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March 10 - March 16, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 653

Bedford Trustees Defer Decision on Elementary School Closures

By Erin Maher

The Bedford Board of Education unanimously voted last Wednesday to delay the decision to close up to two elementary schools in the district for at least a year after its consultant recommended exploring alternatives.

The decision to defer came after the district has been evaluating for six months how to cut expenses while enrollment declines. Districtwide enrollment had fallen from 4,367 students in 2013-14 to 3,915 last year. The district retained Interactive Inc., a national education evaluation firm, to help it operate effectively and in a fiscally responsible manner with a smaller student population.

Interactive Inc. representatives, who appeared at the Mar. 4 board meeting,

recommended that Bedford school officials hold off making a decision "until the District's financial and enrollment circumstances are further clarified," according to the firm's report.

"We believe you have an opportunity to manage your near-term and intermediate finances and to monitor enrollments so that you can get a better picture, and you can confirm or disconfirm the trends that have been reported," said Dr. Dale Mann, managing director of Interactive Inc.

It has been forecast that by 2022-23 the district would begin to experience budget shortfalls.

Interactive Inc. recommended that the administration and the board begin to minimize or avoid revenue-to-expenditure

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State Has the Most Coronavirus Cases in U.S.; New Rochelle a Hotspot

By Martin Wilbur

New York State reached 142 cases of coronavirus on Monday, with Westchester accounting for 98 of the positives, said Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The number is the most of any state in the nation, one more than Washington state. However, New York has had no fatalities and so far only eight people have been hospitalized. The remainder of the individuals are or have been quarantined at home, Cuomo said.

Elsewhere in the state, as of Monday, there were 19 cases in New York City, 17 in Nassau County, four in Rockland, two in Saratoga County and one each in Ulster and Suffolk counties, he said.

Virtually all of the Westchester cases can be traced to the 50-year-old New Rochelle attorney who was the first positive case of the coronavirus, COVID-19, in New York

State last Tuesday. There were a few large gatherings late last month at Temple Young Israel of New Rochelle, which has been linked to the spread.

Cuomo said as testing becomes more widespread, the number of cases is certain to rise.

"Westchester is our problem as you see from the numbers," Cuomo said. "That is a relatively small community in New Rochelle; 98 cases (is) more than the City of New York and that makes the point about gatherings."

Cuomo, who declared a state of emergency on Saturday, said that one of the challenges for officials to communicate is to avoid large-density gatherings, particularly in the areas where the virus has been prevalent and for vulnerable populations – the elderly or those with compromised immune systems or other underlying health issues.

continued on page 4



And the Winner is...

Cub Scout Pack 1 from Mount Kisco held its annual Pinewood Derby Race last Saturday at the United Methodist Church. Each scout built a non-powered, unmanned miniature car to race and see who would be the first to the finish line.

DEP Rejects Latimer's Appeal to Reopen Kensico Dam Road

By Martin Wilbur

County Executive George Latimer called on the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) last Friday to consider a limited re-opening of Kensico Dam Road, but the agency immediately rejected the idea.

The DEP closed the less than quarter-mile span over the Kensico Dam shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attacks to ensure the security of the dam and protect the water supply to millions of New York City residents. The road was a frequently-used shortcut for drivers between Valhalla and North White Plains, particularly volunteer fire department and ambulance corps personnel from the two communities that often provide one another with mutual aid.

Surrounded by several local officials and emergency responders on the Valhalla side



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

George Latimer, surrounded by local and county officials and several first responders, asked the New York City DEP to reopen Kensico Dam Road, but the county's request has been rebuffed by the city.

of the road, Latimer said he requested that DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza allow

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Q: What is an Achilles tendon rupture and what causes it?

A: When your calf muscles contract, your Achilles tendon tenses, allowing movement. As we age, its mechanical properties degrade and its blood supply diminishes. A sudden movement can result in a painful rupture – a complete tear through the tendon – and an inability to move your heel. Think of your Achilles tendon as silly putty. Pull it slowly and it elongates and stays intact; pull it fast and it may snap.

Q: This sounds painful, is there anything I can do to lower my risk?

A: Absolutely. Warm up before exercising to get your blood circulating; drink plenty of water to hydrate your muscles and tendons; and be aware of the temperature outside – strenuous activities in cooler temperatures put you at a higher risk. Your tendons become less elastic, less malleable and more prone to injury.

Q: What are symptoms of a rupture?

A: If it's a rupture, you'll likely experience one or more of these symptoms: the feeling of having been kicked in the back of the leg or heel; a popping sound when

the injury occurs; possible severe pain, with swelling near the heel; an inability to bend the foot downward or push off the injured leg when walking; an inability to stand on the toes of the injured leg.

Q: What should I do if I have symptoms?

A: If you have any of these symptoms, elevate and ice the leg to minimize swelling. If you're unable to bear weight you should go to the Emergency Room. If you can bear weight, make an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon for a diagnosis. If it's a rupture, I generally recommend surgery. Non-surgical management is associated with a higher risk of re-rupture and decreased strength. The goal of surgical treatment is to pull the frayed tendons together at the right length for optimal long-term function. This results in faster, more efficient tendon healing.

Regardless of the type of treatment, an Achilles tendon rupture requires a year or more to recover with full function. Consistent physical therapy will help strengthen your calf muscles and your Achilles tendon so you're able to resume all the activities you were doing before the rupture, without pain. The reported risk of re-rupture after surgical repair is about five percent.

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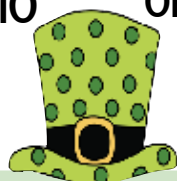
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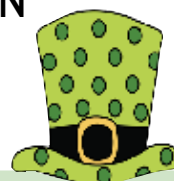
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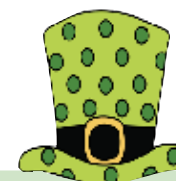
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Bedford Trustees Defer Decision on Elementary School Closures

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gaps and begin planning for a capital bond to help pay for repair, maintenance and improvements to the district's facilities.

According to BBS Architecture, which completed a survey of the district's buildings, the current estimated cost of repairs to Bedford's schools is \$44.25 million.

The consultants suggested that for next year the administration conduct two feasibility studies. The first would examine whether to relocate the Hillside program, a small alternative high school for about 45

students a year, from St. Francis of Assisi parish in Mount Kisco to existing district space, which would save about \$100,000 a year.

A second study would explore whether to move the sixth grade from Fox Lane Middle School to the elementary schools so the district could better utilize the space in its facilities.

Several board members expressed disappointment with Interactive's lack of detail and a firm recommendation on whether to consolidate one or two of its five

elementary schools.

"These are not alternatives that are actionable or debatable, other than for us to study it more," said Trustee Ed Reder.

"I felt the analysis and the leveraging of all your vast array of experiences seemed to lack here," added Trustee Jessica Cambareri.

However, the board's action to hold off making a decision relieved many parents. Since news of potential school closings broke in September, parents mobilized and formed Neighbors Together for BCSD, a grassroots community group that strongly

opposed potential school closures.

"I was encouraged that Interactive's report reflected the community's rejection of closing a neighborhood school," said Pam Harney, a former trustee and co-founder of Neighbors Together for BCSD. "However, I would caution my neighbors, as the board even acknowledged somewhat that our financial system is always precarious, and closing a school may be necessary in the future."

"As noted through budget reviews and even comments from the Board of Education's consultants, the district has an ongoing expenditure problem to address and a number of proposed solutions to consider that do not include a school closure," said Neighbors Together for BCSD co-founder Jennifer King Kothari.

In 2017, Bedford was named the third most fiscally stressed school district in the state for the 2015-16 school year. In the subsequent years, district officials focused on fiscal responsibility, which has led the district to be in much stronger financial shape.

Long-range enrollment projections forecast Fox Lane High School will be down to 997 students by 2028, which would be a 28 percent decline from the 1,384 students in grades 9-12 two years ago.

The board is scheduled to unveil the district's preliminary budget at this Wednesday's meeting.

State Has the Most Coronavirus Cases in U.S.; New Rochelle a Hotspot

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State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker said on direction from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), state officials will press the New Rochelle public school system to close. All of the private and religious schools in that community have been shuttered.

"You need to look at this as a community and there are other public schools in that community," Zucker said. "We'll be meeting with them to keep all the schools closed."

Cuomo said the state Department of Health and the state Department of Education were set to craft a joint letter Monday afternoon stating that if a public school student tests positive that school will be closed for 24 hours to assess the facts and circumstances

and to determine the steps forward.

Regarding the religious schools that have closed, Cuomo said "we could be talking about weeks" before they are reopened.

Late last week the Mount Vernon and Hastings school districts closed. The Somers School District announced over the weekend that it would be closed at least through Tuesday because of a positive in that community. On Sunday, Scarsdale school officials announced the district would be closed on Monday, then extended the closure for 10 days after a faculty member tested positive for COVID-19.

The county and municipal governments along with local organizations began canceling an assortment of upcoming events to exercise maximum caution.

Despite the rising number of positive test results, Cuomo said that unless a resident is part of a vulnerable population, people should remain calm and stay at home if they don't feel well.

"Most people (who) get the virus, get sick, you stay home," he said. "Most people have mild symptoms. Most people don't get hospitalized. The dangerous aspect, again, is people in that vulnerable population."

Cuomo asked that employers, to whatever extent possible, allow people to take time off from work with pay if they are not feeling well. The legislature plans to propose a paid sick leave bill to encourage people to work from home.

Effective last April, most employees in
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Infectious Disease Expert Warns Against Panicking Over Coronavirus

By Abby Luby

The medical director of the Infectious Disease Clinic at Westchester Medical Center said there has been unwarranted overreaction to the threat posed by the coronavirus.

Dr. Harish Moorjani, who has worked in the field of infectious diseases for 26 years, spoke to about 25 people at a special program at New Castle Town Hall last Saturday afternoon. He reassured the audience that the extent of the outbreak of the coronavirus, called COVID-19, in China would never happen in the United States. As of Sunday, there were more than 105,000 cases reported worldwide resulting in 3,584 deaths.

Using charts, graphs and images from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Moorjani spoke about everyday illnesses caused by coronaviruses.

"I don't see any potential for this to become a big problem in the United States," said Moorjani. "We see coronaviruses causing colds on a daily basis."

He cited other deadly coronaviruses with deadlier outcomes, including the SARS outbreak in 2002, infecting 8,000 with a nearly 10 percent mortality rate. The 2012 outbreak of MERS saw a mortality rate of 34 percent from 2,499 cases.

"There is a huge spectrum of the disease that is asymptomatic and people have recovered," Moorjani said. "I predict that the mortality rate for COVID-19 will drop to 1.2 percent. I fully expect that this will be nothing."

Putting COVID-19 into perspective, about



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

Dr. Harish Moorjani, medical director of the Infectious Disease Clinic at Westchester Medical Center, spoke to local residents about the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, Saturday afternoon at New Castle Town Hall in Chappaqua.

16,000 people have died from the flu and 280,000 people have been hospitalized during the 2019-20 flu season.

Moorjani said since dealing with SARS and MERS, the U.S. healthcare system has systems in place to address COVID-19.

"There are thousands of airborne isolation rooms in the country and in this county," he said. "Everyone who is sick and seeks healthcare will be diagnosed. This epidemic will come to an end. Very soon. People are panicking for nothing."

Moorjani said much of the distrust stems from China's poor communication and lack of transparency, which has fueled worldwide panic. The Chinese government has claimed that there have only been about 42,000 cases and just over 1,000 deaths. The actual numbers are just over 80,000 cases and 3,099 deaths, as

of Sunday.

"Not only did China report the spread of the virus late, but they didn't contain the virus and millions of people traveled in and out of China, spreading the virus," Moorjani said. "China has no credibility and it resulted in panic. Then the media comes in and starts hyping it up like there's no tomorrow, telling people we're all going to die. It's crazy. It's not going to happen. The panic is unjustified."

What differs with COVID-19, Moorjani said, is that it apparently emerged from animals and that it has developed an affinity for the receptors in the throat and lungs in humans. He acknowledged that if the virus gets into the lung, that's when people get pneumonia, which can have severe consequences.

Moorjani pointed out there have been less than 100 new cases of COVID-19 reported in China in recent weeks, proving the epidemic has leveled off.

"Millions of others that were exposed to the virus in Wuhan didn't get sick because they were healthy and developed an immune response that fought the virus off," he said.

