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October 8 - October 14, 2019

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 631

Anxious Parents Oppose Elementary School Closings in Bedford

By Erin Maher

Alarmed parents packed the Fox Lane Middle School gym last Wednesday evening to strenuously oppose the Bedford School District's consideration of eliminating up to two of its elementary schools in the near future due to declining enrollment.

Many district parents were startled following a Sept. 18 e-mail from Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christopher Manno, which outlined the district's long-range facilities plan. One option would be to operate as few as three elementary schools beginning in September 2021.

Currently, the district operates Mount Kisco, West Patent, Bedford Village, Bedford Hills and Pound Ridge elementary schools.

The district could also choose to close one school or make no changes. Determination of which school or schools, if any, may close will be made following an extensive public outreach process.

"The board has not made any decisions at all," Board of Education President Colette Dow told the crowd at the Oct. 2 board



ERIN MAHER PHOTO

More than 100 community members turned out at last week's Bedford Board of Education meeting to voice opposition to the potential closure of any of the district's five elementary schools.

meeting. "All options are on the table."

Dr. Dale Mann, managing director of Interactive Inc., an education-related consultant firm that the district has retained,

reviewed the alternatives with the board, and noted that if any schools closed, decisions regarding whether the remaining elementary school buildings become K-4 schools must be made.

Allocation of any savings from the potential closures must also be evaluated, he said.

There will be four community forums, two each on Oct. 22 and Oct. 23, to gauge community reaction as a start of the engagement and planning process. By March, Manno is expected to make a recommendation to the Board of Education based on the stakeholder feedback derived from the focus groups and community forums. In April or May, the board will announce its preferred option. Trustees will then officially make their decision next June.

During public comments, 21 of the 22 parents who spoke opposed closing any school, citing students' emotional well-being, potential compromised educational experiences for students and the likelihood of devaluation of houses in the area.

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New Castle Candidate's Trump Donations Spark Controversy

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle Democrats are charging that Republican supervisor hopeful Jim Smith has misleadingly portrayed himself as a moderate or nonpartisan candidate despite a series of contributions to Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

The Federal Election Commission's finance data showed Smith, who heads the Team New Castle slate with running mates for Town Board Lauren Levin and Sean Maraynes in next month's election, made four separate contributions to Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. totaling \$458 from May 4 to Oct. 23 in 2016.

No contributions were found for Levin and Maraynes.

Smith also contributed \$191.05 toward the January 2017 inauguration on Dec. 10, 2016.

The issue, which first surfaced in June during the Democrats' challenge of the

New Castle Republicans' petition to gain the independent Team New Castle line, has exploded recently with extensive social media chatter.

Democrats have also argued that using the Team New Castle moniker has misled the public, making it seem as if residents will likely get a continuation of the current town administration. In 2013, the Republican-endorsed Team New Castle ticket, consisting of outgoing Supervisor Robert Greenstein, Councilwoman Lisa Katz and former councilman Adam Brodsky, swept into office. However, Greenstein and Katz are registered Democrats and Brodsky was an independent.

Smith said the Democrats are trying to steer conversation away from proposed solutions on town issues to focus on a hyper-partisan approach that they think will help them get elected, including using the donations as a key piece of their door-to-

door campaigning.

"I've tried to make it clear that I'm not a Trump supporter," Smith said. "It keeps coming up online on the Facebook groups, where people say you made donations to Trump. I said 'Well, I made donations to Donald Trump in 2016. I made more donations than that to Hillary Clinton in 2008."

"I vote on issues. I gave that support on issues, and in 2016, I was very clear. There were some specific national security policy issues that I've been involved in because I spent time in that space and I thought Hillary Clinton was not focusing on those things and Donald Trump was. That's the nature of those donations."

Among the national security issues that he felt strongly about is a tough stance on China regarding trade and cracking down on its theft of intellectual property.

continued on page 4



Republican candidate for New Castle supervisor Jim Smith has found himself fending off the town's Democrats who have been eager to point out a series of contributions he made to Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign.

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Anxious Parents Oppose Elementary School Closings in Bedford

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Mount Kisco resident Brian Sullivan, a teacher for 17 years in another Westchester district and who has three children attending Bedford schools, all with Individualized Education Programs (IEP), said class size continues to tick upward in many districts even as enrollment declines. Sullivan appealed to district officials to not let that happen in Bedford, saying that “it would be a mistake.”

“The discussion that happens at this level, compared to what is actually happening in

the classroom, tends to be so much window dressing,” Sullivan said. “I am not able to educate all my students as I once was. It’s not even close. I need you to consider that when you think about how your teachers will interact with all of the students in their classroom.”

Jennifer Kothari, a Bedford Village resident with three children in the district, also opposed the possibility of elementary school closures, calling it “a terrible idea for our students and taxpayers.”

Kothari, along with former board

trustees Pam Harney and Michelle Brooks founded Neighbors Together for BCSD, an organization formed to address concerns about a possible school closure and its impact on the community. So far, the group has held two public forums to give parents the chance to discuss the issue.

“It’s simple, closing a school would result in larger class sizes, less teachers and longer time spent on a bus for our children,” said Kothari, a member of the original Space and Enrollment Committee when it formed in 2015-16. “None of these benefit our

students’ education.”

The facilities plan is spearheaded by the district’s Space and Enrollment Committee. Since June 2017, the committee has been working with Dr. Paul Seversky from the SES Study Team, a demographic and strategic planning firm, to assess the district’s enrollment and school capacity.

Last December, Seversky presented his findings to the Bedford Board of Education. His report showed the projected school enrollment decline over the next five years and beyond. He estimated that by the end of the 10-year period concluding in 2028, high school enrollment will drop by 28 percent. There were 1,384 students in grades 9-12 in 2018 and only 997 students are anticipated in those grades by 2028.

Districtwide enrollment has fallen from 4,367 students in 2013-14 to 3,915 last year, according to the district’s statistics.

The first two community forums later this month to address the issue will be at the Fox Lane Middle School Little Theater on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 4 and 7 p.m. On Wednesday, Oct. 23, one forum will take place at the administration building at 9:30 a.m. with the second one at the middle school theater at 6 p.m.

To see Dr. Mann’s presentation, visit [https://go.boarddocs.com/ny/bcsd/Board.nsf/files/BGKRB56D1F37/\\$file/Interactive%20Inc%2010022019.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/ny/bcsd/Board.nsf/files/BGKRB56D1F37/$file/Interactive%20Inc%2010022019.pdf)

Buchwald, Mayer Health Insurance Reserve Fund Signed Into Law

State Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains) and state Sen. Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers) announced that their legislation enabling the Bedford School District to establish a health insurance reserve fund has been signed into law.

The roughly 3,900-student district will now be able to take steps to avoid the financial burden that results when there are large year-to-year variations in claims against its self-funded health insurance program.

“The Bedford Central School District needed help, and I am pleased that working with my Senate colleagues, Shelley Mayer and Pete Harkham, we were able to find a solution,” Buchwald said. “Now, going

forward, a large one-time insurance claim won’t lead to dire financial challenges.”

Three years ago, a large health insurance claim forced the school board to make staffing cuts to balance the budget and contributed to the district being placed on the fiscal distress list maintained by the state comptroller’s office.

In a statement, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christopher Manno said it will provide welcome stability to the district’s finances.

“This insurance reserve fund will be an important tool to help the Bedford Central School District with long range financial planning and management,” Manno said. “We are most appreciative of Assemblyman Buchwald and senators Mayer and

Harkham for the time and effort they spent learning about our district and why this bill is so critical for us.”

The new law, which was signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, authorizes the district to operate a so-called rainy-day fund that can cover unforeseen health insurance-related expenses that would wreak havoc on the district’s finances.

The unexpected large swings in premiums contributed to a situation in 2015 where the district was unable to adhere to the tax cap. Therefore, the budget required approval by at least 60 percent of the voting public. That threshold was narrowly missed, forcing the district to eventually cut 53 positions for 2015-16.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Officials, Experts Brainstorm on Curbing Opioid Abuse at Hearing

By Neal Rentz

Officials and mental health experts called on the state last week to provide additional funding for mental health and opioid abuse programs and give counties and municipalities greater flexibility in how those funds are spent.

Discussions on these topics were held during the day-long Hudson Valley hearing on opioid and substance abuse and mental health issues on Oct. 3 at the Putnam County Training and Operations Center in Carmel. The hearing was conducted by the Joint Senate Task Force on Opioids, Addiction and Overdose Prevention, co-chaired by state senators Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro), David Carlucci (D-Clarkstown) and Gustavo Rivera (D-Bronx).

Last week's forum was one of seven hearings that the task force is holding throughout the state. The group will compile a report on suggestions to curb the growing problems connected to opioid and substance abuse and mental health and submit it to the state legislature early next year.

The morning session was a roundtable discussion featuring officials from throughout the region. State Sen. Sue Serino (R-Hyde Park) said substance abuse and mental health were personal for her; she lost her brother to suicide, and drugs were believed to be the cause of death.

Serino, whose brother was bullied as a child, said more mental health services must be made available for young children.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

The Hudson Valley opioid hearing was held last Thursday at the Putnam County Training and Operations Center in Carmel. Shown above from the left are state senators Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro), and David Carlucci (D-Clarkstown), co-chairs of the Joint Senate Task Force on Opioids, Addiction and Overdose Prevention.

"Our kids are crying for it," she said.

Michael Orth, commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health, said Westchester "is trying to create a true system of care," which is a top priority for County Executive George Latimer. Deaths resulting from opioid abuse have risen significantly in

Westchester, Orth said. In 2010, there were 27 opioid deaths; in 2016 that number rose to 126.

Every year Westchester conducts a forum attended by 400 high school students who return to their respective schools to provide their peers with information on substance abuse and how to get help, Orth said.

Furthermore, when state grants expire, it is difficult for his department to plan for services, he said. One initiative Orth hopes to develop is a comprehensive crisis services plan to deal with substance abuse and mental health issues in Westchester.

School districts in Putnam County have been working together more often to discuss issues related to mental health and substance abuse, said Dr. John Piazza, the commissioner for the county's social services and mental health services.

Jacqueline Johnson, deputy commissioner of the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health, was among those who told state senators that local governments should be allowed more flexibility in how they can use state funds.

Harckham said he agreed with a suggestion from some of the speakers that the public needs somewhere that they can call for help with substance abuse and mental health issues. Piazza said Putnam County allows its residents to dial 211 for those services.

The afternoon was devoted to a public hearing. Ashley Brody, CEO of the Valhalla-based Search for Change, a nonprofit organization that works in the mental health

community, said state government needs to ensure that changes in Medicaid that are placing more individuals in managed care do not diminish the care and treatments for people with mental health issues.

Susan Salomone, an executive board member of the Westchester-based Drug Crisis in Our Backyard organization, provided several suggestions to the task force. She pressed for requiring that anyone who has survived a drug overdose stay in a substance abuse treatment facility for at least three days, opening more community outreach centers for those who abuse drugs, and providing more peer recovery programs for substance abusers.

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New Castle Candidate's Trump Donations Spark Controversy

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Smith, a former Democrat who said he worked on the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign in 1996 and the Inauguration Committee, made \$550 in donations to Hillary Clinton during the 2008 primaries, records show.

In recent weeks, Democrats and their surrogates have been hammering away at Smith. Councilman Jeremy Saland, who is running for re-election and is part of the Democratic ticket with Smith's opponent, Councilwoman Ivy Pool, and Town Board candidate Jason Lichtenthal, said he and his running mates are calling on their opponents to be forthright regarding who they support. He said the public has a right to know that information when making their evaluation.

Saland also pointed out that Smith donated \$1,000 to the New York Federal Election Campaign Committee in January 2016 and \$250 to former Republican congressman John Faso just before last year's mid-term election.

"It's one thing to voice your support for a person with a vote," Saland argued. "It's another thing to not just vote for that person but to take the time to donate to that person not once, not twice, but multiple times and that's indicative of somebody who shares core beliefs, positions that are opposite of, or in conflict to, New Castle residents."

Pool remarked that donating or supporting Trump doesn't disqualify Smith or anyone else from running for public office but that it's a legitimate matter for the public to

know about and weigh. She said she was most troubled by the donations that came after the early October 2016 revelation of the Access Hollywood tape, where Trump boasted of sexual misconduct toward women. The Oct. 23 donation and the contribution to the inauguration came after that tape's release.

"I do think voters in this community have legitimate questions about who he is and that he should be transparent and honest with residents and, in my opinion, he has not," Pool said.

New Castle Republican Chairman Warren Gottlieb said the committee sought the best people to fill the ticket and looked for Republicans, Democrats and independents to represent it.

Gottlieb mentioned that the Democrats' strategy has been an attempt to gain an advantage without having to talk about local issues. He predicted that infusing national politics into a local election will backfire on the Democrats next month.

"Jim Smith is without question, in my opinion, probably the most qualified person

to run for public office in New Castle in the 14 years I've lived here," Gottlieb said. "He also happens to be, in my judgment, the most decent."

Levin, who said she thinks Trump should be impeached, said she has seen an ugliness in this race that makes it difficult for serious people to contribute. She called the debate over whether Smith donated to Trump "nonsense." Political labels when running for town office should not factor in, she said.

"There are a lot of intelligent, committed hardworking people who live in this town and they are put off by this type of nonsense, and it is emblematic of what's happening with our community and I have no patience for the double standard," Levin said.

Smith said he does not support Trump and does not have any intention of donating again to his campaign. He said the President has squandered the chance to be a unifying force and has been a divisive figure, particularly culturally.

But he said the town's Democrats have

deliberately made sure his 2016 donations are a focus of their campaign rather than addressing town issues. Smith said what is of far greater relevance in a local election is where the candidates get their money from. He has maintained that he only accepts local donations as opposed to the Democrats who are the recipients of party committee money.

