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May 26 - June 1, 2020

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 664

New Castle to Offer Drive-in Movie Nights for Residents

By Martin Wilbur

Since the middle of March, most area residents have been stuck inside the house riding out the pandemic with little in the way of outside entertainment.

The Town of New Castle hopes to change that this summer – at least for three nights.

Last week, the Town Board approved spending up to \$15,000 to set up a makeshift drive-in movie facility as a way to bring some fun to residents and families.

Town Administrator Jill Shapiro said with nearly all recreational activities canceled until further notice, including the first two shows of the Wednesday evening summer concert series at Recreation Field, the town wanted its residents to have something to look forward to.

“Unfortunately, we’ve been required to cancel the first two of the summer concerts and we’re so disappointed about that, so we’re hoping to substitute in something fun for

residents to be able to come out,” Shapiro said.

While dates haven’t been set, it appears the town will schedule one night in June, July and August for the movie screenings, she said.

Shapiro said during the past few weeks, Ike Kuzio, the town’s Superintendent of Recreation & Parks, reached out to several companies for estimates for renting and setting up the equipment.

Last week, the board approved a proposal from Frost Productions in Manhattan that will cost \$4,738 for each screening. There will be a 40-foot by 22-foot theatrical screen with a 15,000-lumen HD projector; an audio-visual control center and FM transmitter so people can hear the sound through their car radios. There will also be control of the equipment’s operation through a laptop that will allow for graphics, including messages from any sponsors and event listings.

In addition, Frost Productions will provide trained technicians to set up, operate and take

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Domino's Delivers for Healthcare Workers

New Castle resident Sam Baughn ordered some Domino's pizza for dinner last month but was disappointed when the order wasn't delivered. He decided to turn a negative into a positive by challenging the pizza chain to make it up to him by providing a free lunch to healthcare workers. Domino's delivered by providing pizza for more than 100 members of the Northern Westchester Hospital staff last Wednesday afternoon.

Mount Pleasant Board of Ed Adopts \$65.4M Budget; Braces for State Cuts

By Martin Wilbur

The Mount Pleasant Board of Education adopted a \$65.4 million budget last Wednesday that proposes a 1.44 percent tax rate increase for most district residents as district officials keep a wary eye out for potential state education cuts.

The 2020-21 budget, that carries a \$1,154,000 spending increase and a 2.06 percent tax levy hike, had few personnel changes while cutting about \$250,000 from the originally proposed plan in anticipation of reductions in aid. New York State is facing a more than \$13 billion deficit and Gov. Andrew Cuomo has repeatedly warned that without assistance from the federal government the state will have to cut education aid, among other areas, by 20 percent.

Mount Pleasant was slated to receive \$6.5 million in aid for the upcoming year.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kurtis Kotes said the proposal that will be going before the voters maintains programs and facilities but there is significant uncertainty.

“At this time, I believe that we have made the best decisions possible for program and stability,” Kotes said. “I believe this budget has versatility with some of the concerns that were brought up by the (Citizens Budget Advisory Committee), given the ability for this budget to pivot, if you will, should there be any radical changes that

come either legislatively or from the state Education Department. This budget can pivot to address those changes.”

Staffing changes include an additional .5 full-time equivalent teacher and a .5 teaching assistant at Columbus Elementary School and an additional .7 special education teacher at Westlake Middle School. Also, a full-time clerical position is being vacated and will not be filled.

Other changes include the reduction of a .5 full-time equivalent teacher at Hawthorne Elementary School and the addition of .5 teaching assistant at that school.

Adding to district officials’ concerns is the likelihood of a major reduction in revenue, particularly sales tax. The adopted budget lowered sales tax revenue projections by \$50,000 for next year to \$650,000. It also uses \$625,000 in fund balance, an increase of \$175,000 over the current budget.

A 20 percent reduction of state aid amounting to \$1.3 million would be a blow to Mount Pleasant, Kotes said.

“Obviously, these would be devastating cuts to our school district,” he said. “We would do our best to make sure we preserved what we could of programs, but these would be significant reductions that would need to be made.”

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Study: Armonk Has Ample Parking But Better Management is Needed

By Martin Wilbur

A recently released study by North Castle’s parking and traffic consultant concluded that downtown Armonk has adequate parking but a lack of regulation and failure to institute time limits puts a strain on inventory.

Director of Planning Adam Kaufman recently provided the Town Board with an overview of a report from Nelson/Nygaard of New York City regarding the roughly 1,500 parking spaces in downtown Armonk. The consultants tracked parking on and near Main Street and on Old Route 22 during specific days last September and November.

Despite the high number of spaces, about 1,100 are controlled by private property owners, creating an obstacle for the town to formulate a hamlet-wide parking plan, Kaufman said. However, there is ample room if the town can work with property owners to provide signage and other strategies that would be mutually beneficial, he said.

“The Armonk Square parking lot, there are rules and regulations (which) are enforceable,” Kaufman said. “On all these private lots, we don’t have that authority. I’m saying as a next step, to have conversations with the property owners and business owners that can convince them that it’s really in their best interests, and in the town’s best interests, to coordinate how people could park downtown.”

In addition to Armonk Square, only the on-street parking is available for use by the general public with time limits in the Main



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Main Street in Armonk has enough parking to accommodate need but there are lots off the main drag that are often not used.

Street area of downtown, he said.

As expected, the peak hours for that stretch is lunchtime on weekdays. On Route 22, where just 55 of about 400 spaces are regulated by the town, the peak is on Saturday evenings when crowds fill the high concentration of restaurants.

Kaufman said the study revealed that there is room available in the Main Street area, but the prime spaces are often used by longer-term visitors, including employees of downtown businesses.

The consultants recommended the town consider a signage system to direct those visitors and employees to other areas.

Councilman Barry Reiter said signage is a critical component to better utilize downtown

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New Castle to Offer Drive-in Movie Nights for Residents

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down the equipment for each screening.

Councilman Jeremy Saland said the planning hasn't been completed but officials are considering holding the drive-in movie

nights at the town-owned Chappaqua train station parking lot. It is likely that only town residents would be able to attend, he said.

The screen accommodates up to about 100 cars for optimum viewing.

"As we continue to think out of the box, we are excited to offer families a much-needed respite from the monotony of our current stay-at-home and social distancing life," Saland said. "A drive-in movie experience will give older and younger residents alike a welcome and enjoyable outlet."

While Westchester and other Hudson Valley counties are entering the first phase of reopening on Tuesday, which only includes construction, manufacturing and curbside retail, on May 15 the state allowed for several low-risk activities to resume, including

tennis, drive-in movies and gardening and landscaping.

The town has not scheduled any rain dates at this time, although it is believed the equipment can still be operated in a light rain, Saland said.

The movie screenings could also help businesses downtown, at least for those nights, he said. Establishments selling food have been operating but with a Phase I reopening on Tuesday there will be at least curbside retail. Full retail is part of Phase II.

Study: Armonk Has Ample Parking But Better Management is Needed

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parking capacity even if there are peak times when parking is at a premium.

"We really need to impress on people that it's more transient," he said. "It's got to be a situation where you come, you shop and you go. You can't spend the day there. The same thing with the employees. I see them parking, taking spots right in front. The store owners have to impress upon them there are alternative places to park."

A couple of years ago, the town created more than 40 additional spaces behind the Hergenhan Recreation Center on Maple Avenue for longer-term parking. While the spaces off to the side of the building near the front are often full, the ones in the rear are typically empty, Supervisor Michael Schiliro said.

"That's an opportunity right there, whether it's through signage or limiting parking by hours, we can redirect the cars that are parked closer to downtown to the rear of the Hergenhan lot, that's one way of freeing up spaces that are closer to town," he said. "That's just an easy one."

Kaufman said the if the various downtown

development proposals come to fruition, including the former Mariani Gardens site, Eagle Ridge and the old lumberyard on Bedford Road, the occupancy at peak hours would average about 86 percent, which is high.

"If we're able to manage spaces in long-term employee parking in the lesser desirable spaces, freeing up the more convenient parking spaces for shoppers, for short-term parking, things will work better," Kaufman said.

Councilman José Berra said he believes proper signage would be effective to open up prime spots. The downtown shouldn't have to risk losing shoppers because of impatient motorists when there is a solution.

"You get that uncomfortable feeling whenever you have to drive around for even a minute or so," Berra said. "It's not the worst thing in the world, but we should improve on that."

The town also has the option of creating more parking that it can regulate and control, Kaufman said. Locations include the Verizon lot, another spot by Citibank, Kent Place and Wampus Brook Park.

Mount Pleasant Board of Ed Adopts \$65.4M Budget; Braces for State Cuts

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Dana Michael, who heads the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, said the committee came to a consensus to support the budget, believing that the administration has the time to adjust to potentially significant revenue changes. Michael also complimented the administration for a strong process.

"I thought that the way it was worked through this year was very good," he said. "You could see the numbers flowing through, the assumptions were all very clear."

Board President Colleen Scaglione Neglia said there may be additional expenditures related to the reopening of

school and making sure children who need to catch up can do so.

Trustees said it was their intention to reschedule to a future date the \$9 million athletic facilities bond that was postponed Mar. 31. However, they want to see the extent of any cuts and how the district copes with reopening and the potential for significant revenue loss.

Voters will be able to vote on the budget proposal and the Board of Education election after they receive their ballot in the mail later this week. Registered voters' ballots must be received by the district clerk's office no later than Tuesday, June 9 at 5 p.m.



Is Your Biological Clock Ticking? The Trend toward Later Motherhood...

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Dr. Navid Mootabar
Chief, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Northern Westchester Hospital

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Q: What's behind the trend toward later parenthood?

A: Women in the U.S. are waiting longer than ever to have children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In fact, the average age of first-time mothers is now 26, up almost two years since 2014. In the last 10 to 15 years, we've seen the average age of first-time mothers increase greatly, mainly because women are pursuing careers and education first.

Q: I'm turning thirty. Should I be worried about my "biological clock" ticking?

A: The best time for a woman to get pregnant is between the ages of 20 and 35. In this age range, you are most fertile and least likely to experience complications. Though there is a slight risk of declining fertility by the age of 35, it's only about 5 percent. Egg quality and quantity decline after age 35, and good ovulation cycles become less frequent. Eggs of poorer quality are released, making it more difficult to get pregnant.

Q: Will older moms-to-be face risks?

A: A mere twenty to thirty years ago, the maternal age of 35 was considered advanced for childbearing; it was also considered the age at which a woman became — virtually overnight and automatically — a high-risk pregnancy. Today we know that if you're a healthy 35-year-old woman

who is pregnant, you may often have the same degree of risk in pregnancy as that of a younger mom-to-be.

If you're over 35 and considering pregnancy, you may have to visit your physician more frequently to ensure that the pregnancy is proceeding smoothly. I recommend scheduling an appointment for both preconception counseling and genetic counseling. This will help your physician identify and minimize any risk factors so you can improve your chances of a healthy pregnancy. Women over 35 can deliver healthy children and have a safe pregnancy. It's all about taking care of yourself, knowing your risks and coming up with a plan that is right for you and your family.

Q: I'm worried that when I do decide to have children, I won't be able to. What are my options if I can't get pregnant?

A: Advances in technology help many women over 35 get pregnant and give birth to healthy babies. In vitro fertilization is a process by which a woman's eggs are extracted and combined with a sperm sample, creating an embryo that is transferred to the woman's uterus. In vitro fertilization now includes a procedure called pre-implantation genetic diagnosis that helps identify chromosomal and genetic abnormalities, ensuring physicians are implanting healthy embryos.

Westchester, Putnam Begin Phase I Reopening This Week

By Martin Wilbur

Westchester and Putnam counties entered a Phase I reopening Tuesday after a slow but consistent decline in COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths statewide and the region assembling a team of nearly 2,000 trained contact tracers.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the seven-county Mid-Hudson region, which includes the two counties, has maintained a three-day rolling average of five deaths a day since Friday, one of two remaining criteria the region needed.

Over the long holiday weekend, officials from the region trained at least 857 additional contact tracers to reach the requisite number of 1,991 for the Tuesday reopening, Cuomo said. There must be at least 30 tracers per 100,000 residents in a region. Mid-Hudson also comprises Rockland, Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties.

The tracers identify individuals who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19, who can then be tested, and if necessary, isolated should they test positive.

"We agreed to ask people to be trained Saturday, Sunday, Monday and we'll open in the Mid-Hudson on Tuesday," Cuomo said. "So that is good news."

Phase I is a minimal reopening, which allows for construction, manufacturing and curbside retail provided employers are able to have their workers observe social distancing protocols while providing personal protection equipment. If the thresholds for testing, tracing, COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths can be maintained or improved for two weeks, regions can then move into Phase II, which includes professional services, finance and insurance, retail, administrative support and real estate and rental leasing.