Moorjani predicted that the number of people who will contract COVID-19 would be a fraction of the population in the United States.

"The worst-case scenario is you're not going to see anything more than half a million people infected in this country. There is no common source (as there was in Wuhan) for the epidemic and it's not going to occur."

The most vulnerable are people whose health is already compromised, seniors and especially those with lung disease, cancer, HIV, diabetes or high blood pressure. Moorjani said

smokers and those who vape may be also be susceptible.

He recommended the following protective practices:

- Use hand sanitizer multiple times throughout the day; the virus can't survive the alcohol in sanitizer.
- If you touch a surface that has the virus, it's not going to get into your system unless you touch your face.
- Stay at least six feet away from people coughing and sneezing who may have the virus, which can be projected via cough or sneeze a maximum of six feet lasting about five to six seconds. Once the virus falls to the ground or onto tables, chairs or on metal, it can stay for a few hours. On surfaces other than metal, the virus can survive for two days.
- The illness is typically less severe for people who have had a flu shot.
- If you think you have the virus, call your doctor before going anywhere. Your doctor will call the Department of Health who will arrange for you to get tested.
- Zinc lozenges and gargling can help unblock the virus from the throat.

Moorjani said New York State and Westchester County are well-prepared.

"Within two months we will have all the supplies we need like masks, sanitizers, protective equipment," he said. "In three to six months we will have a drug and within a year or a year and a half, we will have a vaccine. Even if I'm wrong and there is a pandemic in this country, we are well-equipped to handle it."

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DEP Rejects Latimer's Appeal to Reopen Kensico Dam Road

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the county to present a plan to be reviewed that would reopen the road to ease traffic congestion during peak hours while also protecting the health and safety of Westchester and New York City residents. "We recognize that this road goes

across the dam that holds back thousands of gallons of water," Latimer said. "We understand that it is a very important dam to secure for the health and safety for hundreds of thousands of Westchester residents. But I also know that all across America, roads of strategic importance,

roads that connect one side of a place to the other side of a place, might also be targets for terrorists, and in some fashion those bridges are secured in a way to allow their use."

However, DEP spokesman Adam Bosch, citing Sapienza's response to Latimer in a letter to the county executive on Mar. 5, said there is no chance the agency will reopen the road.

"New York City will not consider any proposal to allow vehicles on Kensico Dam," Bosch said. "This would present an untenable risk to the water supply for more than nine million people in New York City and Westchester County, and to public safety for those who live, work and recreate downstream of the dam. The imperative to protect our water supply infrastructure, public safety and public health far outweighs any other consideration."

In Sapienza's letter, which the DEP made available, the commissioner pointed to the \$5 million traffic upgrade project it has undertaken to improve eight intersections in Mount Pleasant and North Castle near the dam. That project is in the midst of being done, Bosch said.

The county's law enforcement would help devise a plan to ensure public safety, Latimer said. He said that other potential targets such as the Golden Gate Bridge or the Verrazano Bridge which pose even greater challenges to keep safe, are kept open. The road should not be open during

the evening, he said.

North Castle Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto said the town's chief concern has been making sure first responders can reach emergencies as quickly as possible. She said the DEP could have had a meeting with the county to explain its position.

"I'm disappointed that there wasn't at least a discussion, and not a discussion that someone like myself is involved, but some high-level county officials meeting privately with the DEP to understand why they continue to take a very adamant stance," DiGiacinto said.

Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi said he understood the fear following 9/11 and the DEP's decision, but it's time to take another look.

"I do agree with the county executive that eliminating certain types of vehicles and hours of operation could be a major benefit," Fulgenzi said.

North White Plains Fire Commissioner Matthew Manfredi said New York City officials have repeatedly cited that opening the road is a security threat but local officials haven't been shown proof that it can't be secured with the road opened during certain times of the day.

"I'd like to see those studies that they reviewed, the assessment studies and all the other stuff," Manfredi said. "We never got to see that information that they received 18 years ago."

State Has the Most Coronavirus Cases in U.S.; New Rochelle a Hotspot

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Westchester County became entitled to earned sick leave, under a law passed by the Board of Legislators in October 2018.

Zucker said people who are prioritized for testing include those who have returned from countries of concern, anyone who has been close to someone who tested positive or anyone in the hospital where there is no other reason for why they may be experiencing symptoms.

Cuomo said Monday that he spoke with Vice President Mike Pence who is working with the state to allow for private laboratory testing. After a delay, the states received permission to have state laboratories conduct testing, but the demand is more than can be handled, he said.

Late Monday afternoon, Northwell Health announced it had received authorization from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration to begin manual testing for COVID-19. Northwell Health can complete 1,000 tests a day with automated testing as opposed to about 80 tests a day with manual testing, Cuomo said.

"I want to find the positives. We want to put them in isolation so that it's not spreading," the governor said. "The more positive people we find, the better. The more tests we run, the better. The more tests we run, the more positive people we will find, the better. Then we can do the containment."

Those that are not part of the vulnerable populations are unlikely to have serious issues even if they do get the virus, Cuomo said.

"There's a level of fear here that is not connected to the facts," he said. "There's more fear, more anxiety than the facts would justify."

For more information about COVID-19, including precautions, visit <https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novel-coronavirus> or the state Department of Health at <https://www.health.ny.gov/>

People can also call the state Department of Health COVID-19 hotline at 888-364-3065 or the Westchester County COVID-19 Information hotline 211.



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Chappaqua Schools Overspent \$250G for Services on Subdivision Work

By Abby Luby

For the last 10 years, engineering companies preparing a nearly 21-acre property for subdivision that the Chappaqua School District is looking to sell were paid about \$250,000 more than what was authorized by the district.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christine Ackerman last week presented a detailed list of companies that have worked on the Zauderer property, near the intersection of Garey Drive and Buttonhook Road and the excess money that was paid to each. The amount of unauthorized expenditures is \$256,051.

Ackerman was alerted to the overspending after a copy of one of the contracts was requested.

"That's when we began to look at our contracts and realized we exceeded the amount," she said.

The district has since hired an independent forensic auditor to study its purchasing process. The results of the auditor's findings are expected to be presented at the Mar. 18 Board of Education meeting.

"The forensic auditor will look at the entire project and will also go beyond that scope as well," said Ackerman.

The district purchased the 20.9-acre parcel in 1973 for \$125,000, to potentially build another elementary school. The six-lot property was placed on the market last October for \$3.5 million. Each lot has an

approved pool site, access to municipal water and Board of Health approved septic. The current tax bill on the land is \$18,988.

When the district officials decided to sell the property in 2010, they hired a team of contractors to prepare the parcel to be subdivided.

The current project manager and site plan engineer, J. D. Barrett & Associates of Easton, Conn., hired in 2015, was approved for \$90,775. According to Ackerman's presentation at the Mar. 3 board meeting, the district paid the firm \$117,724 more than had been approved. The company is still working for the district.

Campbell Engineering of Chappaqua, hired in 2010 to study the water and septic on the property, was approved for \$90,000, but the district ultimately spent \$204,885.

Leggette Brashears Graham LBG

Engineering started working on stormwater engineering in 2016 and was approved to be reimbursed as much as \$78,000. That company later merged with the Briarcliff Manor-based WSP and the overage paid was \$23,442.

Professional contractors hired by the district that charge more than \$40,000 requires school officials to issue a Request for Proposal and the bid must receive Board of Education approval, Ackerman said. Once a purchase order is open and the work is done, an invoice is submitted.

The claims auditor must verify that the work has been done, sign off on the warrant, then send the warrant to the business office where the district treasurer signs the check for the contractor.

"Obviously this process did not work," Ackerman said. "I supervise the business

office, not the claims auditor."

To date, Ackerman and Assistant Superintendent for Business John Chow have met with the claims auditor and the district's attorney to review policies and claim auditor procedures.

"We conducted an internal review of our professional contracts, which have been problematic for last year and this year," she said. "The process for purchasing and entering into contracts was flawed. We wanted to know if this was part of a pattern or an anomaly. Based on our review, it appears to us that this is an anomaly."

Cassidy-Flynn Funeral Home to Participate in Easter Toys for Children

This Easter bring smiles to deserving kids who are confined to children's hospitals across America.

Cassidy-Flynn Funeral Home Inc. in Mount Kisco is collecting new toys to be delivered to these brave and deserving children.

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Norther Westchester Hospital's Pediatric Unit, Maria Fareri Children's Hospital and Blythedale Children's Hospital.

From Monday, Mar. 23 through Friday, Apr 3, stop by Cassidy-Flynn Funeral Home Inc., located at 288 E. Main St. in Mount Kisco, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and drop off your gift of kindness and love.


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Pursuant to the provisions of Section 4-120 of the New York State Election Law, notice is hereby given that the following public offices will be voted upon at the Pleasantville General Village Election to be held on **Wednesday, March 18, 2020 between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00pm:**

PLEASANTVILLE CIVIC

Name of Candidate	Title of Office	Residence of Candidate
Nicole Asquith	Village Trustee (3 year term)	54 Great Oak Ln., Pleasantville, NY 10570

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Name of Candidate	Title of Office	Residence of Candidate
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Obituaries

Mattias Edstrom

Mattias James Edstrom of Chappaqua passed away Feb. 29, 2020.

Mattias was born July 12, 2008, in New York City to Ivy Pool and Christian Edstrom. He is also survived by his sister Alexandra.

Mattias was a student at Robert E. Bell Middle School in Chappaqua. He was an avid learner and loved to share what he knew with all around him. Mattias loved the outdoors, skiing, playing baseball and hiking with his family. He was an ardent Scout in Chappaqua Troop 2, and he adored his little sister.

The family received friends at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville on Mar. 6. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the First Congregational Church of Chappaqua.



Mattias Edstrom

Jeremiah Lynch

Jeremiah T. Lynch of Pleasantville suddenly passed on Mar. 6. He was 62.

Lynch was born May 16, 1957, in the Bronx, the son of John and Eileen Lynch, the second oldest of four siblings. He grew up in Astoria, Queens and graduated from Manhattan College. He married his beautiful bride, Brigid Adams on July 31.

He worked for over 40 years as a partner in public accounting and was a frequent speaker on state and local tax topics. He served on a number of boards, including as deputy mayor of Pleasantville. Above and beyond his work accomplishments, he was most proud of his time volunteering and participating in his children's sports teams. Lynch loved his family and friends, his Pleasantville community, the Astoria boys and golf crew and he loved

connecting and chatting with people anywhere he went.

He will be remembered for his positive impact, generosity and unbelievably kind heart.

Lynch is survived by Brigid Lynch; Courtney, Christopher and Conor Luongo; Jaqueline Lynch, Madeline Lynch-Riley and Peter Matranga; Michael and Kennedy Lynch and Kayla Wade; John J. and Eileen Lynch, John Lynch, David Lynch and Eileen Mahoney; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation is scheduled for Tuesday, Mar. 10 from 3 to 8 p.m. at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home in Pleasantville. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Wednesday, Mar. 11 at 9:30 a.m. at Holy Innocents Church in Pleasantville. Burial will follow at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to www.tinagambino.org or www.bthbreakthehold.org.

Police Blotter

North Castle Police Department

Feb. 28: A caller reported at 11:36 a.m. a past dispute with workers conducting construction in front of her Main Street business. She reported that there was an agreement that the work not be conducted in front of her business on Fridays. There was no active dispute at the time of the call.

Feb. 28: Report of property damage at a North Broadway gas station at 2:46 p.m. A caller reported that a customer pulled away with the gas pump apparently still in the vehicle, causing damage to the pump handle. Prior to the patrol's arrival, the employee called back and reported that the vehicle made payment to the business for the damage and police response is not needed.

Feb. 29: County Fire Control dispatched the Armonk Fire Department to Bedford Road at 9:04 a.m. on a report of a male party who sustained leg injuries from a fall. The responding officers reported that the party was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

Mar. 1: A caller reported at 5:56 a.m. that his carbon alarm is going off and there is a strange odor in the air at a Cole Drive residence. The caller was advised to wait outside the residence for the fire department and police to arrive. The responding officers stated that the fire department reported low levels of carbon. The residence was vented.

Mar. 1: Report of a large purple tarp and a hose in the roadway on Round Hill Road at 4:53 p.m., creating a traffic hazard. The responding officer removed the items to the

side of the road and a report was forwarded to the North Castle Highway Department.

Mar. 2: Report of a larceny from a vehicle on Troy Lane at 7:200 a.m. The complainant reported that his car was broken into sometime overnight. The responding officer gathered the information; a report will follow.