"To me it's a shame that's what has to occupy the conversation because we have local issues to focus on," Smith said. "This is sort of counterproductive. I think the other side likes the fact that I have to spend my time talking about these things instead of what we are going to do with our downtown or how we're going to fix our roads."

Democratic Committee Co-chair Jane Silverman denied Smith's claim that the contribution issue is a strategy or centerpiece of their campaign. Silverman said it is also a mistake to automatically separate national issues from local elections, as evidenced by the gun debate.

Smith, according to Silverman, has also carried petitions for former Yorktown supervisor Michael Grace in his bid for the Board of Legislators, someone who has opposed the state's Reproductive Health Act. She said New Castle residents should be aware of that as well.

"I think it's important because national issues are not immune from local politics," Silverman said. "What happens on the local level is not a separate animal."

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Study: Pace Pumped \$360M into Westchester Economy

By Martin Wilbur

Pace University just doesn't enable thousands of students to earn college degrees, it's also an economic powerhouse for Westchester County.

The university Monday released a recently completed economic analysis showing that it contributed nearly \$360 million into Westchester in 2017. The study, prepared by The Helene T. and Grant M. Wilson Center for Social Entrepreneurship at Pace, evaluated a multitude of factors including payroll, construction, procurement along with student and visitor spending on meals, entertainment, transportation and local retail.

Although the university does not pay taxes, its positive impact on the surrounding community and the entire county has been significant, said Pace President Marvin Krislov.

"I think the takeaway is Pace is an economic engine, and like other nonprofits, we contribute to the community by employing people who will spend money," Krislov said. "There's a lot of direct economic benefits and some indirect benefits as well."

There are more than 4,300 students and over 1,500 employees at Pace's two Westchester campuses – in Pleasantville and at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law in White Plains, Krislov noted. Other key statistics revealed that students in Pleasantville alone spent \$24.3 million on off-campus food, housing entertainment and retail. Including the law school, that number jumped to \$35



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

From left, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, Pace University President Marvin Krislov and Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer at Monday's announcement of how Pace generates almost \$360 million a year for Westchester's economy.

million in 2017.

Furthermore, sporting events drew more than 142,000 people, who spent another \$5.4 million at restaurants, hotels and retail shops.

Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, who joined Krislov and Pleasantville Mayor Peter Scherer for the announcement of the study's results at the Pleasantville campus, said Westchester is fortunate to have an impressive list of colleges and universities that not only play a critical role in educating the next generation but in bringing economic benefits and vitality to the area.

"It shows again how much that value, that investment makes," Jenkins said.

In the past five years, Pace has invested \$293 million in its two Westchester

campuses, including completion in 2017 of the construction of new dorms and student learning spaces, an expanded student center and enhanced sports facilities in Pleasantville, Krislov said.

While the university is just outside the village's borders, it helps Pleasantville and the Town of Mount Pleasant, Scherer said. He referred to a board propped on an easel displaying the key statistics from the report, calling it the best advertisement for having a quality nonprofit or non-taxpaying entity in the village's midst.

"We are fortunate in this community to be enriched with education, with healthcare, with parks and preserves and not-for-profit organizations enhancing the life that we

already have here," Scherer said.

An indirect non-financial benefit for Westchester is that Pace students contribute 21,000 hours of volunteer community service to local organizations each year, Krislov said.

He said that Pace also completed the same study for its Manhattan campus. Combined with Westchester, the university generates roughly \$1 billion in economic activity.

Like any institution of higher learning, Pace helps students achieve successful lives and careers, Krislov said, but it also plays an important role in bringing jobs and spending to the area.

"I think it's important to see how we're doing, to measure what we're doing, and also for our external stakeholders to understand what our influences is and what our impact is," Krislov said of the purpose behind the study. "But I also think it helps us think about the role that the university plays in the life of the community, in this case Westchester."

He and Scherer both expressed optimism that there can be an even greater partnership between the local community and the university.

"I think there are more opportunities, not just sports events and cultural events, but also potentially a lecture and something educational, community stuff or just an opportunity to see what's going on on this campus," Scherer mentioned. "I think there's lots of potential there and it would please me to think that over time Pleasantville felt like a college town."

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Volunteer New York! to Celebrate 70th Anniversary Next Year

Volunteer New York! has announced that it will celebrate its upcoming 70th anniversary in 2020 with a series of extraordinary initiatives, while it continues to produce the stellar programs and new and expanded events for which the organization is well-known.

The organization mobilizes more than 26,000 volunteers a year and serves 500 local nonprofits in three New York counties.

In celebration of the anniversary, Volunteer New York! is planning an inaugural evening gala to be held on June 4, 2020; an action-packed “70 Ways Everyone Can Serve!” campaign; a spirited “Thank You!” event for businesses this winter; a creative “70 Seconds of Service” video challenge; and a special opportunity to highlight the organization’s affiliation with Points of Light Foundation, the global network that spans 250 cities across 37 countries.

All this and more are among the wide array of offerings to connect the community through volunteerism, which include the organization’s signature programs: Martin Luther King and 9/11 community-wide action days; Volunteer Spirit Awards Breakfast; Leadership Westchester; RSVP of Westchester; RISE integrated volunteering; Nonprofit Board Boot Camp; Volunteer New Rochelle Spring Cleanup; customized employee engagement and more.

The #VNY70 70 Years of Impact



Outgoing Volunteer New York! Executive Director Alisa Kesten with some of the volunteers who help the organization accomplish its mission.

1950-2020 kickoff was made via video, starring the team that is going to lead the anniversary year. The video can be seen at volunteernewyork.org/VNY70.

“Truth be told, Volunteer New York! has never been stronger,” said Volunteer New York! Executive Director Alisa H. Kesten. “Our programs and actions are in direct response to the challenges and opportunities identified by the tremendous local nonprofit sector. They are designed to galvanize a deep commitment by individuals, businesses, philanthropists and public sector leaders to take positive action.”

Kesten, who has served as executive director for nearly 10 years, also revealed in the video that early next summer she will step down from her position. She said she will “pass along the great privilege of serving at the helm of this stellar organization to new leadership.”

“I have tremendous pride and satisfaction in the fact that we’ve built a very strong foundation,” Kesten said. “You know, success is never about one person. Volunteer New York!’s triumphs can be attributed to our very dedicated and able team, which has delivered and encouraged volunteer power. Their expertise in

community-building is unparalleled.”

Prior to her current position, Kesten was Volunteer New York! board chair in 2008 and 2009 and a board member for five years. Last year, she was honored by City & State’s and included on the “Westchester Power 50” list for her tremendous accomplishments and impact in the wider community.

In addition to her work with Volunteer New York! Kesten is vice president of Nonprofit Westchester, a member of the Leadership Council of the Support Center for Nonprofit Management in New York City. She is involved in many other leadership roles for local nonprofits.

“Volunteer New York! has been at the core of making meaningful connections and building leadership opportunities for 70 years, enabling so many to live up to their potential and find greatness through purpose,” said Volunteer New York! Board Chair Valerie Mason Cunningham. “The board is deeply grateful to Alisa Kesten who has made her mark in this amazing organization’s legacy, positioning Volunteer New York! to continue to raise the bar and thrive, connect, serve and grow...for many decades to come.”

Cunningham said that the Volunteer New York! Governance Committee is initiating a search for the next executive director.

To see the full 70th anniversary special events calendar, visit volunteernewyork.org/VNY70.

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Mt. Pleasant Reschedules Meeting Originally Set for Yom Kippur

By Joan Gaylord

The Mount Pleasant Town Board readjusted its meeting schedule for October after the board had been prepared to meet Tuesday night this week, the start of the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur.

Near the end of day last Friday, the Town of Mount Pleasant posted a notice to its website announcing a special meeting of the Town Board to take place at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 7. The only official business on the agenda was to vote on a resolution to change the October dates of the board's meetings and work sessions.

As a result of the change, Tuesday night's board meeting will now be held Oct. 15. That week's work session is being pushed to Oct. 22 with the second regular monthly meeting now set for Oct. 29.

The notice stated the proposed changes would be to avoid holding a meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8. Yom Kippur begins at sundown.

The Town Board typically holds its business meetings and work sessions on the first and third Tuesdays of most months with the regular business meetings scheduled for the second and fourth Tuesdays.

A visit to the Town Hall offices midday last Friday revealed at that time the Oct. 8 meeting was expected to be held as planned.

Neither Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi nor any of the council members responded to e-mails or phone calls last week seeking comment on the scheduling conflict.

A Town Hall staff member noted the Pleasantville schools would be open on Tuesday and closed on Wednesday. All Jewish holidays, however, commence at sundown.

A call to the office of Dr. Kurtis Kotes, superintendent of Mount Pleasant Schools, showed that a PTA meeting that had been planned for Tuesday evening was to be rescheduled.

Rabbi Julie Danan of the Pleasantville Community Synagogue said she hoped the town would be more sensitive in the future. She said she would be happy to provide town officials with a chart indicating the holidays and an explanation of each one. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day on the Jewish calendar.

Though Danan said she was disappointed in how things transpired this year, she added, "I'm sure they will take this as a learning opportunity."



Big Check, Bigger Mission

Representatives from ShopRite recently presented a \$100,000 check to representatives from Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. There were 27 participating ShopRite stores in the greater metro area, including the Thornwood location, that collected donations at checkout during its fall 2018 and winter 2019 fundraising campaigns in support of the hospital's mission to provide advanced pediatric care to thousands of local children. To date, ShopRite has raised over \$1.2 million to benefit Maria Fareri Children's Hospital.

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Obituary

Dorothy Brown

Dorothy Elizabeth (Betsy) Brown died Sept. 26 at her home in Ossining.

She was 96.

Brown had lived in New Castle, Briarcliff Manor and Ossining for 66 years, was a wife, mother, reporter at The New York Times and other papers, a volunteer and a longtime member of the Ossining Zoning Board of Appeals.

Born in Oakland, Calif. on Aug. 18, 1923, to Tom and Sydney Jones, Brown was raised in Berkeley, attended the University of California at Berkeley and began a long newspaper career at the student paper, The Daily Californian.

After the start of World War II, she left college to work on the house organ at Moore Dry Dock, which built liberty ships in Oakland. She often recalled working with little people who were thrilled to have left show business to become welders in tight spots as the ships were hurriedly constructed. She later took a troop ship to Hawaii and joined the Women's Air Raid Defense, talking on the radio with the call sign "Rascal" to spotters watching for planes and ships around the islands.

After the war, she was a reporter at The Honolulu Advertiser and then for the San Francisco Examiner's courthouse bureau, where she endured endless ribbing from

the crusty male reporters who also taught her the ropes.

Next, she moved to New York City and sold candy at a movie theater before becoming a writer at Newsweek. At the magazine, she met Charles H. Brown, who soon was sent to Germany as the Bonn bureau chief. They were married in Paris in 1949 and returned to New York shortly after having their first child, Jeffrey, in 1951.

They moved to a 150-year-old farmhouse in New Castle after the birth of their daughter Lucy in 1952. Charlie commuted to New York to work at Newsweek, and later at The New York Times. In 1963, the family moved to Briarcliff Manor to avoid the double sessions that were beginning in the Ossining schools.

For many years Brown was a reporter at The Patent Trader in Mount Kisco, describing it as the most fun job of her career because of the variety. She received numerous awards, including a national prize for a series on the burdens on corporate wives who had to move frequently and perform unpaid work such as entertaining their husbands' business associates. One summer she wrote wryly about a "mysterious blob" that had appeared in the woods, quoting residents and experts who

speculated on whether it was from outer space, was toxic waste or an exotic fungus. She was known as a tenacious reporter who would not take no for an answer, and as a lively, thorough and economical writer with an enormous vocabulary at the ready. Scrabble opponents were always glad they did not play her for money.

In the late '60s she became the director of communications for the Westchester office of the Urban Development Corp., which built low-income housing. She often returned home laughing after giving a speech and being heckled by a crowd chanting, "Betsy Brown, get out of town!" After her husband died in 1975, she joined The Times' bureau in White Plains, specializing in writing about real estate until retiring in the mid-1980s.

After retiring, she went to Antigua for two years with the Peace Corps, where she lived over a store in a small inland village and worked with the Chamber of Commerce, organized a women's sewing group and survived Hurricane Hugo in 1989. Following her return, she traveled extensively in China, Vietnam, India, Africa and Latin America.

Brown was an avid gardener and excellent cook who liked to entertain, often hosting a lively Democratic watch party on

Election Night. Her most infamous party was a Halloween bash with an O.J. Simpson murder theme, with a knife in aspic and 10-month-old grandson Dash dressed as the bloody glove.

She did extensive volunteer work in and around Ossining. She escorted patients to Planned Parenthood, advised women returning to work on how to dress and conduct job interviews and served for more than 25 years on the Ossining Zoning Board. She regaled friends and family with accounts of the ingenious reasoning applicants used to explain their illegal decks and fences, and she was constantly amused by the slick city lawyers who thought they could put one over on the locals.