The third phase includes restaurants and hotels while the fourth phase takes in education and recreation.

Cuomo has said that there should be at least two weeks between the start of each phase, accounting for the presumed incubation period for the virus.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said last weekend that residents must continue to wear a face covering, refrain from large gatherings and remain vigilant in order to continue moving forward. Latimer cautioned that Phase I status is just the beginning of a long road.

"For everybody, we're moving forward but we're doing it carefully and cautiously – maintain social distancing, maintain wearing masks," he said. "We're not trying to change the culture of America with masks, we're trying to deal with the contagion. When the contagion is over, we can get back to normal. We're not trying to change how people operate."

In the past seven to eight weeks, Westchester's number of active COVID-19 cases has fallen from nearly 12,000 to about 2,000, and virus-related hospitalizations have dropped from nearly 1,200 to about 200, mirroring a similar decline throughout the state.

On Monday, there were 96 deaths statewide and hospitalizations fell below 5,000. New COVID-19 hospitalizations on Sunday remained at just over 200 throughout New York.

Cuomo said Long Island is at 11 deaths on the three-day rolling average, above the threshold of five but has had 12 consecutive

days of declines through Sunday. If that region can continue to lower the number of deaths through Tuesday, Nassau and Suffolk counties could begin reopening on Wednesday, provided there are enough contact tracers trained and in place.

New York City, while steadily moving closer, appears to be the last region that will qualify. In addition to the tracing, the percentage of available hospital beds and ICU beds are at 29 percent each, just below the 30 percent minimum that the state is requiring in each category.

The Mid-Hudson region's percentage of available hospital and ICU beds are at 38 and 55 percent, respectively, through Sunday.

Cuomo applauded the state's residents for their diligence in following social distancing

guidelines and wearing face coverings.

"This is all a function of what people do," Cuomo said. "It has nothing to do with government, it has nothing to do with anything else. This is what people do and New Yorkers have been great in understanding the situation and responding."

State to Ask Districts for Reopening Plans
New York State will be issuing guidelines to education officials in early June to help school leaders devise plans for a potential September resumption of in-person classes.

Cuomo said districts will then have until sometime in July to submit the plan, which would have to be approved by the state.

The governor said it would be premature to speculate whether in-school classes will resume for the start of the 2020-21 school year or what the next academic year may look like.

"As the facts keep changing, prudence dictates that you don't make a decision until it's timely so you have the best current facts to make a decision," Cuomo said.

Of prime concern is the COVID-19-related illness that has been spotted in children, mainly in the elementary and middle school grades, before any determination can be made.

There are now more than 160 cases of pediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome now under investigation by the state.



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Somers, Fox Lane to Hold Drive-in Movie-Style Graduation

By Martin Wilbur

Three northern Westchester high schools have collaborated to hold their commencement ceremonies in a drive-in movie-style event at the Jefferson Valley Mall in Yorktown.

Somers, Fox Lane and John Jay-Katonah have scheduled the unconventional event for Tuesday, June 23 in the mall's southeast parking lot. A professional event company called MarchingOrder will set up two large screens and a sound system that will be broadcast on an FM frequency so each graduate and their family will be able to hear the ceremonies from their vehicle.

Videotaped messages will be interspersed with live speakers during the ceremonies while maintaining social distance protocols for all who participate and attend. The ceremonies will be taped.

Each school will have a designated time for its graduation. Fox Lane is scheduled for 10 a.m. and Somers at 5 p.m.

Somers High School Principal Mark Bayer said the seniors were adamant that no matter what was decided for this year's graduation, it was a must that they celebrate together.

"We think that this is a really good answer to what you said you wanted as well as what we are allowed to do under social distancing guidelines," Bayer said in a videotaped message to the Class of 2020.

Fox Lane High School Principal Dr. Brett Miller called it a "significant event"



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

One of the parking lots at Jefferson Valley Mall in Yorktown, which will be the site for graduations for Somers, Fox Lane and John Jay-Katonah high schools.

considering the circumstances.

"Simply know, that we have heard you and are working to provide a significant and memorable experience for our students and families," Miller said to his school's seniors in a message last week.

Under revised state guidelines, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on May 15 that a limited number of activities that

were considered low-risk would be able to resume, including drive-in movie theaters.

It was not mentioned how many vehicles could be accommodated at the mall parking lot for the graduation. The schools would supply information for graduates and their families closer to the event, Bayer said.

The Jefferson Valley Mall, on Lee Boulevard off of Route 6 in the Jefferson

Valley section of Yorktown, has been closed along with other malls since New York's state of emergency went into effect on Mar. 15.

For Somers, in addition to the graduation, Bayer also announced that the school was dedicating the month of June to this year's seniors. Festivities kick off this Friday with a car parade starting at 6 p.m. through the town, along routes 100 and 202 to the high school, escorted by the local volunteer fire department and state police, he said.

Graduates should have a parent or sibling drive their car.

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Westchester Airport's Repaving Project for Main Runway Completed

By Martin Wilbur

Repaving of Westchester County Airport's main runway was recently completed in just over three weeks and reopened to air traffic last Thursday morning.

County Executive George Latimer said last week that the \$21 million project to repave Runway 16/34, which was to have been finished in the fall, was pushed up because much of the commercial aviation at the airport has ground to a halt during the coronavirus crisis.

"We knew that we were going to have a major drop in air travel as this coronavirus outbreak continued," Latimer said. "And the ability to move the capital project up and get it completed in a directed period of time, because the airport was closed, has saved us some money and it saved us having to work into the evenings and things that would have stretched this project out and have more disruption to the people who live in the area than getting it done in the three-week period and getting it done more precisely."

The project was originally scheduled to be done in the evening over three months, with a completion date sometime in October.

Latimer stressed that the repaving, which needs to be done about every 20



An aerial view of Runway 16/34 at Westchester County Airport, which was recently repaved in about three weeks. The work had been slated for the late summer and fall and was projected to take about three months.

years, is not a strengthening or elongating of the runway, which would have signaled a planned increase in air traffic and larger aircraft landing at the airport.

In the last three years, there has

been outcry from several surrounding communities in the path of landing planes, with residents arguing there has been a noticeable increase in noise.

But Latimer and airport manager Peter

Scherrer said this project was to make sure the main runway is in optimum condition.

"The runway is the number one asset at any airport," Scherrer said. "It's the lifeblood of the airport. Without this runway and maintaining the airport and keeping it open and keeping it fit for use, we're not going to make any money. This community will not benefit from this airport being closed."

He said commercial operators are looking forward to returning to Westchester once air travel picks up. About 20 percent of the air traffic at Westchester Airport is commercial, with the remaining portion from fixed-based operators and private aviation.

Most of the money for the capital project – about \$19 million – came from the federal government, said Hugh Grecian, commissioner of the county's Department of Public Works & Transportation. Another \$1 million came from the state Department of Transportation and the final \$1 million from the county's capital bonding, he said.

The latter is paid for by airport user fees, Grecian said.

The rehabilitation work was able to be compressed from about three months to three weeks because as much as 6,000 tons of asphalt was able to be brought in each day due to reduced airport usage.

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New Castle Revises Leaf Blower Legislation; Aims for Fall Approval

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle officials have once again revised proposed legislation regulating leaf blowers, balancing a reduction in noise and emissions with avoiding negative impacts on professional landscapers and larger property owners.

The latest iteration of the plan would prohibit gas-powered blowers from June 1 to through Sept. 30. Battery or gas-powered blowers would be permitted the rest of the year to help property owners clean their

parcel during the fall leaf season and after the winter when cleanup is often needed.

Proposed exemptions include municipal and Chappaqua School District recreational fields; tennis courts for the town, school district, country clubs and homeowners' associations; golf courses; and cemeteries, said former Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) member Rand Manasse, who has spearheaded the town's efforts to craft legislation. Also proposed for exemption are the town's sidewalks.

Another exemption, for properties at least

10 acres, has been removed.

A previous plan limited the noise level for the machines to 70 decibels, but because the overwhelming number of gas-powered blowers are currently above that threshold, the proposed law requires only that users adhere to the town's noise ordinance for domestic tools, Manasse said.

Hours of operation from June 1 through Sept. 30 would be Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. From Oct. 1 through May 31, the blowers can be operated from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. On Sunday and holidays, the town would allow blowers to be used 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. year-round.

Supervisor Ivy Pool said the town is eyeing approval in time for the new legislation to be in place by Oct. 1. The most significant change would occur next spring with the prohibition of gas-powered blowers on June 1, 2021. That would give the town time to develop a public education strategy and to potentially establish a buy-back program for those wanting to turn in their gas-powered machines, she said.

"I always thought this legislation needs to be done in tandem with education and also this piece," Pool said. "So if we think about what the supporting programming looks like that will support this legislation, I think that that is important for us to speak to as we're thinking about passing it."

Another potential issue still needs to be resolved. Officials had discussed at their

May 12 work session a proposal to also allow the town to use its leaf blowers on the municipally-owned parking lots. But some board members suggested it might be hypocritical to expect residents to comply while the town does not.

Ike Kuzio, the town's superintendent of Recreation & Parks, said since the lots are such a large area it would be inefficient for his staff to use battery-powered blowers only.

"It's a hard ask to say that none of our equipment complies so we're exempted, but we're expecting all of our residents to purchase new equipment or have our landscapers do that," said Councilwoman Lisa Katz. "I get the public purpose of it but it's a hard ask because our equipment doesn't comply and we want our sidewalks cleaned but residents, you have to buy everything new and deal with your sidewalks."

Katz and Town Attorney Nicholas Ward-Willis planned to discuss including language in the legislation that would have the town honor the intent of its law by refraining from using leaf blowers for aesthetic purposes only. A public safety issue would need to be addressed in order to use the blowers in the lots.

Pool said the town would speak to the school district officials and likely extend the same policy to the district since both are public entities.

A public hearing on the revised local law will be scheduled with the hopes of approving legislation later this summer or in early fall.

Look Hoo's There

If you look hard enough, there's all kinds of wildlife that can be spotted in the area. Recently, an owl was seen surveying the situation beneath it from a perch in this tree on Mount Kisco's Birch Drive.



JULIA LEA PHOTO

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Intersection Upgrades Progressing Near Closed Kensico Dam Road

By Martin Wilbur

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) began site work earlier this month on Route 120 at Nannyhagen Road in North Castle that will see the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection.

The work is part of a more than \$6 million improvement project at eight intersections in North Castle and Mount Pleasant in the vicinity of Kensico Dam to help ease traffic woes. The roughly quarter-mile road over the dam has been closed since just after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

DEP spokesman Adam Bosch said he expects the work at Route 120 and Nannyhagen Road to be completed sometime next month, but the agency will need to return to complete underground utility work with Con Edison.

Work at two other locations in North Castle – North Broadway at Route 22 and also at Hillandale Avenue – are nearly finished, Bosch said. The Route 22 work includes installation of a southbound through lane, an upgraded traffic signal, an upgrade to the signal timing at Sir John's Plaza along with enhanced roadway signs and striping.

On Hillandale Avenue, there will be a sidewalk added, pedestrian crosswalks and signs will be added along North Broadway at

Hillandale Avenue, the addition of pedestrian crosswalks and signal poles, along with traffic signal modifications and improved roadway signs and striping.

In Mount Pleasant, work at Park Drive and Broadway is also nearly done. Meanwhile, Legion Drive and Columbus Avenue is currently the site of ongoing improvements. A new traffic signal will be added in front of the fire station and roadway signs and striping will be upgraded, Bosch said.

The next area for slated for work is Lakeview Avenue and the Taconic State Parkway in mid-summer, he said. That portion of the project will see a westbound Lakeview Avenue left-turn lane added, an improved traffic signal and enhanced roadway signs and striping.

Bosch said the agency has been coordinating with local police to maintain a good flow of traffic. Work was to have been finished next year but it now looks like other improvements will take longer than expected.

"Some elements of the project are going a little slower than expected, so all the intersections will not be complete until sometime in 2022," Bosch said. "Remember, we are going one or two intersections at a time."

Other intersections scheduled for



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Crews are in the midst of making intersection improvements at Route 120 and Nannyhagen Road in North Castle. The work is part of enhancements at eight locations impacted by the 18-year closure of the road over Kensico Dam.

improvement are at the Taconic Parkway at Cleveland Avenue and Westland Drive at Route 22 in North Castle, the last two locations that will be done.

In early March, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, along with North Castle and Mount Pleasant officials appealed

to the DEP to open the road at peak hours. The agency quickly rebuffed the county's overture, stating that it will remain closed indefinitely.

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Obituaries

Richard Reilly

Richard J. (Dick) Reilly Jr., 84, passed away on May 14 from complications of heart disease at his home in Teton County, Idaho. His loving wife of 62 years, Gail (Apgar), cared for him to his final moments.