Mar. 3: Police received a 911 call from Kaysal Court on a report of a fuel spill at 11:26 a.m. The call was successfully transferred to 60 Control. The responding officer reported that it appears that the spill occurred this morning during a fuel delivery. The fire department cleared the scene. Photos were secured.

Mar. 3: Report of a motor vehicle rollover on Route 22 at 3:03 p.m. The responding officer stated the driver had gotten out of the car prior to his arrival. The driver was transported to Westchester Medical Center.

Pleasantville Police Department

Feb. 29: Report of an identity theft at 3:03 p.m. A Pleasantville resident arrived at headquarters to report that a cellphone account was opened in her name without authorization.

Mar. 4: Report of harassment at Pleasantville High School at 8:47 a.m. Information regarding the matter was kept confidential by police.

Mar. 6: A larceny from a vehicle was reported on Hopper Street at 12:18 p.m. The matter is under investigation.

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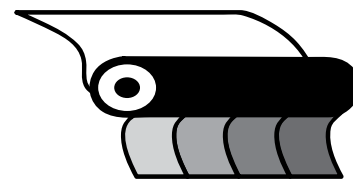
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Chappaqua Schools Propose \$3.5M Spending Hike in 2020-21 Budget

By Abby Luby

The Chappaqua School District's proposed 2020-21 budget will see a spending increase of nearly \$3.5 million but the district will remain comfortably below the tax cap.

Last Tuesday, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christine Ackerman and Assistant Superintendent for Business John Chow presented a proposed \$129.6 million budget to the Board of Education and the public that would contain a tax levy increase of 2.74 percent. The tax cap limit for next year is 3.38 percent.

Key factors include continuing the district's goals of sustaining academic excellence through monitoring class size, maintaining academic and extracurricular programs, a supportive infrastructure and ongoing contractual obligations.

Projected enrollment will increase slightly at the elementary level with about 10 more students. Middle school enrollment is projected to decline from 1,176 students to 1,161 next year while high school enrollment is also expected to decrease from 1,231 to 1,199.

Ackerman's presentation called for improvements in the district's assessment practices, the K-12 social emotional learning curriculum and the K-12 academic program alignment. Among the larger known expenses anticipated for next year include salaries, employee benefits, operations and maintenance, contractual obligations and teacher's retirement costs.

Uncertainties are state aid, transportation

costs, special education placements, administrative contracts and assessed tax valuation.

"Hopefully, we will have these resolved before we present the final budget for your consideration for adoption," Ackerman told the board.

Chow said the proposed increase for salaries is \$845,690, bringing the total to \$66,337,639 for next year. Employee benefits are projected to rise by \$1,087,259, to \$27,587,388. Chow said salaries and employee benefits accounted for about 74 percent of the budget.

Operation and maintenance and technology account for increases of just over 16 percent and 12.9 percent, respectively.

Recommended personnel additions include two full-time STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) support teachers at the middle school. The high school would see additions of a full-time assistant principal, a part-time student resource officer and a part-time physical education teacher. Three more full-time psychologists have been requested districtwide for special education.

Recommended reductions include one full-time core teacher and one part-time speech teacher at the elementary school. At the middle school, the proposed reduction is three full-time academic teachers. A part-time Latin teacher at the high school would also be cut as well as one full-time and one part-time special education positions.

Chow said some of the reductions are expected because of changing class sizes,

specific needs and reorganization.

The district is currently between \$600,000 and \$700,000 below the tax cap.

"Our commitment to the community is always that we ask for what we need," Chow said. "We look at our budget and what our needs are to decipher what we think is good for education."

The following dates are the district's upcoming budget calendar:

- Mar. 18: Curriculum, special education and technology.
- Mar. 25: Operations and maintenance/

non-instructional, athletics, revenue, tax rate and contingency budget.

- Apr. 15: Budget adoption
- May 6: Budget hearing and library budget presentation
- May 19: Budget vote

To view last week's budget presentation, visit https://www.ccsd.ws/uploaded/CCSD/Board_of_Education/Meetings/Presentations/2019-2020/Presentation_2020-03-03_Supt_Budget_Overview.pdf.

Byram Hills Eyes Zero Spending Increase in \$94.5M Budget

Byram Hills school officials unveiled a proposed \$94.5 million budget for 2020-21, with no change in spending over the current year.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jen Lamia said the district was able to hold the line on spending because of a more than \$2.9 million decrease in debt service, most of which is a result of expiring debt.

Districts have typically replaced expiring debt with new bonds because of the ongoing infrastructure needs, but Lamia said that isn't necessary at this time.

"It's important to know that our prudent use of reserve funds and our prudent use of the capital reserve fund, are what prevents us from going out for another bond," she said.

It isn't known how the zero spending increase will impact the tax rate and the tax levy. Those numbers will be released by the administration at the Board of Education's Mar. 24 meeting along with information on athletics, transportation and operation and maintenance.

The board will also be meeting on Mar. 17 to discuss curriculum development and special needs and Mar. 31 to finish deliberations. The board will adopt the budget on Apr. 21.

The only staff increase is a full-time technology manager but there has been a proposed a reduction of a fifth-grade section next year because the current fourth grade is a smaller class than this year's fifth grade.

—Martin Wilbur

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Mt. Kisco Focuses on Environmental Practices With New Task Force

By Joan Gaylord

The Mount Kisco Village Board raised the bar on its efforts to adopt environmentally responsible practices when they voted last week to establish the Climate Smart Communities Task Force.

The new committee replaces the town's Energy Advisory Panel. Village trustees

also voted to appoint David Matsil, who had been serving as chair of the Energy Advisory Panel, chairman of the new task force.

The Climate Smart Communities Program, which is sponsored by New York State, provides a framework for towns to broaden their efforts toward adopting environmentally responsible practices that

are best for each municipality. Participation in the program will also better position the village to pursue grant funding for these projects, Village Manager Ed Brancati said.

"Most importantly, we are generating meaningful change that has a positive impact," said Mayor Gina Picinich.

Brancati explained that the program provides opportunities to document the village's progress and receive points toward state-recognized certification. Currently, Mount Kisco holds bronze certification in the program. He said the goal will be to achieve silver certification, a recognition that would help Mount Kisco qualify for additional grant funding.

Mount Kisco has already reaped financial benefits from the changes they have made, Brancati added. The decision to gradually replace the village's 365 streetlights with LED bulbs has cut its streetlight electric

bill in half in only two years, from about \$145,000 a year to \$70,000. That translates into the annual salary of a town employee or a .5 percent tax increase that doesn't have to be levied.

"We have a better lit village and we're saving everyone a bunch of money," he said.

The Climate Smart Communities Program also provides information that will allow Mount Kisco to choose future projects based on which ones make the most sense for the community, Brancati said.

The next step will be for the task force to draft its mission statement and then research future initiatives for the village to consider.

"This will allow us to take meaningful, real steps with guidance from the task force," said Trustee Peter Grunthal.



Ready to Wear the Green

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 16 will be holding its annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Mount Kisco this Saturday, starting at 2 p.m. The parade will start on Moore Avenue and proceed down Main Street to South Moger Avenue. A wide assortment of local organizations and fire departments throughout the region are expected to participate.

American Songbook Concert, Workshop March 14 at No. Castle Library

Join Isaac Raz and Whole Music LLC, along with special guest Antoine Drye from the Duke Ellington Orchestra, who will take a deep dive into the compositions of Ellington, Billy Strayhorn and others in that corner of the American songbook.

The concert will take place

on Saturday, Mar. 14 at 8 p.m. at Whippoorwill Hall, adjacent to the North Castle Public Library, located at 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East in Armonk. Tickets are \$20 each.

For tickets, visit www.armonkplayers.org. For more information, e-mail music@armonkplayers.org.



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Letter to the Editor

State Should Allow Officials to Attend Meetings By Skype

The recent fears that many residents have about the coronavirus highlights the need for lawmakers to set an example when we have colds, the flu or any virus.

We should not infect others during meetings. We need to be considerate of those sitting next to us (other officials) and residents who attend meetings to observe their government in action or to speak out on issues of concern to them. They do not want to get sick because an inconsiderate

lawmaker showed up at the meeting. We should stay home and not contaminate others. At the same time many lawmakers take our jobs seriously and we want to participate in the legislative processes.

I believe that the state legislature should amend the open meetings law to allow members of town, village boards, planning and zoning boards, school boards, fire district boards and county legislatures to participate in all meetings by Skype or

videoconferencing.

State Legislators should also vote by Skype. If we cast our vote at home and it takes place at an open public meeting that can be watched by the community (on television) the vote should count. I also believe that citizens should be able to participate at public hearings via Skype.

Paul Feiner
Greenburgh Town Supervisor

State Medicaid Funding Threatens Over 60,000 Westchester Children

With New York facing its largest budget deficit in a decade in its 2020-21 state budget, the Westchester Children's Association stands alongside child advocacy organizations, service providers and local decision-makers in voicing its deep concern for the welfare of more than seven million children and adults across the state who rely on Medicaid to access critical mental, behavioral and physical healthcare services and supports.

Medicaid connects Westchester's low-income children and children with disabilities to health resources instrumental to their mental and physical development, social and emotional growth and wellness and success in school and life.

Rising Medicaid costs have been identified as a central reason for the

budget deficit, but the proposed solution of shifting costs onto local government is not practical or healthy for Westchester's 60,611 children covered by Medicaid, because local governments do not have the resources to appropriately or adequately fund Medicaid, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Although mental health is the top health concern in Westchester – and was identified by residents as having the most positive impact on their health – access to mental healthcare in particular is overwhelmingly limited in communities across New York State, as reported by the 2018 Westchester County Transition Report from the Health Transitions Committee. Recent cuts in state funding to Children's Health Homes, a program for physical and behavioral care management, and child and family

treatment service rates make this an even worse time to limit state Medicaid funding.

Without Medicaid funding to provide significant and universal access to key mental health services, New York will see an even more dramatic increase in unmet mental healthcare need among vulnerable children and families.

Cost shifts, cuts and failures to fund Medicaid would deprive millions of New York children and families of indispensable health resources that support their welfare and uplift their communities. We urge New York State to do right by our children and families and maintain its share of Medicaid costs.

Westchester Children's Association
White Plains

Guest Column

This Pi Day, Make Math Fun for Kids

Pi Day is not only an annual opportunity to celebrate math, it's also a day to honor the renowned scientist and mathematician, Albert Einstein, born on Mar. 14.

Here are some great ways your family can make math fun this Pi Day:

- Visit a math museum: Take the kids to a hands-on math museum featuring fun interactive exhibits, events, puzzles, games and more that bring math to life.
- Bake a 'pi': Bake a pi-themed pi. Whether you love cherry, chocolate or lemon meringue, you can honor the day by baking a pie and carving the symbol

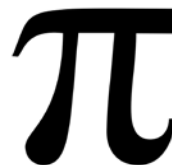
for pi into your creation. This is also a great opportunity to calculate fractions, angles, percentages and areas!

- Learn the meaning of pi: A very special number, pi is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, making its value essential for those studying geometry. It's also an "irrational number," meaning its exact value can't be expressed as a fraction. While scientists have calculated trillions of digits of pi, you are likely familiar with the first few – 3.14. Use a high-quality

graphing or scientific calculator, to study several more of pi's digits and practice using its value in equations.

- Learn more about Einstein: There are many terrific biographies for all reading levels available, as well as documentaries and biopics that can help your family learn more about the life and work of the legendary Albert Einstein.

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A Spiritual View

By Cantor Lila Sugarman

What is in your pocket right now? Keys? Your phone? A note?

Rabbi Simcha Bunim of Poland (1776-1827) is known for saying that everyone must have two pockets and a note in each pocket. In one, the note should read "For my sake the world was created," and in the other pocket, the note should read "I am but dust and ashes."

He said when feeling uncertain, discouraged and low, one should reach into the right pocket and find the words, "For my sake, the world was created," and when one is feeling high and mighty one should read the humbling words "I am but dust and ashes."



To be the best versions of ourselves, Bunim reminds us to find a balance. We cannot connect to others if we are so low and so hard on ourselves and at the same time, if we are so self-focused, it can get in our way of connecting to others.

May we continue to reach into our pockets to find the support and reminders we need to be humble, confident individuals set on making the world a better place.