She leaves her son, Jeff, of Bozeman, Mont., daughter Lucy Vinis of Eugene, Ore. and three grandsons, Charles Vinis of Brooklyn, Ed Vinis of Eugene and Dash Brown of Elkridge, Md.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26 1:30 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, located at 201 Scarborough Rd. in Briarcliff Manor. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts to Planned Parenthood.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF FOXWOOD CONDOMINIUM, ON BEHALF OF ALL UNIT OWNERS, Plaintiff v. MICHAEL CASARELLA and CHRISTINA CASARELLA, Defendant, Index no. 54254/2018. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated November 20, 2018, and entered in the above-entitled action on November 27, 2018 (the "Judgment"), I the undersigned Referee in said Judgment named, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at the Lobby of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd., White Plains, New York 10601, the premises directed by said Judgment to be sold. The premises will be offered for sale, as one parcel, on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. The premises therein is described as being in the County of Westchester and State of New York, and designated as Tax Lot no. 2.121, Block 2, Section 69, Sheet 51 and commonly known as 121 Foxwood Circle, Mt. Kisco, New York 10549. The premises is more particularly described as follows:

THE land area of the Property is described as follows:

The Unit is designated as Lot 2.121, Block 2, Section 69, Sheet 51, on the Tax Map of the Town and Village of Mount Kisco and further described as follows:

The unit ("UNIT") designated and described as Unit No. 121 in the Declaration (the "Declaration") establishing a plan for condominium ownership of the land (the "Land") and buildings (the "Buildings") comprising Foxwood Condominium (col-

lectively the "Property") made by the Grantor under Article 9 - B of the New York Real Property Law, dated November 27, 1985 and recorded in the Office of the County Clerk of Westchester County on December 5, 1985, in Liber 8286 cp 59. Being further designated and shown on the floor plans certified by Jack P. Fermery, A.I.A., filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Westchester County, Division of Land Records, on December 5, 1985 as Map #22143. The Land is comprised of all that certain lot, piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Village and Town of Mt. Kisco, County of Westchester, and State of New York and more particularly bounded and described in herein. Together with an undivided .8686 percent interest in the Common Elements.

The premises will be sold subject to the provisions of the filed Judgment, Index No. 54254/2018 the Terms of Sale, and an assigned mortgage held in the principal sum of \$331,550.00, with interest thereon.

The approximate amount of the Judgment, for the property referred to therein, is \$14,737.91, plus interest and costs, as provided in the Judgment. The successful bidder will be required to deposit 10% of the bid by certified or official bank check, unendorsed, made payable to the Referee in accordance with the terms of sale.

Robert A. Hufjay, Esquire, Referee.
(914) 664-8400

Ansell Grimm & Aaron, P.C., Attorneys for Plaintiff, 365 Rifle Camp Road, Woodland Park, New Jersey 07424 (973) 925-7343,

Attention: Stacey R. Patterson, Esq.




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New P'ville Support Group Forms for Families Dealing With Addictions

By Abby Luby

A new family support group in Pleasantville was launched last week that aims to help families deal with their youngsters' substance abuse, addiction and mental illness issues.

PvilleCares, a bi-weekly, drop-in group, was started by Colleen Griffin Wagner, a professional mental health counselor and former village trustee, who saw the need for families to share their stories and learn about resources that could help guide them.

"When someone has a child or loved one with mental health issues, it affects everyone, especially parents and siblings," Wagner said. "There's all sorts of research that shows talking about what causes pain in these situations is good for you. I want to provide a safe space where people can share what's going on, feel supported and know they are not alone."

Wagner hopes that PvilleCares will be able to help families cope with the stress, guilt, shame, anger, fear and social isolation that often accompany the stigma of mental illness, substance abuse and addiction.

"I know first-hand, as a mother and as a professional counselor, what it's like to face a difficult situation in your own family," said Wagner, a single mother of three sons, one of whom has struggled with substance abuse issues.

She has worked with several organizations as a mental health counselor

and clinician, including St. Christopher's, a residential treatment center with campuses in Dobbs Ferry, Valhalla and New Windsor. Currently, she is pursuing her doctorate in mental health at Pace University. Wagner also co-founded Pleasantville's Special Education Parent Teacher Association (SEPTA) and the Pleasantville AYSO Very Important Player (VIP) Program and volunteers as a crisis counselor for Pleasantville STRONG, a coalition to reduce drug use and underage drinking in the community.

"I've had many opportunities to work with families and their children who are dealing with mental health issues and addiction," she said. "People view addiction as a weakness. It's an illness, not a weakness."

In the United States, there are about 40 million people 12 years old and up that have substance abuse problems, according to the Manhattan-based Center on Addiction. Substance abuse and addiction affect more Americans than heart conditions, diabetes or cancer.

The center has also stated that 46 percent of high school students currently use addictive substances and 12 percent of students have a substance abuse problem.

On matters related to mental health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that about 6.1 million children two to 17 years old have received an ADHD diagnosis; about 4.5 million children three to 17 years old have



Colleen Griffin Wagner created a support group for families that have a child battling addiction, substance abuse or mental health issues.

which is someone with ADHD and a substance issue or anxiety and a substance issue. These disorders are happening with youth and selected young adults who are self-medicating to help with other mental health issues."

Wagner said even though parents may not be experts, they have the experiences of caring for their children and can relate to others how they are coping and the challenges they are facing.

"Your experience can be helpful to your neighbor," she explained. "You've had similar experiences and navigating that can be scary and isolating. Everyone needs to have a peer group. We go to our children's sports games, and we see them performing in school plays. What do you do if your child has a mental health issue? PvilleCares is about widening your support network."

Currently the group is meeting at the Pleasantville Recreation Center at 48 Marble Ave. in Pleasantville, a space the village is charging for. Wagner is hopeful she will find a free space in the near future that will be a permanent home for PvilleCares. Family members do not need to be Pleasantville residents to attend the meetings and participate.

PvilleCares meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 7:30 until 9 p.m. For more information, e-mail pvillecares@gmail.com or visit PvilleCares on Facebook.

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Police Blotter

County Police/Mount Kisco

Oct. 1: Police responded to a parking lot on the 300 block of North Bedford Road at 9:22 a.m. on a report that a person was sleeping in a car. The vehicle was gone upon an officer's arrival.

Oct. 3: Staff at the Boys & Girls Club on East Main Street reported at 7:15 a.m. that a man was trying to pen doors on cars in the parking lot. The man fled when he realized he had been observed. Officers canvassed the area but could not locate the subject.

Oct. 3: Police responded to St. Mark's Place at 9:01 a.m. on a report that a woman was feeling ill. They found her conscious on the floor of the bathroom but too weak to speak. Westchester EMS also responded and transported her to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Oct. 3: A woman arrived at the Green Street precinct at 9:54 a.m. to report that she was upset that her boss had treated her badly at work and spoke to her in a demeaning way. The woman told officers that she had not been threatened in any way. She was advised that the dispute was a civil matter.

Oct. 3: At 10:03 a.m., a report was received of a man sitting on the sidewalk on South Moger Avenue for several hours and that he had not moved. The man told officers that he injured his foot a few days earlier and was now unable to walk. He was taken by the Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance Corps to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Oct. 3: Police responded to an office on

Lexington Avenue at 3:07 p.m. on a report that a woman was experiencing a rapid heart rate and feeling ill. She was taken by the Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance Corps to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Oct. 4: A resident arrived at the Green Street precinct at 11:27 a.m. to report that he had lost his identification issued to him by the Guatemalan Consulate in New York City. An officer prepared a report to assist him in seeking a replacement.

North Castle Police Department

Sept. 27: The manager at Troy's Garden on Bedford Banksville Road contacted police at 10:16 a.m. to report that she has video footage of mail being stolen from the location at 9:55 this morning.

Sept. 27: The manager at Stop & Shop on North Broadway reported at 4:25 p.m. having an employee in the store's security office who has admitted to stealing money over a period of two months. The responding officer arrested the party, who was charged with fourth-degree grand larceny.

Sept. 27: A driver was arrested at 8:49 p.m. and charged with third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle following a traffic stop on Route 22.

Sept. 29: A complainant reported loud music coming from a tenant's unit on Emmalon Avenue at 3:35 a.m. The responding officer reported speaking with a first-floor tenant and advised them of the town's noise ordinance. Matter adjusted.

Oct. 1: Report of a carbon monoxide alarm activation at 99 Business Park Drive at 8:36 a.m. Con Edison was on the scene clearing the building. The responding officer reported that Con Edison reported that CO readings are going down and that everyone was out of the building prior to his arrival. The officer also reported that the premise was vented and cleared by the fire department. The condition was caused by contractors using power equipment on the building's roof.

Oct. 2: A complainant arrived at headquarters at 6:13 p.m. to report a larceny of a check for \$4,878.16 from his mailbox that was altered and cashed. A witness and owner's deposition were filed.

Pleasantville Police Department

Sept. 30: A party reported at 4:58 p.m. that the front license plate was taken from their vehicle sometime overnight while parked on Pine Street.

Oct. 3: Report of damaged property on Center Street at 5:59 a.m. During the overnight hours, a sign for Center Street was knocked over.

Oct. 3: A 33-year-old Armonk man who caused a disturbance on Bedford Road at 1:30 a.m. was arrested the following day for violating an order of protection.

Oct. 4: A resident reported fraudulent activity on a credit card at 2:44 p.m. The matter is under investigation.

Mt. Kisco Man Charged in Orange County Hit-and-Run Fatal

By Martin Wilbur

A 55-year-old Mount Kisco man was arrested in Orange County last week for his role in a hit-and-run accident that left a motorcyclist dead.

Rene Moratava was charged with leaving the scene of an incident which resulted in death, a Class D felony, according to state police.

On Oct. 1, the Town of Highlands police responded to a hit-and-run motor vehicle accident on Route 9W at 8:21 p.m. within the department's jurisdiction. Police said a tan-colored 1998 Toyota 4Runner, which was being operated by Moratava, was traveling northbound on Route 9W. He tried to make an illegal U-turn into the southbound lanes.

A motorcycle operated by George Guy, 62,

of Highland Falls was traveling northbound in the passing lane but was unable to stop to avoid the 4Runner while it made the illegal U-turn. Guy collided into the driver's side of the 4Runner and was ejected from his motorcycle. He died at the scene.

After the collision, police said Moratava fled the scene in his SUV, which sustained heavy damage.

State police said Moratava was arrested the following day on Crompond Road in Cortlandt. He was transported to the barracks in Monroe, where he was processed for arrest.

Moratava was arraigned by Monroe Town Justice Audra Schwartz, who set bail at \$20,000 cash. He was taken into custody by the Orange County sheriff.

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Westlake High School Class of 1969 to Hold 50th Reunion Oct. 25-26

The Westlake High School Class of 1969 will hold its 50th reunion celebration on Friday, Oct. 25 and Saturday, Oct. 26 in the local area.

Festivities get underway on Oct. 25 at Gordo's North in the Thornwood Town Center starting at 6:30 p.m. Drinks and food will be available at each attendee's expense.

On Oct. 26, there will be a chance for friends to meet by creating their own schedule of events during the daytime hours. In the evening, there will be dinner and dancing at Stone Manor 101 Restaurant, located at 101

Saw Mill River Rd. in Hawthorne. The cocktail hour will begin at 6 p.m. with an unlimited bar with wine, beer and soda, followed by dinner.

The cost for the cocktail hour and dinner is \$100 per person, which includes all tax and gratuities. Checks may be made out to WHS Class of 69 Reunion and mailed to WHS Class of 69 Reunion, c/o Jeanette Spoor, 799 Sherman Ave., Thornwood, N.Y. 10594. If there are any questions, contact Randal Simonetti at 585-738-8333 or Jeanette Spoor at 914-588-7974.

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Large Crowds Descend on Chappaqua for Children's Book Festival

By Martin Wilbur

It's hard to imagine how Saturday's Chappaqua Children's Book Festival could have been any better.

Under sparkling blue skies, the raves continuously streamed in throughout the day about the seventh annual event – from the authors, the hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of parents who toted their children and bought thousands of books and the organizers who put together the biggest festival in its relatively short history.

"I'm amazed at the scale of this place," said Ossining resident Seth Pomerantz, who attended for the first time. "I had no idea it was going to be this big. It's really nice. A lot of the authors are amazing. I thought I was going to be here for an hour and I've been here all day."

For six hours, crowds flooded the grounds of Robert E. Bell Middle School, where a large tent was set up on the field to accommodate the crowds and the authors. This year, there were 152 authors and illustrators who participated, up from about 95 the past few years, said festival founder Dawn Greenberg.

Although there was extensive planning and operations appeared to run smoothly, Greenberg said there are always anxious moments leading up to the festival. Among the concerns were making sure the large shipments of books would arrive on time, how this year's arrangement of having panel discussions inside the middle school would work or how effective the new layout of the food trucks, activities and organizations' tables would be.

But it all came together well, particularly the extra effort to reach out to schools, teachers and librarians throughout the region to ensure they were aware of the festival.

Greenberg said it was also important to tend to the needs of the authors.

"We try to treat our authors with a lot of respect," she said. "We try to make sure they have their latest books here. We try to really talk to them beforehand and get into the schools."

For the authors, the chance to interact with their fans as well as their colleagues was special as was seeing the enthusiasm among the children and their parents for books.

"What I'm very happy to make of it is a lot of people are still reading books and care about their kids reading books and their kids are still reading, so that's great," said author James Howe, who has spent more than 40 years writing books for young children. "Look around, we've been here for six hours. That's a positive."

Some of the authors attended the old festival in Sleepy Hollow. Since Chappaqua has taken over the reins, it has only gotten better, they said.

"I said to people the numbers are astounding," said author Robin Schotter. "The numbers for us are astounding, too, in authors and illustrators, the number of people, and it's a real treat for your readers or your would-be readers or your future readers because we write in isolation."

"It's great to meet the authors and the kids are so excited," said Jason Adams, who attended for the first time after his wife



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTOS

Large crowds streamed into the Chappaqua Children's Book Festival last Saturday on the grounds of Robert E. Bell Middle School. There was also a food truck food court as well as music and activities for children.

Inset: Young readers and their parents were able to meet more than 150 authors and illustrators of some of their favorite works at last Saturday's Chappaqua Children's Book Festival.



Poughkeepsie to attend the festival. It was easily worth the trip, he said.

