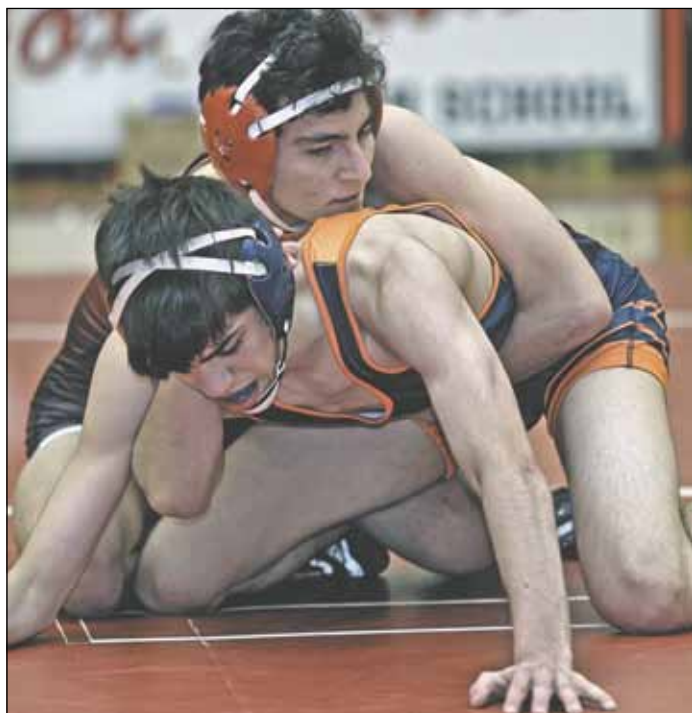
"Aaron was actually the reason I got into wrestling," Schreiber said. "Since the start of our freshman year, we've always had this friendly competition which makes us both better wrestlers. Aaron has been on a mission all season and he proved that by placing third at Eastern States, beating a handful of talented wrestlers."

It was another fine showing by Horace Greeley and followed a seventh-place finish, out of 168 teams, at the prestigious Eastern States Wrestling Classic.

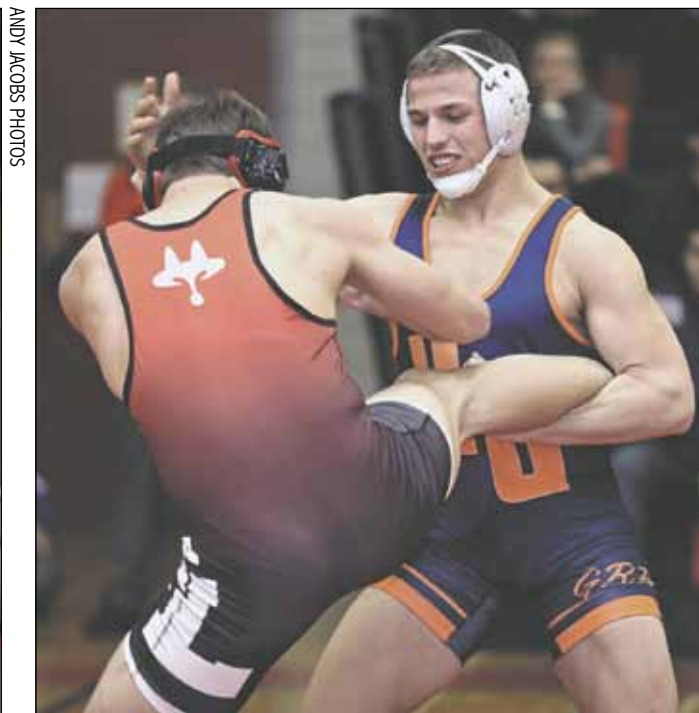
"It shows that our coaches (Mike Debellis, Anthony Tortora, Mike Boyle and Khaled Dassen) know what they are doing to make our team peak at the right time" Schreiber said. "We have been training really hard these past couple of weeks and some of our wrestlers are getting extra workouts at ISW."