Lila Sugarman is the cantor at Congregation B'nai Yisrael in Armonk, which is part of the Armonk Faith Alliance. The alliance also comprises St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, St. Patrick's RC Church and St. Nersess' Armenian Seminary.

Hawthorne Woman Celebrates 102nd Birthday With Family, Friends

By Martin Wilbur

Mildred Hawks has lived in the same house on Linda Avenue in Hawthorne for 70 years. It's not where Hawks grew up, but the home that she and her late husband, Elmer, built in 1950.

Last Wednesday, there was another milestone celebration at Hawks' house. She celebrated her 102nd birthday, surrounded by family and friends, with a pizza party while being treated to her favorite dessert – lemon meringue pie.

Her niece, Ann Mancini, said while her aunt is largely confined to her home and

requires an around-the-clock aide, she has a keen understanding of everything that goes on around her. The centenarian always asks about how everyone in the family is doing and makes sure to keep her mind sharp.

"Her brain is always working," Mancini said. "She can name every president from George Washington to the present. She doesn't miss one. She's smart."

Every day, Hawks does the crossword puzzle in the newspaper and watches the television news, Mancini said.

Born Mar. 4, 1918, Hawks was raised in Greenwich, Conn. After her future

husband returned from serving in World War II, they married on Mar. 8, 1947, at St. Mary's Church in Greenwich.

While they were building their house in Hawthorne, Mancini said the couple lived with her and her family. When construction on the house was done, they moved next door.

Mildred and Elmer didn't have any children but enjoyed their extended families, which holds true for Mildred today.

"She's always asking how I am," Mancini said. "She's very concerned what's going on with me. She's always a joy to be with."

Mancini said her aunt worked for 42 years at the Westchester-Rockland newspapers in the advertising department, retiring in the summer of 1989. She said at the time of her retirement, the company planted a tree on its grounds with a plaque containing the inscription "May the tree and Mildred stand forever."

Hawks loved painting, served as secretary to the Hawthorne Fire Department and was with the department's ladies auxiliary for many years, always taking great pride in marching in its annual parade, Mancini said.

She was also a parishioner at Holy Rosary Church for many years.

Last week, Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi presented Hawks with a proclamation to honor her birthday. It was also Mildred Hawks day in town.

"It's so nice," Fulgenzi said. "I'm glad I



Longtime Hawthorne resident Mildred Hawks celebrated turning 102 last Wednesday at her home.

did it and she appreciated it."

Mancini said Mildred and Elmer enjoyed their time together until his death in 2001.

"They traveled all over the U.S. and the world together," Mancini said. "She was a gifted artist that painted mostly in pastels."

Registration Opens for Bet Torah's 2020-21 Kitah Katan Program

Registration has begun for Kitah Katan, a program of separation, socialization, sharing and fun for toddlers. Classes will begin Sept. 10 and run through June 10.

Children 18 months and older (as of September) enjoy two mornings a week of music, art, story time, movement and indoor and outdoor play. Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. A snack is provided.

An early childhood head teacher and teacher assistants conduct each

morning of fun.

Kitah Katan provides a special time for young children to experience learning through play in a beginning school setting. Limited spots are also available for families wishing to enroll their children in the regular nursery school program for the 2020-21 school year.

Bet Torah Nursery School is located at 60 Smith Ave. in Mount Kisco. For more information, a brochure or to register for Kitah Katan, call 914-666-7595 or visit www.bettorah.org.



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Byram Hills Students' Project Educates Immigrants on 2020 Census

By Martin Wilbur

Since last fall, Westchester County has launched an extensive outreach campaign to convince residents of the importance of responding to the upcoming 2020 U.S. Census.

One group of students in Byram Hills High School's Global Scholars Program has taken on a project to help the neighboring community of Mount Kisco and its significantly large immigrant population be counted. Many immigrants may be leery of participating in the Census, fearing that information provided could be used against them.

The five-student team of 11th-graders, led by Social Studies teacher Jennifer Laden, have created a three-minute public service announcement video in Spanish with English subtitles urging everyone to respond. The video will be shown on a continuous loop at Neighbors Link, the Mount Kisco-based organization that provides services and education for the immigrant community.

"We thought the video was an easy idea and that we could use a lot of different people from the community to relay our message, and we know that if they did it they would be way more trustworthy than us just speaking to them," said Lindsey Noel, one of the five students involved in the project.

Laden said that the seed for the idea was planted by Sean Ryan, a member of the North Castle Public Library's Board of Trustees. He proposed last year that the local schools get involved in helping with the Census in some way since many of Westchester's libraries were going to be part of a hub to dispense information to the public, she said.

She and her colleagues in the Global Scholars Program, Duane Smith and Melissa Stahl, met with Westchester Libraries System Executive Director Terry Kirchner.

Before beginning, some of her students didn't exactly know what the Census was or its importance in determining governmental representation and federal funding to communities, counties and states across the U.S.

It is estimated that for every person not counted, it costs the community \$2,500, said William Brady, a county planner.

"This would really be something where we kick off year two of the program and have the kids work collaboratively to use design thinking to address a real-world problem," Laden said.

Nick Varsames, another student involved in the project, said once the team decided to work on a Census-related outreach project, they wanted to use social media to



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Jennifer Laden, left, helped guide her Global Scholars Program students to complete a Spanish language public service announcement video to inform the immigrant population in Mount Kisco about participation in the Census. Pictured, from left, are Lindsey Noel, Max Berman, Dylan Green, Andrew Zimmerman and Nick Varsames.

maximize their reach. The students decided on creating a video, and had to write a script based on research that they completed on the Census and find the most effective people in the community to help deliver the message, he said.

They reached out to Rebecca Sussman, director of parent education at Neighbors Link, for assistance.

"We talked to her about the video and she was for it from the beginning once we had that connection," Varsames said. "We went to local businesses and the elementary school in Mount Kisco and we also

worked with Fox Lane High School."

Participants in the video, which was recently completed, include representatives from the Boys & Girls Club, Latino U., the Mount Kisco Public Library, the interfaith food pantry, Neighbors Link and students from Fox Lane High School's AVID Program. Laden said her students partnered with Fox Lane program after she reached out to their teacher, Diana Sarna, a former colleague.

Picinch, who was one of about 20 different people in the video, said the impressive student-produced video could help bolster Census

participation in Mount Kisco, which would have positive implications on the community. She said the video will be posted on the village's Facebook page.

"Any assistance that we can get in helping to spread the word, we're very happy to have participated," Picinch said. "They did a wonderful job."

Dylan Green, another student who worked on the project, said it was gratifying trying to help a community in need that's so close to their school.

"I didn't think it could that big an impact since so many people don't fill it out, which is like mind-blowing, because either they don't know about it or they're afraid," Green said.

All residents should begin receiving reminders and other information on the U.S. Census in the mail next week. For the first time, the Census can be completed online. Libraries across the county will serve as hubs for residents who need access to technology.

To view the video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0j44AjEXW0&feature=youtu.be>. For more information on the Census, visit <https://planning.westchestergov.com/initiatives/census-2020> on the county website.

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Brick by Brick: Building a Patio from Scratch

Long before I became a realtor, I was first and foremost a homeowner, beset with all the challenges of upgrading an old, historic home. Most of the projects I tackled as a young man gave me the gristle for many of the home improvement articles I write here.

One of my first projects was to convert an amorphously-shaped gravel patio area in the back of the house, actually our main entrance through a mudroom, into a bona fide patio of brick.

I lined the driveway with gravel and built up low flower beds on either side from stone. The sloping walkway leading to the door was replaced by brick steps bordered by large slabs of bluestone, which ruined the shocks of my car when transporting them in the trunk of my car from a source an hour away.

For those of us who live in regions where temperatures fall below freezing during the winter, a brick patio laid on sand can be an excellent choice for an outdoor living space. The small gaps between the bricks and the grains of sand allow for slight movement when any moisture in the ground expands or contracts with the change in temperature, unlike a more rigid surface which may crack. In addition, bricks give a warm, natural texture to traditional country landscapes, which was



By Bill Primavera

the look we wanted to achieve.

While many people recommend having friends help with the laying of a patio, I opted to go for it alone. In my earlier home-owning days, I found the laying of bricks and stones therapeutic, and in the years to come I would create many steps and walkways wherever I could.

The first step was to cut away the old lawn and dig a level space into the ground, deep enough to hit the soil's clay-like layer. The step I didn't take, but perhaps should have, was to rent a compactor to make this base truly level. Indeed, my

patio would always have a mild undulation because of it, but to my eyes this was part of its hand-hewn charm.

Next came my deliveries of gravel (most of which went toward paving the driveway), sand and the required number of bricks for the patio, all of which went into separate mounds behind our garage. I used my big red wheelbarrow to make hundreds of trips between the garage and the patio site, first laying down gravel and then sand.

At this point I leveled and tamped down the surface carefully. Had plastic edging been available to me back then, I would certainly have installed it in a well-camouflaged fashion, but I settled instead for using slate and four-inch by four-inch wood beams to support the brick pattern.



The brick patio which the Home Guru built solo.

a homeowner could even incorporate different sizes or colors of bricks to create a unique design.

As for me, the contrast between the red of the brick and the gray of the slate was intriguing enough, so I chose a simpler pattern to complement those colors. At the end I swept a fine layer of sand in between the bricks and I was done. (Today I would have finished by using a rented compactor a second time.)

For the most part, the patio was perfect. The only flaw in the design is that the patio was on the north side of the house, so we always had to shovel snow away cleanly from one end to the other as the sun would not melt it for us.

It took a summer's worth of work for me to build the patio, but the end result was worth it. We had many years of outdoor dining and relaxation under the shade of a large sugar maple close to the house. When the maple eventually succumbed to disease and had to be cut down, the patio still looked well-designed and front door-worthy under the direct light of the sun.

Bill Primavera is a realtor associated with William Raveis Real Estate and founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com). To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

When the bricks were ready to be laid, I opted for a standard running bond pattern where the edges of two bricks meet under the center of the brick above them. Had I wished, I could have opted for many other varieties of patterns instead, such as herringbone, basketweave or radial designs. With a little ingenuity,

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Pace to Host G.O.O.D. for Girls Career Fair & Expo This Saturday

G.O.O.D. for Girls, Inc. (GfG), the leading community nonprofit that mentors young girls into confident young women, will kick off its 10th anniversary celebration with the second annual Career Fair & Expo for Girls: Visionary Women – Learning, Leading, Lifting! this Saturday, Mar. 14.

The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Kessel Student Center at Pace University's Pleasantville campus in partnership with Pace University's Women in Cybersecurity.

Girls and young women from throughout the region will learn about career options and how to plan their future from an array of successful female role models including the keynote speaker, distinguished panelists and senior-level executives, entrepreneurs and professionals from a wide range of sectors.

"One of the biggest takeaways from this event is that these remarkable women will share their insights and personal experiences including how they overcame obstacles to pursue and live their dreams," said Lori Stephens, founder and president of GfG.

The program will also offer a choice of workshops focused on topics to arm girls and young women with helpful tips and guidance to find a career that is right for them including successful interview skills, finding a perfect career, mindfulness, yoga and paying for college, among others.

Participating in the expo will be engineers from New York Power Authority, executives and entrepreneurs from the building trades, technology, law enforcement, real estate, marketing, government and more.

"These women are a true testament to learning, leading and lifting up our young people as they help them navigate their own career paths," Stephens said.

The inspiring keynote address will be delivered by Rev. La-Tonia B. Jackson, a New York City native whose career track led her to become a leading telecommunications professional consultant for Verizon. She designed and managed the signature Verizon Innovative Learning STEM program for underrepresented and under-resourced populations. The program has enabled students to learn critical skills such as coding, collaboration, problem solving and entrepreneurship.

Rev. Jackson earned a bachelor's in behavioral science and criminal justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice; a master's in adult education and human resource development; cum laude from Fordham Graduate School of Education; and a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary.

The distinguished panelists include Greenburgh Town Justice Delores Scott Brathwaite; Big East Conference Associate Commissioner Tracy Ellis-Ward; newly-elected Greenburgh Councilwoman Gina Jackson; architect Janice Comer; veterinarian intern Lavasia Burnett; and Ayana Price, fourth-year medical student at NYU's School of Medicine.

Stephens lauded the contributions of the panelists who "have been at the vanguard of our mentoring program, devoting their time to working with our youth in a variety of venues and by being a resource for inspiration, information and support."