"We really don't have anything like this," Flowers said. "This is a big event. I didn't expect it to even be this big. It's absolutely amazing, the authors, the books, a nice selection of different things to read and it's a great way to promote literacy."

learned of the festival through their school in New Rochelle where she organizes the book fair. "It makes reading better for the kids, more fun for the kids, so that's great."

Frank Flowers, who volunteers to help children in his home community, brought between 20 and 30 youngsters down from



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Guest Column

If There's a Rock and Roll Heaven, Who Would Lead the Band?

*If you believe in forever
Then life is just a one-night stand
If there's a rock and roll heaven
Well you know they've got a hell of a band*
—Johnny Stevenson/Alan O'Day

I value and respect the talents, success and the musical legacy The Righteous Brothers left on popular music over their illustrious career.

I will admit I am no fan of their 1974 hit song "Rock and Roll Heaven." It is a bit too hokey and mawkish, it although offers us an excellent eulogy and musical memorial for all those late great rockers at the time.

Since the untimely passing of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper in their fatal plane crash in 1959, a total of 102 rock stars, inclusive of the recent passing of Ric Ocasek and Eddie Money, have passed to date. That averages out to 1.7 rock stars per year.

Looking back in true boomer style, I thought it would be fun to take a humorous romp through this rock and roll heaven – with no disrespect intended, of course.

First of all, if there is a rock and roll heaven with one "hell of a band," what should the band be named? The Grateful Dead? Sorry, Jerry Garcia holds an eternal copyright on this. Besides, the band will never be able to release a live and farewell CD. Can you imagine a 102-piece rock band? Hell, oh sorry, heavens no, it is now an orchestra.

And who would be the maestro of this super group? With egos larger than the litany of their sins committed while partying on the Earth plane, the competition for this vaunted title, along with its royalties and book deal and even a spot on a TV special with Oprah, would certainly light a fire under their feet.

Well, for some of these rockers the temptation might be worth selling their souls to the devil. We are certain one hell of a ruckus would follow this caucus, requiring the Hells Angels to quell, knowing full well neither heaven nor hell is large enough for two souls to front a rock and roll band. Simply, hey man, get off of my cloud. They really harp on this.

*As the flames climbed high into the night
To light the sacrificial rite
I saw Satan laughing with delight
The day the music died*
—Don McLean

Let's not forget the conundrum old St. Pete must confront as the recently departed arrive at the pearly gates petitioning to enter. Well, paradise can be heaven or hell depending on one's definition and actions. There is always the standard placement exam to determine their standing in either heaven, hell or purgatory.

For those who don't make the cut, there will surely be tears in heaven. Or when all else fails, poor old St. Pete can defer to the battle-tested AC (Accept Conversion) or DC (Damn Conversion) free choice method. It is rumored that Jim Morrison just landed an eternal gig at the Inferno a Go-Go, singing "Light my Fire" with Hendrix adding a few hot licks.

*Hey Satan, paid my dues
Playing in a rocking band
I'm on the highway to hell*
—AC/DC



By Richard Cirulli

The recent passing of Money and Ocasek, two rock stars of the baby boomer generation, seem to place things in perspective:

*I've got two tickets to paradise
Won't you pack your bags,
we'll leave tonight
I've got two tickets to paradise*
—Eddie Money

We are certain Money did not have Ocasek in mind when he wrote these lyrics, though it may be a wake-up call of sorts. Boomers, maybe it's time to buy the Porsche convertible with your 401(k) money, redline down the highway with two tickets to paradise; couples get a discounted rate. Or take the toll-free road to hell. With our gray hairs flying in the wind, just crank up the volume and sing along to Ocasek's songs.

*Let the good times roll
Let them knock you around
Let the good times roll
Let them make you a clown
Let them leave you up in the air
Let them brush your rock and roll hair*

Let's go
I like the nightlife baby

P.S. It's rumored Porsche offers senior discounts.

Dr. Richard Cirulli is a retired professor, columnist, playwright, author, songwriter and author of "The Songs of Roland." You can view his website at Demitasseplayers.com. He looks forward to your comments at profcirulli@optonline.net.

Making the Most of the Medicare Annual Election Period

Medicare Advantage (MA) plans are increasingly popular, offering robust benefits including vision, health, dental, drug coverage and more.

For the more than 22 million people with an MA plan, the Medicare Annual Election Period (AEP), running from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, is the only time each year when they can shop for alternate plans.

"Health care is one of the most important investments you'll ever make," said Brian Evanko, of Medicare for Cigna, which serves more than three million Medicare customers nationwide through its various plans. "For those unsatisfied with their MA plan, the AEP provides a valuable opportunity to shop for a new one that better meets their specific needs."

- Review changes. In late September, health plans send their current MA customers a document known as the Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) with information about plan changes for the upcoming year, including costs, benefits, available doctors and facilities. Don't overlook this important document in the mail. It can help you determine if you need to change plans.
- Weigh extras. When comparing plans,

pay attention to extra benefits not available in Original Medicare and consider whether you're likely to use them. Some of the most popular are dental, vision, hearing and no-cost access to fitness programs. Others might include over-the-counter drug coverage and no-cost transportation to doctors and pharmacies.

- Consider other factors. Beyond cost, consider the doctors and facilities included in any given plan, making sure it includes your favorite physician. Check drug coverage, prices on your regular maintenance medications and whether it's easy to see specialists. Also pay attention to copays and the deductible. Are they affordable?
- Know yourself. Learn as much as you can about the different plan types and choose one that best suits your budget, lifestyle and health status. Of course, priorities change, which could prompt a need for a plan change.
- Don't forget prevention. Many MA plans cover health screenings beyond those covered by Original Medicare. Talk to your doctor about which screenings are important for you given

your age and health status. Some MA plans may even provide rewards, such as gift cards, for completing certain screenings.

- Get assistance. Plan Finder, found at medicare.gov/find-a-plan, is an online tool available through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that helps you compare premiums, costs of medications and more. You can see how plans are rated from one to five stars based on different quality measures. Additionally, many insurance plans offer seminars at no cost and with no obligation to sign up.

You can also check health plans' websites or call their customer service for more information. Local and state agencies on aging also connect older adults and caregivers with resources.

"Medicare is a great program, but it can be complicated, especially for those who are new to it," Evanko said. "Seek out third-party resources and talk to friends and family who have been through the process, asking questions until you understand your options."

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Pace, WCC Announce New Transfer Agreement for Students

Westchester Community College (WCC) and Pace University announced last week the two schools have signed a new transfer agreement, allowing students who complete their studies at WCC to matriculate into Pace with junior standing.

The new agreement covers students in 12 WCC majors.

The community college's students who graduate from those programs with an associates' degree and a minimum 2.5

grade-point average will be guaranteed acceptance to Pace. All students graduating from WCC's A.A. or A.S. degree programs will have their general education/core requirements waived if they transfer to Pace.

For these students, all courses that receive a passing grade at WCC will count toward degree completion at Pace. For the transfer students, a maximum of 68 credits will be applied toward the completion of the relevant Pace bachelor's degree programs.

"The college is deeply committed to helping our students succeed," said WCC President Belinda S. Miles. "This includes

strengthening our transfer pathways and forging new agreements with four-year institutions. Such agreements truly help our students move on toward real opportunities in the classroom and the workplace as they transition from graduation here to bachelor's degrees at Pace and subsequent careers in their chosen fields."

For nursing students in particular, those graduating with an A.A.S. from WCC's programs are eligible to enroll in the Pace Registered Nurse Bachelor of Science Online Degree Program. Those with a grade-point average of 2.75 or better

will be guaranteed admission with junior standing.

"I'm thrilled to deepen Pace University's partnership with Westchester Community College through this innovative agreement," said Pace President Marvin Krislov. "Westchester Community College is our county neighbor and our partner in the mission to open doors and provide opportunities for our students. This partnership helps our future graduates strengthen their skills to compete in an ever-changing global economy."

Lowey Announces \$500G Grant for School Violence Prevention

Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-Harrison), chair of the House Appropriations Committee, today announced \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice to Westchester County for the STOP School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program.

"Violence and hate have no place in our schools, and our students, teachers and police officers are critical to creating safe, nurturing education institutions," Lowey said. "This federal funding will give students an active role in the implementation of school safety training and mental health programs, supporting a community-driven approach that reflects the diversity of Westchester's schools."

The funding will help threat assessment teams respond in real-world situations and give students facing mental health issues access to school-based resources, Lowey added.

Depending on the results of the state Education Department's recent study on violent and disruptive incidents in schools, Westchester aims to use this federal grant to work with school resource officers and designated school districts throughout the county to help prevent school violence and address related mental health issues. The grant will be administered with the ongoing support of the Westchester Coalition for Drug and Alcohol Free Youth, the Westchester County Office of Drug Prevention, STOP-DWI and the Westchester County Department of Public Safety.

"The safety of our students in classrooms all across Westchester County is paramount, and parents and families need to know that their child's school is safe and secure," County Executive George Latimer said. "The STOP School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program will improve school security by providing teachers and students with the tools they need to respond quickly to violent attacks and school threats, as well as specialized training to help intervene and respond to students who may have a mental health issue."

Lowey led the House in passing a Fiscal Year 2020 spending package that includes \$125 million as authorized by the STOP School Violence Act and \$100 million for youth mentoring programs. If enacted, these investments would continue to build upon critical safety and mental health initiatives to stop school violence and address mental health issues as soon as they arise.

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Red Flags Raised Over Radioactive Waste at Indian Point Plants

By Abby Luby

The closure and dismantling of Indian Point plants 2 and 3 in 2020 and 2021, respectively, have raised red flags about the storage and handling of more than 1,700 tons of dangerous radioactive waste.

At a public meeting last Wednesday, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) answered questions about the decommissioning process. About 90 people crowded into the Morabito Community Center in Cortlandt to ask Bruce Watson, NRC chief of the reactor decommissioning branch, about the regulatory agency's oversight role during the plant closures.

For three hours, many were frustrated with the unreliable audio system that made it difficult to hear the speakers. A major concern was about Holtec International, a family-owned corporation based in Camden, N.J., slated to purchase, dismantle Indian Point and manage the irradiated nuclear fuel. Although Holtec has more than 30 years' experience handling radioactive waste, it has come under scrutiny for fast-tracking decommissioning of nuclear plants.

Holtec proposes to dispose of the waste in as little as eight years; the NRC allows 60 years for the process.

"Holtec is a company with a record of bribery, lies and risk-taking. We know the NRC allowed the company into plants in New Jersey and Massachusetts even before objections by citizens' groups were heard," charged Richard Webster, legal director for Riverkeeper.

"Can you describe the NRC's role in approving and selecting companies like Holtec for decommissioning?" asked Peekskill City Councilman Colin Smith during the meeting.

Watson replied that the agency is not privy to contractual details or sale agreements.

"Our sole responsibility is to ensure the applicant is licensed and has the technical and financial ability to own a particular plant," he said.

When Smith asked for an estimated timeline for transporting the spent fuel rods, Watson said, "Congress promised to take care of high-level waste when they encouraged all these plants to be built. It's in their ballpark to facilitate the disposal of the spent fuel. It's way below my pay grade to make that kind of policy. I wish I had an answer for you."

NRC's oversight role with Holtec directly ties into the formation of Community Advisory Boards (CABs) as stipulated in a federal law under the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act. Watson indicated that the NRC would be checking in regularly with the progress of the decommissioning, but acknowledged that a heavier oversight role would be put on the Community Advisory Boards.

Many have questioned the authority of the newly-formed local CAB, chaired by Buchanan Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker with Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi serving as vice chair.

"We are all in this together," said Puglisi in defense of the CAB. "We created a task force two years ago when we learned of the decommissioning and have been meeting



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

Left to right, John Sullivan, Marilyn Elie, Margot Frances, Manna Jo Greene and Jeanne Shaw, members of the Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition, in front of an inflatable, life-size nuclear waste cask last week.

monthly. We have a large membership including business people, environmentalists, school officials, chamber of commerce, county executives from Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Orange, along with state representatives." Puglisi told the NRC to officially recognize the group as a Community Advisory Panel rather than a board.

Knickerbocker said the Community Advisory Panel was a diverse group with Indian Point supporters and critics.

"We are the eyes and ears and the voice for our community," she said. "Our agenda is the safe decommissioning of Indian Point. This panel will drive the bus for decommissioning."

The watchdog group Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition (IPSEC) has supported a funded Citizens Oversight Board comprised of impartial members, independent scientists, experts, first responders, plant workers,

environmentalists and other informed stakeholders.

"The board should have a budget to hire experts and have appointed environmentalists and volunteers who hold monthly, open meetings," said IPSEC member Marilyn Elie.

IPSEC maintains a CAB made up of local politicians who might have financial or economic agendas is problematic. IPSEC has drafted citizens' oversight board legislation that is expected to be introduced to state, county and local lawmakers in January.

Assemblywoman Sandra Galef (D-Ossining) told Watson the NRC should fund the CAB.

"The NRC allowed the nuclear plants to be here, and now that they are being decommissioned, you should be sponsoring and funding the CABs using money in the federal government budget," Galef said.

Although Indian Point units 2 and 3 generate about 2,000 megawatts of electricity, Con Ed no longer gets electricity from Indian Point. In 2017, the contract between Con Ed and Entergy expired and was not renewed, according to the utility. Up to that point, Indian Point supplied only 560 megawatts to Con Ed.

With competing solar and wind markets offering cheaper energy, Entergy's high price for electricity has priced the company out of the market. Today, Entergy is closing its aging plants across the country.

An upcoming forum on decommissioning Northeast nuclear plants is scheduled for this Thursday, Oct. 10 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at Hendrick Hudson Free Library in Montrose.



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Mt. Pleasant Spirit Day Raises \$42G for Childhood Cancer Research

By Martin Wilbur

A day filled with youth football games and a fun fall festival raised more than \$42,000 for a special cause.