Ferreira wrestled New Rochelle's Jake Logan in the final. Last week, Logan outlasted Ferreira 5-4 in the 182-pound Eastern States final. It would not be surprising to see them meet for the

continued on page 30



Matias Rivera, the County champion at 120 pounds, wrestles Greeley's Chris Sasso during Thursday afternoon's dual meet.



Horace Greeley's Jacob Ferreira was the 182-pound runner-up at the Westchester County Championships.

Byram Hills Drops a Home Game Against the Pelicans

By Andy Jacobs

The Byram Hills girls' basketball team knew that stopping Pelham's all-section junior, Samantha Volpe, might be the key to winning Friday afternoon's game against the Pelicans.

For one quarter, at least, the Bobcats managed to do it.

But Volpe erupted for 19 points after halftime and finished with a game-high 28 as Pelham defeated the host Bobcats 49-31. The Pelicans closed the contest with a 12-2 spurt to thwart a Byram comeback bid and send the Bobcats, currently 7-6, to their fifth loss in the last six games.

"Yeah, she's a difference maker," said Bobcats head coach Tara Ryan after watching Volpe's second-half exploits against her team. "She's a definite big presence down in the post."

Even though Volpe wound up scoring six points in the second quarter, Byram Hills found itself trailing by just 21-14 at intermission. A pair of 3-pointers by freshman guard Gabby Ripka had enabled the Bobcats to move within 15-14 with two minutes left before Volpe closed the half with a conventional 3-point play and then a 3-point shot from the left elbow.

When play resumed after the break, Volpe triggered a 12-3 Pelham burst by connecting on a 3-pointer from the top of the key 90 seconds into the third quarter. The Bobcats managed just two baskets in the period — a 15-foot turnaround jumper by Maggie Walsh with 6:12 remaining and Sophia Villani's 3-pointer from the left corner with 1:38 to go — and trailed 35-20 heading to the fourth.

"Our team just needs to get better at coming out for the second half," said Ryan. "It's something we have to work on, mentally, as we grow and we get older."



Eighth-grader Elisabeth Corelli drives to the basket in the fourth quarter of Byram Hills' home loss to Pelham.

Hopefully, by the end of the season, we can start playing four quarters instead of two, or three-and-a-half quarters."

The fourth quarter began with Olivia Picca, another Bobcat freshman, scoring on a baseline drive. But, moments later, she turned her left ankle near midcourt and was forced to watch the rest of the game from the bench. Pelham soon built its lead back up to 15 points with a bucket in the lane from Volpe before Byram Hills, showing some resiliency, went on a 7-0 spurt to climb within 37-29 with four and a half minutes left on the clock.

The Bobcats' fourth-quarter burst was started by Walsh, who drilled a 17-footer with 6:12 remaining. Just 50 seconds later, Walsh made a pair of free throws. Then with 4:32 left, Jennifer Mui, yet another freshman guard for Byram Hills, dropped in a 3-point shot from the left elbow that sliced the Pelicans' lead to 37-29.

Unfortunately for the Bobcats, Pelham proceeded to score the game's next 12 points, all but sealing the outcome on Volpe's trey from the left corner with 3:46 to go. Just over a minute later, the southpaw Volpe added her final points of the day, scoring on a righty flip in the lane while getting fouled. Her free throw rolled in, giving the Pelicans' a 20-point advantage.

"We began to rush our shots quite a bit right at the end," said Ryan, whose team went scoreless for nearly three minutes until Mui made two foul shots with 1:34 left. "It comes with a bit of youth on the



The Bobcats' Olivia Picca launches a shot from beyond the 3-point arc against the visiting Pelicans.



ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Byram Hills junior Maggie Walsh fires up a shot from left of the lane during Friday's game vs. Pelham.

Gabby Ripka of Byram Hills shoots a 3-pointer in the first half of Friday's home game.

court. But that's our growing pains. We're gonna be going through that the whole year. We can't go so fast that we're shooting the shot in the first eight seconds. We've got to make the defense work and find the openings and get the ball to the people that need it at the end of the game."