Inventor of the aluminum platform tennis (paddle) court and founder of R.J. Reilly Jr., Inc., he revolutionized the game. His myriad engineering improvements enabled outdoor play throughout dark and snowy winters. He led the sport's expansion from Westchester County in the early 1960s, building courts in 40 states and 16 countries, producing instructional videos, operating platform tennis camps in Montana and Wyoming and elsewhere until the sale of his company in 2002. He was inducted into the Platform Tennis Hall of Fame in 1974 when he was only 39.

Reilly, born Sept. 24, 1935, grew up in Scarsdale and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1957, where he rowed, played football and pole vaulted for the track team. He later attended Columbia University business school where he also earned a master's in public health.

Reilly married his hometown sweetheart, Gail Apgar, and they raised their family in South Salem. The octagonal home he designed and built on a small lake there,

complete with a 250-gallon fish tank, circular fireplace and paddle court, provided an idyllic childhood for his children.

His passion for mentoring young people never left him. He revived the Boy Scouts program in northern Westchester, started

and coached the local youth football program and revived the football program at the nearby Wooster School in Danbury where he coached and was the business manager for two years. Way ahead of Title IX, he started a girl's tackle football program when his daughter was in seventh grade.

During a reprieve from the platform tennis court business, Reilly worked for the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation in New York and focused on improving the health and lives of folks in Mississippi.

A visionary by nature, another interlude in the 1970s found him as the owner of a beautiful parcel of land at the foot of the Tetons in Wyoming, which included an overbooked KOA campground, the region's only popular indoor pool, two general stores and gas stations, a fast food restaurant and pizza parlor. He eventually sold the property, and it now houses the renowned National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, Wyo.

Reilly first brought platform tennis to the northern Rockies with a combination paddle camp and dude ranch near Glacier National Park in Montana. Not one to shy away from, well anything, Reilly taught himself "natural horsemanship" before horse whisperer was a household phrase. He happily discarded his tie for a cowboy hat, and in addition to playing ranch host, became known for his gentle way with horses when he wasn't tending to his prolific flower and vegetable gardens. After the summer dudes left, Reilly hosted an annual platform tennis tournament, the Grizzly Affair, and ran a platform tennis camp in the fall, with players coming from



Richard Reilly

all over the country to improve their game with the sport's top pros.

After 12 years in Montana, Dick and Gail moved the paddle camp to their favorite part of the world, the Tetons. They ran their Jackson Hole instructional enterprise until 2013, leaving many avid paddle players around the country wanting more.

Reilly included his four children in his love for the outdoors. He started them as toddlers with hikes up Mount Washington and Moosilauke, multiday canoe trips in the Canadian wilderness and camping adventures in the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence River. When his youngest was eight, he deemed them ready for backpacking trips in the Tetons. Watching their father stand his ground and call the bluff of a charging bear and snuggling into backcountry tents while he slept in his snow quinzhee hut are some of many fond

recollections. In turn, all of the family attribute their love of Jackson Hole, mountain adventures and the outdoors to their maverick father.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard J. Reilly and Helen (Meyn) Reilly. He is survived by Gail; his four devoted children, Tammy (Dan Newton) of Kalispell, Mont., Jim (Karen) of Darien, Conn., Kathy (Mark Gross) of Jackson, Wyo. and Janet (Andy Hawkes) of Boulder, Colo.; 10 adoring grandchildren, Danielle, Caroline, Bridget, Charlotte, Patrick, Tyler, Kevin, Ali, Bo and Taylor; and three great-grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Norine (Toole), and brother Alby.

Reilly's faith in God and strong values were huge parts of who he was. His sincere interest in the life story of almost everyone he met, desire to share his passions with others and his boyish charm and good looks left a lasting and endearing impression on the variety of people he encountered throughout his life. Our world feels a little less colorful without him.

A memorial mass and celebration of life will be announced by his family at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his honor to the Jenny Lake Rangers Fund, c/o Grand Teton National Park Foundation, P.O. Box 249, Moose, Wyo. 83012 (jennylakerangers.org) or Teton Valley Community Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 1507, Driggs, Idaho 83422 (grants@tvshelter.org).

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in Reilly's memory, visit <https://www.valleymortuaryjackson.com/obituary/Richard-Reilly/sympathy>.

Vincent Golden

Vincent J. Golden of Putnam Valley passed away at the Castle Point VA Hospital in Beacon, N.Y. on May 11. He was 72.

Golden was born on Sept. 15, 1947, in Peekskill to the late Philip and Gladys (Lewis) Golden. He was predeceased by one brother, Kenneth (Judy) Golden, of Verplanck. He leaves behind his wife, Mary Jane Patterson; two daughters, Patti (Dan) Downey of New City and Debbi Golden of Wappingers Falls; grandchildren Danny, Sally, Michael, Zoe, Zachary and Mikila; and two nephews, Kevin and Joseph.

A Hendrick Hudson High School graduate in 1966, he was drafted in 1969 to serve in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. Returning home to Verplanck, he continued

with the family business, Golden's Tree Service, and later resided in Cold Spring.

Serving his country, he received much recognition for his valor and combat wounds. Golden was awarded a Silver Star in 1970. His citation read, "Specialist Golden's gallantry in action and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army." He also received the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. He was a member of numerous veteran organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Vietnam Veterans of America.

Golden was a good man and will be missed by all. Till we meet again, Homer.

Robert Rodino

Robert L. (Roe) Rodino, 76, of Buchanan, passed away on May 17 at the Tarrytown Hall Care Center in Tarrytown.

Born in Peekskill on Feb. 7, 1944, Rodino was the son of the late Salvatore and Geneva (DiPietro) Rodino. He was a 1962 graduate of Peekskill High School. He was retired from the Laborers Local 235 in Elmsford.

Rodino had a passion for collecting autographs and sports memorabilia since he was a child. He was a lifetime Yankee and Mickey Mantle fan. He also was an

avid golfer.

On July 1, 1989, Rodino married Jerralyn Clothier. In addition to his wife, Rodino is survived by his son, Robert L. Rodino Jr., of Georgia and his daughter, Nikki Cowart (Chris), of Monroe, N.Y.; six grandchildren, Christina Woods, Kayla Darby, Anthony Rodino, Hayley Cowart, Jake Cowart and Evan Cowart; and four great-grandchildren. His only brother, Ronald Rodino (Betsy), survives in Fuquay Varina, N.C. and he was uncle to several nieces and nephews as well.

Paul Pember

Paul F. Pember died peacefully on May 17 at his Brewster home. He was 63.

Born on Apr. 20, 1957, in White Plains, he was the son of the late Frederick and Katherine (Myck) Pember. He was a Byram Hills High School graduate where he was captain of the basketball team.

On Dec. 2, 1995, he married the love of his life, Barbara Durkin, of Brewster.

Pember enjoyed time spent at his lake house in Amston, Conn., relaxing on his pontoon boat fishing. He always tried catching "Old Moe." He was meticulous about how his lawn looked and loved being

outdoors. Taking walks with his wife and dog was one of his favorite pastimes. He also loved watching westerns on television.

Pember was a truck driver with North Castle Disposal in Armonk for many years prior to his retirement.

Pember is survived by his siblings, Debra Brazee, of Danbury, Nancy (John) King of Armonk, Gary (Debra) Pember of Cromwell, Conn. and Karin (Todd) Sterling of Danbury. He also leaves behind 13 nieces and nephews and 13 grandnieces and grandnephews. He was predeceased by a brother, Thomas Pember.

Brian McCarthy

Brian Patrick McCarthy of Lake Peekskill died peacefully on May 20. He was 71.

McCarthy was born to Kathleen and John McCarthy on Mar. 14, 1949. He was the oldest of seven children, brother to Ronnie, Kathy, Jack, Diane, Eileen and Kevin. He loved football playing for New Milford High School and later for the Washington Heights Huskies. He was a proud member of the United States Marine Corps, serving his country in the Vietnam War and receiving a Bronze Star, among other awards. McCarthy was also a proud member of the Carpenters Union Local 53 in White Plains until his retirement.

He loved landscaping, vacationing at the ocean, the New York Giants and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He is survived by his loving wife, Maureen; his daughter, Nadine; sons Quentin and Jared; stepchildren Kathy Spinola, John Doherty, Erin Kovacs and Brian Doherty. He was Poppy to Anthony, Karissa and Joey Spinola; Kaitlin, Brenna and ClareBear Doherty; Andrew and Amy Kovacs; Lily, Donovan and Ronan McCarthy; and Isabella and Scarlett Doherty.

Youth Baseball Leagues Hold Out Hope for a Summer Season

By Martin Wilbur

One by one, towns across the area have been canceling summer camps. Last week, Greenburgh, Mount Pleasant, Yorktown and Cortlandt joined several other local municipalities that had already made that decision earlier in the month.

It's a near certainty that public swimming pools won't open until at least sometime in July, and some may not open at all this year.

With the threat that summer 2020 could be a complete washout for children because of the coronavirus pandemic, several local youth baseball leagues are trying to salvage what they can.

One of the largest operations in the area, the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League (GHVBL), is planning for a belated start to its season. It fields about 715 teams for players eight to 23 years old from New York City through the Hudson Valley and Fairfield County, Conn. each summer.

Typically, the league begins its summer season in the first half of June and runs for about two months, said founder and league President David Zaslaw. Should the GHVBL have to wait until sometime in July to start and continue through August or have an abbreviated season, that is what it will do, he said.

Flexibility, safety and parity are the priorities this year, not the season's length or team awards, Zaslaw said. If sunflower seeds or chewing gum must be eliminated or a larger supply of fresh baseballs are needed to keep everyone safe, the GHVBL plans to comply.

"We want the kids to get to play," Zaslaw said. "If that means the parents need to stay in cars or be out in the outfield socially distanced six feet away from each other wearing masks, everyone is going to be fine with that just to give the kids an opportunity to play."

While regional New York state officials are preparing this week for a limited reopening in the Hudson Valley, Zaslaw said he has noticed growing support in recent weeks to allow for youth sports, and in particular baseball, to play this summer with proper precautions. Baseball should be considered earlier for resumption because it's not a contact sport, with natural spacing for most of its players, he said.

Zaslaw said that youth sports advocates believe that recreation should be given greater priority for health reasons. Currently, recreation is in the fourth phase of New York State's multiphase reopening plan.

A team of a dozen select 12-year-olds from Pleasantville, Thornwood



The Mount Pleasant Wildcats 12U team are hoping they get a chance in August to compete in the Ripken Baseball tournament in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The players have already lost the Little League and spring travel seasons.

and Hawthorne who have played at Sherman Park Little League and were GHVBL 2019 spring champions as 11-year-olds are hoping their latest plans won't fizzle.

With their Little League and the GHVBL spring travel seasons canceled along with a planned weeklong tournament at Dreams Park in Cooperstown, Coach Kieran Murray said the Mount Pleasant Wildcats have scheduled a trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C. to compete in a Ripken Baseball tournament in August.

Murray said he, the coaching staff and parents sought another

opportunity for the boys following the Cooperstown cancellation. He's hoping that the trip materializes while acknowledging that there are safety issues to consider.

"There's always a concern," Murray said. "We're trying to be optimistic. Our team's parents are having a discussion that baseball is something that's more practical in sports to social distance. Whether there's going to be a mask requirement is going to be up to the tournament league down there, but there's always a concern there."

Zaslaw said there are still challenges to having a season. First,

guidance is needed from the state to allow the leagues to operate. Ironically, on Sunday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that the state's professional sports teams can begin training within their practice facilities, stadiums or arenas as long as precautions are followed.

Another issue is how much access there will be to municipal and school fields that the GHVBL and other leagues have largely depended on for its games, Zaslaw said. It uses a small number of private fields but those aren't enough.

"Once the guidelines from the state says that, okay, we're going to allow baseball to be played, the hope is schools will allow us to use their fields because that's what makes the league go, school fields and town fields," Zaslaw said.

Lack of field access isn't a dealbreaker for Murray's 12U team. Some individual players have been practicing in their backyards, hitting off a tee or playing catch with siblings or parents, he said. Murray just hopes they face no more curveballs.

"They're all very optimistic, so I really hope that this is a go for these boys," Murray said. "They've all been playing for four years, and not just because I coach them, but they truly are a great group of kids."

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Editorial

State Needs to Find a Way to Schedule Second School Budget Vote

It's a significant challenge to run an election or even a vote on one proposition in the middle of a pandemic.

The state has postponed the March village elections, the April presidential primary and the May school board elections and budget vote, all to different dates, presumably to get past the surge of COVID-19 cases.

While all of those elections have been rescheduled, there seems to be no rush or even the slightest inclination to have a date for a second school budget vote, something that has been routinely done.

