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Covering White Plains, Greenburgh, Harrison

August 10 - August 16, 2021

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Westchester in Compliance with Affordable Housing Settlement

By Rick Pezzullo

A federal judge recently concluded that Westchester County was in compliance with building more than 750 affordable housing units and a federal housing monitor was no longer needed.

U.S. District Judge Denise Cote terminated the Consent Decree that went into effect on August 10, 2009. In 2009, Westchester officials entered into a stipulation and order with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

Development to increase its efforts to help provide fair and affordable housing in 31 of the county's communities with the least diversity.

As of June 30, 968 affordable housing units have been approved in the region covered by the settlement.

"After 12 long years, Westchester County is finally able to close the book on the Affordable Housing Settlement," said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. "We did not do this alone, and we have to thank our non-profit housing

organizations, the local municipalities and the many developers for all that they did to help get us here. We know that we have a long way to go, but I want to thank the Department of Justice for recognizing our commitment to this cause. We made every effort to satisfy the terms of the case, and I am thrilled that we are able to put it behind us."

"I do not attempt to take credit for all of the affordable housing that was developed over the past 12 years. It was a long road, and much of it was traveled before I walked

in the door as County Executive. But, I think we have proven time and again that fair and affordable housing is something that we believe in," Latimer added.

"We consistently put significant money aside, we conducted a Housing Needs Study, and we understand fully how great that need is. More than 11,000 units are needed to satisfy the demand for young families and seniors on fixed incomes, and we want to see these projects come to fruition all across Westchester."

Congressman Visits White Plains



Congressman Mondaire Jones (NY-17) joined local leaders and activists in White Plains last week to spread the word about resources available to renters who may be struggling and possibly facing eviction proceedings in the near future under the American Rescue Plan.

Dautruche Named Director of Westchester Center for Racial Equity

By Rick Pezzullo

The YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester has appointed Maria Smith Dautruche director of its newly created Westchester Center for Racial Equity.

The Center for Racial Equity was launched April 2021 as a dedicated space for working towards advancing racial equity in Westchester County by providing the vision, the place and the community to sustain anti-racist work. It offers training programs, learning opportunities, consulting services and leadership development, and enables the YWCA to fulfill its mission to eliminate racism. The Center also will foster community accountability through the use of a Racial Equity scorecard that tracks progress in eliminating racial disparities in key sectors such as health, housing, economic empowerment/wealth accumulation, education and criminal justice.

Dautruche, a Westchester native who took over on August 2, brings to the Center a wealth of experience, most recently as senior advisor to the president and CEO of the National Urban League. She previously served as vice president in the League's partnerships and advancement office for five years, raising more than \$60 million and playing a critical role in shaping the organization's current racial equity



Maria Smith Dautruche

partnerships.

In January 2021, Dautruche led the organization of Westchester first observance of the National Day of Racial Healing, an annual event sponsored by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation focused on racial healing and transformation efforts across the United States.

Dautruche most recently completed Northwestern University's Leading Racial Equity and Inclusion in Organizations course modules and Rx for Racial Healing Circle

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White Plains Gardella Park Family Day Slated Aug. 15

The City of White Plains Recreation and Parks Department is excited to bring to the community Gardella Park Family Day. This event will take place on Sunday, August 15 from 4 to 10 p.m. Gardella Park is located at 175 Ferris Ave.

Spend the evening enjoying a full list of activities for kids and adults, including basketball, music, bouncy house, face painting, balloon artist, arts & crafts, free giveaways, and much more. The event is free and food will be available for purchase.

For sports enthusiasts, two Championship basketball games with the Adult and High School leagues competing

in their final contests of the season will take place.

And don't forget to stop by the Wellness Fair by Fidelis Care, Forme and Sunshine Pharmacy. Free COVID-19 Vaccinations will be available on site for anyone who is interested or who would like to learn more. Free health screenings that include glucose and high blood pressure testing will also be available.

The City of White Plains would like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors, who have helped make this event possible: Fidelis Care, WESTCOP, and Teens Under Construction.

Dautruche Named Director of Westchester Center for Racial Equity

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facilitator training.

"Maria is an ideal inaugural director for the Westchester Center for Racial Equity," said Maria Imperial, CEO of the YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester. "She is a transformational leader who will build community, inspire change and foster healing in Westchester County. I look forward to partnering with her to advance the YWCA's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women."

"It is a real honor for me to step into this role," Dautruche said. "Having worked on racial equity initiatives and strategies at the national level, I am eager to work here in Westchester County where I grew up. I believe my visionary and collaborative leadership style will guide the Center's success and that of its partners in this work throughout the region and the YWCA USA network."

A 2005 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh (B.A. in Africana Studies and Communications), Dautruche earned a Master's in Arts & Cultural Management from Pratt Institute in 2009. She is an alum

of the National Urban League Washington Bureau Certificate in Advocacy Program and the ULI/Project REAP Academy. Dautruche was an Independent Sector NGen Fellow in 2018, a 92Y Women in Power and completed Yale School of Management's Interpersonal and Group Dynamics facilitator training, both in 2017.

She's also a co-founder of New Voices for Reproductive Justice – a powerful organizing force for the health and well-being of Black women and girls, women of color and LGBTQ+ people of color at the local, state (PA and OH) and national levels. Dautruche has been engaged locally as a member of the Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus and Community Voices Heard and served on the Westchester County African American Advisory Board (2018-2020).

The Racial Equity Center has been made possible by funding from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Pepsico, United Way of Westchester and Putnam, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Westchester County Board of Legislators and Looking Out Foundation.

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Westchester Officials Push Vaccinations as COVID Cases Rise

By Rick Pezzullo

Westchester County officials are urging the estimated 200,000 residents who haven't yet been vaccinated to get their shots as the number of coronavirus cases steadily creep up.

County Executive George Latimer reported Monday there were 1,827 active COVID-19 cases as compared to only 175 five weeks ago. The number of individuals hospitalized during that same time frame has risen from seven to 51.

"The increase in hospitalizations is concerning," Latimer said. "The COVID-19 health crisis has come back to the top of the list of our concerns."

Latimer stressed the county is not facing a "crisis situation" as it did in January when the number of active cases peaked at about 11,500, but with school starting in a month and more activities slated to be held indoors, the importance of more residents getting vaccinated grows.

"That many people unvaccinated can spread the disease and is spreading the disease, as far as we can tell," Latimer said. "All these numbers are not encouraging."