The career fair and expo is the first of several signature events that GfG will present during its 10th anniversary celebration year. It is made possible in part by the Westchester Community Foundation (WCF). The foundation's mission is to connect generous people to the causes they care about and invest in transformative ideas and organizations to improve lives and strengthen our community. WCF is a division of The New York Community Trust, one of the largest community foundations in the country, with assets of about \$2.6 billion.

Space is limited for the event, which will also include a tour of the Pace University

campus. The cost is \$5 for girls and \$15 for women and includes a continental breakfast and hot lunch. For more information and to register, visit www.GoodforGirlsInc.org.

Rev. La-Tonia B. Jackson, a telecommunications consultant for Verizon, will be the keynote speaker at this Saturday's Career Fair & Expo for Girls: Visionary Women – Learning, Leading, Lifting! at Pace University in Pleasantville.



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Happenings

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

Readers should contact the venue of an event in advance to make sure it is being held because of potential coronavirus concerns.

Tuesday, Mar. 10

Reading With Tobie and Karen. A program for school-age children featuring Tobie and Karen from The Good Dog Foundation. First-come, first-served. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 p.m. Free. Also Mar. 17, 24 and 31. Info: 914-273-3887.

DIY Rainbow Collage. Somewhere over the rainbow you'll find a nice bright collage. 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 recommended; walk-ins welcome while supplies last. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Pajama Story Time. Join Miss Debbie for an evening story time that includes stories, songs and fun. Pajamas and stuffed animals are welcome. For children two to five years old and their families. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 6:30 to 7 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday through June 16. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

"From the Vine." The Bedford Playhouse and the Greenwich International Film Festival hold a special advance screening. This film is the story of a downtrodden CEO experiencing a moral crisis that travels back to Italy to recalibrate his moral compass. He discovers new life by reviving his Nonno's old vineyard, offering the small town of Acerenza a sustainable future and reconnecting with his family in the process. Combining magic realism and Italian nonrealism, and set against the backdrop of wine country Italy, the film is about finding your roots in your family when you're at the bottom of the barrel. Followed by a Q&A with actor Joe Pantoliano. Bedford Playhouse, 633 Old Post Rd., Bedford. Wine tasting at 6 p.m. Screening at 7 p.m. Tickets begin at \$30. Info and tickets: Visit www.bedfordplayhouse.org.

Italian Language and Culture. Mara De Matteo, born and raised in Italy and passionate about her native language, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes. She creates interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Solving the Retirement Income Puzzle. An educational workshop for people approaching or entering retirement and the recently retired. Led by Social Security, retirement income and tax specialist Paul Petrone. Somers Public Library, Route 139 and Reis Park, Somers. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-232-5717 or www.somerslibrary.org.

Current Affairs Book Club. "The Crowded Hour: Theodore Roosevelt, the Rough Riders and the Dawn of the American Century" by Clay Risen 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.

Bible Study. Join the United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco for this new weekly session. Mt. Kisco Diner, 252 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 7 to 8 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: Contact David Visaggio at 914-262-9973.

Women Reading Women Book Club. "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman will be discussed. New members welcome. Copies of the book available at the circulation desk. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 to 8:30 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.

Exploring Mindfulness: Adjust Your Routine and Create Space. The first of four consecutive Tuesday night sessions. Mount Pleasant Community Center, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 8 to 9 p.m. Mount Pleasant residents: \$100. Non-residents: \$125. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-742-2310. Additional info: Visit www.mindfulbeingllc.com.

Wednesday, Mar. 11

Zumba Babies and Tots. A wonderful fun dance-and-play party for little feet. Age appropriate music and props are used to help children learn to love moving their bodies and dancing to their own rhythm. Singing and exciting activities will amuse delight and stimulate your child benefiting their cognitive, emotional and social development. For parents or caregivers and children one to three years old. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. Eight-week session: \$120. Maximum 12 children per class. Every Wednesday. Info and registration: Contact Dance Emotions at 914-238-8974 or instructor Peggy at 914-960-4097.

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

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. For newborn babies and their moms and dads. World Cup Nursery School, 160 Joan Corwin Way, Chappaqua. 10:25 to 11:10 a.m. Free. No registration required. Wednesdays through June 24. Info: 914-238-4967.

Toddler Storytime. Finger plays, action

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

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

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.

Elements of Film: Early Feminist Voices in International Film II. In this first of three monthly sessions featuring a screening and discussion around an iconic narrative by international feminist filmmakers from the '90s to the present whose work has broken new ground in production, spectatorship practices and the representation of women on screen. Jacob Burns adjunct faculty member Karen Goodman, well-known as the curator and host of Preview Club, will be your guide on this tour of cinema that spans continents and narrative forms, while engaging conversation about the shifting "gaze," and the free expression of desire and fantasy by women filmmakers. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Individual sessions: Members--\$30. Non-members: \$34. All three sessions: Members--\$81. Non-members--\$90. Continues on Apr. 15 and May 20. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.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.mountkiscoliberalry.org.

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

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

3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.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.

Leasing: What to Consider and Negotiate. Fred Krawchick, founder of B Moss Clothing and SCORE mentor, will discuss the ins and outs of negotiating a workable lease for your business. It will examine the terms included in most leases along with the pros and cons of assigning responsibilities between landlord and tenant, determining the proper rent levels and finding the right location. SCORE Headquarters at White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Ave., White Plains. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit www.westchester.score.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.mountkiscoliberalry.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.

Chess Workshop for Young Adults. Participants will learn how to play chess and along with the fundamentals of good chess play through the study of strategy and tactics. There will be guided instruction and supervised play. For children in grades 5 and up. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Free. Registration requested. Info and registration: 914-769-0548.

Art Series: Marie Rosalie Bonheur. Born in 1822, Bonheur was famous for her paintings of animals and her sculptures. Her mastery of artistic realism led to her reputation as one of the most famous female painters of the 19th century. 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.

Old Glory: History of the American Flag. A patriotic new multimedia presentation filled with original photographs, vintage images and live music. Lecturer Kevin Woyce is an author and photographer specializing in regional American history. New Castle Town Hall, 200 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Pleasantville SEPTA Speaker Event. Debbie Goddard, a family educator in the Community Support Network of

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Great Food, Drink and Company at Hudson Valley Fermented Mar. 21

By Martin Wilbur

When several hundred people turn out at Pace University on Mar. 21 for the fourth annual Hudson Valley Fermented, they will undoubtedly have an enjoyable afternoon.

There will be plenty of beer, wine, cider and terrific local food to sample from the several dozen breweries, wineries, cideries and local restaurants and food purveyors.

It's okay with Henry Leyva, who serves as the event chair, if some of the guests are unaware that the day is really the Pleasantville Rotary Club's largest fundraiser of the year.

"It's a great party, whether they know it's a fundraiser or not, and that's how we keep people coming back," Leyva said. "Let's make it really easy for people to donate to great causes by having a phenomenal time."

The guests have grown accustomed over the past three years where the event has evolved from the Westchester Wine Experience into Hudson Valley Fermented to include the growing popularity of craft beer. Last year, about 500 people attended, helping the Rotary Club to raise about \$45,000 for the designated charities and organizations.

This year, the Rotary has named four primary beneficiaries – Feeding Westchester; the county's food pantry; the Break the Hold Foundation, a Pleasantville-based nonprofit that focuses on suicide prevention and mental wellness; the Pleasantville Fund for Learning, which provides grants to the Pleasantville schools for programs; and Team Fox for Parkinson's Research.

Leyva said the Rotary tries to mix local and



The Pleasantville Rotary Club's Hudson Valley Fermented returns a week from Saturday (Mar. 21), the organization's largest fundraiser of the year. Attendees can enjoy the best of local food and New York State craft beer, wine and cider.

larger causes.

"So that just means they're partnering with us to help us promote the event and we try to give them large checks," he said. "But in addition to these organizations, we also have – it varies from year to year – but we have somewhere between 12 and 15 different charities and service organizations that we also write checks to. We like to put them on the website so folks can see where their money is going."

While the money raised for all of the organizations is of critical importance, when the doors open for Hudson Valley Fermented a week from Saturday, the guests will be treated to some of the best craft beer, wines and cider that New York State has to offer.

This year there are more than 20 breweries that will be on hand, along with at least a dozen wineries and distilleries and a handful of cideries. There will be some familiar names, such as Pleasantville's Soul Brewing Company, Captain Lawrence, Peekskill Brewery and Sing Sing Kill Brewery of Ossining.

Then there will be samples of a wide range of local food from about 15 restaurants, including The Briarcliff Manor, Second Mouse Cheese Shop, Falafel Taco, Old Village Craft Pizza and Beer and Mission Taqueria.

"It's going to be a great array of delicious beverages and food treats for people to sample during the festivities," Leyva said.

Once again, there will be musical entertainment. During the first half of the

afternoon, the Dan Zlotnick Band will be performing, which has an enthusiastic local following. Zlotnick is known for his acoustic guitar music. During the final two hours, CenterStage, a highly-regarded live karaoke band with a repertoire of about 150 songs will entertain.

Leyva said in a new wrinkle this year, guests can bid for the opportunity to sing karaoke, which would raise additional funds for the beneficiaries.

By updating Hudson Valley Fermented each year, it has kept the event fresh to bring the people back and have newcomers give it a try.

"Every year, we've had larger attendance and we've also managed to raise more money, which means we've been able to donate to more organizations and donate with larger checks, which is the whole purpose of it," Leyva said.

Hudson Valley Fermented is held at Pace University's Kessel Student Center, 861 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville, from 1 to 4 p.m. General admission tickets are \$85. A limited number of VIP tickets cost \$105 each and allows entrance at noon. Tickets and the complete list of participants can be found at www.hvfermented.com. Tickets at the door are \$10 more.

You must be at least 21 years old to attend the event. For those arriving by train, there will be continuous shuttle bus service from the Pleasantville station to the campus starting at 11:30 a.m. and lasting until about a half-hour after the event.

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Happenings

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the Westchester Institute for Human Development in Valhalla, talk about school-age services including understanding special education and OPWDD eligibility. Pleasantville High School cafeteria, 60 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Free. Info: Visit <http://www.pvillesepta.com>.

Thursday, Mar. 12

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 2 p.m. Free. Every Thursday and Friday. 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.

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 Drove. Valhalla. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Toddler Mixer. Come to play and hang out with other toddlers and adults. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11 a.m. to noon. 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. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.

Free. Every Thursday. Info: Visit 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberalry.org.

Mahjongg Club. Intermediate players welcome. Participants must bring their own set. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberalry.org.

Pelvic Floor Health: Beyond Kegels in the Chair. Educational and experiential, this workshop will empower women with a new awareness of their pelvic floor. Come learn the anatomy and physiology, the weakness, dysfunctions and techniques to relax, strengthen, balance and maintain optimal health. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 2 p.m. Free. Also Mar. 19. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

John Jay Homestead Women History Month Tours. In celebration of Women's History Month, the historic site will be offering thematic tours focusing on six generations of strong, educated women who lived at the house. Their stories shed light on the roles of women in upper class homes in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. Explore the house and learn about these fascinating women. John Jay Homestead, 400 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. 2 p.m. Adults: \$10. Seniors and students: \$7. Students, children (under 12) and Friends of John Jay Homestead members: Free. Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday in March. Advance ticket purchases strongly recommended. Info and tickets: Visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.

Realtors and Attorneys Education Seminar. Statewide Abstract will host this continuing education seminar. The realtor seminar will cover all aspects of the 1031 Exchange while the attorney seminar topic will be "Solving Title Issues." Steven R. Ebert, Esq. will discuss the tax advantages and strategies that can impact transaction costs, acquisitions and sales strategies. He leads the real estate practice at the law firm of Barton LLP, which advises on both corporate and private client matters. Attorney Patricia LaPorta will provide insight to fellow attorneys on "Understanding a Title Report/How to Clear a Title Report" with an emphasis on commercial property. LaPorta is a Vice President and New York State counsel at First American Title Insurance Company. Followed by a happy hour networking session. Westchester Hills Golf Club, 401 Ridgeway, White Plains. Realtor session from 2 to 5 p.m. Attorney session: 3 to 5 p.m. Free. Space limited; advance registration required. Info and registration: 914-683-5900 or e-mail Mari Anastos at MANastos@StatewideA.com.