Maybe that's because in recent years, with a roaring economy and a cap on tax levies, school budget votes have almost become non-events. Last year, 98.4 percent of budgets in the state's roughly 700 school districts were approved by voters, according to the New York State School Boards Association.

But 2020 is far different, with a shut down economy, unemployment at nearly 15 percent – and growing – and many districts having engaged in preemptive cuts in anticipation of reduced school aid.

With those factors, there is a greater chance

of defeated budgets; therefore, districts must have a chance to make adjustments before going to a contingency budget, something that would devastate a district faced with that prospect.

The overwhelming majority of school budgets will pass when the votes are tallied on June 9. For those that don't, a July 7 or July 14 vote should be scheduled, even if it's a week or two after the new fiscal year starts. It could mean the difference between quality education and a ravaged school district.

Letters to the Editor

Common-Sense Steps for Business Owners as Re-opening Begins

As we inch toward the eventual lifting of the New York on Pause mandate for the Mid-Hudson region, the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce wants every business owner to know that we are here to serve, guide and assist in whatever capacity you might need.

It is to everyone's benefit – and peace of mind – to assure the public that the businesses that serve our community have adhered to official CDC guidance on best practices.

To help our business community properly prepare for our region's re-opening, the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce has compiled a list of recommendations that we encourage all businesses to implement, whether or not they are chamber members.

Consider the following:

- Implement a clearly-stated mask policy that must be followed by anyone in your place of business.
- Install sneeze guards or a similar barrier.
- Install hand-sanitizing stations, which could be nothing more than a simple pump

bottle of hand sanitizer.

- Require hand sanitation upon entry.
- Designate easily-seen distance markers six to nine feet apart; you can use blue painters' tape to mark a simple X on the floor.
- Set a maximum number of customers at a time allowed inside your premises, and designate a waiting area.
- Recommend the wearing of gloves, and provide a glove disposal bin.
- Sanitize counters and doorknobs and other frequently used surfaces.
- In clear weather, take advantage of the outdoor special use permit put in place by the Reboot Yorktown Task Force.
- Space tables and chairs six to nine feet apart.
- Check your insurance carrier for risk responsibilities and possible risk mitigation (such as a posted disclaimer).
- Consider body-temperature checks for staff.

- Consider having your staff tested; certain urgent care centers are offering businesses special group rates and times, which can be scheduled after-hours and at your location.

The above recommendations will go a long way toward showing our community that your business is ready, willing and able to allay any fears and concerns that your current and future customers may have.

We urge all businesses, organizations and institutions to do their level best to put in place as many of these guidelines as possible.

Responsible re-opening practices will help prevent a second wave of closings, which we must work together to prevent at all costs if we are to ensure the future well-being of our children, ourselves and our community.

Sergio Esposito
President, Yorktown Chamber of Commerce

Critical to Support More Funding for Alzheimer's Research

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the critical importance of medical research. Our country stands on the brink of medical breakthroughs, not only for emergent illnesses like COVID-19, but also for chronic disease such as Alzheimer's disease, the sixth leading cause of death in America and the only one in the top 10 without a cure.

I know firsthand the awful toll of this disease having lost my mother to younger onset Alzheimer's. Her diagnosis at age 56 was an earth-shattering experience for my family. Our

family struggled as caregivers; it's a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week responsibility. In New York State there are over one million caregivers providing more than 1.1 billion hours of unpaid care.

Congressman Nita Lowey has been a champion in the battle to end Alzheimer's and she can continue her important role in addressing this critical issue. Please join me and the Alzheimer's Association in encouraging Rep. Lowey to increase funding for Alzheimer's and dementia research at the

National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$354 million and to support \$20 million to implement the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, which will establish Alzheimer's Centers of Excellence across the country to provide resources for individuals and families. It is only through increased research funding that we will discover new ways to treat and eventually prevent Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Nancy Keane
Ossining

Experience Separates Farkas From Field in 17th Congressional District

A few weeks ago, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Evelyn Farkas, a candidate for the Democratic nomination in the 17th Congressional District, the seat from which Nita Lowey will retire in January. There is no doubt that Evelyn is far and away the superior candidate in the crowded field vying for the opportunity to represent you in Washington.

While she is extremely bright and personable, and tends toward the moderate pole of the Democratic political spectrum, the thing that distinguishes her from each one of her opponents is her experience. She's been there! She's done that!

Evelyn served as an aide and adviser to several U.S. senators and completed a tour as deputy assistant secretary of defense under President Obama. So she knows Washington. She knows how things work and how to get things done. She knows many of the people who will be in Congress and administration next year and just who to call for whatever objective she might wish to pursue.

Regardless of who wins the presidency in November, the next Congress will face extraordinary challenges. We can't afford to have a representative who will have to spend the first several months in on-the-job

training. Because of her experience, Evelyn will hit the ground running and she'll be there, working hard for you when many of her opponents would still be trying to figure out how to get to their offices and where the restrooms are.

Visit www.evelynfornny.com, and if you agree that she is the right person for this position, you might want to send her a couple of bucks to ensure her message gets out to the entire district. And, of course, cast your ballot for Evelyn Farkas on June 23.

Joel E. Gingold
Croton-on-Hudson

Guest Column

Existing Behavioral Health Crisis Exacerbated By COVID-19 Pandemic

By Peter Harckham

We need to remember that before the pandemic there was an epidemic of opioid overdoses and stagnant funding for behavioral health initiatives.

That's why I endorsed the request for \$38.5 billion in funding from Congress that was made by the National Council for Behavioral Health and 40 other national groups addressing mental health and substance use disorder. Without immediate support, it is feared that numerous community behavioral health organizations and drug treatment programs will be unable to serve some of the country's most vulnerable individuals.

A dire need for substantial assistance for behavioral health and treatment providers clearly exists. Already high suicide rates have the potential of increasing because of social distancing during shutdowns, according to a new report in The Journal of the American Medical Association ("Nearly 20 U.S. Veterans Die By Suicide Every Day").

Meanwhile, a provider membership survey conducted by The Coalition for Behavioral Health from Apr. 15-24 showed 42 percent of organizations have seen an increase in demand for services for new clients and 73 percent have seen an increase in demand from existing clients. For 21 percent of organizations, the current demand exceeds the organization's capacity.

Unless there is substantial assistance from the federal government, the state's looming \$15 billion budget deficit from COVID-19-related costs and revenue losses suggest program cuts may be on the way, rather than an urgently needed boost in state aid.

All of which makes it imperative that the next round of approved stimulus assistance includes funding for direct payments to behavioral health organizations and treatment programs to ensure they can remain open and operating during the COVID-19 crisis.

Nearly half a million Americans have died from substance use disorder over the past 10 years; the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention reports that another 67,000 people perished in the 12-month period ending in September 2019.

Also, there are problems associated with safeguarding people with substance use disorder and mental health issues while communities are in lockdown to stop the spread of the virus. With social distancing and self-quarantines in place, treatment options and effective medicines to stem addiction cravings are put further out of reach.

People with depression and other mental health challenges are not faring well with the imposed isolation practices necessary to stop the spread of the coronavirus. All of this means a major increase in need for help from behavioral health professionals, who are essential and on the frontlines.

But, as Amy Dorin, president and CEO of The Coalition for Behavioral Health, recently noted, workers in the behavioral health sector, and the individuals they are entrusted to help and care for, are now facing even greater challenges and risks.

Many mental health and addiction

treatment centers around the country are facing long periods of lost revenue while incurring increased costs for equipment and cleaning. The emergency supplemental funding they would receive would be similar to that given to small businesses. Further, due to the economic crash, many patients have lost the ability to pay for their share of the costs of treatment. The funding would help stabilize the delivery of service to those who need it.

Programs for mental health services and substance use disorders have been under-resourced for too long, acknowledged John Coppola, executive director for the New York Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers. Delaying critical stimulus funding will cause the collapse of programs both when and where they are needed most. At stake are the lives of our loved ones and neighbors.

Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) represents the 40th state Senate District and is the chair of the Senate Committee on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse.

Letters to the Editor

Morello an Outstanding Choice to Serve on Carmel School Board

Matt Morello is the best choice for the upcoming Carmel Board of Education election. I'm sending in my vote for Matthew Morello.

The global pandemic has wreaked havoc on so many lives, particularly our children. They've gone from classrooms to distance learning, playing with friends at recess to kid conference calls on Zoom, Facetime, Duo or whatever the next platform may be. As our state begins carefully preparing a return to normalcy and schools begin re-entry plans for the next academic year, Carmel students and administrators would greatly benefit from the unique perspectives of a health professional, who in recent weeks, has been on the front lines of the global pandemic.

Matt Morello is a lead nurse at a top-rated skilled nursing and post-op rehabilitation

facility in the Hudson Valley. His dedication to providing the best possible care to patients and their families – especially at critical moments in their lives – demonstrate the compassion, conviction and commitment he has for others, exemplifying the values we strive to teach our children.

A father of two elementary school children, Matt Morello shares the same hope we all do, to ensure the best possible well-rounded educational experience for all of our K-12 students, particularly in these trying times. He's the right candidate at the right time for Carmel schools.

Judie Mirra
Retired Public School Educator
Carmel

Schleifer is Best Equipped to Head to Washington and Fight for 17th District

Having just watched the Women's League of Voters town hall panel of congressional candidates, I am convinced that Adam Schleifer is the number one person to be able to work for the same principles as the outgoing and incredible Rep. Nita Lowey.

Adam will do all in his power to stand up for the rights of every citizen in the 17th Congressional District. His experience as a former federal prosecutor and consumer protections regulator gives him the ability to fight against the bullies and fraudsters, as he fought against fraud and abuse. He knows we need a recovery plan after this pandemic, which includes fighting for assistance

for small businesses, repeal of the SALT deduction limits, keeping people employed and healthcare for all.

Adam will make sure our country is prepared in case there is a second round of COVID-19, and is aware of the catastrophic disaster that happened from the virus when it was shown our government wasn't prepared to deal with it. He will also fight for gun control and combat climate change. He will fight for all and rebuild our capacity to respond to anything that comes our way.

Harriett (Gigi) Zeller
A Mount Kisco senior

White a Strong Addition to the Bedford Board of Education

I am writing to express my support for Alex White as a member of the Board of Education for the Bedford Central School District. Her dedication to public service is exemplified by her volunteer role as a member of the World Language Steering Committee, whose goal is to greatly expand the world language program within the district, specifically within the elementary schools. She is compassionate, caring and curious, allowing her to remain open to varying opinions and perspectives.

As both a community member and parent with children in the school system, Ms.

White is devoted to the Bedford Central School District and has a strong desire to see the district make progress to improve the educational opportunities for all students in the district and support teachers and innovative curriculum. Ms. White will undoubtedly provide a fresh, informed, modern voice to the board and the district.

Allyson DeLorenzo
Bedford Village Elementary School
parent
Bedford

The Importance of Your School Board and Budget Vote on June 9

There has been so much anxiety and fear generated by the unexpected coronavirus in our communities and country. Our town is no exception to this dilemma.

On June 9, our school and library will hold their budget votes. So much has been done since Mr. DiCarlo has taken the reins of our school community to improve the lives of our students and to bring the community together to support our schools. Sound fiscal decisions have been made that has brought back many opportunities for our children in their goals for the future with limited costs and more accountability.

The same can be said for the Mahopac Public Library. It provides many programs and services for our senior citizens, who rely on our books and the social opportunities the library provides and for our school-age students, businesses, nonprofit groups and the many who take advantage of computer assistance and technology training. All

of these programs and services have continually been rendered as the library remains under the budget cap.

It is so important to keep our schools and library on the path of outstanding results as the community considers its vote on June 9. Improved schools and success by our students, as well as a community-centered library can keep our town in a healthy economic condition. This will cause our residents and businesses to remain and continue to participate in this success.

Our hope is that you will understand how important your vote will be on June

9, and I ask you to vote yes on both budgets. It will allow us to continue positive results for all members of our community, as we recover from this "invisible enemy," the coronavirus.

Frank J. Del Campo
Mahopac

Obituary

Allen Dahle

Allen A. Dahle, 87, a longtime Valhalla resident, passed away peacefully on May 20 at Calvary Hospital from advanced Parkinson's disease.

Dahle was born in New York City on Apr. 7, 1933, to Erling and Jenny (nee Johansen) Dahle, immigrants from Norway. Raised by a single mother, he learned the value of self-reliance, perseverance, humility and faith at an early age and built his life on those foundations.

He was a graduate of Scarsdale High School, class of 1950, and an alumnus of New York University, where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity and earned a degree in economics through the Army ROTC program. Dahle proudly served in the U.S. Army Reserves for over

30 years, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He started his own insurance adjusting and engineering firm, Allen Dahle & Co., in 1962, and was an active member of the New York Association of Independent Adjusters, serving as president during the 1990 term.