Dr. Sherlita Amler, Westchester's health commissioner, confirmed the majority of COVID-19 positive cases who have been hospitalized are patients who are unvaccinated, with the largest group in the 30 to 53 age range. The second largest group are individuals between the ages of 16 and 29.

"The best way to prevent serious disease and death is by getting vaccinated for COVID-19," she said.

Dr. Dial Hewlett, the county's Director of Disease Control, stressed since children under 12 probably won't be able to get vaccinated until after January it was vital for adults to set a good example.

"Our children and grandchildren, our nieces and nephews are counting on us to get vaccinated," he said.

Latimer said state guidelines only

required masks to be worn on public transportation and in medical facilities, but he didn't rule out the county issuing mandates if the COVID-19 cases continue to head in the wrong direction.

"We're not looking at lockdowns at this stage of the game," he said. "If we see this infection rate rise, then all options are on the table. We're trying to charter an intelligent response that we're willing to ramp up or ramp down. We're not looking to create conflict or restrict people's



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

rights."

The Town of Yorktown has decided to restore some health rules with its caseload of COVID-19 cases jumping the last month from two to more than 60.

As of Monday, the town is requiring all visitors to any indoor town facility to wear a mask. All non-vaccinated employees are being mandated to wear a mask when indoors and all indoor public-facing employees, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask when speaking to a member of the public.

"These are necessary and proactive steps to take for the safety of our employees and the general public," said Supervisor Matt Slater. "We are all hopeful that these are the only steps needed and we will continue to monitor the local COVID-19 impact on our community as the fall season approaches."

The Town Board has assembled a group of local medical professionals (COVID-19 Medical Task Force) to help the Town Board navigate its decision-making process to ensure that everything is done to protect public employees and residents.

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Hope Not Handcuffs Program Helps Police with Addiction Cases

By Abby Luby

People struggling with addiction to hard drugs, opioids or alcohol, don't voluntarily show up at their local police station for help. But that is changing.

At a press conference last week, Pleasantville Police Chief Erik Grutzner was joined by 15 local police chiefs from Westchester County departments to announce their participation in Hope Not Handcuffs, a program providing police with tools to help those in need.

Hope Not Handcuffs has been helping those battling addiction since 2019 here in the Hudson Valley. The non-profit organization works in tandem with law enforcement agencies to direct substance abusers to the most helpful treatment centers. Anyone in need can come to any participating police department in Westchester County and ask for help without fearing arrest. Once there, a call is made to Hope Not Handcuffs and within 30 minutes an "Angel," a trained volunteer, will arrive to guide the person into treatment.

Grutzner said the program made it is easier to help those in need. "In the past the logistics in



Front Row: Chief Erik Grutzner (Pleasantville PD); Chief James Carroll (New Castle PD); Chief David Dosin (Hastings on Hudson PD); Chief Melvin Padilla (Bedford PD); Lt. Brant Samman (North Castle PD) Chief Andrew Maturro (Scarsdale PD); Chief Christopher McNerney (Greenburgh PD) Back Row: Det. Antonio Guzzo (Sleepy Hollow PD); Chief John Barbelet (Tarrytown PD); Chief Frank Pignatelli (Irvington PD); Chief Paul Oliva (Mount Pleasant PD); Lt. James Graham (Yorktown PD) Chief Anthony Piccolino (Ardsley PD).

opening our doors to anyone who needs this help was daunting. With the partnership with Hope Not Handcuffs in the Hudson Valley, we can provide help to those who need it."

An estimated 1.8 million New Yorkers suffer with substance abuse, a number that has increased and exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. Annette Kahrs, Hope Not Handcuffs-New

York Program Director, was at the press conference, flanked by four volunteer Angels.

The organization currently has 600 volunteers and has operated under the umbrella of the Tri-County Community Partnership since 2018. In January 2021, the Tri-County Community Partnership was awarded a \$288,000 federal grant to collaborate with researchers

studying drug addiction; funds were also used to hire recovery counselors.

At the press conference Kahrs appealed for volunteers. "The pandemic has affected so many people, especially those with addictions. We are seeking volunteers, there's no previous experience necessary, all you need is compassion and the willingness to help someone in need." Kahrs added that the training is two hours long.

In April, as part of the Pleasantville Police Quarterly Report to the village board, Grutzner announced that his department was sending supervisors to participate in Hope Not Handcuffs training to expand the department's understanding of addictions. At the press conference last week, he told of efforts by a former detection who reached out to a local youngster struggling with addiction.

"She recognized the signs of addiction in a local kid she knew and made calls to get him into treatment," Grutzner said. "She found a facility that was covered by his insurance, she secured a bed, she found the transportation and she followed up to make sure the youngster arrived. When

word got out that the youngster had been helped, the detective was approached by two of the youngster's friends and she did the same for them."

Following is the list of participating police departments in Westchester to date, with more being added regularly. Hope Not Handcuffs is also working with police departments in Putnam, Rockland and Sullivan counties.

- Ardsley Police Department
- Bedford Police Department
- Greenburgh Police Department
- Hastings-on-Hudson Police Department
- Irvington Police Department
- Mount Pleasant Police Department
- New Castle Police Department
- North Castle Police Department
- Ossining Police Department
- Pleasantville Police Department
- Scarsdale Police Department
- Sleepy Hollow Police Department
- Tarrytown Police Department
- Westchester County Police Department
- Yorktown Police Department

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Trump Supporters Clash with Locals at Golf Club Fundraiser for State GOP

By Abby Luby

A raucous confrontation between former President Donald Trump supporters and Westchester residents opposing Trump had both sides shouting accusations at each other for more than three hours last Thursday night near the National Golf Club in Briarcliff Manor where Trump was attending a fundraiser for New York Republicans in his honor.

The protest came on the heels of Wednesday night's demonstration outside the Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck that was also hosting a fundraising gala for Trump.

At the Briarcliff Manor protest, about 20 Proud Boys joined roughly 50 'Chinese Americans for Trump,' all directing pro-Trump slogans across the street to some 45 local residents, most of whom were members of Westchester Indivisible, an activist movement against Trump.