The Mount Pleasant Wildcats Youth Football & Cheer's fifth annual Spirit Day saw third- and fourth-grade and fifth- and sixth-grade teams from Valhalla, Pleasantville, Armonk and Mount Pleasant compete against each other. Each of the roughly 350 athletes who suited up for action on Sept. 29 at Westlake High School, were wearing gold somewhere on their uniforms.

Gold is the color signifying support for childhood cancer, which is the leading cause of death by disease in the United States.



A pumpkin and plant sale was one of the many ways that money was raised at the Sept. 29 Mount Pleasant Wildcats Youth Football & Cheer's fifth annual Spirit Day. All proceeds were donated to the Ty Louis Campbell Foundation, which funds innovative research for childhood cancer.



Six youth football teams from Mount Pleasant, Valhalla, Pleasantville and Armonk participated in this year's Mount Pleasant Wildcats Youth Football & Cheer's fifth annual Spirit Day. Each team included gold in their uniform, the color of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

All proceeds from the fair and football were donated to the Ty Louis Campbell Foundation, a nonprofit organization that funds innovative research and clinical trials geared toward treatment of the most aggressive forms of childhood cancer. The foundation was created by Campbell's parents, Cindy and Lou, after their son passed away from an aggressive form of brain cancer at five years old.

Lori Pfeiffer, the founder and organizer of Spirit Day, said teams from neighboring communities helped make it the event a roaring success.

"This year the motto is many teams, one goal because we're all coming together for one goal, which is fighting childhood cancer," Pfeiffer said.

Along with the games and cheer, there was a DJ, food trucks from local restaurants, vendors, a plants and pumpkin sale, games, raffles and apparel for sale through local sponsors.

The perimeter of the field was lined with oversized photos of children who have been battling various forms of childhood cancer or who have succumbed to the disease.

There was a special tribute to Danny



The family of Ty Louis Campbell was on hand for Spirit Day.

McManus, a 12-year-old Armonk boy who lost his battle earlier this year. Pfeiffer said since McManus loved cars, at halftime of the fifth- and sixth-grade Mount Pleasant-Valhalla game, there was a procession of a few dozen exotic cars that were driven into the campus.

A wide collection of local vendors and businesses were sponsors by contributing sales and holding additional fundraising, which helped to nearly double the amount of money raised from 2018.

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What Has Happened to the Public's Interest in Antiques?

A half-century ago, when I was furnishing my first apartment in New York City, it was in an old apartment house and I considered it appropriate to seek out the wares of antiques shops for décor and interesting accessories.

While all the functional pieces like the living room sofa and my bed were brand new, I looked for antique pieces for tables, chairs, wall décor and accent pieces. For a time after I married, my wife and I lived in antique houses, one in Brooklyn Heights, built in 1826, and the second in Yorktown Heights, built in 1734.

While my wife had formerly been contemporary in her furnishing outlook, I converted her by planning half our honeymoon in Colonial Williamsburg where I had gone to school at the College of William & Mary and where I first developed my interest in antiques. By the time we set up our first apartment, our entire home environment was a throwback to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Besides buying for practical use, my wife and I started collecting for the mere pleasure of finding and possessing items of interest, everything from antique pill and snuff boxes to children's playing marbles. In both Brooklyn and Westchester, antiques were easy to come by with a good

number of shops dotting the city and country landscapes.

Even my wife and I got into the act when we bought our Brooklyn Heights house and it happened to have an antiques shop on the first floor. Because we both had regular jobs during the week, our antiques shop in Brooklyn was open only on Saturdays and Sundays. Appropriately, it was called The Saturday Shop.

When I got the job as director of public relations at The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, we moved to Yorktown Heights, and there we opened the country version of our antiques business in our home, which happened to be an

antique itself. We didn't experience the success we had in the city and closed it after a year. However, we were left with all the inventory and, today, some of the collectibles that were once for sale are now the accent pieces in our very modern home.

While antiques shops flourished a half-century ago, they are hard to come by today. My favorite haunt locally for years had been The Yellow Shed, but today it sells only estate jewelry. Surely eBay has something to do with it.

When I was downsizing four years ago from a 4,000-square-foot antique home

to a brand new 1,800-square-foot condo, my challenge was to dispose of many of my antique furnishings that had filled my house. When I called not one, but two antiques businesses, hoping one of them would offer me a good price for my treasures, I was very disappointed to find that neither of them had any interest in acquiring them. They didn't even offer to take my antiques on consignment. "Antiques are dead," one of the dealers told me.

What is the reason for this lack of interest today? There are probably several reasons. First, I believe that as a nation, our interest in our past waxes and wanes. It was at an all-time high in the early 1940s when national pride soared during World War II. But it waned in the 1960s around the time of the World's Fair in New York, when the home of the future was all the rage.

However, when our nation's bicentennial arrived in 1976, our past became relevant again, and we went through two decades of renewed interest.

But since the turn of the 21st century, antiques have lost their appeal for most of us. Further, living space is more costly than it's ever been and there is less room

for anything in the modern home that isn't functional.

There is one conundrum to consider about all of this: Why is "Antiques Roadshow" so popular on television? My theory is that the general public is still interested in knowing about the oddities featured on that show – but that doesn't mean people want to spend any money purchasing them. Or perhaps this is just a low ebb in the cycle of interest.

I really shouldn't worry about whether other folks are as into antiques as I am. I should just enjoy looking at some lovely old things that grace my home as accents today, or relish the tactile experience of rolling some end-of-day glass playing marbles in my hand, imagining the children's joy of playing

with them 150 years ago.

Especially now that I'm older, I have as much appreciation as ever for older things.

Bill Primavera enjoys a dual career as a publicist and a realtor with William Raveis Real Estate in Yorktown. As a realtor, he engages in residential and commercial real estate. To employ the services of The Home Guru to market and promote your home for sale, call Bill directly at 914-522-2076.



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For Retired P'ville Journalist, 60 Years of Storytelling Spawns New Book

By Martin Wilbur

Herbert Hadad wrote hundreds of stories and essays for a wide range of publications during his journalism career that spanned more than a half-century.

While many appeared in The New York Times, Reader's Digest, the International Herald Tribune and other well-known outlets, the Pleasantville resident thought that maybe some of them should somehow be reprised.

More than two years ago, Hadad started sifting through his files, coming across pieces about his writing career, his time as an aspiring featherweight boxer in Boston, his family, which includes four grandchildren and his wife Evelyn, his background as a Jewish Arab (his father immigrated from Syria in the 1920s) and many others on some of the fascinating people he covered through the decades.

Rather than confining them to his attic or computer files, Hadad decided to put together a compilation of his favorite works into a recently-released book "Tender and Tough: 60 Years of Storytelling."

"I was getting on in years and I wrote hundreds of stories and essays, and although most appeared somewhere, I felt that the stories deserved a bigger audience or another chance, so I started to put the book together," Hadad said.

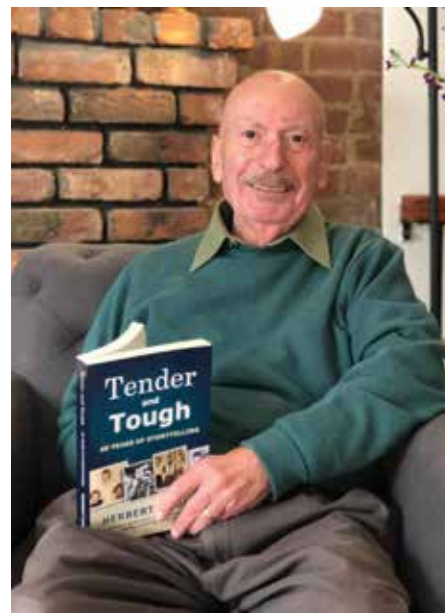
He chose 95 of his favorites. There isn't an overriding theme throughout the book or any connection from one to the next, just essays, columns and articles that were a good read or received strong reaction.

Hadad said one of his standout pieces was a story called "The Art of Waving." He advocated for when people pass each other while walking on the street or along a hiking trail to wave. For the person who waves it costs them nothing but it could help make someone else's day.

"I'm not saying it was the best story of my career but it's one of the stories that got the most attention," said Hadad, who had it picked up by multiple publications, including The Times, Reader's Digest and Catholic Digest.

Another was the time Hadad was a boxer in his early twenties. He needed contact lenses in order to see properly. During a fight, he was actually wearing them when he was hit and went down. He took the eight count to gather himself, as he was trained to do, before rising to his feet ready to resume the fight.

"The referee came over and he looked me in the eye and said 'You're all through, you're all through for the night. You're glassy eyed,'" Hadad recalled. "He was staring at the contact lenses. It was probably illegal to wear them. I was very upset."



Herbert Hadad, a longtime reporter at multiple publications, at his home with his new book, "Tender and Tough: 60 Years of Storytelling," a compilation of some of his favorite essays and stories.

While Hadad is a graduate of Northeastern University, he said that his real education in life wasn't his formal

schooling. It was getting a break as an overnight copy boy in the Boston Globe newsroom as well as his time as a boxer.

At the Globe, the old-school reporters took him under his wing, where he learned about day-in, day-out journalism. While he would leave for a paper in Keene, N.H. to begin his reporting career, he would return to the Globe afterwards before moving to New York to work for the Post and The Times.

The other most valuable part of his education was in the gym that was near the old Boston Garden. His trainer stressed that when facing an opponent, it doesn't matter how tough he looks or talks, you keep your focus on the task at hand.

"That's all posturing," Hadad recalled him saying. "You hit them in the right place, they all fall down, and I've applied that to posturing politicians. You go after them. Don't be fooled by appearances."

Hadad said he hopes "Tender and Tough" is enjoyed by readers. Putting together the book brought back a flood of memories.

"That was part of the pleasure of reading the stories over," he said. "In many cases, I hadn't read them in a long, long time."

The book is available at Amazon.com or by visiting his website at www.herberthadad.com.

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Reading With Tobie and Karen. For school age children. First-come, first-served. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

DIY Fall Wind Chime. Fall in love with autumn by creating a wind chime perfect for the season. For students eight to 15 years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Demystifying Medicare and Healthcare Coverage for Seniors. This engaging, interactive program of the library system's Westchester Seniors Out Speaking is perfect for anyone trying to navigate the complicated healthcare system for older adults. It will help those who already have Medicare, as well as people soon to be 65, planning their retirement or assisting relatives and friends with their medical decisions. The workshop outlines the various parts of Medicare and lays out the costs associated with health insurance provided by the government and private companies. Topics include original Medicare, Advantage Plans, prescription drug plans (Part D), Medigaps (supplemental plans) and various cost-saving programs (MSPs, Extra Help, EPIC, etc.). Phelps Memorial Hospital's auditorium, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 6 to 9 p.m. Free. Walk-ins welcome; pre-registration preferred. Pre-registration: 914-231-3236. Info: Visit www.westchesterlibraries.org/westchester-seniors-speaking-out.

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. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Current Affairs Book Club. "Empire and the Five Kings" by Bernard-Henri Levy will be discussed. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Intro to Film Studies. Back by popular demand, this program was designed as a short but enlightening introduction to the key elements of film language – editing, sound and cinematography. After watching clips from classic and contemporary titles and enjoying an engaging lecture by faculty member Theresa Dawson, movie lovers will walk away with a deeper understanding of the craft and technique of film. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Members: \$12. Non-members: \$17. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Women Reading Women Book Club. "Mistress of the Ritz" by Melanie Benjamin will be discussed. Copies of the book available at the circulation desk. New members welcome. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Free.

Info: E-mail denisedauriasommer@hotmail.com.

Legendary Tuesday Night Jam. This jam has fostered many great musicians over the years. Some have gone on to tour, win Grammy Awards and achieve celebrity status. You never know who you'll hear. Come on down, play or listen, dance, drink and enjoy. All levels of musical talent are welcome. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. No cover charge. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-747-4740.

Wednesday, Oct. 9

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday (except Oct. 14). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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.

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Oct. 14). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Preschool Storytime. This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except Oct. 14). Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Mother Goose. Listen to stories and sing along with the librarian for a fun morning. The session incorporates picture books that focus on colors, shapes, letters and more. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Bilingual Storytime. Sing songs and read picture books in English and Spanish. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.org.

People Love Yarn. Share your knowledge or learn from the group. All skill levels welcome. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 1 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: Contact Louann Rooney at rooneylm@optonline.net.

Pumpkin and Gourd Sale. Come celebrate the United Methodist Church of Mount

Kisco's 18th sale. There are pumpkins and gourds of all shapes, sizes and colors. To benefit the church's ministries. Donations for the Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry will also be received. United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco, 300 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 3 to 6 p.m. The sale continues through Oct. 31 on Wednesdays through Fridays from 3 to 6 p.m., Saturdays and Columbus Day (Oct. 14) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 12 to 6 p.m. Info: 914-666-5014 or visit www.mountkiscochurch.org.

Science Lab. Become junior scientists and learn about different science topics through stories, crafts and experiments. For children four to six years old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Knitting at the Library. Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels. For ages 10 and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-864-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.org.

LEGO Club. We provide the LEGOs, you bring your imagination. A fun-building club for students in grades 2-6. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 6 p.m. Free. Meets the second Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-8041.

Yom Kippur Service and Break the Fast. The Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism invites the community to a Jewish Humanist-inspired Yom Kippur service. Rabbi Frank Tamburello will conduct a meaningful approach to the traditional holiday. The service will also feature special music with Professor Ruth Levy-Schudroff and the choir. Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Ave., White Plains. 6 p.m. Non-members: \$20 in advance. \$25 at the door. For children 10 to 12 years old: \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. Children under 10: Free. Make checks payable to WCHJ c/o O. Turovsky. Info: 914-218-8535 or visit <http://www.wchj.org>.