In 1952, he met his love, Marilyn Mertz, on a blind date. They married in 1954, moved to Valhalla and raised a family. To his children, he was everything a dad should be: a kid at heart, gleefully instigating a game of "gotcha last," a strict disciplinarian when curfews were broken and their biggest fan, faithfully attending each and every athletic event and dance recital. Mostly, he never missed a chance to say "I love you."

Proud "Poppie" to grandson and Navy lieutenant Logan and great-grandchildren Hali and Liam, he delighted in the patriotic

bond that he and Logan shared for their country. Dahle was an extraordinary caregiver to his wife during her battle with Alzheimer's disease, tirelessly caring for her at home while searching for a cure and never giving up hope.

A member of Westchester Country Club for over 35 years, his favorite pastimes were golfing and socializing. Dahle's talents and traits were many and varied, from builder, gardener and chef, to entrepreneur, visionary and humorist. He is best remembered for his quick wit, generosity of spirit and unwavering compassion toward others. The consummate "glass-half-full" guy, everything to him was "no problem!" He was a tremendous source of strength, hope and joy to those around him, and he embodied all that is good in the human spirit. His laughter and presence in this world will be dearly missed.

Dahle was predeceased by his wife, Marilyn; mother Jenny (Johansen) Dahle; brother-in-law Calvin Manning; and niece Linda Feinberg. He is survived by his son, Alan (Chip) Dahle (Bonnie), of Thornwood; daughter Diane "DeeDee" Dahle of Valhalla; grandson Logan Dahle (Chelsea) of Jacksonville, Fla.; great-grandchildren Hali and Liam; brother Stanley Dahle (Veronica) of Clinton Conn.; sisters-in-law Patricia Manning and Sherry Dahle; nieces and nephews Carol Manning (Patrick), Michael Dahle (Bridget), Brad Dahle and Jennifer Scott (Jonathan); and a large extended family in Norway.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Dahle's name to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, Kan. 66675 or the Parkinson Foundation, 200 SE 1st St., Suite 800, Miami, Fla. 33131.

Police Blotter

White Plains Police Department

May 19: Police received a call about a group of ducklings stuck in a storm drain at 11 Ferris Ave. The dispatched officers were able to help all of the ducklings return safely to their family near the Bronx River.

May 20: A female driver pulled into a driveway at a slow speed and appeared to have mistaken the break for the accelerator,

causing the car to hit a bush and flip over on Ridgeway Avenue. The driver was removed from the vehicle and was able to walk to an ambulance. The woman was taken to the White Plains Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

May 21: Fatima Chavez-Medina was arrested on several counts of larceny at Target at 9 City Place.

May 21: Police received a complaint

describing construction workers without face masks at a construction site at 600 Mamaroneck Ave. The site's foreman was contacted and double-checked that all employees were wearing masks.

May 22: During the late tour, patrol and traffic units responded to a report of a possible gathering for a drag race at 1025 Westchester Ave. The units patrolled the surrounding area with negative

results. Police will continue to check the area because there have been previous complaints about drag racing.

May 24: The Criminal Investigations Division is probing a possible assault between two females at 86 Dekalb Ave. at 3:24 p.m. One subject struck the other in the face with a sharp object, causing a laceration.

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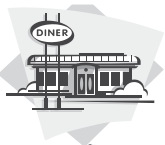
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Singing the Pandemic Blues in Real Estate

Here I sit at home over the Memorial Day weekend, all fired up to get out of the house and do something – anything – that will divert my mind from all the gloom and doom of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But where to go, what to do? My options in life have never been so restricted.

In real estate, being stuck at home is lethal. Whether a buyer, seller or real estate agent, there aren't going to be many sales when homes cannot be shown. Sure, a prospective buyer can take a virtual tour of a home for sale, but who's going to buy sight unseen in real time?

All seemed well in the Westchester/Putnam home market in the first quarter right up until the coronavirus pandemic hit all over the state. While single-family contracts were up 8 percent in January and February compared with 2019, they dropped almost 4 percent in March, according to a report by Westchester Real Estate, Inc, the group comprised of local real estate companies.

While contract signings in Putnam County for the first two months of the year were relatively unchanged compared to 2019, they began slowing in March. Still,



By Bill Primavera

prices grew for single-family homes in both counties – 5.8 percent in Westchester and 2.4 percent in Putnam, compared to last year.

The pandemic has transformed life in New York City; the result is that more city dwellers want to buy houses in Westchester and Putnam, which is a good thing for us. New real estate listings have remained steady in Westchester, despite the collapse of inventory in the city.

The impact of the coronavirus on once-hot real estate markets is one of many emerging economic narratives of the pandemic. Despite fears of a housing crash with echoes of 2008, past experience with major disease outbreaks seems to indicate that prices will remain stable or rebound quickly, according to a March report from the real estate website Zillow, which looked at the 1918 influenza outbreak in U.S. cities and Hong Kong's experience with SARS in 2003.

After a robust February, existing U.S. homes sales fell in March, according to data from the National Association of Realtors (NAR). But the median price of an existing home increased by 8 percent compared to last March.

It's too early to say what the longer-term real estate picture will look like as a pandemic-powered global recession looms over us. But Lawrence Yun, the NAR's chief economist, said in an April statement that he expected prices to continue to rise in the coming months despite "more temporary interruptions to home sales."

Buyers and sellers are getting mixed signals when it comes to negotiating the spring housing market in a pandemic. The uncertainty and economic chaos sown by the coronavirus is balanced by record-low interest rates, a factor that's boosted mortgage applications. Those rates are likely to only benefit those with good credit, as mortgage lenders tighten restrictions.

Only 50 percent of Americans believe it's a good time to buy a home, according to a recent Gallup poll. That's the lowest level of confidence Gallup has measured since 2006, just before the housing bubble burst. Economists and real estate agents predict that homebuying will stagnate during stay-at-home orders but rebound once government restrictions are lifted.

Those who do choose to buy or sell now will find that, like office meetings and happy hours, the once-intimate world of real estate has moved to Zoom and FaceTime. As stay-at-home orders swept the country in March, the number of 3D

tours created on Zillow spiked. Online tours increased by 188 percent that month, compared to February, according to Zillow.

New York agents experienced regulatory whiplash after Gov. Andrew Cuomo deemed the real estate business nonessential when lockdowns began, only to change course two weeks later. The Empire State Development Corporation allows home inspections and appraisals, but buyers need to stay away, and other business, including house showings, must be conducted virtually. With those strict restrictions in place, many realtors are choosing to wait out the lockdowns this spring.

Agents are adding new taglines like "Just been cleaned!" and "Disinfected!"

No matter what government directives may say, some would-be sellers are deciding that it's not worth the risk. A wait-and-see attitude has enveloped the market and is likely to remain that way either until a vaccine is developed or buyers and sellers lose patience with tight restrictions and are willing to take more risks, but with greater safety precautions, to have their homes shown and sold.

Bill Primavera is a realtor whose background includes public relations and editorial expertise. To have Bill help you in the purchase or sale of a home, you can reach him directly at 914-522-2076.

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Byram Hills' Science Research Students Persevere With Annual Symposium

By Bridget Bonanni

The Byram Hills High School symposium recognizing the work of its science research program students is often the defining moment for those who participate in the school's acclaimed course of study.

This year the 31st annual Dr. Robert Pavlica Authentic Science Research Symposium will take place next Wednesday, June 3 at 7 p.m., but for the first time will be held virtually through a live-stream.

Byram Hills Principal Christopher Walsh said the event is an important milestone for the students.

"When kids get through the program, they form a strong connection with it," Walsh said.

Students who have enrolled in the program have made scientific breakthroughs, including the discovery of exoplanets outside of solar systems and human cells living through photosynthesis, Walsh said.

Usually a local scientist or notable alumnus is the keynote speaker. This year Stephanie Greenwald, the program's director, has stepped up to deliver a virtual keynote address.

"It's the underclassmen celebrating the seniors, they're throwing the best party they can for them as well as giving all of the students an opportunity to showcase their work," Greenwald said.

The symposium is completely student run. Five committees are headed by a handful of juniors called the "fab five." This year's fab

five are the first to plan a virtual symposium – and handling the special challenges with grace.

Luke Briody, who heads the Press and Publicity Committee, said he created a poster that has been placed throughout the community to generate public attention for the event.

"It has (an) HR code attached to it, so that we can see how many people come to the event based on just seeing the poster," Briody said.

Publicity this year is more important than ever because of the lack of accessibility, which is why so many alumni of the program are able to get involved.

Olivia Cantor, who leads the History and Invitations Committee, has sent out 750 e-vites to the students' mentors, parents and special guests, such as representatives from the Regeneron Science Talent Search, which holds a nationwide competition that many of the Byram Hills science students enter, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and even former President Barack Obama.

"There are silver linings in making a virtual symposium," Cantor said. "A lot of the alumni have been giving very positive responses and are planning on attending."

As head of the Tech Committee, Bailey Goldstein's job would be to ensure that the technology is running smoothly for the event.

"Now, I have taken on the role of essentially putting the whole live-stream together," Goldstein said. "It has been



A photo of the Byram Hills High School students who are helping to organize next week's virtual authentic science research symposium.

challenging. I've had to track kids down for their presentations since now I'm in charge of making sure all of the videos needed have been pre-recorded."

Lizzie Manowitz's responsibilities have shifted due to the symposium becoming virtual. She led the Food and Decoration Committee, but since that is no longer needed, Manowitz now heads the Website Committee. Her main task was to design the website where the symposium will be seen. The committee developed different pages for each grade.

"Every student has a space on the page where they have their photo, a little description about their topic and then their presentation video," Manowitz said.

Brian Melso, the district's communications

strategist, has been key in organizing the event.

"The website is very easy to use and self-explanatory; I can't take much credit for it as I didn't have to help at all. To build it how she did is really impressive," said Melso.

Mia Dittrich's job hasn't changed much, but it still comes with plenty of obstacles. She heads the Program Committee, which produces the roughly 150-page program for the event every year.

This year an e-book version of the program will be included on the website.

"Since we don't have access to the school computers, I've had to figure out how to create it on a Mac," Dittrich said. "I think it's good for future years, so that students can learn how to create the program on their own computers."

Dittrich will be sending the final program to printers for the seniors. It serves as "a memento that students keep with them to remind them of their journey through science research," she said.

"I think in general, what we're doing right now is really special, in terms of bringing the community together...despite the difficult circumstances," Cantor said. "I know a lot of us have discussed how important it is during this time to promote scientific understanding throughout the community and promote science."

For more information, visit the symposium's website at <https://www.byramhills.org/academics/academic-departments/science/science-research>.

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Greeley Sophomores Bring iPads to Connect Isolated Seniors

By Charlotte Berg

As the coronavirus sweeps through the world, economic shutdowns and social distancing policies have brought daily life to a grinding halt.

Nowhere is that more apparent than in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, where regular visits by friends and family have been discontinued.

Two sophomores at Horace Greeley High School, Alex and Liam Watts, are working to mitigate the isolation that the pandemic has brought to the senior citizens living in these facilities.

The brothers, who are twins, have both played trumpet in the Westchester Klezmer Band, bringing traditional Jewish music to hospitals, including VA facilities, and nursing homes. When the band's performances were canceled because of coronavirus, Alex and Liam began brainstorming how they could continue to help the seniors while maintaining social distance.

"We knew how lonely and isolated they must feel, not being able to see anyone outside of their facility," the brothers said in a joint e-mail. "We realized the only way they can communicate with their families would be through some form of video chat."

The easiest way to bring communication to the seniors, they realized, would be by donating iPads and other devices that have video chat capability to these facilities.

On May 1, the Watts brothers established a GoFundMe page under the name iPads For



Alex and Liam Watts drop off tablets to a staff member outside the Victoria Home in Ossining. They have been raising money and collecting older devices that people have donated to connect seniors at nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their families.

Elders. Donors can give money directly to the page, so that the charity can purchase new iPads for donation. The goal is set at \$5,000, but the brothers say that they would like to continue the charity for as long as possible. As of Sunday, more than \$1,200 had been raised.

In addition to money, the charity also accepts tablets with video capability. Donors can contact the charity's e-mail account,

ipadsforelders@gmail.com, to set up a safe and socially distant pick-up time for the devices.

This month, the brothers have 12 donated iPads to facilities throughout Westchester, including Bayberry Care Center in New Rochelle, The Paramount at Somers Rehabilitation & Nursing Center and Cedar Manor and the Victoria Home in Ossining. They have another 12 in their possession

that they will soon deliver.

While some older adults may not be adept at using the technology, Alex and Liam said that staff members who organize the recreational activities at the facilities have been working with the seniors to teach them how to use the tablets.

The brothers said they also hope to donate technology to seniors who live at home but are isolated during the pandemic. Once the coronavirus wanes, Alex and Liam plan on continuing to donate for as long as possible in order to help as many senior citizens as possible.