County and town police set up barricades in front of the pro-Trump contingent on one side of Dalmer Road, just outside the 16th hole on the golf club fairway. Earlier, police placed a video camera on a telephone pole at the end of the driveway of Deborah Pangle, who lives across the street from the golf club. The Proud Boys group is a male, far-right organization that promotes political violence and has been designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Many Chinese Americans said they traveled from Queens. One man, who gave only his first name as Willy, said Chinese Americans supported the Constitution and Trump. "We can't lose our country. We do not want our country to be destroyed by a liberal



ABBY LUBY PHOTO

Pro Trump Rally at Trump's National Golf Club in Briarcliff Manor last Thursday where a Trump was attending a fundraiser in his honor.

president," he remarked.

Across the street, a Briarcliff Manor resident held a sign that read, "Lock Him Up." "It's a shame what's happened in our country," the man said. "We are so polarized. There seems no way to create a common ground."

Police vehicles were stationed at the main gate and other areas that could access the golf course.

A woman who lives in Ossining said she feared President Joe Biden was too weak to stand up against China and that a stronger Chinese government would recall all Chinese immigrants. "This country is trending towards communism, and we can tell," the woman said, adding that her parents still live in Beijing. "We demand that Trump come back."

Katonah resident Lloyd Trufelman, holding a sign that read "Teed Off About Trump," tried to have a conversation with a woman waving

a Trump flag. "I wanted to see what they would say face to face so I said to her 'Trump is not president, so what should we do?' She stepped back and said, 'I don't know.'"

"Out of curiosity, I approached some of the Chinese protesters and asked one of the women why they were here," Trufelman separately stated. "She told me they came up from New York City to show their support for Donald Trump. I asked her who brought her group to Westchester, but she wouldn't say. Then, motioning to the group of men next to her, she said, 'they brought the Proud Boys in to protect us.' I asked from who and she said 'Antifa'. I then asked one of the Proud Boys why he was here and he replied with a string of obscenities."

From one side of the road there were shouts of "We love Trump!" and "Biden cheated!" From across the street, Indivisible members shouted, "Blood on his hands!"

Nancy Lee, who was born in China and immigrated to the United States more than 30 years ago, said she supported Trump. "He loves this country, and he puts America first. He built a wall to protect [legal] immigrants. We have to have law and order to protect us from illegal immigrants."

The Proud Boys held up their banner and shouted, "We want our president back!" Members of the Proud Boys declined to be interviewed and repeatedly held up the Proud Boys hand salute, joining their thumb and forefinger in a circle, the remaining three fingers played out behind.

Ossining resident Jeanne Claire Cotnoir, who teaches history at Iona College, was stunned by the January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. "To see our own people attack our government was heartbreaking," she said. "I feel it's our responsibility to protect our Democracy. Trump needs to be held responsible for the actions he took."

The rhetoric heated up with both groups aggressively shouting sneers and rebukes, prompting police to quickly set up another barricade in the middle of the road.

Standing with Indivisible Westchester members was Kim Issarelli, holding up a framed American Flag with a picture of her deceased father. "My father died of COVID and he voted for Trump in 2016," she explained. "Trump lacked a health care program and his policies couldn't control the spread of COVID and that killed my dad."

Issarelli said the Briarcliff Manor protest saddened her. "This protest taints our community," she said. "Trump hurt a lot of

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Bill Mandating Suicide Deterrent Bridge Features in HV Promoted

By Samuel Rowland

A state bill that would mandate barrier features designed to make it harder for people to jump be placed on five Hudson River Valley region bridges was promoted in Peekskill last week by a pair of senators.

State Senators Pete Harckham (D/40th District) and James Skoufis (D/39th District) appeared at Riverfront Green Park in Peekskill August 4 with three suicide prevention advocates to discuss the importance of the proposed legislation.

"This is about trying to get those individuals past that suicidal impulse that is overwhelming them," Skoufis said. "It also buys time for the crisis intervention experts to get to those individuals."

The five bridges that would be affected by the bill would be the Bear Mountain Bridge, the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, the Mid-Hudson Bridge, the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge, and the Rip Van Winkle Bridge. What is referred to as means restriction fencing was already built into the Mario Cuomo Bridge as part of the Tappan Zee Replacement Project, which Harckham also had a role in.

"There are three different types

of barriers on that bridge. There is a corrugated metal [fence] at an angle that is climb resistant. There is a what's called a tensile mesh on the suspended sections. It's lighter, but that is hard to climb. And then there is a plexiglass on the overlook," Harckham explained.

Rocco Battista, a resident of Warwick in Orange County, told the story of the last moment of his son Danny's life, who died of suicide by jumping off of a cellphone tower at the age of 19 on April 26, 2008.

"When you have a means for them to reach out with a last breath of hope...that might be enough. Having barriers on the bridges is important, and so is peer support," Battista said. "Suicide does not discriminate; it is you fighting a battle with you...We all have moments."

In 2013, Battista's advocacy led to A05500 – nicknamed "The Battista 4 Life Bill" – introduced in the Assembly, which would have mandated that the operators of cellphone towers and water towers place signs publicizing the National Suicide Prevention Hotline phone number at their base. The bill, however, never left the Economic Development Committee, despite the support of 32 other sponsors.

"In Westchester alone last year



SAMUEL ROWLAND PHOTO

Rocco Battista spoke about the death of his son by suicide in 2008.

almost 80 people lost their lives to suicide," said Maria Itoni, the Hudson Valley/Westchester area director of the American Foundation For Suicide Prevention (AFSP). "I cover six counties. And in Westchester, I feel that we need the most help with getting the word out about suicide."

The current bill was introduced in the New York State Senate on July 30, 2021, by Harckham, the primary sponsor, and was then quickly referred to the Senate Rules Committee, where it will stay until

the 2022 legislative session begins. Skoufis is the Senate bill's main co-sponsor. Assemblymember Aileen M. Gunther (D), Chair of the Assembly's Mental Health Committee, is introducing the same legislation in the Assembly, with Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D/Ossining) ready to co-sponsor.

Along with the general call for means restriction fencing at the five New York State Bridge Authority (NYSBA) bridges, Harckham and Bedford resident Erika Lang Pierce, who had a family member

die of suicide at the Bear Mountain Bridge five weeks ago, criticized the NYSBA and the State Police for not being forthcoming with bridge suicide data.

Pierce claimed a police officer told her soon after she learned about her family member's death that they had stopped counting how many people had died of suicide on the Bear Mountain Bridge, in an apparent attempt to console her that she was not alone in her grief.

When asked for comment by Examiner Media, the NYSBA declined to be interviewed and sent a statement through their public information officer's email.