Art Series: Giorgio Vasari. A talented artist in his own right, Vasari was responsible for numerous large-scale murals throughout Italy. Hailing from a family of artists, he had great respect for his peers, creators of masterpieces in painting and sculpture that have endured through the centuries. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Thursday, Oct. 10

Breakfast Club. A specially designed program for seniors. Includes breakfast, a presentation on a healthy lifestyles topic and a light exercise program to improve strength and balance. An opportunity for older adults to socialize with their peers. Phelps Hospital cafeteria, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937 or e-mail vitality@northwell.edu.

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 and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Knitting Circle. This group is open to everyone who has an interest in knitting. Live, love, laugh, learn and have fun together during these creative journeys. Come share patterns and ideas and celebrate creative spirits together while enjoying the ancient art of knitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Lifeline Theater Music Program. An outlet for unlocking the potential of children and adults with special needs through integrated arts and life skills programs. Drop in anytime and join founder Billy Ayres as he uses singing, dancing, creating plays, artwork and gardening to help participants realize their strengths and potential contributions to their communities. Ayres has created a technique called improvisational integrated music/drama. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. Every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and every Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: Visit www.lifelinetheaterinc.org/index.html.

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.

Osteoporosis Program. For people concerned about bone loss and fractures. Physicians, therapists and dietitians meet to discuss risk factors, causes, proper body mechanics and medication options. Phelps Hospital's Boardroom (C Level), 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937 or e-mail vitality@northwell.edu.

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: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Bounce the Baby. Enjoy simple stories, fingerplays and lap-sit songs for early literacy skills. Incorporates board books that focus on singing to, moving with and playing alongside your babies as instructed by the librarian. For children three to 18 months old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Storytime. For children 18 months to five years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E.

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Hudson Stage to Present Modern Take in Sequel of 19th Century Play

By Martin Wilbur

Hudson Stage has put on some intriguing productions in recent years. Starting next Friday, the professional theater company that operates out of Whippoorwill Hall in Armonk will continue that trend.

This fall, the company is presenting "Doll's House, Part 2," a modern sequel written by Lucas Hnath a couple years ago. It follows Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen's "Doll's House, Part 1" from 1879.

In Ibsen's play, Nora Helmer leaves her husband, Torvald, and their three children, to make her own way in life at a time when women were largely property of their husbands.

Actor Kurt Rhoads, who plays Torvald, said his character had his life turned upside down in the original when his wife abruptly leaves. Now he's in store for another upheaval when Nora returns in Part 2, which is set 15 years later after she has become a highly successful and famous writer.

"He's been holding the fort down and there's been no word from her since that day," Rhoads said. "He's raised the kids with the help of a nanny and he's a banker. He's shut off. He's not the most modern man,

I would say, but when he sees her it's like this open wound."

The show works well in the 21st century with the issues of societal expectations and the role of the genders explored and very much in the forefront, even though the show is set 125 years ago, said Denise Bessette, co-founder of Hudson Stage, who plays Nora.

"So it's just a very contemporary spin on it," Bessette said. "It's kind of not a satire, by any means, but it's her coming back 15 years later and why is she coming back and the language is alive and her relationship is so alive and it's got a very contemporary feel toward it, and the language. It's not a stodgy period piece whatsoever."

Now that Nora has returned, the question what will happen to their relationship? Rhoads said the play makes some very strong arguments from both sides' point of view.

Meanwhile, their three children are grown, with the two sons having moved out of the house and the youngest child, Emmy, engaged and soon to be married. Emmy and Anne Marie, the family nanny, are the other characters in "Doll's House, Part 2."

Bessette said it's been a joy to rehearse the play and she's looking forward to the first of nine



RANA FAURE PHOTO

Family nanny Anne Marie (Mary Stout) and Torvald Helmer (Kurt Rhoads) in a scene from "Doll's House, Part 2" presented by Hudson Stage. The show runs for three weekends starting Friday, Oct. 18.

performances on Friday, Oct. 18.

"It's so well-written, it's so sharp and the dialogue is fast-paced and it's full of ideas," she said.

The show continues Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through

Nov. 2, with Sunday matinees on Oct. 20 and Oct. 27. On closing day, there will be both an afternoon and evening performance. Evening shows begin at 8 p.m. and matinees are at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$35 for seniors. There are discounts for groups of 10 or more.

For tickets and more information, visit www.hudsonstage.com.

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Happenings

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Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.org.

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

Book Lovers. "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens will be discussed. Led by Barbara Bernstein. New Castle Town Hall's Conference Rooms A and B, 200 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqua.library.org.

"Saboteur." A wonderfully exciting political thriller and Hitchcock's contribution to American World War II propaganda, this 1942 film is about Barry Kane (Robert Cummings), an aircraft plant worker who is accused of starting a fire that causes the death of a coworker. But is he really at fault? In classic Hitchcockian fashion, Kane goes on a cross-country chase after the person he believes to be the genuine saboteur, a man named Fry (Norman Lloyd), setting up the famous climax: a race to the top of the Statue of Liberty. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Pre-K Storytime With Craft. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Flight Time! A place to learn about how things fly and the history of flight. You'll even get the chance to build your own aircraft! For children six years old and up. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 5 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Also Oct. 19 at 11 a.m. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

DIY Pumpkin Spice Playdough. Get into the spirit of Halloween with this sweet-smelling playdough. For children of all ages. Children under five years old must be accompanied by a caregiver. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Read to Rover. Dogs love listening to stories. Come meet Rover and read your favorite story. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 5 to 6 p.m. Free. Thursdays from 5 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to noon. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.org.

Gallery Nite Out: Happy Hour & Gallery Tour. Take a look at The Chair Show after hours during a curator's tour and artist talk. Part of a series of artistic and engaging networking events. ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Members: \$20. Non-members: \$25. Info and tickets: Visit www.artswestchester.org/galleryniteout.

Candidates' Forum. Voters in Board of Legislators District 2 will be able to meet, listen and ask questions of County Legislator Kitley Covill and her opponent Gina Arena. Fox Lane Middle School Little Theater, 632 S. Bedford Rd., Bedford. 7 p.m. Free.

Craft Social for Adults. Mingle with

neighbors, enjoy refreshments and make something cool to take home. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 to 8 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

"The Amish Project." Good American citizens who are trying to make sense of the mass shootings that have taken place over the last several years, will be uplifted by this play by Jessica Dickey. It focuses on a shooting that occurred in 2006 at the West Nickel Mines School in the Amish Community of Lancaster County, Pa. The play emphasizes forgiveness and reconciliation in the Amish community's response to the horror of that day. The Schoolhouse Theater, 3 Owens Rd., North Salem. 8 p.m. \$38. Seniors: \$35. Students at the door: \$10. Also Oct. 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 13 and 20 at 3 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-277-8477 or visit www.schoolhousetheater.org.

Friday, Oct. 11

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group. Alzheimer's is life-changing for those who are diagnosed and those close to them. This support group provides a safe place for caregivers, family and friends of persons with dementia to meet and develop a mutual support system. Phelps Hospital, Room 545, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937 or e-mail vitality@northwell.edu.

Hoff-Barthelson Music School's Great Composers Lecture Series. This year's series begins with the program Appalachian Spring at 75: Celebrating "A Legend of American Living." Three-quarters of a century ago this fall, two of America's most formidable artists – modern dance pioneer Martha Graham and "dean of American composers" Aaron Copland – undertook their only collaboration. Together, they created an enduring tale of struggle, survival, renewal, friendship and faithfulness that immediately became a beloved landmark in 20th century American theater – the Pulitzer Prize-winning ballet "Appalachian Spring." Copland House Artistic and Executive Director Michael Boriskin brings special insights into this extraordinary work, which has continuing resonance and relevance today through what Graham once called its "inner frame that holds together a people." Hoff-Barthelson Music School, 25 School Lane, Scarsdale. 11 a.m. \$10. Space limited; reservations strongly encouraged. Info and reservations: 914-723-1169 or visit www.hbms.org.

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. \$14 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.

Music With Miss Laura. Stories, songs, finger plays and movement activities. For children from 18 to 36 months. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11:30 to noon. Free.

Every Friday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

The Sleepy Hollow Experience. This outdoor immersive theater event will now be seen for the first time in the tristate area, staged at the estate of Washington Irving, just in time for the bicentennial of his publication of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." The production features live professional musicians and singers, who will perform the scenes in various locations around the estate and engage with audience members. Theater-goers will be guided by storytellers from scene to scene, meeting Ichabod Crane and Katrina Van Tassel, imbibing and snacking during the famous party scene at the Van Tassel', and, in a thrilling climax, encountering the Headless Horseman himself. Washington Irving's Sunnyside, 3 W. Sunnyside Lane, Tarrytown. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$45 for adults and \$25 for children. Historic Hudson Valley members receive a 10 percent discount. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Nov. 3. Info and tickets: 914-366-6900 or visit www.hudsonvalley.org.

Friday Night Film Series: "Night Bus." Anything can happen at night and it does in this Italian thriller, starring Italian box office stars Giovanna Mezzogiorno and Valerio Mastrandrea. At times funny, at times reminiscent of "North by Northwest," it turns the mistaken identity genre on its head when secret agents pursue a woman and the bonanza she is carrying in a briefcase. In Italian with English subtitles. 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 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch." The Next Stage of Arc Stages presents this unique musical starring Will Taylor and Lauren Singerman and directed by Ann-Ngaire Martin. Based on the book by John Cameron Mitchell with music and lyrics by Stephen Trask. Musical direction by Adam Spiegel. Arc Stages, 147 Wheeler Ave., Pleasantville. 8 p.m. \$28 and \$36. Also Oct. 12. Info and tickets: Visit www.arcstages.org.

Elton John and Tim Rice's "Aida." An epic tale of love, loyalty and betrayal, with an exhilarating Tony and Grammy Award-winning score by Elton John and Tim Rice. An enslaved Nubian princess, Aida, finds her heart entangled with Radames, an Egyptian soldier who is betrothed to the Pharaoh's daughter, Amneris. As their forbidden love blossoms, Aida is forced to weigh her heart against the responsibility that she faces as the leader of her people. Aida and Radames' love for one another becomes a shining example of true devotion that ultimately transcends the vast cultural differences between their warring nations, heralding a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity. White Plains Performing Arts Center, 11 City Place, White Plains. 8 pm. \$37 to \$59. Also Oct. 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 17, 20, 23 and 27 at 2 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-328-1600 or www.wppac.com.

Saturday, Oct. 12

Pleasantville Farmers Market. Experience the largest, year-round farmers

market in Westchester, voted "Best of Westchester" six years in a row from 2014 to 2019, with over 50 vendors and eight nearby parking lots. This week, play chess with instructor Anatoly Tubman from 9:30 to 11 a.m.; the music series will feature jazz and Middle Eastern music by the Oren Neiman Trio from 10 a.m. to noon; the Phelps annual Apple Pie Contest will be from 9:45 a.m. to noon; and PleasantvilleRecycles and lead sponsor Phelps Hospital Northwell Health will be on hand from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain or shine. Please note the market is a dog-free environment. Saturdays through Nov. 23. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

Chappaqua Farmers Market. Locally-raised and produced food to the community creating a connection between shoppers and small-scale food producers in the region. Chappaqua train station, Chappaqua. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through November. Info: Visit www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org.

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. 10 a.m. 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.

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. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. Every Saturday. Also Wednesdays from 2:30 to 7 p.m. and Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m. Appointment required. English only on Wednesdays. Appointments available in Spanish on Thursdays and Saturdays. Info and Wednesday appointments: 914-336-6026. Info and Thursday and Saturday appointments: 914-336-6935.

Prenatal Breastfeeding Class. For expectant parents, offering information on how to initiate successful breastfeeding. Topics include milk supply and how milk is made; what to expect from your newborn; latch and positioning; how to tell if your baby is getting enough milk and more. Couples are encouraged to come together. Taught by International Board-certified lactation consultants. Phelps Hospital, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$50 per couple. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937 or e-mail vitality@northwell.edu.

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-

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Sunday Birding on the Beautiful Bronx River Parkway

By Brian Kluepfel

Once in a while they close the bucolic Bronx River Parkway to automobile traffic and open it to pedestrians, bicyclists and inline skaters.

Last Sunday, they let runners have the run of the road, in a benefit bash for Westchester Medical Center. The Healing Half Marathon and other races (including a 20-mile New York City Marathon warmup, a 10K and a kids' fun run) gave us runners an opportunity to see the parkway as it was originally intended – not just as a way from Point A to Point B, but as a lovely interlude between destinations.

What does this all have to do with birding? Birding can be done anywhere and at any time. During the 1998 Boise Great Potato Marathon, I stopped during Mile 8 to admire a wood duck – such a beautiful creature that it was worth stealing time off my ultimate finish (not that I was breaking any records). During a 10K in Haverstraw last week, I saw several birds, including a great blue heron, along the Hudson waterfront.

This week, before the Healing Half Marathon we warmed up. If you haven't been "rolled," you haven't lived, my friends. It involves a bunch of Styrofoam rolling pins and a fair amount of pressure and your muscles are invigorated for the race ahead.

But I digress. Shortly after this, we crossed the road across from the County Center and spied a squadron of mallard ducks in the river. Unperturbed by the traffic, George Michael warm-up music or the ornately



attired runners (shocking yellows and oranges seem to be the thing these days), the mallards moseyed up and down the shallow watercourse, sharing the space with – naturally – a great blue heron! This was a fine young specimen of heron, perhaps not in full adult plumage, carefully treading the river bottom and looking for a snack.

Soon after the race began, and as the road follows the river, we heard plenty of blue jays and American crows cawing, some flitting in and out of sight as they surveyed the fallen foliage for acorns and such. Once or twice, off on the river bank, I detected the telltale

rattle of a belted kingfisher and wished we had time to stop and find it.