"We would love to extend the parameters of our donation region as our funds allow," Alex said.

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A MEMBER OF THE MONTEFIORE HEALTH SYSTEM

Is Wine Nature's Product or Man's Symbiosis With Nature?



By Nick Antonaccio

In past columns, I've expounded on a time-honored and well-worn axiom in the wine industry: 90 percent of a wine is made in the vineyard.

This espouses that the characteristics of a wine are primarily

under the influence of nature, not man. That the soil, natural irrigation, vineyard elevation and microclimate influence the vigor and unique profile of a cluster of grapes more so than the alchemy exacted by a winemaker in the winery. It is the harvested grapes that contain the elements for a great or poor wine, not a winemaker's talents.

Much has been said of the influence of modern technology in winery operations. Yet there is a growing influence of science in the vineyards as well. Man is diligently exercising his 21st century scientific enlightenment in the traditional realms of nature. Advancements in genetic engineering are influencing many aspects of the natural order of nature.

Is the 90 percent paradigm in jeopardy? In recent years the characteristics of

grapevines have come under the increasing control of scientists and viticulturists. One such intrusion is the genetic cloning of grapevine plants, through which the vigor and quality of vines and grapes can now be influenced and enhanced.

By hybridizing and then grafting select woody branches of one grapevine variety onto the grapevine rootstock of another grapevine variety, man is altering the very core of wine's natural profile, affecting resistance to disease, vitality and even the flavor of their fruits.

Examples of these grapevine clones abound.

Pinot Noir is perhaps the most fickle of grapes, subject to myriad diseases, unpredictable in various microclimates and sensitive to subtle differences in soil composition. Today, through the science

of DNA research and sophisticated trials, viticulturists (vineyard professionals) are able to create specific traits in field trials and laboratories to create grapevine stock that is tailored to specific vineyard sites. A viticulturist

(winemaker), working with a viticulturist, is able to select from dozens of clones to find the ideal match for a vineyard planting.

A problem with a particular soil fungus? Clone #27 is highly disease resistant. Seeking a grape that has excellent aging



potential? Try Clone #115. Seeking smooth and powerful tannins in a wine? Clone #125 provides the desired result.

Another example comes from Italy. In the 1990s, the local consortium of winemakers in the Chianti Classico region of Tuscany was struggling with a reputation for mass-produced, low-quality wines, a carryover from 50 years of winemakers who focused on the bottom line rather the quality of their wines. The newest generation of winemakers were intent on improving their wines, their image and ultimately their profitability.

They embarked on a multi-year, self-funded project to improve the practices of winemaking. The core goal of this research was to find the ideal grapevine clone that could optimize the growing conditions of their vineyards and the quality of their wines.

After testing hundreds of existing and newly-created clones, they narrowed their

choices to a handful of clones. Today the quality and popularity of Chianti Classico wines is at an all-time high, as is the financial success of the consortium.

This approach has been successful in western Europe for years and has spread to the United States. One of my favorite examples is Siduri Winery in California. The owner, David Lee, built a reputation for identifying multiple Pinot Noir grapevine clones that provide the optimal expression of a particular plot of land. He contracted with growers to graft these clones each year, thus providing him with a painter's pallet of choices to mix and match.

The end product is the ultimate expression of his vision to consumers, across 25 offerings and 20 vineyards from Oregon to central California.

Once again, we see man inextricably entwined with nature as he seeks to coexist in a vast ecosystem that becomes more delicate with each passing harvest. So long as man understands his role in fostering this balance, consumers will continue to reap the fruits.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years, he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is the co-chairperson of the Wine Media Guild of wine journalists. 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

Take Time to Marvel at the Activity of the Late Spring Skies

Though we often think of the sky as permanent and unchanging, one of the greatest pleasures of watching often is seeing it change from night to night.

With enough time, we get to see stories unfold little by little. From one night to the next, we see the moon jump across the sky, darting from place to place as its sunlit part grows and shrinks and its phases change. If we look closely enough, we can even see the moon creep slowly and silently across the sky during the course of a night, sneaking up on the stars around it.

These changes happen with our view of the stars, too. Their positions, relative to each other, stay the same, but they rise four minutes earlier each day. This means they're a little farther to the west at the same time tonight than they were last night, a little closer to setting.

As we keep going with our quarantine star party, let's find the Big Dipper high toward the northwest after dark. If we draw a line between the two stars at the far end of its bowl and continue it toward the west (to the left), we'll get

to the constellation Leo.

This patch of sky has represented a lion in the mythology of cultures going back to the ancient Persians and Sumerians, while Chinese myth sees it as a horse. Among the modern constellations, it's one of the few that kind of looks like what it's supposed to be.

Our line from the Big Dipper brings us to Leo's rectangular midsection. Toward the ground, let's see if we can make out the backward question mark-shaped group called the "Sickle," which makes up its front end. The dot at the bottom is the bright star Regulus, which is actually four stars about 80 light years away, orbiting each other in two pairs. Once we've found that, look higher up for the triangle that makes up its hind quarters. The star at its tail is called

Denebola.

A few months ago, when spring was still on its way, the lion returned to our chilly nights, rising with the Sickle rearing over the eastern sky. In the weeks since, we've collected those four minutes each night as it crossed high overhead. Now, with only a few weeks left until summer, Leo starts the night in the west, lurching toward the horizon and about to pounce on something just below. As our view of the sky goes, that happens to be the unsuspecting and unfortunate heads of Castor and Pollux, the twins of Gemini or Cancer, the crab.

If we keep an eye on this patch of sky from May 28 to May 30, we'll see a waxing crescent moon hop like a



By Scott Levine

speedy rabbit past the lion, growing as the nights pass. It'll be full on June 5.

As the seasons change, the skies do, too. Before long Leo will vanish into another impossibly long summer sunset. The bright summertime star Vega has already come back to the northeast. Soon, Aquila the eagle, Cygnus, the swan, Scorpius the scorpion and the rest of summer's stars will join the fun, tell their

stories and cross the sky – four minutes at a time. I hope you'll take a look.

Scott Levine (astroscott@yahoo.com) is an astronomy writer and speaker from Croton-on-Hudson. He is also a member of the Westchester Amateur Astronomers, which is dedicated to astronomy outreach in our area. For information about the club, including membership, newsletters, upcoming meetings and lectures at Pace University and star parties at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, visit westchesterastronomers.org. Events are free and open to the public. Please note: All in-person club activities are suspended until further notice due to COVID-19.

Clear Skies



Full Moon
June 5



Last Quarter
June 13



New Moon
June 21



First Quarter
June 28

Thanks Examiner Fans: We're Good...For Now

By Adam Stone

Dear Readers,

It was St. Patrick's Day, my sister's birthday, and, as a result of the simmering COVID-19 crisis, my dad and I had just regretfully canceled plans for all of us to visit my grandmother on Long Island to celebrate the occasion.

Life was about to dramatically change, I realized, and Examiner Media was facing an existential crisis as we endeavored to publish community news in the epicenter of a historic storm while already grappling with industry hurdles.

A part of me, for a fleeting moment, was oddly enticed by the idea of allowing the impending tidal wave to wash over my nearly 13-year-old business, and return to a more lucrative, less stressful career as a professional writer. But then a weight of responsibility overcame the passing daydream, and I quickly realized I owed it to our employees, our advertisers and, well, to you, our readers to navigate the choppy waters, or die as a business trying.

So, over the last two months, I've committed myself to an almost moment-to-moment search for business solutions, exploring every nook and cranny for avenues to survive and eventually thrive. After all, the local media market is shrinking, and readers across two counties were counting on us to deliver reliable and trusted local journalism during a public health crisis. Embracing the gargantuan challenge was the only

responsible option.

I'm pleased to report, 68 arduous but rewarding days later, we're alive and well. But let me address the bad news first.

Part of restructuring our business on the fly (which started on the morning of Mar. 18) was laying off the majority of our staff. Each of these people were critical members of our team – loyal, talented, hardworking reporters, editors, photographers, sportswriters, columnists, graphic designers and distributors. Initially, I hoped we'd be able to bring everyone back in the mid-future, if not the immediate future. (I've learned to largely avoid forecasting or planning for the distant future).

But, as the weeks have gone on, I discovered we were able to execute high-quality, local journalism with a different approach. The current advertising market eliminates the possibility of rehiring the entire staff, so we've developed a new strategy that allows us to prepare professionally-reported local news with fewer full-timers. Moving forward, we'll be increasingly reliant on freelance journalists to complement the work of our incredible core editorial staff, as we also aim to restore some currently unoccupied yet eventually necessary full- and part-time time positions.

Even as we share more content between



our four print editions, we remain committed to hyperlocal news in your community, not just the regional news we've been forced to focus on amidst this life-altering pandemic.

Also, the ever-changing nature of virus-related breaking news propelled us to publish more and more to our digital platforms, turning TheExaminerNews.com

into a daily online newspaper and forcing us, more broadly, to develop an innovative digital strategy for our website, our social media and our e-mail blasts while also enhancing the strength of our print products through superior editorial planning.

After the brutally painful layoffs, I knew I had to identify new revenue streams, because cuts alone would not sustain our ability to fund the critical reporting duties that lie ahead.

And that's when the magic started to percolate.

I applied and we won \$5,000 from Facebook in late March to finance our early COVID-19 reporting. Next, in early April, I partnered with a Michigan-based nonprofit, the Local Media Association, to provide readers with an opportunity to donate to our virus coverage through tax-deductible contributions. In about six weeks, we raised more than \$30,000 from about 400 donors, almost all contributions in the \$25 to \$100 range. And I'm proud to

announce Google just awarded us \$7,000 to support our journalism.

Through continued advertising support from local businesses and organizations operating during this period, augmented by the fundraising and grants, we've achieved a strong cash position coupled with a new, leaner and stronger business model.

And here's the thing: I'm not naturally inclined to share all of this internal news, and am doing so for a reason. In fact, to borrow an industry cliché, I've sort of buried the lead but allow me a few more sentences to explain.

I'm writing this column, in part, to let you know we're okay. Your generosity has blown me away and it's been humbling to read all of the incredibly warm comments on our donation page. For the first month of our Examiner – COVID-19 Local News Fund, we were staring down the barrel of a gun, and the business was in very real jeopardy.

That is no longer the case. I want to be sure everyone understands we've regained our footing. More to the point, and here's the buried lead – I want to be certain no one donates under the incorrect belief we remain in financial crisis.

As of this week, with the Google funding, we're whole and then some. But here's the but – we must not grow complacent in an industry that was already imperiled by vanishing ad revenues. In fact, the business we operated before the virus missed the mark in neglecting to diversify revenue streams.

Our print newspaper can be picked up by

continued on page 22

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Pace University Honors Class of 2020 With Online Celebration

More than 4,000 Pace University graduates, their families and friends gathered online last Wednesday to recognize the accomplishments and successes of the Class of 2020 in a virtual celebration.

The cyber festivities are by no means a replacement for the traditional pomp and circumstance of in-person commencement ceremonies, which will take place at a future date, but rather an opportunity for people to come together to recognize all of the hard work, dedication and long hours of study that so many have completed in order to earn their degrees.

“You have earned your diplomas through intelligence, persistence, determination and especially resilience,” Pace University President Marvin Krislov told the graduates. “You’ve excelled in the classrooms, in your labs, jobs, internships, service, performance and you’ve made friends and mentors in this extraordinary community we call Pace University. I am so happy for all you have achieved and I am so excited to see the future ahead of you.”

This year, 3,624 students were part of the 2020 graduating class, which includes 1,394 New York City students and 713 students in Pleasantville. Additionally, there were 1,517 graduate students across its campuses. At Pace University’s Elisabeth Haub School of Law, a virtual ceremony was celebrated on May 17 when 185 Juris Doctor degrees were conferred, along with 35 Master of Laws degrees and two Doctor of Science in Environmental Law degrees.

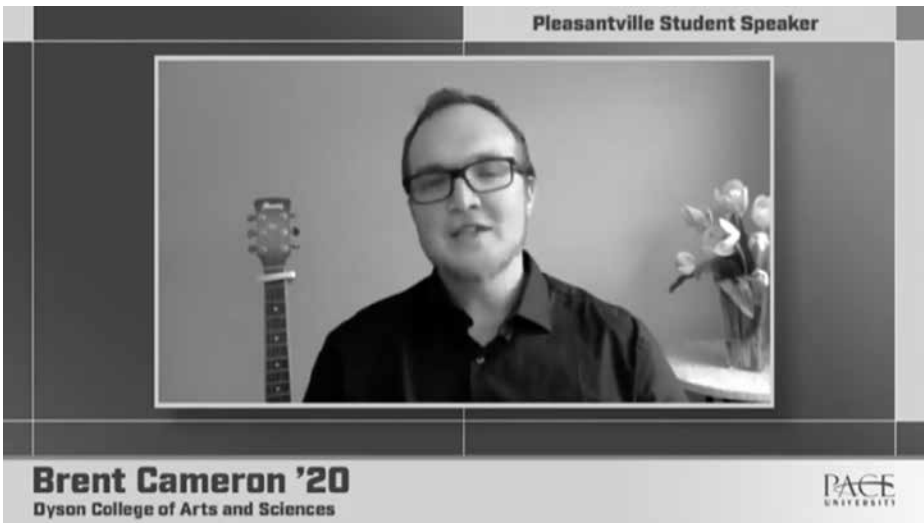
Pleasantville student Brent Cameron

of the Dyson College of Arts and Sciences called on his fellow graduates to strive for their goals despite the pandemic.