Ryan, in her first season at the Byram



Byram Hills freshman point guard Jennifer Mui dribbles the ball during the first half of Friday's game.

Hills helm, has taken over a team with a lot of youth, but not much size. The former star at Hastings High School knows that turning the Bobcats into contenders won't happen overnight.

"It's getting them out of that mind frame from the past that we're down, we quit, we give up," she said. "This team is definitely fighting to find their identity. We have some players on this team and once we just get used to each other, get used to the system that I want to run, I think we'll be much more successful."



Sophia Villani of Byram Hills drives past Pelham's Meredith Kuster along the left baseline.

Quakers Extend Winning Streak by Beating Mahopac

By Andy Jacobs

It's been over six weeks now since the Horace Greeley boys' basketball team last lost a game, so head coach Felix Nicodemo had no reason to panic on Saturday afternoon when visiting Mahopac scored the first dozen points of the third quarter, erasing the Quakers' 10-point halftime lead.

"There was not any point in this game I thought we weren't gonna win," Nicodemo would say after his surging squad had added the Indians to their growing list of vanquished opponents. "Over these past eight wins, we've had to grind out a lot of them. So it was familiar territory for this team."

Chris Melis scored a game-high 17 points, while seniors Brandon Gecaj and Greg Karr combined for 29 more as the Quakers defeated Mahopac 68-52 for their second victory in 24 hours and improved to 10-3 this season. By the time Greeley faces archrival Fox Lane on the road Friday evening, the winning streak could be up to nine games.

"I think with each win, we're getting more and more confidence," said Nicodemo. "What I'm finding is every game is a dog fight. Every game in this eight-game winning streak, we're grinding it out. No one said it would be easy. But I think if we're getting tested now, it's gonna make us that much better once sectionals come and everything gets amped up."

Greeley's latest test began with Melis scoring the Quakers' first seven points of the game and finishing with nine in the opening quarter. Karr connected on a pair of treys and scored eight points as the Quakers built a 19-11 advantage

after the first eight minutes. The Greeley lead stretched to 27-13 after a Noah Shar 3-pointer from the left elbow with 5:49 remaining in the half.

But Mahopac, which entered the contest with a .500 record, outscored the Quakers 10-6 over the rest of the period, trimming the Greeley lead to 33-23 when Justin Parker scored on a layup at the buzzer. When the third quarter started, the Quakers began turning the ball over and went scoreless for nearly five minutes. By then, the Indians had scored 12 straight points and taken the lead on a Kenny Perna 3-pointer with 3:30 left in the period.

"You know, it was actually déjà vu because the same thing happened in Ossining yesterday," said Nicodemo. "I always tell my team the most important part of a game is the first three minutes of the third quarter because it can set the tone."

The Indians' 35-33 edge didn't last long because the Quakers answered with their own 6-0 spurt as Cecaj made a short jumper on the right baseline and Melis scored on a put-back, then added two free throws just over a minute later. The third quarter ended with Mahopac's Perna hitting a buzzer-beating 3-pointer that cut the Greeley lead to 39-38.

"It's disheartening when you play tough defense and then they score twice at the buzzer," said Nicodemo. "It happens, and then you just roll with it to the next possession."

Another 3-pointer by Shar, a junior sharpshooter, increased the Greeley lead to four 25 seconds into the final quarter. But Mahopac responded with a three from Rob Garcia before the Quakers went on a 9-0 burst, highlighted by back-to-back 3-point shots by Karr from the right wing.

But Mahopac closed to within 52-46 on a pair of free throws by Parker with 3:26 left on the clock. The foul was called on Melis, his fifth of the game. Less than a minute later, Karr would also foul out. Fortunately for the Quakers, Gecaj, who finished with 15 points, stepped up to provide some key buckets down the stretch.

First he scored on a layup while getting



Ryan Sullivan sends up a runner in the first half of Greeley's home win on Saturday.



Will Frieder of Greeley dribbles away from backcourt pressure in the second half of Saturday's home game vs. Mahopac.



Greeley's Brandon Gecaj gets to the basket in the first half of the Quakers' home win over Mahopac.