After turning around at the halfway mark somewhere in Scarsdale or Eastchester, we focused on climbing those pesky hills once again and getting our just rewards back at the County Center. My ever-patient niece, 31 years my junior, waited for Uncle Brian to drag his aging carcass along the winding roadway. Bless you, Em.

Our last great birding moment came around Mile 9 or 10 when a loud honking (not the automotive kind) startled our ears. High above the roadway, two flocks of Canada geese converged, probably numbering 50 or 60 birds. They were headed south, to the Bronx and beyond, and seemed to be telling us we were headed the wrong way.

We were back at the County Center before 11 a.m. munching on tasty frittatas and gulping Gatorade. Satisfied with another successful road race, we also shared the magic birding moments along one of Westchester's hidden gems – a day when pedestrians ran free on the Bronx River Parkway.

Always remember, folks, you can bird anywhere.

Brian Kluepfel is the editor of the Saw Mill River Audubon newsletter and a travel writer for Lonely Planet publications, the world's best-selling guidebooks. His next adventure, after recovering from the Bronx River outing, is to Costa Rica next month. You can follow him on Instagram and read his blog at www.brianbirdwatching.wordpress.com.

For The Birds

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Birds & Beasts of Galapagos

Thursday, October 17, 7:00 pm

Free public program at the Croton Free Library

Climate Change Boot Camp – local effects & responses

Saturday, October 26, 9:00 am

Westchester County Center. See website for registration.

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

Happenings

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273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Wolves of North America. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why it's a special time for packs in North America. Whether the wolves are living on the Arctic tundra or the woodlands of the southwest, wolf families are out searching for prey as they celebrate the birth of pups. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and possibly the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves as well. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Oct. 13 at 2 p.m. and Oct. 19 at 11 a.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Uke From Scratch. Join Wendy Matthews from The Edukated Fleas in this workshop for beginners. Learn basic chords and techniques. For children eight years old and up; must be accompanied by an adult. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 a.m. Free. If a ukulele is needed, registration is required. Info and registration: 914-273-3887 ext. 4.

Coffee and Conversation. A town hall-style event with state Sen. Peter Harckham. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Info: 914-666-8041.

Adult Salsa Class. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. \$12. Every Saturday. Info: 917-215-1720 or visit www.addie-tude.com. Call or visit website because classes are subject to change.

"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince." Suspecting that the Hogwarts may harbor an outright threat, Harry investigates Voldemort's history while Dumbledore attempts to prepare him for the monumental battle looming ever closer. In order to discover the key to Voldemort's defenses, Dumbledore enlists the aid of the resourceful Professor Horace Slughorn (Jim Broadbent), who may have a clue as to their enemy's weakness. Part of the JBFC Potter-thon. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. Noon. Members: \$9. Non-members: \$13.50. Children (13 and under): \$7.25. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Cycle for a Cure. A fundraiser to benefit The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Life Time Athletic, 480 Bedford Rd., Chappaqua. Noon. \$100 donation. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit <https://cycleforacure.eventbrite.com>. For those who want to donate but cannot make the event, visit Fundraise.michaeljfox.org/tf-2019/MFAC.

Indie Day, Author Day. Three authors will have books available for purchase and signing. There will be creative writing with award-winning author Jacob Appel; meet Margaret Winslow, author of "Smart Ass: How a Donkey Challenged Me to Accept His True Nature and Rediscover My Own," who will talk about her publishing journey and beloved donkey; and a presentation by Lou Del Bianco, whose grandfather was the head stone carver on Mount Rushmore. In this reenactment, meet Luigi Del Bianco

and hear about his life and work. A Q&A and book signing will follow, time permitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 12 to 3:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Ukulele Workshop. Ukuleles are fun, cute and easy to play. You will be playing a song by the end of the workshops. Bring your own ukulele or pick one up at the store. All ages and levels welcome. Mike Risko Music, 144 Croton Ave., Ossining. 1 to 1:45 p.m. Free. Continues Oct. 19 and 26. Registration required. Info: 914-762-8757. Registration: E-mail Mail@riskomusic.com.

Drop in for Tech Help. Receive assistance with any of your technology devices. PC, Google, Microsoft savvy volunteers help with troubleshooting, downloading, Overdrive, Freegal, Hoopla or any other online service. First-come, first-served. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Saturdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and Tuesdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.library.org.

Pack Chat for Kids. This is the best introduction to wolves for families with young children. Kids will learn about the mythology surrounding wolves and the important role they play in the natural world. This is an exciting time for wolves as they are out searching for prey as they prepare for the birth of this year's pups. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and possibly the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Oct. 19. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: 914-763-2373 or visit www.nywolf.org.

Crafter Day. An afternoon of crafting in the Children's Room. For children and their family to make a do-it-yourself craft as well as related books to read while making your special project. All materials provided. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Also Oct. 19 and 26. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Open Mic @ the Café. Come and perform in the intimate setting of the Library Cafe. If you're better at spotting talent in others, then just sit back and enjoy a nice cool glass of iced tea while others show off their vocal stylings, comedic timing, instrumentation, poetic creations and/or dramatic interpretations. Performances must be limited to five minutes. All ages welcome. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-273-3887 ext. 3.

Veronica Swift in Concert. Swift returns after her rousing and lively performance at Caramoor's 2018 Jazz Festival. Just 25, she has performed all over the world with the top names in jazz, and has won prestigious awards such as second place at the Thelonious Monk Jazz Competition in 2015. A night of exhilarating vocals with a range you are going to have to hear to believe. Also featuring the Emmet Cohen Trio. Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, 149 Girdle Ridge Rd., Katonah. 8 p.m. Adults: \$40 to \$75. Children: \$15 to \$75. Info and tickets: 914-232-1252 or visit www.caramoor.org.

Emerson String Quartet. Friends of Music kicks off its 66th season of six concerts with the return of this world-renowned ensemble. The program will include Mozart's String Quartet in D Major, K. 575; Dvorak's String Quartet in E-flat Major, Op. 51; and Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 5 in B-flat Major, Op. 92. Sleepy Hollow High School's Kusel Auditorium, 210 N. Broadway (Route 9), Sleepy Hollow. 8 p.m. \$35. Info and tickets: Season subscription: \$140. Three-performance subscription: \$90. Info and tickets: Visit www.friendsofmusicconcerts.org.

Sunday, Oct. 13

Sketching Safari. Learn to sketch wolves with wildlife and conservation artist Alison Nicholls. Nicholls is a member of Artists for Conservation, the Society of Animal Artists, the Explorers Club and the Salmagundi Club. Her work has been featured in wildlife art magazines in the U.S. and United Kingdom, has been exhibited at the Botswana Mission to the United Nations and has been used by the U.S. Department of State to promote the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking initiative. Nicholls will explain some of the special challenges she has faced when sketching wildlife in the field and will talk about how to overcome them, whether you are sketching wolves in Yellowstone or elephants in Africa. With her guidance, try hand sketching the center's ambassador wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 9 a.m. \$70 per person. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Jewelry Appraisal Day. Join Rago Arts and Auctions and find out how much your treasured items are worth. Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay St., Katonah. 12 to 5 p.m. Free. For an evaluation contact Robin Daum at 917-397-9374, ext. 119 or e-mail robin@ragoarts.com.

Feeding Fun. It's mealtime for the animals. Come see what's on the menu and learn how the critters are kept healthy. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$8. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Are We Alone? Hudson Valley UFOs. The Hudson Valley may be the number one hot spot for UFO sightings in the country. From the "Mysterious Airships" of 1909, to the massive wave of triangular craft in the 1980s, to the present day, this presentation will highlight eyewitness accounts that will make you think twice about whether or not we are alone. A Q&A to follow. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Salsa Social. Come and learn how to Salsa. A fun and exciting workout. Singles or couples; no partner necessary. Josie's School of Dance, 42 Memorial Plaza, Level B, Pleasantville. 5 to 9 p.m. Intro lesson at 4:30 p.m. \$10 admission. Dinner: \$6. Second Sunday of every month. Info: 914-332-8670.

"Fantastic Fungi." This film depicts a vivid journey into the mysterious subterranean world of mycelium and its fruit – the mushroom. A story that begins

3.5 billion years ago, fungi makes the soil that supports life, connecting vast systems of roots from plants and trees all over the planet. Through the eyes of renowned scientists and mycologists like Paul Stamens, best-selling authors Michael Pollan, Eugenia Bone, Andrew Weil and others, experience the power, beauty and complexity of the fungi kingdom. Narrated by Brie Larson. Followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Louie Schwartzberg and Dr. Tony Bossis, NYU professor and clinical researcher, with Jacob Burns Film Center founder Steve Apkon. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 5 p.m. Members: \$12. Non-members: \$17. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Live at Lucy's Sunday Night Series: Robert Gordon. Rockabilly legend Robert Gordon brings an all-star band to back up his world-famous vocals. Steve Conte (New York Dolls, Billy Squire) on guitar; Rob Stoner (Don Mclean, Bob Dylan) on bass; and Thommy Price (Joan Jett, Billy Idol) Drums will take Pleasantville by storm. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. \$35 to \$45. Info and tickets: Visit www.lucyslive.com.

Monday, Oct. 14

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 drop in.

Morning Bird Walk. Go birding with the Saw Mill River Audubon. Beginners welcome. Rain or shine. Rockefeller State Park Preserve, 125 Phelps Way (Route 117), Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. Free. Meets the second Monday of each month. Info: Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org.

Apple Cidering. New York is the second largest producer of apples in the country. In this seasonal program, children will use an old-fashioned screw press to make apple cider. Participants will also learn about the colonial experience of cider making and get a taste of fresh, tangy apple cider. For all ages. 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.

Robert the Guitar Guy. Play along to some of your favorite songs. From go-go power rangers, to baby you're a firework, everyone is a musician here. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Also Oct. 28. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

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.

continued on next page

Annual Apple Pie Contest This Saturday at P'ville Farmers Market

This Saturday, Oct. 12, local home bakers will bring their finest apple pies to the Pleasantville Farmers Market. For the annual Phelps Apple Pie Contest.

Champions in each of three categories will bring home a gift basket, a medal and bragging rights for the next year. Market shoppers will have the chance to indulge in a variety of delicious apple desserts.

The contest is a highlight of the market's culinary programming. Pie bakers and pie eaters look forward to this event.

"We try to create something close to a state fair-type of contest, but on a smaller and friendlier scale," said local cookbook author and event committee member Suzy Scherr. "To be deemed the best by our panel of judges means you are a very good baker."

The Best All-from-Scratch Two-Crust Apple Pie four-peat winner Sara Cetron knows that well, and this year she is offering her skills as a member of the judges' panel. Her new role brings plenty of experience to the panel, and also means that the contest is wide open for a new winner this year.

Participants must be amateur home

bakers and their pie/dessert must be made entirely from scratch. Only one submission is permitted per household.

The judges include a mix of culinary experts and village dignitaries, including Daniel Blum, president and CEO, Phelps Memorial

Hospital; Principal

Donald Marra,

Pleasantville

Middle School;

Nina Dols,

trade marketing

director, Zwilling

J.A. Henckels;

Alex Gomez,

chef at Pubstreet;

Pleasantville artist and high school

art teacher Greg Nemec; Cetron,

the four-peat winner of the Best-All-

From Scratch Two-Crust Apple Pie;

Lisa Salvadorini, anchor, News 12

Westchester and News 12 Hudson

Valley; Ivy Ronquillo, owner, Second

Mouse Cheese in Pleasantville;

Pleasantville Mayor and friend of the

market Peter Scherer; Ann-Ngaire

Martin, founder, Arc Stages; and Scott

Blasdel, owner, Mead Orchards.



Entries are judged on several details, including appearance, taste and evenness of baking.

"Some past entries have looked very fancy, but have lost because of areas of undercooked or burned crust – or overcooked apples," said event committee member Sharon AvRutick. "Our judges pay special attention to texture and baking skills."

That said, event committee member Catherine Sabol emphasizes,

"We celebrate everyone who puts their pie out there. Every slice is sold and enjoyed. Our participants should all be proud of their culinary skills."

Money raised from entry fees and slices sold contributes to the nonprofit Pleasantville Farmers Market's Scholarship Fund, which is awarded annually to a graduating Pleasantville High School student on the basis of community service in areas of environmental stewardship,

education and leadership. Each winner receives a Pleasantville Farmers Market canvas tote bag stuffed with products donated by some of the market's vendors.

"We are grateful to our generous vendors," said Steven Bates, the market's executive director of operations. "Whether you're a pie baker, a pie eater or both, you'll enjoy the Phelps Annual Apple Pie Contest. This wonderful community event is always a great way to celebrate the harvest season."

Pre-registration is encouraged. To receive event rules and further details, e-mail info@pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org. For day-of-event registration, entries will be accepted until 9:45 a.m. at the market. The entry fee is \$5, payable on the day of the event. The categories will be Best All-from-Scratch Two-Crust Apple Pie, Best All-from-Scratch One-Crust Apple Tart and Crumb or Crisp Best All-from-Scratch Apple Pie by a Junior Chef (18 and under). The winners will be announced at 11 a.m.

The rain date is the following Saturday, Oct. 19.

Happenings

continued from previous page

Every Monday. Info: 914-332-8670 or visit www.josiedance.com.

Tuesday, Oct. 15

Art All Day. Use our stuff and make your art. For children of all ages; with an adult. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 9:30 to 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Bridge for Beginners. Sharpen your mind and enlarge your social circle by learning this fascinating game. You will learn the suggested rules of bridge through card playing. Moving at a comfortable pace, experience a passion for this game and stimulate your mind through the cards while meeting new friends. Led by Doris Paucaldo. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Every Tuesday. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-273-3887 ext. 3.