"The Authority has undertaken a number of initiatives over the past few decades to address the tragedy of suicide. This includes installing Helpline phones and advanced cameras and monitoring equipment on our bridges, staffing a 24/7 Command Center to assist with security monitoring and emergency response, as well as training staff in suicide prevention and Mental Health First Aid," the statement read. "Installing physical barriers on our bridges is an option being considered by the Bridge Authority as part of our capital program. It would not require legislation."



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Politicians React to Blistering AG Report on Cuomo

Westchester DA Opens Probe into Local Allegations

By Ryan J. Degan

Local and regional leaders were quick to condemn Gov. Andrew Cuomo last week after an investigation by New York Attorney General Tish James found that the Democratic governor broke the law by sexually harassing at least 11 women -- including one unidentified New York State Trooper who was assigned to his protective detail in Westchester County.

Released Aug. 3, roughly five months after the investigation began, the report includes nearly 200 interviews over 165 pages, detailing instances of Cuomo engaging in unwanted groping, kissing, hugging and making inappropriate comments with women.

"This is a sad day for New York because independent investigators have concluded that Governor Cuomo sexually harassed multiple women and, in doing so, broke the law," James said. "I am grateful to all the women who came forward to tell their stories in painstaking detail, enabling investigators to get to the truth. No man -- no matter how powerful -- can be allowed to harass women or violate our human rights laws, period."

Cuomo has denied the allegations, stating that "the facts are much different than what has been portrayed."

"I want you to know directly from me, that I never touched anyone inappropriately or made inappropriate sexual advances," he said during a roughly 14-minute video response. "That is just not who I am and that is not who I have ever been."

In response to the report, Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah announced that her team is opening its own investigation into Cuomo's misconduct, after the report detailed that some instances of harassment may have taken place in Westchester.

According to the AG's report, an unidentified female state trooper was originally assigned to the Governor's residence in Mount Kisco, but in April 2019 was moved to a role on the Governor's travel team, sometimes serving as his driver. Cuomo used to live in Mount Kisco with his then-girlfriend Sandra Lee, a celebrity chef. While serving on his protective detail,

the report stated the trooper was subjected to numerous instances of inappropriate touching and verbal harassment.

"Yesterday our office became aware of the final independent report from Attorney General Letitia James' office regarding Governor Andrew Cuomo's conduct," Rocah said in a statement last Wednesday. "As some of the Governor's conduct described in the report occurred in Westchester County, we have formally requested investigative materials obtained by the AG's Office."

Prosecutors from Nassau and Albany counties and in Manhattan, are also looking into the besieged governor's conduct for instances that may have happened in their jurisdictions.

Prior to the county DA's announcement, calls for Cuomo's removal turned into a deafening chorus, with constituents, former allies and elected officials on all sides of the political spectrum calling for his resignation -- with many going so far as to push for impeachment procedures.

Former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, a longtime Cuomo critic and Republican gubernatorial hopeful, renewed his calls for Cuomo's removal, calling the AG report "damning."

"Most know today what I knew in his first term -- that Cuomo is corrupt and incompetent, and New York has been in steady decline during his 11-year reign," Astorino also said. "While many of his top political allies and associates sit in prison today, the question remains just how much longer can he evade accountability and justice. But one thing I believe to be certain and have believed since his first term -- Cuomo has to go."

Adding his voice against the governor, Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (R-Mahopac) said: "For nearly six months, I have said there is more than enough public evidence to justify Assembly impeachment proceedings. The governor's dishonesty over his handling of COVID-19 in nursing homes, his profiteering from a \$5+ million book deal and his now-confirmed gross mistreatment of women both inside and outside of the workplace have all passed the threshold for impeachment."

"Everyone is and should be afforded due process, but we mustn't allow the governor another moment to abuse the powers of his office. The Assembly must vote on an impeachment resolution immediately," he

added.

On the other side of the aisle, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

(D-Yonkers) reiterated her belief the governor should step down, saying, "This report highlights unacceptable behavior by Governor Cuomo and his administration. As I said, when these disturbing allegations first came to light, the Governor must resign for the good of the state. Now that the investigation is complete and the allegations have been substantiated, it should be clear to everyone that he can no longer serve as Governor."

Even local Democratic Westchester County Executive George Latimer joined in on the condemnation of Cuomo, saying, "The Attorney General's findings are clear and compelling. The governor must resign. The patterns of sexually harassing, intimidating and inappropriate behavior towards women cannot be tolerated."

A shortlist of leaders who have called for his resignation or impeachment include Assemblyman Chris Burdick (D-Bedford), State Senator Pete Harckham (D-Lewisboro), Congressman Mondaire Jones (D-White



Gov. Andrew Cuomo has been on the defensive over the conclusions reached in an investigation by Attorney General Tish James.

Plains), Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney (D-Cold Spring), State Senator Shelley Mayer (D-Yonkers), Republican candidate for Westchester County Executive Christine Sculti and Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater.

Those local voices have even been joined by President Joe Biden, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer -- all of whom have called for Cuomo's resignation.

State lawmakers told Cuomo last Thursday that their impeachment investigation is almost complete and gave him a deadline of Aug. 13 to provide additional evidence in his defense.



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Police Blotter

Croton-on-Hudson

July 26: 12:21 p.m. - An owner of a residence on Grand Street called to report that someone possibly broke into one of his vacant apartments. Patrols responded and report that the locks had been changed by an unknown party. Patrols filed a report and an investigation is being conducted.

July 27: 6:05 p.m. - Patrols responded to the area of South Riverside Avenue on a report of a child walking alone. Child

appeared to be about five years old and the caller had seen the child walk across the pedestrian bridge and then along South Riverside Avenue. Patrols located the child, who was six years old, and returned the child to his residence on Grand Street. Patrols spoke with the mother of the child who had been unaware the child had left the residence.

July 29: 10:48 a.m. - A caller reported witnessing a gray sedan swerve across three lanes of traffic, strike a guiderail,

and stop on the shoulder on Route 9 near the Croton Point Avenue exit. Patrols dispatched and checked the area but could not locate the vehicle. A patrol officer then located a vehicle matching that description with damage at a gas station on Croton Point Avenue. Three males were standing next to the vehicle but none of them would cooperate when the officer asked if they were involved in the accident.