Horace Greeley guard Jeremy Block rises in the lane after driving to the basket during Saturday's 68-52 victory over the Mahopac Indians.

fouled with 3:11 left. He made the free throw, then scored a put-back basket with 2:48 to go that gave the Quakers a 57-46 cushion. When Mahopac closed to within eight points on another Perna trey, it was Gecaj who answered with consecutive baskets from the right baseline that gave Greeley a 12-point lead and all but clinched the victory.

"His game has progressed tremendously from November to where we are now," said Nicodemo about Gecaj. "He works very hard. He plays with confidence and he shoots the ball with confidence. He hit big-time midrange shots tonight."

The fourth-quarter contributions the Quakers got from both Gecaj and Karr helped quell the Mahopac comeback, and Nicodemo is relieved to know he has other players too he can rely on when the late-game pressure builds.

"What I've said all year long with this team is that what makes us tough to beat is how balanced we are," he added. "If two



The Quakers' Chris Melis takes the ball to the basket in the first quarter vs. visiting Mahopac.



Greeley senior Greg Karr shoots the ball in Saturday's game. He made four 3-pointers.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

Foxes Win Team Title at County Wrestling Championships



Greeley's Aaron Wolk, wrestling Fox Lane's Fury Scaglio in last Thursday's dual meet, won the 160-pound title at Saturday's Westchester County Championships.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS

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1000!



Valhalla's Sam Morillo received an entry pass in the low post late in Thursday's home win over Westlake, then turned and easily banked in a shot to reach 1000 points for her career. The second girl in school history to accomplish the feat, she finished the day with 20 points and 15 rebounds.

ANDY JACOBS PHOTOS



Fox Lane's Maria Violante became the first female player in school history to reach 1000 points and rebounds for a career during Friday's rout of visiting Port Chester. Violante pulled down 12 rebounds to achieve the milestone feat for her work on the boards.

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Section 1 Division I title with the runner-up earning a wild card to the state championship.

Even though Pleasantville is classified as a Division II (small) school, the Panthers proved they are a big-time program, finishing fourth at the Westchester County Wrestling Championships with 116.5 points.

Victor Perlleshi won the 126-pound title, pinning Mount Vernon's Najashi Sharp in the second period. Len Balducci (106) and Nolan Egan (160) were runners-up, Michael Balducci (113) finished third and Nayshawn Marks (106) was sixth.

Perlleshi, who registered three pins in three matches, including two in the first period, won his second consecutive county title.

"I really wanted to win it again this year, but I mainly focused on getting better every match," said Perlleshi, the 2017 Section 1 Division II 120-pound champion. "Sharpe is a tough opponent and pinning him shows that I'm getting better."

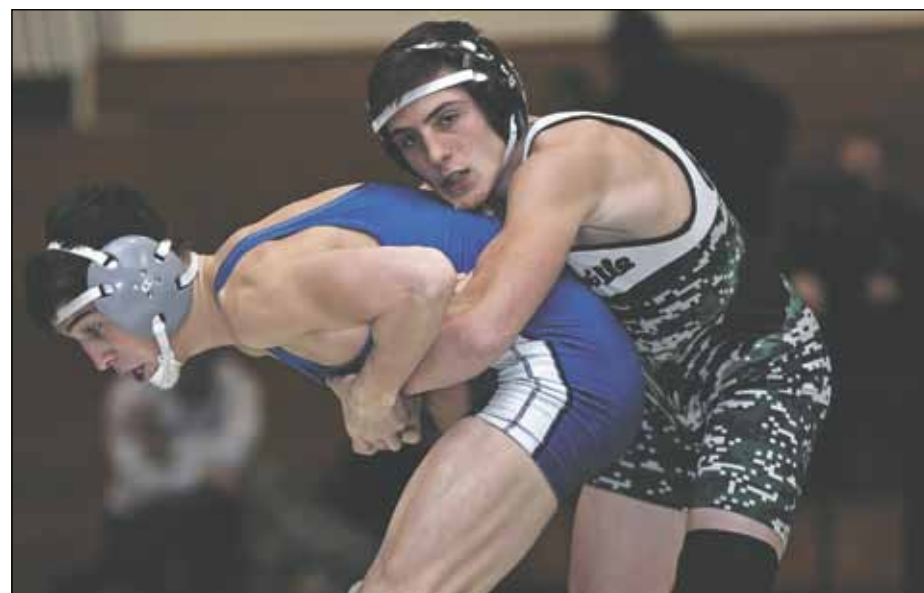
Pleasantville will now begin preparation to defend its Section 1 Division II team title. The Section 1 Division II Wrestling Championships/New York State Qualifier will be Friday-Saturday, Feb. 9-10, at Hastings High School. Perlleshi feels that Pleasantville's performance in the county championship is a huge boost going into sectionals.