“So for those of you who want to be teachers, go out there and teach people to think,” Cameron said. “Those of you who want to be doctors and nurses, go out there and make people well. For those of you that want to be writers, go out there and write the stories that will change this world. Go out and make those dreams real, because this pandemic will end, and life will continue.”

To view the virtual celebrations, visit www.pace.edu/classof2020.

Brent Cameron, a 2020 Pace graduate who attended the university’s Pleasantville campus, delivered one of the student addresses during last Wednesday’s virtual commencement ceremonies.



Thanks Examiner Fans: We’re Good...For Now

continued from page 21

readers for free. Our website can be accessed by readers for free. Our e-mail blast can be subscribed to by readers for free. But publishing quality community journalism is expensive, and we need to continue to evolve.

The truth is, as of this writing, I’m unsure of precisely how that evolution will manifest itself. Yet I’m certain our evolution requires your support. Perhaps our evolution involves a “membership model,” to use the business parlance. Or maybe the evolution incorporates a partial paywall. I do know the evolution already includes and will continue

to feature accepting donations from readers who champion our cause.

Don’t give to us now if you only wanted to prop up a business on the verge of collapse. But invest in us later if you agree our local journalism is worth it.

If the traditional community newspaper business model is broken, it’s incumbent upon publishers to identify a new one. I’m convinced that model, for us and for news outlets across our country, must include ongoing support from you, our cherished readers, and not exclusively through subscriptions. In other

words, you’ll be hearing from me again, and to remain healthy, we’ll need to solicit funding when we’re stable, not only when we’re in critical condition.

And as our region gets healthy and prepares to begin cautiously reopening this week, I’m proud to tell you the state of Examiner Media is strong, and my gratitude for your support has never been greater. Thank you, readers, and please be in touch. We’re here for you, and we’re still here because of you.

Gratefully,
Adam

THERE’S A WORD FOR IT

A vocabulary-building quiz By Edward Goralski

Home Again, Home Again. Well, most of us are still sheltering in place and practicing social distancing as much of New York remains in a state of pause. While much physical activity and interactions need to put off for a little while longer, there is no need to pause on growing your vocabulary. In fact, expanding your vocabulary may be an essential activity.

- 1. lollygag (v.)**
A) to hang loosely
B) waste time
C) make note of

2. simulacrum (n.)
A) an image
B) a silly smile
C) a counterfeit object

3. molder (v.)
A) to give shape to
B) make moist
C) crumble to dust

4. extramundane (adj.)
A) outside the physical world
B) nonrecurring
C) private

5. wamble (v.)
A) to indulge oneself
B) move unsteadily
C) walk for pleasure

6. testudinal (adj.)
A) requiring maximum ability
B) overly sensitive
C) resembling a turtle

7. choler (n.)
A) an irritable feeling
B) light work
C) a company of singers

8. procrustean (adj.)
A) lying face down
B) obtainable
C) producing strict conformity

1. B. To waste time by putting a aimlessly; dawdle

2. A. An image or representation; effigy

3. C. To crumble to dust; disintegrate

4. A. Outside or beyond the physical world

5. B. To move unsteadily or with a weaving or

6. C. Of, relating to, or resembling a tortoise or

7. A. An irritable, petulant feeling; crossness

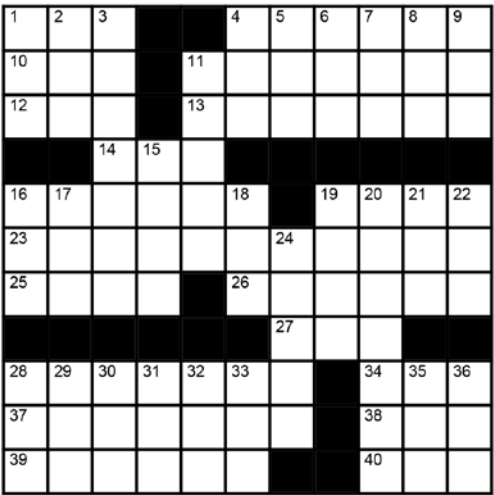
8. C. Producing or designed to produce strict

conformity by ruthless or arbitrary means
- rolling motion

Crossword

- Across**
- 1. Toward the stern
 - 4. Contaminate
 - 10. “Get on the __, forget about us”
 - 11. “Charlie’s Angels” star, Diaz
 - 12. Bordeaux vineyard
 - 13. String instrument
 - 14. Penpoint
 - 16. Tick, e.g.
 - 19. Actress, Moore
 - 23. Amusing stories in song
 - 25. Protection
 - 26. Something that is obviously correct
 - 27. Atlanta time
 - 28. Mammals, etc
 - 34. Wine color
 - 37. Rosie to Donald?
 - 38. Bigheadedness
 - 39. Core
 - 40. What you don’t ask a woman

- Down**
- 1. Alphabet start
 - 2. Winter wear
 - 3. Huge wave
 - 4. South __, state (abbr.)
 - 5. Large bird
 - 6. __ canto (singing style)
 - 7. Exist
 - 8. Costa del __
 - 9. Wind direction
 - 11. Volume expression
 - 15. Spring flower



- 16. Crack
- 17. Minor player
- 18. __ com
- 19. Roman for God
- 20. Republic on the Red Sea
- 21. More, in Madrid
- 22. School of thought
- 24. Urge
- 28. “Go on ...”
- 29. Born name intro
- 30. Devilkin
- 31. NY opera
- 32. Hair color
- 33. __ pendens
- 35. Prod
- 36. The buck stops here

Answers on page 25



TOMORROW ALONG THE HUDSON

WHAT THE SHUTDOWN AND DECOMMISSIONING OF INDIAN POINT ENERGY CENTER WILL MEAN FOR OUR AREA.

The nuclear power plants at Indian Point have powered New York City and Westchester County for nearly 60 years. Now, due to challenging economic conditions and an agreement with the state of New York, Indian Point will stop generating electricity and permanently shut down by April 2021.

After shutdown Indian Point will transition to decommissioning, a federally-regulated process that will ultimately return the land to a new productive use. Entergy has taken the first step by selecting a leading decommissioning company as our partner, Holtec International.

Here are a few things New Yorkers should know about the Holtec plan:

Decades Sooner — With Holtec, decommissioning will begin immediately, allowing the site to be repurposed as much as 40 years sooner than if Entergy were to remain the owner of Indian Point. Holtec's plan calls for completion of major decommissioning activities by the 2030s, decades sooner than it would take Entergy to complete decommissioning.

Decommissioning Expertise — Holtec and its expert team have decades of experience managing large decommissioning projects around the world.

Employee Retention — Holtec will begin the decommissioning process promptly upon taking ownership and will provide job opportunities for more than 300 of our current employees who want to remain in the region and continue to work at the site.

Spent Fuel Management — Holtec is the global leader in spent nuclear fuel storage technology and transport. Holtec will transfer all of Indian Point's spent nuclear fuel to secure canisters designed to withstand natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, and other events within about three years of shutdown.

As we work toward an orderly shutdown, safety remains our top priority. Indian Point is ranked in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's top column for safety and we fully intend to continue our strong safety record over our final months of operation.

The NRC will regulate decommissioning at Indian Point and a citizen's advisory board is already in place. As of today, more than 34 U.S. nuclear plants have safely completed decommissioning or are in the process of doing so. To learn more about Holtec's plan for prompt decommissioning, visit:

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Indian Point Energy Center



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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village Treasurer of the Village of Pleasantville has received the Tax Roll and Warrant for the collection of taxes for the fiscal year 2020-2021. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the public does not have access to the Tax Receiver's office. Tax

continued on page 26

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Farmers Markets Throughout the Area Spring Open



By Morris Gut

It's nice to hear that the Muscote Farmers Market at Muscote Farm on Route 100 in Katonah has reopened for the season. There are safety restrictions in place. Visitors will require an advance appointment for a 30-minute shopping slot. Shoppers must also adhere to all coronavirus safety rules. The market will operate every Sunday with time slots from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. through Nov. 22. Free admission. Info: 914-864-7283 or visit www.muscotefarm.org.

White Plains

A welcome sign of the new season is the popular outdoor White Plains Farmers Market, which gets into full swing this Wednesday. Its new hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year, the public is asked to follow proper safety protocols. The market is located on Court Street between Martine Avenue and Main Street. Info: Visit www.whiteplainsfarmersmarket.com.

Cold Spring Farmers Market Now at Boscobel

The popular Cold Spring Farmers Market has moved to the historic Boscobel

Estate Museum in Garrison, a lovely setting. It takes place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: Visit www.coldspringfarmersmarket.org.

John Jay Homestead Farmers Market

This favorite opens June 6 and will run every Saturday through October. Advance registration is required for a 30-minute shopping slot starting at 10 a.m. One person per family is allowed to attend. Advance registration for the next Saturday's market opens each Monday morning. John Jay Homestead is located at 400 Jay St. (Route 22) in Katonah. Info: Visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.

Exit 4 Brings its Variety to Take-out

Stopped into Exit 4 Food Hall in Mount Kisco a while back to relax. When the space was opened several years ago, it was Westchester's first food hall concept.

Now, it seems that all the food purveyors have consolidated a bit, as confirmed by its proprietor Isi Albanese. There is a multipage menu incorporating all nine food stations, which makes for plenty of tempting combinations. Last year at the time, I enjoyed a draft at the friendly pub-like craft beer bar. As weeks passed, I continued to hear high praise from friends about some of Exit 4 Food Hall's offerings.

Made a quick stop again this past week and noticed the space subdued due to coronavirus restrictions, but Albanese and his small crew were active. The establishment has always done a brisk take-out business with the different sections of Japanese food, barbecue and pizza, and that has continued relatively successfully during the pandemic.

In case you are ordering for the family, are here some of the items available for online ordering: lobster roll kits with all the trimmings; chicken or pork pan-seared Asian dumplings; burger sliders; a platter of roasted cauliflower; lemon hummus platter; seafood paella; shrimp scampi; and pizzas such as spicy meatball and fig and prosciutto. There are sandwiches and wraps, too.

Curbside pick-up and delivery are available Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. A \$30 minimum is



Exit 4 Food Hall in Mount Kisco continues to do a relatively brisk take-out business through the pandemic.

required for delivery within Mount Kisco while a greater minimum is needed for longer distances.

Exit 4 Food Hall is located at 153 E. Main St. in Mount Kisco. Major credit cards accepted. Info: 914-241-1200 or visit www.exit4foodhall.com.

DeCicco & Sons Accepting Reservations

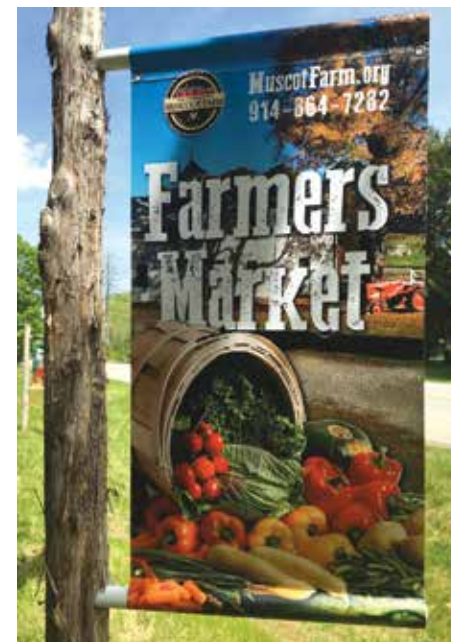
An innovative approach to grocery shopping has been established by DeCicco & Sons' locations in Ardsley, Armonk, Brewster, Harrison, Larchmont, Millwood, Pelham and Somers. They have partnered with Open Table, an online restaurant reservation service. Shoppers can now book a time slot to shop. Hopes are it will eliminate waiting on lines, though walk-ins are still welcome.

Owners John, Joe and Frank DeCicco said customers with a reservation must arrive five minutes before their designated time and walk into the store for confirmation.