July 29: 6:33 p.m. - A caller from a restaurant on North Riverside Avenue reports that a female came in the restaurant, ordered nine entrees and two glasses of wine, despite being alone, and then fell asleep at the table. The woman was told by restaurant staff that she could not sleep at the table. Patrols responded and located the female in a different restaurant on North Riverside Avenue. Patrols then stood by while the female got picked up by a taxi.

July 31: 1:06 p.m. - Patrols responded to the area of Grand Street on a report of a male smoking a marijuana cigarette who appears out of it. Patrols spoke with the individual who was not having any issues.

August 1: 12:51 p.m. - An employee of a business on South Riverside Avenue called to report observing someone just dump garbage into their private dumpster. A description of the vehicle was given. Patrols responded and searched the area but the vehicle was already gone.

August 1: 3:44 p.m. - A caller of a business on South Riverside Avenue

reports that a male had stolen beer from the business earlier in the morning and was now back inside the establishment. Patrols responded. Patrols interviewed the store staff as well as the individual. An investigation is being conducted.

North Castle

July 31: 4:52 p.m. - Sergeant reported he observed a food truck pulled over on Route 22 with a male pouring water over a female's head. Parties checked and okay.

August 1: 8:06 a.m. - Complainant reports loud noise coming from 568 Bedford Rd. Police responded and condition unfounded.

August 2: 3:40 p.m. - Caller reports her two children are locked inside her vehicle but are okay. The car is running and air conditioning is on. Armonk Garage assisted with unlocking car.

August 2: 5:04 p.m. - Caller from Rose Hill Dr. reports his cat has been missing since the day before. Cat's name is "Catmess" and is described as grey with white paws and one of his ears is clipped.

Yorktown

August 4: 7:38 p.m. - Jason Mejia, 26, of Mount Kisco, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident and driving with a suspended license following an accident in the parking lot of Staples Plaza.

Injuries Avoided in Peekskill Crash

The Peekskill Fire Department was dispatched to a reported car accident on Route 9 south of Welcher Avenue on August 1 at 7 p.m. Upon arrival, firefighters found a crushed vehicle between the south and northbound lanes. No major injuries were reported.



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SOUP

4 qts. Chicken Noodle Soup & 12 Matzo Balls

ENTREE (Choose One)

5 Roast Chickens with Tray of Stuffing

Whole Roast Turkey (15 lb. avg.)

4 lbs. Sliced Brisket with Gravy

ACCOMPANIMENTS (All Included)

1 qt. Cranberry-Pineapple Compote

1 qt. Fresh-Cut Cole Slaw • 1 qt. Carrot Tsimmes

SIDES (Choose Two)

String Beans Almondine • Egg Barley & Mushrooms

Kasha Varnishkes • Broccoli Almondine

Sweet Potato Pudding • Noodle Pudding

Potato Pudding

\$239.94 for 6

APPETIZER

6 pieces of Gefilte Fish

1.5 pts. Chopped Liver

SOUP

2 qts. Chicken Noodle Soup & 7 Matzo Balls

ENTREE (Choose One)

3 Roast Chickens with Tray of Stuffing

2.5 lbs. Fresh Turkey Breast

2.5 lbs. Fresh Brisket

ACCOMPANIMENTS (All Included)

1 pt. Cranberry-Pineapple Compote

1.5 pts. Fresh-Cut Cole Slaw

Round Challah

SIDES (Choose Two)

String Beans Almondine • Egg Barley & Mushrooms

Kasha Varnishkes • Broccoli Almondine

Sweet Potato Pudding • Noodle Pudding

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Obituaries

Greta Cohan

Greta Cohan, a longtime resident of White Plains, died August 1. She was 91.

She was born in White Plains on September 2, 1929 to Jewish immigrant parents from Poland. She was the second oldest of four children. She was a lifelong learner who loved reading and used her library card frequently from a young age. For her first two years of college, she attended Syracuse University, where she met the love of her life and later married him in 1949. They were an example of what a beautiful and loving relationship looks like for all those around them and would have celebrated 72 years of marriage later this month. Greta began a family with her husband, and later returned to finish her bachelor's degree at Sarah Lawrence College and then a master's degree. She taught English at Westchester Community College, where she was a beloved and caring professor for 36 years. Her office, C10, was often filled with students who looked to her for advice, both for coursework and life while eating cookies and drinking coffee. Greta loved baking and sweets, listening to classical music, reading, and spending time with her large and loving family. She was a matriarch of her extended family, creating and continuing a tradition to bring them together yearly for Passover. She was a pillar of empathy, kindness, love, and warmth for her community as a professor, wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She was preceded in death by her



Greta Cohan

parents, Conrad and Ruth Schnur and her sister, Lorraine Cohen. She is survived by her husband, Julian; her sister Anita Chakin and brother Robert Schnur; her children, Richard (Nina), Gerry, and Jody Prysock (Wallace); her grandchildren, Tia Pearson, Adam (Brooke), Alexander, Jennifer Gill (Steven Marin), Lindsey Gill de Nieves (Jorge), Charles (Holly), David, and Rebeka; and her great-grandchildren Isabella, Gabrielle, Skylar, Charlotte, George, Ari, Tristan, and Clara.

Mary Terry Bartok

Retired Elementary School teacher Mary Terry Bartok's ("Terry") love of life didn't come to an end with her death. The resident of Cortlandt died July 25, 2021 at the age of 73 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. She was surrounded by loved ones, who will continue to honor her legacy by living their lives to the fullest.

She was born October 17, 1947 in Brooklyn, NY to Justin and Mary McCarthy. She married Frank Bartok a fellow Ossining teacher on August 12, 1972, enjoying more than 50 years together.

Terry was known to most as a warm, caring and strong woman who had a deep and enduring love for her close family and friends. She enjoyed painting, playing bridge and traveling with close friends and family. There was never a store that Terry did not like to shop in.

She moved to Valeria in Cortlandt in 2015 after she and Frank raised their two daughters in Yorktown Heights since the early 1970's.

She is survived by her loving husband Frank, daughters Katie Varney and Megan Bartok, brother Rick McCarthy and stepsister Lynne Higbie. She left behind five grandchildren who thought the world of her, Alex, Madison, McKenna, Jack and Maxwell as well as son in law Brian, sister-in-law Ellen, nephew Justin and



Mary Terry Bartok

niece Jennifer as well as many cousins. She was pre-deceased by her sister Karen McCarthy, mother Mary Burns Broderick and stepfather Edward Broderick.