"We were the highest-placing small school, which is great for such a big tournament and I feel that it puts us in a nice spot come sectionals," Perlleshi said.

Along with a finals appearance, Len Balducci became the third member of the Balducci family to amass 100 varsity wins. Balducci's semi-final victory enabled him to join father, Lenny, and uncle, Chris, who both rang up more than 100 varsity victories for Irvington. The trio are also sectional champions.

Byram Hills and coaches Joey and Peter Grippi had three place-finishers at the county championships.

Brothers John and Justin Fotugno finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in the 99-pound weight class as Alex Behar placed fourth at 170 pounds.



Pleasantville's Victor Perlleshi won the 126-pound title at the county championships, pinning all three of his opponents.



Jake Witz of Fox Lane has the upper hand as he wrestles Greeley's Everett Bueti during Thursday afternoon's dual meet, won by the host Foxes.

focus on

BOYS' HOOPS

Westlake vs. Valhalla



Westlake's Terence O'Brien shoots the ball from the foul line.



Westlake's Joe Mazzariello takes the ball to the basket in the Wildcats' 71-53 win. He finished with 11 assists, most of them on no-look passes to open teammates under the basket.



Michael Cirio of Valhalla drives to the basket in the first half of last Thursday's game.



The Vikings' Jordan Rush tries some midair improvisation as Westlake's Joe Mazzariello defends during last week's rivalry game.



Valhalla's Ethan Bartlett rises for a slam dunk in the fourth quarter vs. Westlake.



Valhalla's Granit Selimaj tries to score inside after pulling down an offensive rebound in the fourth quarter vs. the host Wildcats.



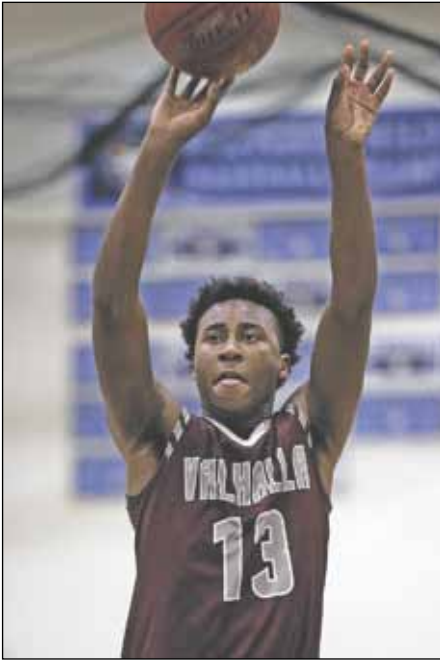
Westlake's Joe DiLiberti (left) and Tyler Tsiakaros share a laugh in the final moments of the Wildcats' win over Valhalla.



Westlake's Tyler Tsiakaros, who finished with 25 points, tries to work his way past Valhalla's Orlando Clarke.



Vince Andre Lariosa of Westlake tries to drive past Valhalla's Marlin Wise in Thursday's game.



Orlando Clarke of Valhalla sends up a shot from the free-throw line late in Thursday's game at Westlake.



















Joe DiLiberti of Westlake powers his way toward the paint in Thursday's home win vs. Valhalla.



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