Aging in Place Seminar. A new look at your surroundings after 50, 60, 70-plus. Reinvent your home for aging in place and design for active aging; create environments that are beautiful, comfortable, functional and safe; universal and life span design; create homes that work smarter for all generations; and sustain the beauty of the home for the homeowner. Led by Margaret Wilson. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East., Armonk. 3 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Family Storytime. Stories, songs,

fingerplays and other activities. For children one to four years old and their siblings and caregivers. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 4 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Storytime With Ms. Stephanie. Join Ms. Stephanie for a morning filled with stories and songs. For children of all ages. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 to 4:45 p.m. Free. Also Mar. 19 and 26. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

DIY Duct Tape Keychain. We hope this program really sticks when you create your own keychain out of decorative duct tape. 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 recommended; walk-ins welcome as supplies last. 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 from 11 a.m. to noon. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberalry.org.

Home Sellers Seminar. Get your home ready for the spring real estate market. Topics will include Certificate of Occupancies and codes, Robert Hughes, Pleasantville building inspector; Pricing Your Home, Donna McKenna-Edlund, associate real estate broker; Staging Your Home, Leigh Wilder, professional home stager and organizer; and Closing Procedures: Robbin Sweeney, real estate/elder law attorney. Sponsored by McKenna-Edlund and Hans Weber, associate real estate brokers with Coldwell Banker. Emmanuel Lutheran Church (lower level), 197 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 6 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Donna McKenna-Edlund at 914-403-4237.

John Jay Homestead Scholars Lectures: How the Civil War and Reconstruction Remade the Constitution. The 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments abolished slavery, defined birthright citizenship and prohibited denial of the right to vote based on race. Eric Foner explores the circumstances under which these amendments were passed and the ways in which they're being interpreted still, as recently as 2013, when the Supreme Court declined to use the 15th Amendment to strike down laws which make it more difficult for non-whites to vote. Foner is the DeWitt Clinton Professor of History at Columbia University and winner of the Pulitzer, Bancroft and Lincoln Prizes. John Jay Homestead, 400 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. Refreshments at 6:30 p.m. Lecture at 7 p.m. Members: \$20. Non-members: \$25; Students: Free (registration required). Info and registration: Visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.

Craft Social for Adults. Mingle with neighbors, enjoy refreshments and make something cool to take home. This month the group will make terracotta wind chimes. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 to 8 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration:

914-769-0548.

"The Watermelon Woman." Released for its 20th anniversary in a pristine 2K HD restoration, this is the story of a 20-something black lesbian (played by director Cheryl Dunye) struggling to make a documentary about Fae Richards, a beautiful and elusive 1930s black film actress. A landmark of New Queer Cinema, it's "funny and smart, full of astute observations about identity and history," says The Village Voice. Jacob Burns Film Center, 364 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Members: \$10. Non-members: \$15. Info and tickets: Visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Dweezil Zappa: Hot Rats Live! + Other Hot Stuff 1969. Zappa and his "rocking teenage combo" will be performing his father's entire "Hot Rats" album in sequence live on stage. The album played a pivotal role in establishing Frank Zappa as a composer and guitarist and was also dedicated to Dweezil upon its release in 1969. The classic album will be surrounded by an assortment of other psychedelic, avant-garde odd-metered toe tappers well known to Zappa aficionados. Don't miss out on Dweezil's DNA audio stage recreation of "Hot Rats" and other hot stuff. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$38, \$48, \$65 and \$78. Join the VIP Soundcheck party at 5:30 p.m. for an additional \$25. Info and tickets: 914-631-3190 or visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Friday, Mar. 13

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.

Passport to Fitness for Kids. Get fit and learn dance moves from around the world with a fun Zumba class. For children four to six years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 a.m. to noon. Free. Every Friday. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-0130.

Music With Miss Laura. Stories, songs, finger plays and movement activities. For children 18 to 36 months old. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 11:30 a.m. to noon. Free. Every Friday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Friday Night Film Series: "Can You Ever Forgive Me?" This Oscar winner for best adapted screenplay is based on author/forgery Lee Israel who discovers that her faked letters by famous authors sell much better than her own original work. Set in 1990s New York, the film looks at the frustrated, hard-drinking author who can barely afford to pay her rent or bills. Inspired by actual events, the film follows Israel's downward spiral into a world of lies as demand from bookstores for her forgery skyrockets ever higher. Starring a tremendously nuanced performance by

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Birdwatching Destinations: Colombia is a Birder's Paradise

By Brian Kluepfel

Colombia has a bit of an image problem. Much of this perception is indeed based on an ugly reality which the nation is trying to leave in the past; much of that is perpetuated in mass media.

But I'd like to present another Colombia to you in this article: a marvelous birding destination and a country full of natural wonder.

Three years ago, my wife and I presented *Magia Salvaje* (Wild Magic) at the Ossining Public Library, which opened many people's eyes to the variety of landscapes, flora and fauna, in the South American nation. (You can check it out on YouTube.)

Bordering the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, and divided by three separate Andean mountain ranges, Colombia has a multitude of microclimates. Being on the migration path, it's host to nearly 1,900 bird species – some year-round, some migrants. Kind of like Boca Raton for people.

Our 18-day trip involved four different sites: Palmira, Cali, Cartagena and Salento. We also participated in the Cali International Bird Fair, because, hey, that's what nerds do on vacation.

We arrived to a tumultuous family greeting in Palmira, then after acclimating, were taken one day to the Bosque Municipal, or municipal forest. Amazing place! First thing we saw bopping around

on the ground were some saffron finches, a brilliantly-colored tanager with an orange spot on its head. There were many blue-gray tanagers about in the trees, a flotilla of Muscovy ducks in the pond, which was dominated by a tree of about 40 nesting cattle egrets. Their handsome rust-colored crowns were beautiful, and their nest-building skills remarkable. I only wish we were there when the babies were born.

We also heard a screech, almost daily, that sounded like a red-tailed hawk. On our final day, we saw the bird land on a light pole just yards from the apartment. We had a great view of a yellow-headed caracara, which seems to use the neighboring park/ballfield as its happy hunting ground. Now my mother-in-law is reminded of us when she sees it.

At the Colombia Bird Fair, we got to hear lectures by inspiring people, including London's own "Urban Birder," David Lindo. His uplifting yet simple message to city dwellers everywhere: Look up! There are birds all around. This tip would pay off on the next leg of our journey.

We flew to Cartagena, a heavily touristed city on the Caribbean coast. This sweltering site was the home to Nobel Prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez, and his inspiration for "One Hundred Years of Solitude." Any writer would be proud to take a selfie at his statue at the university.

Along the waterfront, my favorite bird,



PAULA ANDREA ZORRILLA PHOTO

The Andean condor, Colombia's national bird, above Valle de Cocora, Salento, Colombia.

the brown pelican, made its appearance, drifting up and down the pounding surf. I've seen this species now from Northern California to the midpoint of Chile and it never ceases to amaze me. It also reminds me of the shared responsibility all countries have for protecting the environment because pelicans and other animals certainly don't respect borders. If one gets sick in Mexico or Washington State or Nicaragua, it's all the same.

Also on view were the magnificent frigatebirds (rabiforçado or "forked tail" to

the old Portuguese of Cape Verde). These massive, scissor-shaped shorebirds really occupy the sky. Alongside the pelicans, we were entertained all along our seawall stroll.

But the amazing sight in Cartagena was at a 51st-floor bar atop a hotel. We were talking with an American family and something caught my eye. I looked up to catch an aplomado falcon drifting along the wind currents at this height. We all stopped and gaped for a minute, and then again when it returned.

I have not even delved into our sighting of the Andean condor, the world's largest flying bird, or some of the country's 168 hummingbird species we saw in the hills outside of Cali. Nor have I filed my e-bird list from the trip. It's almost too much to take in.

I was gob-smacked on a nearly daily basis by what we saw, and also by the kindness and openness of our Colombian birding colleagues. A big thank you to Carlos Mario Wagner of the Colombia Bird Fair, Sebastian Davila Giraldo, co-author of "Birds of Palmira," and to our guides Juan Pablo Arboleda and Angela Maria Sinisterra.

!Viva Colombia! Birding destination par excellence.

Brian Kluepfel is an author for the Lonely Planet guidebook series and has traveled Latin America for the past two decades. He also edits the Saw Mill River Audubon's newsletter. He lives in Ossining, where there are no magnificent frigatebirds.

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For the Birds: How Birders Make a Difference

Thursday, March 19, 7:00 pm

Free public program at Croton Free Library

Unbroken Wings: A Story of Birds

& the People Who Save Them

Sunday, April 5, 6:00 pm dinner, 7:00 pm program

Audubon Annual Dinner at Kittle House. See website for tickets.

Visit www.sawmillriveraudubon.org for details & more events

and to learn about our eight local wildlife sanctuaries.

Happenings

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Melissa McCarthy. 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.

Friday Films Directed by Women. "Selma" directed by Ava DuVernay will be screened. Followed by a discussion led by Carol Durst-Wertheim. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaqualibrary.org.

Free Friday Flicks: "Knives Out." Join your neighbors for this new release on the big screen. Acclaimed writer and director Rian Johnson pays tribute to mystery mastermind Agatha Christie in this fun, modern-day murder mystery where everyone is a suspect. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberal.org.

Lucy Kaplansky and Richard Shindell. Two celebrated singer-songwriters return to Westchester. Kaplansky is a rare vocal talent. A Billboard-charting singer and one of the top-selling artists on Red Horse Records, Kaplansky has topped the folk and Americana radio charts and has been featured on shows throughout the world. She has the unique ability to make every song sound fresh, whether singing her own sweet originals, covering Country classics by June Carter Cash and Gram Parsons or singing pop favorites from Lennon and McCartney. Kaplansky has sung with Suzanne Vega, Bryan Ferry, Nanci Griffith and Shawn Colvin. Shindell is a writer whose songs paint pictures, tell stories and juxtapose ideas and images. From his first record "Sparrow's Point" in 1992, to his 2016 release "Careless," Shindell has explored endless musical possibilities. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$33, \$38 and \$48. Info and tickets: 914-631-3190 or visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Saturday, Mar. 14

Pleasantville Farmers Market. The delicious good time moves indoors for the winter. A great way to support regional agriculture and eat healthy, year-round with plenty of warm smiles and community togetherness. Pleasantville Middle School, 40 Romer Ave., Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please note the market is a dog-free environment. Continues through Mar. 28. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.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 2:30 p.m. Free. Wednesdays from 2:30 to 7 p.m., Thursdays from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 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.

Practice Tai Chi With Larry Atille. Learn specific feldenkrais and chi kung breathing techniques for deep relaxation and apply them to tai chi movement. This is a hands-on class that will be geared to the level of experience of the class and challenge all participants. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a floor mat or towel. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East. Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday. Info: 914-273-3887 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 prepare for 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 Mar. 15 at 1 p.m., Mar. 21 and 28 at noon and Mar. 29 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Crafterday. Use a variety of supplies to create unique bookmarks to take home. For children of all ages. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

Fair and Affordable Housing Expo. Receive answers to your questions about home ownership and information about lenders, realtors and counselors to guide you through the home ownership process; view displays on affordable home ownership and rental opportunities; and tips on how to find affordable rental housing. Westchester County Center, 198 Central Ave., White Plains. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Info: Contact the Housing Action Council at 914-332-4144 or e-mail hac@affordablehomes.org or Westchester Residential Opportunities at 914-428-4507 ext. 306 or e-mail mzarfes@wroinc.org.

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.

Balanced Life Series: Looking at Self, Perspectives on Self-Reflection. Can we appreciate our unique gifts despite negative voices? Learn how important it is to love yourself. Led by Shanti Uretta and Ken Goldfarb, health coaches trained by the Institute for Integrative Nutrition with an extensive knowledge of health and a strong purpose in supporting others to create a more healthy and joyful life. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 1 to 2 p.m. Free. The series

will continue every Saturday in March from 1 to 2 p.m. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Naturalist's Choice. A surprise fun and informative program. Cranberry Lake Preserve, 1609 Old Orchard St., North White Plains. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Info: 914-428-1005.

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. Also Tuesdays 3 to 4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscoliberal.org.

The Untold Story: The Alienation of Black Female Suffragists and Women of Color. An event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Delve into the history of the women's suffrage movement – who was included, who was intentionally excluded and how those inclusions and exclusions shaped the policies of the suffrage movement. The keynote speaker is Dr. Carol Faulkner, professor of history and associate dean for academic affairs at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs Syracuse University. Manhattanville College's Reid Castle, 2900 Purchase St., Purchase. 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-untold-story-of-the-womens-suffrage-movement-tickets-91185222455>.