Terry completed her bachelor's degree from St. Thomas Aquinas and Master's degree from Bridgeport University. Terry's pride was evident in her students as she shared her passion for learning with thousands of children in the 30 plus years she spent teaching. She spent her final years in the Ossining Public School district as the President of the teachers Union.

Gerald Francis Doeblbler

On July 23, 2021, Gerald 'Jerry' Francis Doeblbler left this world at age 89 on the last of his many journeys, this time to paradise with his children at his side.

Jerry was born on June 27, 1932 at Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio. In his youth he acquired a passion for chemistry. He attended Brackenridge High School excelling in science and graduating valedictorian of his class in 1949.

Jerry earned his Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, studying under renowned chemist Professor Roger J. Williams. He married Dr. Thelma (nee Kustoff) from El Paso, in 1957 and they moved Buffalo, New York where he began working for Union Carbide eventually becoming senior research scientist. The family moved to Poplar St. Yorktown in 1969 where Thelma and Jerry raised seven children including triplet daughters and supported all their children through college. His daughters are graduates of Texas universities.

After retiring from Union Carbide, Jerry returned to the Alamo City to continue his career as a Professor of Chemistry at Incarnate Word College where he taught for a decade. He published numerous important research papers in the field of biochemistry and cryobiology, especially blood preservation. His work can be viewed at <https://curt1313.wixsite.com/geralddoeblbler>.

Jerry kept busy in retirement visiting all his children across the country and around the world. He was an avid photographer documenting his travels. His travels took him to the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, France, Palestine, Israel, Egypt, and Switzerland. Jerry was a devoted Catholic of Saint Cecilia's parish in San Antonio and



Gerald Francis Doeblbler

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Shrub Oak.

Jerry is survived by his former wife Thelma, and his children, Curtis and Flavia, Eric and Kelly, Eulalia (Ralph) and Jonathan, Michael and Anne, Maureen, Brenda (Meyers) and Scott, and Teresa (Larson) and Ric. Also surviving Jerry are grandchildren Jacqueline and Brian Ralph, Savannah and Frankie Meyers, Michael, Jr., and Haley Larson. Jerry was predeceased by his father Frank, his mother Vivian (nee Rilling) and his brother Tommy Ray. Memorial donations can be made to any Alzheimer's Association.



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Letters to the Editor

We Can Look to Emulate Nita Lowey in Her Public Service Career

The Moving Harrison Forward team would like to recognize and celebrate a beloved politician, our former congressional representative Nita Lowey.

Nita retired in January after an outstanding 32 years of service as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Nita represented New York’s 17th Congressional District that included of a portion of Westchester County, most especially our town of Harrison.

As Election Day approaches, we think about the impact we would like to have as elected officials. Nita is the kind of politician we hope to emulate:

moral, bold, principled, committed to justice and to her constituents.

Among her many accomplishments, Nita was a pioneer for women in politics. She was one of only 31 women in Congress when she was first elected in 1989 (today there are 127 women). In 2001 and 2002, Nita served as the first woman to chair the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. And in 2018, Nita became the first woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee.

Nita’s legislative achievements are almost too numerous to recount. She helped author a congressional bill that required food manufacturers to clearly label food allergens on their products. Her hard work led to legislation instituting a blood-alcohol level of .08

as the drunk driving standard for all states. She passed legislation that allowed her to procure record-high funding to clean up Long Island Sound. Nita also appeared before Congress with Sesame Street characters Bert and Ernie to support PBS funding.

Nita was an advocate for early childhood education and at every level (especially for girls around the globe), quality health care and robust biomedical research, environmental protection and women’s issues. She was an early advocate for pandemic preparedness, a proponent of gun violence protection, stricter public safety laws and national security. Nita was recognized as a key figure in the effort to rebuild New York after the tragic events of 9/11.

Nita’s public service career is best summed up by something she said as her congressional career neared its close. When reflecting on her 32 years of service, she said she was always guided by a basic principle: “When you see a problem, do something about it.”

The Moving Harrison Forward team looks forward to serving you, fixing problems in our community and pushing for positive change, just as Nita did for so many years.

Frank Gordon, Candidate for Mayor
Rachel Berkey, Candidate for Town Board
Adam Weiner, Candidate for Town Board

The End of an Era in Pleasantville

As a lifelong Pleasantville resident, I have had the pleasure of knowing the owners of the Pleasantville Pharmacy since its beginning. I can truthfully say, without exception, it has been a great experience and one we never thought to change.

While this week has been confusing, and worrisome, it cannot have been a decision entered into lightly by any of the parties involved. Times have changed. Insurance Companies have put pressure on small independent pharmacies equal to those on independent doctors. The pandemic added another dimension that can only be described as staggering.

A Thank You for Hercules Being Found after 13 Days Lost in the Woods

To the residents of Peekskill, Cortlandt, Montrose and Buchanan, we would like to thank you for your help, sympathy and support in bringing home our Hercules. A special thank you to animal control officers Wendell (Peekskill) and Holly (Cortlandt) who helped search for Hercules and report sightings. Kevin Dever from Momo and the Rescues, Chuck from Dyckman’s Wildlife Control and Nicole from Buddha Dog Rescue who were all critical in helping bring Hercules home. To the Montrose fire department and all local/state/county police officers who actively kept an eye out as well, thank you so much and thank you for your

service. To the staff of Blue Mountain Park/ Westchester County parks who let us hang signs/camp out at the park at all hours and all local businesses who hung signs, sincerely, thank you.

We are still having a hard time believing that Hercules is home, it was an unimaginable 2 weeks and we couldn’t have done it without the support we received from these communities. Everybody, complete strangers, many of which we still haven’t even met, went above and beyond to help us in more ways than we can count. Throughout this all we’ve managed to still form new friendships and meet so many amazing

people. From spreading the word on social media, to hiking the trails, driving around, checking Ring cameras, calling in sightings, giving us dog food/water and offering us a resting spot in your home, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The support we received has left us humbled and speechless.

We are so grateful to have our Hercules home safe and unscathed after two weeks lost in the woods. We couldn’t have done it without everyone in these communities, thank you again for everything.

Gabrielle Sansotta

For these reasons, we would like to give a shout-out to Sal and Ira for getting us through this past uncertain and chaotic year with the concern, compassion and kindness that we have all come to expect and possibly taken for granted.

This is a big thank you and best wishes for the future to Sal and Ira. You guys deserve it.