Postpartum Support Group. For new mothers. Bring your baby to share and learn in a friendly, supportive environment. Meet other new moms, ask questions and receive help with breastfeeding and other new baby challenges. Partners and other supportive loved ones are welcome. Led by an International Board of Certified Lactation Consultant. Phelps Hospital, Room 545, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 11 a.m. to noon. Registration suggested. Info and

registration: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/phelps-postpartum-support-group-tickets-64535052078>.

Sign and Play With Chloe. A fun, musical, early-communication program for children and caregivers to enjoy together. Based on the award-winning Baby Signing Time series, this class uses songs and games to help families learn to communicate using signs from American Sign Language. Taught by certified instructor and professional children's entertainer, Chloe, from Chloe's Kids. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Also Oct. 22. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Short Films for Short People. Films based on beloved picture books. For children of all ages; with an adult. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

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

Senior Afternoon Cinema: "Jefferson in Paris." Thomas Jefferson served as the United States ambassador to the court of Louis XVI prior to the French Revolution. The film focuses on Jefferson's private life, including his flirtation with a married woman and treatment of his young slave, Sally Hemings, with whom he had several

children. Stars Nick Nolte, Greta Scacchi and Gwyneth Paltrow. Directed by James Ivory. Sponsored by The Knolls, a Bethel community. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 1 p.m. Members: \$10. Senior non-members: \$12. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Bridge for the Advanced Beginner and Intermediate Player. Learn what it takes to become a better bridge player – and have fun doing it. Classes offer a mini-lesson and in-class hands to bid and play. Led by Joel Gorel. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Drop-In Breastfeeding Support Clinic. Join other moms and Certified Lactation Counselor Cabiria Dougherty at this drop-in clinic for breastfeeding concerns and questions big and small. This clinic is designed to lessen the pressure to perform that can arise from the usual hour-and-a-half home visits or 30-minute office visits, and afford time to observe more than one feeding in a relaxed and welcoming space. Latch assessments and suggestions for improved positioning and feeding outcomes are the main focus, but moms with babies at all ages and stages are welcome. Questions about pumping, weaning, solids and more are answered with evidence-based, current knowledge and judgement-free respect. Drop in any time. NUR Space, 596 Warburton Ave., Hastings-On-Hudson. 1:30

to 4:30 p.m. \$30. Every Tuesday. Info: Visit www.nurspace.com/nur-calendar/drop-in-breastfeeding-support-clinic-mf83s.

Happy Tea Hour. Now's your chance to enjoy a full cup of loose-leaf tea. Enjoy a full cup of freshly brewed tea using the leaves left over from previous tea programs. This is a great way to savor the flavor a bit longer, explore the preferences of your palate and enjoy conversation centered around tea, without a formal program. Bring your own mug or use the paper ones. Bring your own snack. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whipoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 2 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Sign-up required. Info and sign-up: 914-273-3887 ext. 3.

Design a Monster Engineering Challenge. Use your engineering and creative skills to create the best monster possible. Compete against your peers to make the winning monster using recyclable materials. Snacks included. For students in grades 5-12. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. Info and registration: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Earring Making. Learn to make earrings while helping a good cause. For every pair of earrings you make, make another pair that will be donated to a battered women's shelter. Led by Joan Lloyd. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkisco.org.

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How Chiropractic Care Can Help Your Sciatica

By Dr. Ivana Monserrate

Sciatica is not a condition, it is a symptom. There is always an underlying problem and cause of the sciatic nerve being compressed.

Sciatica is a term to describe the sensation of sharp, dull, achy, numb or tingling pain into the buttock, leg or foot. Causes of sciatica include, but are not limited to, a bulging or herniated disc, scar tissue, bone spurs, pregnancy or tightness of the piriformis muscle. Because the sciatic nerve is the widest and longest nerve in the body, the effects, when compressed, can be debilitating.

Fortunately, chiropractic care has a long history of success in treating sciatica. Not only does chiropractic provide a conservative, non-surgical and drug-free option for cure, but it also targets and addresses the root cause of the sciatica symptoms.

A chiropractor first will determine the cause by taking a medical history and completing a physical and neurological examination. If needed, a chiropractor can order any additional tests, including an x-ray or MRI to help further confirm diagnosis.

Differentiating the cause of the sciatica helps delegate the proper treatment protocol. For instance, if the cause is the piriformis muscle being tight, the

treatment may consist of piriformis stretching and strengthening of the area. On the other hand, if the cause is from the lumbar discs, relief may be achieved more from traction of the lumbar spine, massage or manual therapy of the lumbar musculature and possible chiropractic manipulation.

As mentioned before, one cause of sciatica can be a tight piriformis muscle, otherwise named as Piriformis Syndrome. The piriformis muscle is a small muscle that lies deep in the buttock, connecting from the sacrum, or tailbone, to the hip. It helps turn the thigh outward. The sciatic nerve either travels under or through the piriformis muscle, which explains why it can get compressed by tightness of the muscle.

How does the piriformis become tight?

In 90 percent of the population, the sciatic nerve passes directly through the piriformis muscle. In the remaining population it may travel above or under the muscle. The piriformis can

tighten from sitting in the same position for periods at a time, running or walking, falling on the buttocks, misalignment of the pelvic bones or exercising without stretching. People who walk with their feet outward may be at risk for Piriformis Syndrome.

When diagnosing, the patient will have

tenderness, pain and possible weakness when the piriformis muscle is touched. It is possible for the patient to also experience increased sciatica pain when the piriformis is touched. This point of tenderness will help a chiropractor differentiate between sciatica coming from the piriformis muscle or another source like the low back.

How does a chiropractor cure Piriformis Syndrome? Once diagnosed, the chiropractor will determine the proper treatment protocol. The protocol may include stretching, massage or myofascial release techniques such as Active Release Technique (ART) to the piriformis muscle. Because the piriformis muscle attaches to the pelvic bones, joint mobilization may also be necessary.

Rehabilitative stretches may be given for the patient to complete at home to continue decreasing the tightness and compression on the sciatic nerve. Common stretches given may include a figure 4 or pigeon stretch.

Another cause for patients experiencing sciatica could be from a lumbar disc bulge or herniation. In this case, the patient will experience pain and tenderness mostly in the low back. The sciatica symptom can extend into the buttock, back of the thigh, calf and foot. Usually when the cause of



By Dr. Ivana Monserrate

the sciatica is a lumbar disc, a patient may not have as much relief with massage or ART of the piriformis as they would with ART of the lumbar musculature.

Patients may also have increased pain and sciatica symptoms when coughing, sneezing or sitting on the toilet as well as decreased range of motion of the low back. In some cases, the

chiropractor may find it necessary to order an x-ray, MRI or other imaging studies to help confirm diagnosis.

Overall, with the appropriate treatment protocol and correct diagnosis of the cause of sciatica, chiropractic care has proven success in resolving the issue. By taking breaks from sitting, stretching of the gluteal area and proper lifting or posture techniques, sciatica can be prevented.

Every patient is different and depending on the severity and other factors helps determines progress and length of recovery.

Dr. Ivana Monserrate is a chiropractic at ProClinix Sports Physical Therapy & Chiropractic's Armonk and Ardsley locations. She is also certified in Active Release Technique (ART). For questions or more information about ART and how it can help you, call 914-202-0700 or visit www.proclinix.com.



Space Exploration Presents Plenty of Opportunities for Investment

A recent news report showed a graphic of the earth surrounded by "space junk," human-made debris in orbit around the earth. Even though there are more than 100,000 pieces of debris in orbit, many are so small – such as chips of paint and a spatula – they are near meaningless in the vastness of space.

The ever-increasing amount of space junk highlights the growing use of space for any number of purposes, telecommunications being just one. That bodes well for investors seeking new opportunities in the "final frontier." In fact, analysts estimate that from its current \$350 billion, the value of space investing could grow to between \$1.1 trillion and \$1.7 trillion by 2040.

There is solid math behind these estimates since several factors have furthered the economics of investing in the space economy. A major piece of that increase is expected to come from satellite broadband, which will vastly improve access to the internet

globally. The space economy will include opportunities for commerce, exploration and scientific study, among other areas. Areas of investment, not counting aerospace and defense, will include the IT and telecom hardware industries that can range from earth-bound receivers to satellites.

Unquestionably, there have been challenges to the sustained development of the space economy, but the melding of governmental and private sector investments is a good sign that a hurdle-clearing advance is in progress. Considering that major aerospace firms are significantly dedicated to space programs for the military and private sectors, there are additional investment opportunities that can be nice additions to investors' portfolios.

For instance, consider the many large firms that play a role in the space industry as suppliers, transporters, intellectual property owners and infrastructure developers. In addition,

engineering software and advanced materials firms are emerging as the need for more durable, reusable and lightweight rocket technologies increases. Logistics will be an issue for space cargo carriers, and new facilities require specialized construction.

While the major aerospace companies are the biggest influence in the commercial space market, some very aggressive smaller companies are getting into the business. It certainly would be wise to pay attention to these smaller companies.

There is a well-established presence in launch vehicles, and growing interest in vehicle development for satellite launches and space station supply missions, not to mention the development of vehicles for human space travel.

With missions to the moon set for the future, and a manned mission to Mars on the drawing board, there is no question space will continue be on the minds



By Peter Chieco

of rocket scientists and businesses. With advanced technology, the day when average citizens follow the trailblazing astronauts to the frontiers of space is not far behind.

Just like the American frontier in the late 1800s, there is plenty of room in space to expand and grow. And media graphics notwithstanding, the only obstacles to getting there are limits on technology,

which are falling by the wayside every day. The expansion of the old frontier brought significant wealth to generations of investors, and expansion into space can potentially do the same for current and future generations.

Unlike the old American frontier, there is no finite end to space, and once established, there are no known natural boundaries.

Peter Chieco is a financial adviser with the Global Wealth Management Division of Morgan Stanley in Greenwich, Conn. He can be reached at 203-625-4897.

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How Winemakers Are Coping With Warming Trends



By Nick Antonaccio

We are experiencing a new economic order, unlike any before it.

We are experiencing a new era of technology, the fastest growing and most advanced in the history of the world.

We are experiencing a time of uncompromising, polarized ideologies.

We are experiencing an era of new monetary and fiscal policies.

And we are experiencing an era of changing wine characteristics, as crops are maturing earlier and sugar levels are rising. But I'll stop short of calling it global warming, even in the face of major upheavals in the wine industry.

All of the above phenomenon are intertwined and having an effect on our personal lives.

Earlier this year, wine industry experts and renowned winemakers attended a symposium in Portugal called Climate Change Leadership Porto Summit – Solutions for the Wine Industry. Certainly, many presenters offered the typical gloom and doom forecasts for the climate. Yet, there

were also first-hand experiences presented and discussed by a number of winemakers.

The issues they are facing can be distilled into two major categories:

1. An increase in mildew on grapes and grape leaves. This can cause fruit rot and impair overall production. If the mildew spores are then carried into the fermentation and aging phases of winemaking, the style and characteristics of the resulting bottled wine may be compromised.

2. An increase in alcohol levels. As seasons become warmer, more sugar is developed in grapes. When crushed and fermented, these grapes tend to produce higher alcohol at the expense of aromas and tastes.

What's a winemaker to do?

On the micro level, certain winemakers have begun to harvest earlier in the season. But there is a downside: the sugar levels may be optimal, but the alcohol and tannins may be out of balance in the ultimate wine.

Other winemakers have been forced to change the blend of their wines.

In Bordeaux, a number of vintners have reduced the amount of Merlot (the dominant grape grown in the region) in their wines due to higher sugar and alcohol levels, adding additional amounts of the other grapes permitted in the region, notably Cabernet

Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. This has changed the traditional profiles of those wines.

On the macro level, certain governments and trade groups have banded together to address their concerns. In France, a Plan National Dépérissement du vignoble (National Plan for the Decline of Vineyards) has been promulgated, prioritizing and addressing the issues facing winemakers.

Whether global warming is a near, intermediate or long-term threat, the French are feeling the effects today and have decided they can't wait for fate to take control of their future livelihoods. They have decided to act now.

Last month, Bordeaux producers startled the wine world by announcing a major change in the grapes authorized to be grown and vinified in this, the largest wine producing region in France.

The conservative, tradition-bound Bordelaise will now permit seven additional grapes to be included in their wines. The four red and three white varieties are highly regulated in their plantings and use yet are a clear signal that the French are committed to preserving their reputation for fine wine production.

The grapes? The list is startling for its relative obscurity. There are four reds, Touriga Nacional (popular in Portugal),

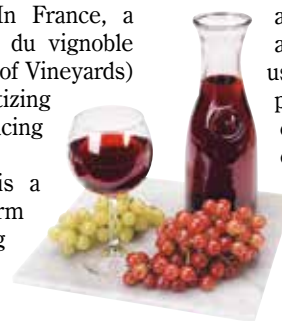
Marselan, Arinarnoa and Castets, and three whites, Alvarinho (popular in Portugal), Petit Manseng and Lillorila. Each is noted for its heat-resistant qualities.

As you might expect, as radical as these changes are, the French are slow to permit mainstream use of these varieties. They are permitted only in the lower classes of wines, not the high-end, classified wines. Production is limited to 5 percent of plantings, may constitute no more than 10 percent of any blend and may not be mentioned by name on a bottle label. As an experiment this is far reaching. These lower

classified wines represent 55 percent of Bordeaux vineyard area and 42 percent of total production.

Regardless of one's viewpoint on global climate changes, it is heartening to see the wine industry is facing its warming trends head-on with innovative solutions.

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



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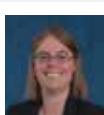

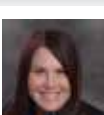







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