Music as a Whole Language. A holistic music workshop which has a goal to bring the power of music into the mind, spirit and body of the individual, their family and wider life. Introduces a rapidly synthesized methodology for performance and creation on the keyboard, focusing on the healing and transformative power of harmonics and a path to better physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Specific items covered include fundamentals of musical coordination – singing and rhythm; steps, scales and major and minor triads; voice leading, inversions and chords up the scale; introduction to functional harmony; and introduction to music theory. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Pack Chat for Kids. This is the best introduction to wolves for families with young children. Children 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. Dress for cold weather Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: \$14. Children (under 12): \$11. Also Mar. 22 and 29 at 11 a.m. and Mar. 21 and 28 at 3 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Taonic Opera: "Esther." The world premiere performance of an original oratorio composed by the company's director, Dan

Montez. This is the story of the woman who saved the Jews from their first threat of annihilation, performed in March during Women's History Month and Purim. Includes professional lead singers. Presbyterian Church of White Plains, 39 N. Broadway, White Plains. 3 p.m. Online advance sale: \$25. Seniors--\$20. Students--\$12. At the door--\$30. Seniors--\$25. Students--\$15. Also Mar. 15 at Congregation Sons of Israel, 1666 Pleasantville Rd., Briarcliff Manor at 3 p.m. Info and advance ticket sales: 855-886-7372 or visit www.taonicopera.org.

Milestones. A feast for the eyes and ears, Bartok's ingenious creation stands alone in the chamber music literature, an astonishing synthesis of percussion and keyboard. Also featured are two more milestones: Dohanyi's delectable Serenade, the 20th century's first string trio, and Tchaikovsky's String Sextet "Souvenir de Florence." Recital Hall at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 5 p.m. \$13.75 to \$62.50. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit www.artscenter.org.

Evening Howl for Pups of All Ages. Enjoy visiting the wolves during their favorite hour – dusk. Learn about the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why March is a magical time for packs in North America. Guests will take a short sunset hike to howl with ambassador wolves Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and potentially behold the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican wolves. All guests will be served weather appropriate treats. Please bring flashlights. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 5 p.m. Adults: \$16. Children (under 12): \$13. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Lucy's Laugh Lounge: Winter Wonderland Comedy Show. Bill Cannon is bringing another exciting night of comedy. Lucy's Lounge, 446 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: Visit www.lucyslaughlounge.com.

Ballet Floclorico Nacional de Mexico Silvia Lozano. Immerse yourself in the rich colors and sounds of Mexico through an evening of authentic dance and music with this internationally recognized ballet company. This innovative and theatrical group of dancers is committed to the dissemination, preservation and promotion of traditional Mexican culture. Their spectacular performances reflect the work of Mexico's leading researchers and practitioners of folklore, dance, music and costumes and bring the essence and emotions of Mexico to the world. PepsiCo Theatre at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 8 p.m. \$30 to \$70. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit www.artscenter.org.

The Red Hot Chili Pipers. Where rock anthems sit comfortably alongside the great tunes from the glens and the mountains of Scotland, it's The Red Hot Chili Pipers, an internationally-renowned ensemble consisting of pipers, guitarists, keyboard and drummers who have been rocking the world from New York to Beijing to Melbourne with musicianship of the highest order. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. \$35, \$43 and \$48. Info and tickets: 914-631-

continued on next page

A Lens on the State of Choice in the American Wine Market



By Nick Antonaccio

I'm often asked about the price-to-quality factor in wine purchases. Readers want to know if standard brands are good values and if artisanal wines produced by small wineries are worth the extra investment.

By now most of you can anticipate my response: If you like a particular wine then it's a good wine for your palate, whether it's \$7 by-the-bottle or by-the-box or \$25.

There are relative merits and detriments of enjoying wines at differing price points. Most of my discussions evolve around production methods and marketing campaigns.

Many consumers believe the process for making wine is similar for all bottles. Further, the supposition is that all grapes are gently hand-picked at the epitome of ripeness, carefully sorted for rotten grapes, leaves and insects and then lovingly crushed, fermented, aged and bottled, all under the watchful eye of a master winemaker.

Although this process does occur in many wineries, it is a far cry from the vast quantity of wines sold in the United States. For the

'There are relative merits and detriments of enjoying wines at differing price points.'

most part, winemaking is big business. Over 80 percent of wines produced and sold in the United States come from about 2 percent of the number of producers.

At these mega wine factories, massive quantities of grapes are harvested by industrial-size machines. Rotten grapes, leaves, twigs and unlucky insects may adulterate the wine juice until they are filtered out. Engineers are responsible for blending grape juices to create consistent wines each year.

Add to this mix the countless virtual wineries in the United States – wineries that have no direct hand in the production of wine. These companies contract with wholesale producers who may have grown the grapes or may have simply purchased the grapes (or juice). The wholesalers then produce the wine and bottle it according to the

specifications of the virtual winery.

Of the top 30 brands in the United States, only a handful of wineries are involved from start to finish. Very few grow their own grapes and produce or bottle the wine. This works well to meet consumer demand. Last year American wineries produced more than 800 million gallons of wine (84 percent in California). That's over 1.1 billion bottles, of which nearly 900 million cases were produced by 2 percent (less than 100) of domestic wine companies.

All of this is done in an effort to present consumers with inexpensive wine with a consistent flavor profile. You know the wines: the mass-produced bargain wines priced at \$5 to \$6 a bottle. You've experienced the wines at restaurants, weddings, charity dinners, pool parties.

Pleasing wines at great prices, what's wrong with that? In an absolute world – nothing. But many smaller producers have leveraged their wines to capitalize on consumer expectations. Across the winemaking world, value wines are being hand-crafted with hands-on expertise. From small producers (5,000 cases or less) in the United States to family-owned wineries in Spain, Portugal, Chile, Argentina, South Africa and even France and Italy, excellent wines are now available for \$8 to \$15.

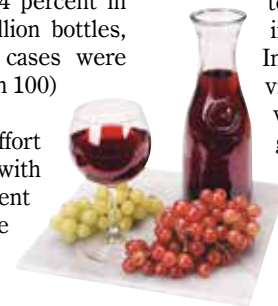
Most of these wines are head and shoulders above their mass-produced counterparts. They have a soul, a unique flavor profile that

is attained from close oversight of growing and production techniques that modern technology provides.

The wine giants can be extremely creative in developing label designs and brand names. A number of wine labels sport artwork of bucolic vineyards and workers lovingly tending vines. They are perfect images to entice consumers. In fact, mass-producers rarely visit, let alone tend, the massive vineyards from which they grow or purchase grapes. Is this inventive marketing or deceptive advertising?

As occurs frequently with the discerning palate, individual judgments are key in wine-buying decisions. The competition for shelf space and for sales volume can be confusing, even misleading. Discerning consumers seek advice from reputable wine shop merchants to consider their numerous choices regarding price and quality.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 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.



You Heard It Through the Grapevine

Happenings

continued from previous page

3190 or visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Music With Friends. Whole Music LLC in partnership with The Armonk Players and Friends of the North Castle Public Library present this performance of the American songbook old and new featuring Isaac Raz and Antoine Drye. Whippoorwill Hall, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 8 p.m. \$20. Info and tickets: Visit www.armonkplayers.org.

Sunday, Mar. 15

Early Morning Photo Session. Join us for this special opportunity to photograph ambassador wolves Nikai, Alawa and Zephyr. Guests will have access to photograph the critically endangered Mexican wolves and red wolves from vantage points not generally available during regular visits. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 9 a.m. \$100. Also Mar. 28 at 8 a.m. Space limited; pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywolf.org.

Feeding Fun. Join naturalists for a hands-on program and learn about the care that goes into feeding the indoor animals as well as the birds of prey and barnyard. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: Free. Non-members: \$8. Also Mar. 28. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Opening Reception for "Bisa Butler: Portraits." The first solo museum exhibit

of the artist's work and will feature about 25 of her larger-than-life quilts that capture African American identity and culture. A fully illustrated catalogue will accompany the show. Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay St., Katonah. 2 to 5 p.m. Adults: \$10. Senior and students: \$5. Members and children (under 12): Free. Exhibit continues through June 14. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 to 5 p.m. Info: 914-232-9555 or visit www.katonahmuseum.org.

Schwab Vocal Rising Stars: The Art of Pleasure. With music by Rachmaninoff, Bernstein, Tom Lehrer, John Musto and many others, this program will feature four young singers and a pianist selected by Artistic Director Steven Blier for a weeklong residency at Caramoor. Assisted by Michael Barrett, associate director of the New York Festival of Song (NYFOS), this performance explores the wealth and breadth of song repertoire. Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, 149 Girdle Ridge Rd., Katonah. 3 p.m. \$25 to \$40. Students (18 and under): Free. Info and tickets: 914-232-1252 or visit www.caramoor.org.

A Cappella Live! Never before have four acts of this caliber been brought together on the same stage. This high-energy musical celebration of contemporary a cappella will shine the spotlight on each group's greatest and best-known hits and bring them together for large-scale production numbers on this absolutely fun and extremely entertaining afternoon of vocal music. Conceived and

arranged by Deke Sharon, vocal producer of "Pitch Perfect" and "The Sing-Off." PepsiCo Theatre at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 3 p.m. \$25 to \$45. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit www.artscenter.org.

Ballet Hispanico. America's leading Latino dance organization has been bringing communities together to celebrate and explore Latino cultures through innovative productions, transformative dance training and community engagement for nearly 50 years. Led by Artistic Director and CEO Eduardo Vilaro, the company is a group of highly trained professionals who perform the works of Latino choreographers for audiences around the world. Its repertoire explores the diversity of Latino cultures and brings innovative ways of experiencing and sharing a cultural dialogue. This world class institution, with its bold and eclectic brand of contemporary ballet, performs a diverse repertoire by the foremost choreographers of our time as well as emerging artists. Westchester Community College's Academic Arts Theatre, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 3 p.m. \$28. Seniors and students: \$26. Children (under 13): \$18. Info and tickets: 914-606-6262 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/smarts. Tickets also available at the box office 30 minutes before the performance.

Kids Open Mic. Perform solo or bring your band. Refreshments and snacks available for sale. Kids under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Lagond Music School, 9 Haven St., Elmsford. Doors open and sign up begins at

6:15 p.m. Performances from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Performers: Free. Non-performers: \$5. The third Sunday of every month. Info: 914-345-0512 or visit www.lagondmusic.org.

Kids Open Mic. Perform solo or bring your band. Refreshments and snacks available for sale. Kids under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Lagond Music School, 9 Haven St., Elmsford. Doors open and sign up begins at 6:15 p.m. Performances from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Performers: Free. Non-performers: \$5. The third Sunday of every month. Info: 914-345-0512 or visit www.lagondmusic.org.

Lunasa. Named for an ancient Celtic harvest in honor of the Irish god Lugh, patron of the arts, Lunasa is a gathering of some of the top musical talents in Ireland. Its members have helped form the backbone of some of the greatest Irish groups of the decade. Bassist Trevor Hutchinson was a key member of The Waterboys, and later he, with guitarist Donogh Hennessy, would form the dynamic rhythm section of The Sharon Shannon Band; Ed Boyd has recently replaced Hennessy; fiddler Sean Smyth is an All-Ireland champion who has played with Donal Lunny's Coolfin; Kevin Crawford, considered to be among the finest flutists in Ireland played with the acclaimed traditional group Moving Cloud; and piper Cillian Vallely of the famous Vallely artistic clan has performed with Riverdance and recently recorded with Bruce Springsteen. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 7 p.m. \$38. Info and tickets: 914-631-3190 or visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Cambareri, Grant Named Mt. Kisco Chamber's Citizens of the Year

The Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce last week announced that Fortunato (Nato) Cambareri and the late Suzanne Grant have been named the organization's 2020 co-Citizens of the Year.

Individually their qualifications are outstanding, and together their energy, dedication and contributions to Mount Kisco made them the obvious selections for the 52nd year of recognizing local residents and business owners who represent the spirit of volunteerism and giving back to the community.

Cambareri has been instrumental in the Mount Kisco Adopt an Area program. Engaging many organizations and businesses, this program has beautified areas around the village that needed an aesthetic lift. He has also been an ardent volunteer for the Mount Kisco Little League, West Patent Elementary School and St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Grant, who passed away late last summer, was a six-year member of the Bedford Board of Education, tireless volunteer with Neighbors Link, founding member of Citizens for Byram Lake Reservoir as well as a member of several other committees and boards. We will miss her dearly.