Ken and Sharon Foley

Join Hebrew Congregation of Somers for High Holiday Services

Join Hebrew Congregation of Somers for inspiring High Holiday services starting the evening of Monday, Sept. 6, led by Rabbi Shoshana Leis and Cantor Raechel Rosen. Family-friendly services will be offered on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. For more information and registration, visit www.hebrewcongregationofsomers.org, e-mail questions@hebrewcongregationofsomers.org or call 914-248-9532.

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Business Team:

Adam Stone
Publisher
astone@theexaminernews.com

Laura Markowski
Associate Publisher
lmarkowski@theexaminernews.com

Peter Stone
C.F.O.
pstone@theexaminernews.com

To inquire about paid subscriptions, email subscriptions@theexaminernews.com for pricing and other details

PO Box 611
Mount Kisco, NY 10549
914-864-0878
www.TheExaminerNews.com

Print Team:

Martin Wilbur
Editor-in-Chief
mwilbur@theexaminernews.com

Rick Pezzullo
Editor
rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com

Ray Gallagher
Sports Editor
rgallagher@theexaminernews.com

Rob Diantonio
Assistant Sports Editor
rdiantonio@theexaminernews.com

Annette Van Ommeren
Designer

Paul Cardì
Senior Account Executive
pcardi@theexaminernews.com

Jeff Ohlbaum
Senior Account Executive
johlbaum@theexaminernews.com

Ken Gulmi
Senior Account Executive
kgulmi@theexaminernews.com

Nick Antonaccio
Wine columnist

Bill Primavera
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David Rocco
Distribution

David Devine
Distribution

Digital Team:

Robert Schork
Digital Editorial Director
rschork@theexaminernews.com

Bailey Hosfelt
Reporter
bhosfelt@theexaminernews.com

Dean Pacchiana
Webmaster
dpacchiana@theexaminernews.com

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Obituaries

Jimmy Johnson, Sr.

Jimmy M. Johnson, Sr., a resident of Peekskill, died July 26 at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital. He was 73.

He was born October 31, 1947, in Orangeburg County, SC. He was the first born of nine siblings. At the age of 12, Jimmy made his confession of faith in Jesus Christ at Old Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Reverend Wilson, Pastor, in Bowman, SC. Most recently, Jimmy aligned himself with Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Reverend Young, Pastor, in Peekskill. It was here that he joined his wife Jackie in becoming a member and made a public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Just prior to his death he was a faithful participant in virtual bible study for over a year. Jimmy's life anchoring scripture is Psalm 116. For Jimmy, this Psalm attests to his testimony of the despair and the depths of darkness from which God delivered him, and his acknowledgement of his faith and love for the Lord.

Jimmy held membership in The VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), DAV (Disabled American Veterans), NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and was a strong advocate and supporter of bountiful civil rights initiatives.

Jimmy was quite astute as an avid competitor in both the games of Chess and Backgammon. He held great affection for the sport and the family of competitors of whom shared his like passion for the game.



Jimmy Johnson, Sr.

Jimmy's early childhood and secondary education was in the Orangeburg County, South Carolina School System. It was there that he earned and received his high school diploma, graduating from Bethune Memorial High School, Bowman, SC. Upon completion of high school, he matriculated at Voorhees College, Denmark, SC. Thereafter, under the U.S. Involuntary Selective Service, he was drafted at the age of 19 into the U.S. Army in 1967. During his tenure in the U.S. Army, he served his country faithfully and honorably with bravery and valor as an infantry soldier, serving in the war zones of Vietnam. He excelled in this extremely dangerous assignment and attained the rank of Sargent. Jimmy was awarded numerous commendations on behalf of his exemplary

service: National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, Air Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Upon successful separation from active duty service in 1969, Jimmy then transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve Station Ft. Meade Maryland. While in Maryland, he embarked upon a career as a police officer; thus, after successfully completing all necessary training requirements, he was installed as a police officer, and joined ranks with The Baltimore, Maryland Police Force.

Jimmy later relocated to New York City with his young family. There he launched a successful moving business, "Double J Moving," while also employed by The US Postal Service, and the New York City Transit Authority, from which he retired after many years of faithful service. He subsequently relocated to Peekskill. It was there that he purchased his home, met his wife Jackie, and resided until his death.

Jimmy is survived by his beautiful, loving, and devoted wife, Jacqueline (Jackie), his calming, steady, and unwavering support, with whom he loved and enjoyed an exciting and adventurous life. Jackie has been his quiet strength through both the joy and the pain leading up to his death. Jimmy and Jackie began a budding relationship 14 years ago that beautifully bloomed and blossomed into holy matrimony on June 16, 2014; with this union he was blessed with another beloved son, Paul Odean, along with his Dearly Beloved Children: Mary Wyetta Johnson (Bronx, NY);

Jimmy M. Johnson, Jr. "Mann" (NY); Ché Inell Johnson (Schuylerville, NY); Michelle Perez, and his goddaughter, Nicole; His Dearly Beloved Brothers: Andrew Johnson (Lester Marie), Orangeburg, SC; Michael A. Johnson, Carlsbad, NM; Tony F. Johnson, Orangeburg, SC. Beloved Sisters: Mary Denise Rapier (John), Nashville, TN; Gloria J. Johnson (Elwis), Tacoma, WA; Merceil M. Bowditch, Severn, MD; His Doting and Beloved Grandchildren whom he spoke of with such adoration; Jacob, Chloé, Emilia, Christopher, Jarrett, Izael, Oxanya, Sterling and Orianya; Beloved Aunts: Daisy Goodwin, NYC (his dearly, dearly beloved aunt whom has been his undying support during his many years while living in NY); Betty Lary, and Starmanda Richardson, Bowman, SC, both of whom share many fond, beautiful and exciting memories of adventures and other experiences growing up together with Jimmy, and throughout later years.

Jimmy was big in stature, and always rendered a big response. When asked how are you doing? His response always included "Truly Blessed!" He was big in personality, big in support of family, big on politics and world events, big in living life on the edge, and one who was never shy of a great thrill. He had a big heart and shared freely.

He was preceded in death by his loving parents Harvey and Mary Inell Richardson Johnson; beloved brothers: Harvey Johnson, Jr. and Daniel L. Johnson; a devoted and loving wife, the mother of their children, Grace G. Johnson; and beloved daughter, Mercedes Yvonne Johnson.