DeCicco & Sons originally established at a small Bronx storefront in 1973, and has in recent years introduced a number of modern protocols to their markets. Info: Visit www.deciccoandsons.com or www.opentable.com/groceries.

Outdoor Dining Begins in Fairfield County

While restaurants in Westchester await an ease in dining restrictions, eateries in Fairfield County, Conn. have been allowed to reopen outdoor seating areas. New York and Connecticut have been part of a



The farmers market at Muscote Farm in Katonah is one of several that have opened or about to launch their seasons.

seven-state consortium to move forward on reopening businesses simultaneously, wherever possible, so as not to create greater demand or advantage. During his May 21 press conference, Gov. Andrew Cuomo emphasized that while it is still a collaborative effort between the states, Connecticut was able to remove some restrictions sooner.

We crossed the Westchester line into Greenwich on the first day of eased restrictions to observe. Driving down Greenwich Avenue, I noticed action at Terra Ristorante, Mediterraneo Restaurant and Duoro Restaurant. On this particular afternoon, there were waterside tables still available at L'Escale. From what we saw, restaurant staff members were wearing masks, while few customers had face coverings. Distancing between tables appeared to be okay. More to come on this.

Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at 914-235-6591 or at gutreaactions@optonline.net.

Crossword Answers

A	F	T		D	E	B	A	S	E
B	U	S		C	A	M	E	R	O
C	R	U		U	K	U	L	E	L
			N	I	B				
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A	N	I	M	A	L	S		R	E
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D	E	P	T	H	S			A	G

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continued from previous page

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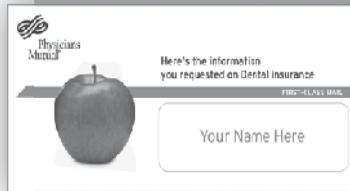
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bills may be viewed and tax payments can be made online via the Village website www.pleasantville-ny.gov, or sent via mail service to: Village of Pleasantville, Tax Office, 80 Wheeler Avenue 10570. Taxes and other assessments, if any, become due and payable June 1, 2020, but may be paid in two installments without penalty. The first installment may be paid without penalty from June 1, 2020 to and including July 1, 2020. The second installment may be paid without penalty from June 1, 2020 to and including December 31, 2020. To all first installment taxes remaining unpaid after July 1, 2020, five percent (5%) will be added for the month of July, and an additional one percent (1%) for each month or fraction thereof until paid. To all second installment taxes remaining unpaid after December 31, 2020, five percent (5%) will be added for the month of January, and an additional one percent (1%) for each month or fraction thereof until paid. On or before February 1, 2021 a delinquent list will be published. **Mary Schwartz Village Treasurer Dated: May 26, 2020**

NOTICE TO BIDDERS: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Pleasantville will receive sealed bids for Tree Removal, Trimming & Stump Grinding. The Village of Pleasantville is seeking a three (3) year contract for tree removal, trimming and stump grinding services from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. Bids will be received at the office of the Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville, 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570 until 12:00PM on Tuesday June 16, 2020 - at which time immediately thereafter the bids will be opened and read aloud in the said office. Due to COVID-19, public viewing of the bid opening will be viewable only via Zoom meeting id 98433097695, password 656105. Complete specifications and bid forms may be obtained from the above office or via BidNet (www.bidnetdirect.com) on or after May 26, 2020. Bids shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the Bidder, addressed to Village Clerk, Village of Pleasantville, 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, New York 10570

and labeled "Village of Pleasantville Tree Removal, Trimming & Stump Grinding Bid 2020-1." The Village of Pleasantville reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality in any bid, and to award the contract to other than the lowest bidder if deemed in the best interest of the Village to do so.

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Sports

Carmel Close to Tabbing Replacement for Revered Coach Cayea *Lakeland's Sarsen Inducted to NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame*



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor @Directrays

honor whilst leading Carmel to the Section 1 championship game for the first time in 11 years.

"It's hard to believe they would do this over an argument," Cayea said. "It was a pleasure to help build that program from shambles to what we made it. We had

So, whether or not we see a single down of high school football played this fall, the Carmel Rams will have a new leader after former Coach Todd Cayea's silver anniversary season was officially swept under the rug last week, cast aside as if he didn't win the 2019 Section 1 Class AA Coach of the Year

Direct Rays

trying.

"It's awful to see Coach Cayea's career come to a close the way it did, but that certainly doesn't diminish anything that he's accomplished in his 25 years of coaching," All-Section senior Captain Will Boalt said. "He's made a fraternity of players, past and present, that can talk to each other knowing that Coach Cayea has impacted their lives positively, one way or another, from the late '90s to the present 2020.

"So many people fall into the Coach Cayea Era and his philosophies, whether it be his 'trust-the-process' mentality or his personal stories that reflect on life. He always has a way of hitting home for each individual and makes you want to work hard for the team and the community at large."

Cayea deserved a fitting sendoff, one that won't come to fruition, for this breakup is a Brad-and-Angelina-style split. The beef is real.

Rehashing the situation that led us to this point is an exercise in futility, but blaming former Rams basketball Coach Paul Brennan, with whom Cayea argued with back in November, is patently absurd. Brennan is a truly good man, who bore the brunt of this in more ways than one, so let's not lie this at his feet. It's unfair and inaccurate to pin this on Brennan. He doesn't deserve the ire of Cayea's disciples.

There are two sides to every story, the one the Carmel Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Andy Irvin spin behind closed doors while making these secretive personnel decisions that taint Cayea's legacy. Then, there's the side Cayea's people have woven into the fabric that has held the Carmel community together for a quarter century each and every fall while the Rams have, most often, conquered neighboring rival Mahopac on the gridiron in the granddaddy of 'em all.

That should count for something. I'd love to hear the administration's side; honestly, I'm buying, if that helps. Either way, there is no joy in Mudville.

"Coach Cayea didn't care about winning or losing," All-Section senior Captain Alex Beauchesne said. "He cared about how he can make us better people. He was always there for us and taught us valuable lessons that our parents sometimes can't teach. His legacy in Carmel will always be remembered because all the kids he coached are all better people for it. He is one of the most inspirational people to come through Carmel."

On the bright side, Coach Nguyen was mentored by Cayea and is said to have many



The Carmel Rams will be under new direction this fall with the impending announcement of Jim Nguyen replacing Todd Cayea as Rams grid coach.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MR. MOORE (YORKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER)
The day when these Yorktown High fields, and others like them across the country, are full of kids again can't come quick enough.

that program cranking. I'm at peace now, though. It was a hell of a run."

That's all water under the bridge now as Carmel administrators are set to officially replace Cayea with his assistant – former offensive coordinator Jimmy Nguyen. And we're being advised to move on as if Cayea's service to the Carmel community was a blight on society more than a remarkable career – no fanfare, no pomp and circumstance. It's just sad on so many levels.

Okay, so I reckon it's time to move on, since most school boards and administrators wield all the power and they tell us sheeples what's what in these situations. And 99 out of 100 times, the mobs are powerless.

But, I'll tell you this as the door slams shut on Cayea's coaching career at Carmel: nobody meant more to the respect and reputation of the Carmel sports community – a hard-nosed, blue collar district – than Todd Cayea, who exemplified grit, guile and determination while, oftentimes, drawing blood from a stone. Cayea's 2019 Rams gave state champion New Rochelle its toughest challenge of the postseason for three quarters, doing so behind a senior class that would die



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Lakeland legend Sharon Sarsen (Left) will be a 2020 inductee into the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame

of the qualities needed for success, should he be officially named the next head coach at an upcoming school board meeting as expected.

"Moving forward, I don't think that anyone can replace Coach Cayea, but I think that if Coach Nguyen gets the position Carmel will remain one of the better football programs in Section 1," Boalt said. "He holds many of the same values as Coach Cayea and will continue to be a phenomenal coach. He has already made a tremendous impact on the guys this past year."

Wish Nguyen well when you see him. He's gonna need it. And make sure to show Coach Cayea some love. He can sure use it right now #Respect...

'Sars' Headed to NYS Hall of Fame

What coach gets into coaching and secures 13 state titles (an unheard of nine in a row at one point), 30 Section 1 championships and a combined 1,040-208-85 record in two com-

petitive varsity team sports?

Lakeland High School's Sharon "Sars" Sarsen, the one and only. This is "Life on Sars": Going 659-73-40 as the Hornets field hockey coach with 13 state titles and 20 sectional crowns while adding a tidy 381-135-45 record and 10 sectional nuggets as the former Lakeland/Panas girls' lax coach. The numbers are unlike anything in New York sports history, which is why the powers that be finally assembled last week and named her an inductee in the Class of 2020 NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame. It's perhaps the most overdue honor in state history.

Sarsen gets tired of reading about her vast list of accomplishments and the four Hall of Fame inductions she's had this

year (I'm sure she's shaking her head as she begrudgingly reads this), because she never takes the credit for anything beyond the guidance and technique she provides her players during a career that spans three decades.

However, the inspirational work ethic she instills, the time, effort and care she gives all students (not just U.S. Olympians like Melissa Gonzalez) within the Lakeland School District as a coach, middle school athletic director and physical education teacher is incomparable and, perhaps, unprecedented, which explains why she is the best coach in the state regardless of sport (period, stop!).

And if there is a God in heaven, Sarsen's Hornets will be back on the field this fall, with all the other students and the fine families of Section 1, whom I miss tremendously as we trudge through this horrendous pandemic. Stay safe, friends!

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"Thank You ! for the great news reporting in my backyard, Love it!"

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"Always enjoy reading your newspaper. Thank you."

"Love The Examiner..... would be terrible not to have it anymore."

"Thank you for keeping local reporting alive! Our community is better when everyone knows what is going on! Keep up the good work."

"You keep us informed, you keep us connected....Thank You!"

"We're in this fight together. Times are tough, but we'll get through this. Stay strong."

"Thank you for all you do to bring local news to the community. We're all better for having you around, and I'm glad to be able to do my part."

"Great local news. Apple Pie and the Examiner!"

"Keep up the great journalism and important work. Old school community journalism at its best."

"We are devout readers of The Examiner. A publication like this is

a necessity in our small local communities. Rarely do we go into Starbucks, the barber shop or the lobby at the Jacob Burns without seeing people engrossed in an issue. We are proud to support a paper based on integrity and a generous community spirit."

"It's an honor to support such a fantastic enterprise that means so much to our communities."

"I Thank You, Mount Kisco Thanks You and William Raveis Real Estate Thanks You. I Love The Examiner"

"This community is in desperate need of a local, community news source, especially as we wade into these uncharted waters caused by coronavirus. Adam is an amazing journalist who's built an upstanding, quality news outfit. He's been there for all of us, now it's time to be there for him and his team. Godspeed, Adam."

"Proud supporter of The Examiner. It's my favorite resource for news and happenings in our community."

"We have been fans and friends of Adam Stone and were fortunate enough to watch him create and print the first edition of The Examiner in 2007. Adam, his team, and the paper are a shining light in our community. It's not a flim flam local rag, it's real journalism that addresses the tough issues while celebrating and documenting the lives of our neighbors. Local news is important, it's where

national news starts... I'm proud that they are in my community and happy to support them in any way I can."

"Your service to the community deserves support in regular circumstances too, but especially in these difficult times."

"You've always supported our community and it's with great pleasure that we return the favor. May The Examiner continue to serve and thrive."

"I worked for The Examiner for about 3 1/2 years as a freelance sports writer and newspaper distributor. I learned a lot working with Adam, Ray and Andy, and they helped and supported me as I moved on to become a full-time sports reporter at the Poughkeepsie Journal. The Examiner is a venerable weekly, and I'm more than happy to offer my support during these hard times."

"I thank you for balanced informative local news. we gladly support you."

"Looking forward to continued fair and accurate local reporting. Wishing your staff and readers good health."

"As a member of CD17Indivisible, I much appreciate the outlet you have provided for the many letters to the Editor published in support of key local issues. We believe in a Free press that provides a voice to those who seek to call attention to Community concerns. As

such, I am pleased to contribute to your continuance and success in these challenging times."

"So proud of what you are doing for your community!!! Thank you!"

"Thank you for always covering Lakeland & Panas Sports!"

"We look forward to reading the hard copy of your Examiner every week. Martin Wilbur's reporting is accurate and always right on target."

"Putnam Examiner does a great job promoting student-athletes in our community Stay safe and healthy."

"Your reporting on local government news is excellent! We also enjoy your columnists, especially Nick Antonaccio on wine, Bill Primavera ("The Home Guru"), and Brian Kleupfel on birding. Keep up the great work!"

"You've always been their for Fox Lane so we're here for you."

"Adam, Martin and team, The Examiner is an important and valued resources for our community!"

Thank you to the 367 readers who, as of late Monday morning (in contributions of mostly \$25 to \$100) donated \$28,500 and growing. We appreciate all of the ongoing generosity and kind words.



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