The 2020 Business of the Year is the

Saw Mill Club. The club, with owner Rick Buesman, manager Kevin Kane and Donna Arena, special events director are constantly helping others to achieve their personal goals and reaching into the community to help others.

Throughout the years, the Saw Mill Club has supported organizations who contribute to Mount Kisco by offering the club as a location to host fundraising events and generously supporting local charities and organizations.

The Organization of the Year is the homegrown Mount Kisco Arts Council. Since its inception in 2016, the small but mighty council has grown in numbers and recognition. It has brought music and art to the village in an accessible and professional way. From pop-up galleries, to free concerts in Fountain Park, to long-range goals for bringing art to all, the chamber is thrilled to present the Mount Kisco Arts Council as the unanimous choice for the award.

The honorees will be celebrated at the Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce Citizens of the Year Dinner, which will be held on Wednesday, May 13 at the Mount Kisco Country Club. For information on attending the dinner, call 914-666-7525 or e-mail director@mtkiscochamber.com.



Pictured, back row left to right, are the Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce's 2020 Citizen of the Year Fortunato (Nato) Cambareri; Kevin Kane, general manager of the Saw Mill Club, the 2020 Business of the Year; and Elizabeth Spears Gourlay, a member of the Mount Kisco Arts Council, which was named Organization of the Year. Pictured in the front row, left to right, are Cambareri's wife Alexis Cambareri; Donna Arena, special events director at the Saw Mill Club; Lisa Abzun, founding member and president of the Mount Kisco Arts Council; and Beth Vetare-Civitello, founding member of the arts council.



Local Photographer's Exhibit to Open Saturday at Mount Pleasant Library

Award-winning Westchester-based photographer David Rocco will be showcasing some of his prized photographs at the main branch of the Mount Pleasant Public Library in Pleasantville starting this Saturday, Mar. 14 with an opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Light snacks and soft beverages will be available.

Rocco will display a selection from his more than 12,000 photos of the construction of the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge and demolition of the old Tappan Zee Bridge, including his award-

winning photograph of the controlled demolition of the east anchor pier of the original span.

He will also display several photographs that he took of the damage and destruction caused by Superstorm Sandy in October 2012 and of his travels along the Hudson River.

The exhibit, which will be displayed in the community room, will run through Apr. 12. The Mount Pleasant Public Library's main branch is located at 350 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, number 1326336 for beer, cider, and wine has been applied for by Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado, LLC d/b/a Chipotle Mexican Grill #3467 to sell beer, cider, and wine at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 3144 East Main Street, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547, Westchester County for on premises consumption. **Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado, LLC d/b/a Chipotle Mexican Grill #3467**

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District (the "District") that a special meeting of the qualified voters of said District be and the same is hereby called to be held in said District in the **Westlake High School Gymnasium, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of voting on the following proposition:** Shall the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District be authorized to (1) reconstruct school buildings and construct and reconstruct athletic fields, tracks and related facilities, including site work, and acquire original furnishings, equipment,

continued on next page

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machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which buildings, athletic fields, tracks and facilities are to be used, at a maximum cost of \$9,085,366, (2) expend such sum for such purpose, (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the School District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$9,085,366, and the levy of a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due? The vote upon such proposition shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the polls shall be kept open shall be from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. prevailing time or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 p.m. to cast their ballots. Any resident of the School District who is registered to vote in general elections is qualified to vote at said meeting without having their name placed upon the School District register of voters provided they voted at a general election at least once within the last four calendar years. Further, provided that any person who has previously registered to vote in any annual School District meeting or election or special School District meeting or election and who has voted at an annual School District meeting or election or special School District meeting or election held during the past four years (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016) shall not be required to reregister. The Board of Education has also provided for registration of qualified voters at the **District Office, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM** on any regular school day through March 26, 2020. The register prepared pursuant to Section 2014 of the Education Law will be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the District, and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the **District at the Office of the Clerk of the District, District Office, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, New York, at the polling place on the day of the vote, as well as between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.** on each of the five (5) days prior to the election excluding Sunday, March 29, 2020, except on Saturday, March 28, 2020 it will only be available for inspection between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Absentee ballots may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk. If the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the completed application must be received by the Clerk of the District no later than seven days before the vote or the day before the vote if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the Office of the Clerk between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM, except Saturday and Sunday. Any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his challenge and reasons therefor known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls. **Dated: January 22, 2020 District Clerk, Board of Education Mount Pleasant Central School District**

AVISO LEGAL AVISO DE REUNIÓN ESPECIAL DE DISTRITO MOUNT PLEASANT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SE DA AVISO QUE, de conformidad con una resolución adoptada por la Junta de Educación del Distrito Escolar Central de Mount Pleasant (el "Distrito") que una reunión especial de los votantes calificados de dicho Distrito sea y por la presente se llama a la misma para que se celebre en dicho Distrito en el gimnasio Westlake de la Escuela Secundaria, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York el martes, 31 de marzo de 2020 de 7:00 de la mañana a 9:00 de la noche con el propósito de votar la siguiente propuesta: **Propuesta** Deberá la Junta de Educación del Distrito Central Mount Pleasant estar autorizada para (1) reconstruir edificios escolares y construir y reconstruir campos de atletismo, pistas e instalaciones afines, incluido el trabajo del sitio, y adquirir muebles originarios, equipo, maquinaria o aparato requerido para el propósito que dichos edificios, campos de atletismo, pistas e instalaciones se utilizarán, a un costo máximo de \$ 9,085,366, (2) emplear dicha suma para dicho propósito, (3) recaudar el impuesto necesario por lo tanto, para ser recaudado y cobrado en cuotas anuales en tales años y en tales cantidades según lo determine la Junta de Educación teniendo en cuenta la ayuda estatal; y (4) en anticipación de la recolección de tal impuesto, emitir bonos y pagarés del Distrito Escolar al mismo tiempo o de vez en cuando en la cantidad principal que no exceda \$ 9,085,366, y la recaudación de un impuesto para pagar los intereses de dichas obligaciones cuando vencen? El voto sobre dicha propuesta será por máquina o boleta de voto en ausencia. Las horas en que las urnas se mantendrán abiertas serán de 7:00 de la mañana a 9:00 de la noche, hora prevaleciente o por el tiempo que sea necesario después de estas horas, para habilitar a los votantes calificados que se encuentran en el lugar de votación a las 9:00 de la noche. para emitir su voto. Cualquier residente del Distrito Escolar que esté registrado para votar en las elecciones generales está calificado para votar en dicha reunión sin tener su nombre colocado en el registro del Distrito Escolar de votantes siempre que hayan votado en una elección general al menos una vez dentro de los últimos cuatro años calendarios. Además, una persona no necesitará volver a registrarse, siempre y cuando se haya registrado previamente para votar en cualquier reunión o elección anual del Distrito Escolar o reunión o elección especial del Distrito Escolar y quién ha votado en una reunión o elección anual del Distrito Escolar o reunión o elección especial del Distrito Escolar celebrada durante los últimos cuatro años (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016). La Junta de Educación también ha previsto el registro de votantes calificados en la Oficina del Distrito, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, entre las 9:00 de la mañana y las 3:00 de la tarde en cualquier día escolar regular hasta el 26 de marzo de 2020. El registro preparado de conformidad con la Sección 2014 de la Ley de Educación se archivará en la Oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito, y estará abierta a la inspección de cualquier votante calificado

continued on next page

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del Distrito en la Oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito, Oficina del Distrito, Westlake Drive, Thornwood, Nueva York, en el lugar de votación el día de la votación, así como entre las 9:00 de la mañana y las 4:00 de la tarde en cada uno de los cinco (5) días previos a la elección, excepto el domingo 29 de marzo, 2020, excepto el sábado 28 de marzo de 2020 en que solo estará disponible para inspección entre las 8:30 y 10:30 de la mañana. Las boletas de voto en ausencia se pueden solicitar en la oficina de la Secretaria del Distrito. Si la boleta debe ser enviada por correo al votante, la solicitud completa debe ser recibida por la secretaria del distrito a más tardar siete días antes de la votación o el día antes de la votación si la boleta se entrega personalmente al votante. Una lista de todas las personas a quienes se les habrá emitido un voto en ausencia estará disponible en la Oficina de la Secretaria entre las 9:00 de la mañana y las 3:00 de la tarde excepto sábado y domingo. Cualquier votante calificado/a puede impugnar la aceptación de la boleta de cualquier persona en dicha lista, haciendo conocer su desafío y sus razones al Inspector de Elección antes del cierre de las urnas. **Fecha: 22 de enero de 2020 Secretaria del Distrito, Junta de Educación Mount Pleasant Central School District**

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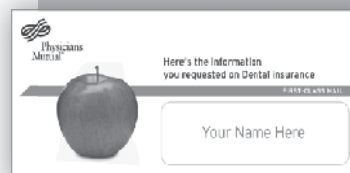
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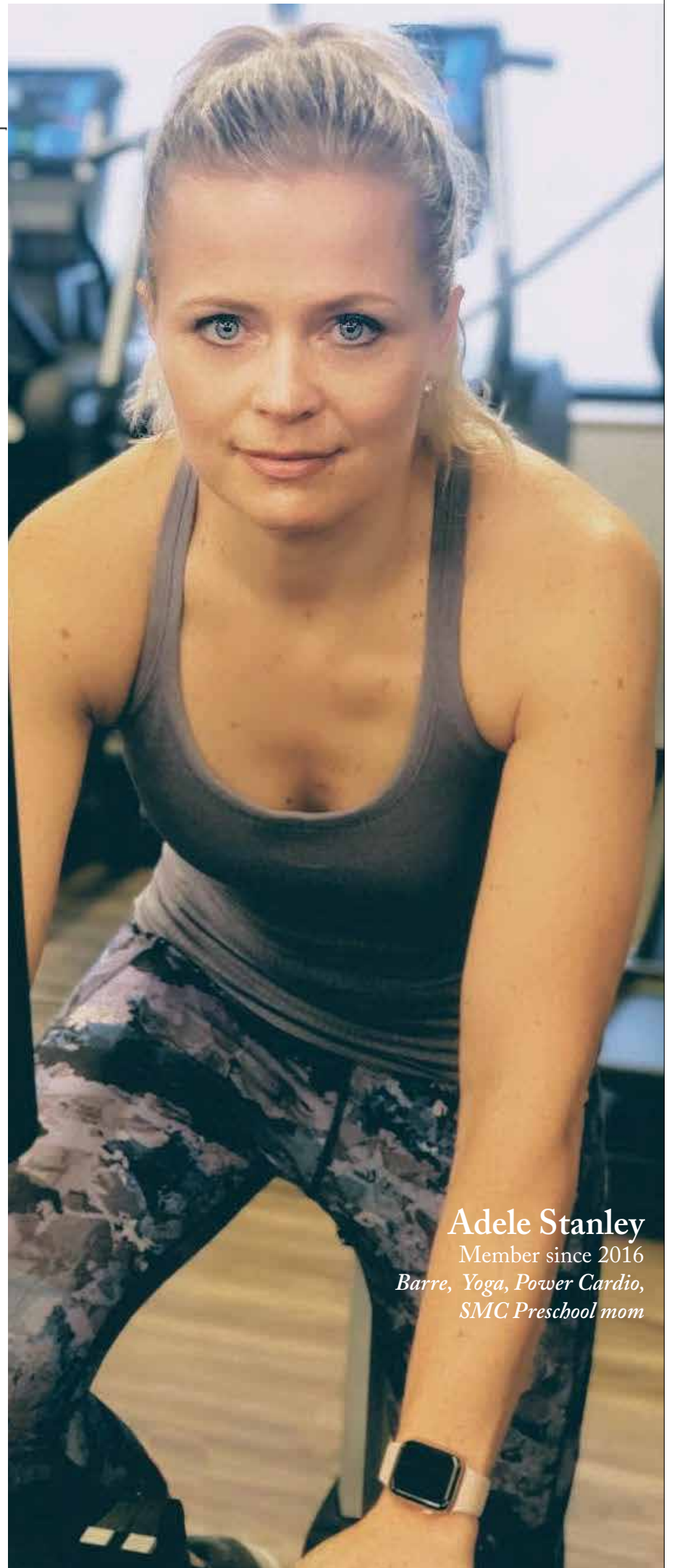
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