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Hill Boulevard in Yorktown Reopens after \$2.6M Work

The Hill Boulevard Bridge reopened in Jefferson Valley August 3, following a \$2.6 million replacement of the culvert over a Barger Brook tributary.

The original culvert was in extremely poor condition and had been "Red Flagged" by the New York State Department of Transportation for many years. Transit Construction Corp. successfully met the weather and construction challenges and delivered the project on time.

"Transit did well by us over on Veterans Road and they did well by us here," said Highway Superintendent Dave Paganelli.

"Transit suffered measurable setbacks throughout the project, but they've done a great job and we're thrilled with our partnership."

The Williams Sale Partnership of USA, located in New York, designed the Hill Boulevard Project.

The five-month project consists of a rectangular-shaped precast concrete culvert that is 32 feet wide by 15 feet depth with a 10-foot-high opening. The surrounding areas of the culvert were cleared, re-shaped and new landscaping was installed to enhance the "gateway"

to Jefferson Village. New utility lines were incorporated into the construction to improve the town's sewerage system and water supply network.

"This is a project of six years in the making, and we couldn't have asked for a better work force," said Supervisor Matt Slater. "Everyone be safe and remember one lane is open in each direction for now."

The closure created inconvenient transportation detours.

"This is great for the residents of the village, as well as the local businesses," said Council Member Ed Lachterman. "We have a medical complex next store that is now easy to get to in addition to the shopping."

Normal commuting is returning to the area before schools reopen.



Yorktown officials celebrated completion of work last week.

"Be safe, and enjoy your road," said Council Member Vishnu Patel.

Trump Supporters Clash with Locals at Golf Club Fundraiser for State GOP

continued from page 5
people, he hurt me."

On the other side of the road stood China-born Stephanie Liu, who believes Trump sacrificed much for the country. "We love him. He is here because he has to do fundraising and we all donate to the Republican Party all the time."

Shannon Powell, co-founder of Indivisible Westchester, said it was clear that the New York Republican Party has refused to denounce the insurrection and discredit the claim that Biden won the 2020 presidential election, Powell said.

"The New York GOP has no shame. They fully embrace what Trump stands for. It's a sad day for the United States," she said.

The fact that full embrace exists is one of the few things the two sides agree on. The New York Republican State Committee highlighted the Trump fundraiser in a press release, saying the event raised more than \$1 million from the event.

"This event was a record-breaking success," NYGOP Chairman Nick Langworthy remarked in the press release. "...There is a huge sense of excitement and optimism for the future of the Republican Party in New York. President Trump recognizes this and we are so grateful for his loyalty and support in helping us secure the resources we need to win."

NRC to Hold Online Meeting Aug. 18 on Indian Pt. Decommissioning Report

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will conduct a virtual meeting on Aug. 18 at 4 p.m. to discuss and receive comments on a decommissioning roadmap report for the Indian Point nuclear power plant.

On July 29, the staff held a hybrid meeting in Tarrytown, for the same purpose, with a phone line available for those who opted not to attend in person. However, local storms and technical

issues resulted in remote participants encountering audio problems.

The meeting will be conducted via the WebEx videostreaming platform using this link: <https://usnrc.webex.com/usnrc/onstage/g.php?MTID=ea7e065bc5adc130dd0826368b5506e6e> . A phone line will be used for the audio portion. To access that line, please call 1-888-989-9738, passcode: 2331350#.

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Dr. Luks firmly believes that patients should have an active participation in their health and health decisions. He spends his time getting to know his patients to figure out a treatment plan that works for them.

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Prep Your Home, Dorm and Classroom for a New School Year

Many students spent the last school year learning virtually. Now, there are a lot of items on parents' and teachers' to-do lists to help get ready for a return to traditional learning this school year.

Below are tips to help simplify the transition – at home, in the classroom and in a dorm room.

At Home

Take Time to Declutter. With most students returning to in-person learning, it's easy to forget about the workspace at home. Create an area for homework and studying that's free of distractions by throwing out unnecessary items, filing away papers in folders and buying new supplies like pens, highlighters and paper. Keep items in place in desk drawers and shelves to protect the surface from scratches and dents.

Meal Prep for Simple Mornings. Early morning routines and busy commutes will become the norm again. Keep them stress-free by stocking up on a variety of breakfast and lunch options so you can prepare and pack delicious meals and nutritious snacks for the week. By having meals planned and proper ingredients on hand, kids can get to the bus on time and



stay focused all morning.

In the Classroom

Welcome Students Back. Teachers can create a fun and welcoming environment by decorating the classroom with colorful bulletin boards and personalized nametags. There are budget-friendly ways to add extra protection and ensure they last all year long.

Help Keep Students and Teachers Healthy. The health and safety of students and teachers should continue

to be prioritized. Take proper hygiene measures by encouraging children to wash their hands, cover their coughs and catch their sneezes. Keep a small bottle of hand sanitizer in lunch boxes and backpacks for convenient sanitizing.

In a Dorm Room

Create a Home Away from Home. Moving away from home and adjusting to living alone can be challenging for college students, but the transition can be made a bit easier by making their dorm feel like

home. Personalize the space by hanging family photos, canvases with fun colors and patterns or string lights.

Ensure Proper Nutrition. Getting adequate sleep and proper nutrition are necessary for fighting colds and flus while living in close quarters with others. Skip the chips and use EasyLiner Disposable Cutting Mats to cut up fresh fruits and veggies for a nutritious snack without having to leave the room. These disposable cutting mats provide a strong and flexible cutting surface, while the textured bottom keeps the cutting mat in place. They come in a convenient box with a built-in easy cut slider for quick and easy clean-up.

To find other products and ideas that can help get the school year off to a great start, visit duckbrand.com.

For many students, this school year is coming on the heels of a year and a half of virtual learning. With a few smart strategies, you can help keep students organized, happy and healthy as they make the transition.

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Disaster Preparedness Webinar Held in Wake of Tropical Storm Isaias

By Samuel Rowland

The American Red Cross and Assembly Member Chris Burdick (D; 93rd District) hosted a volunteer-led webinar for residents of the Greater New York region last week, coinciding with the first anniversary of Tropical Storm Isaias.

The online event, led by three Red Cross volunteers, provided an overview of the resources and survival strategies available to give residents the best practical chance to survive any sort of disaster relatively unharmed.

Tropical Storm Isaias killed two people in New York State alone, shut down the Metro North and Long Island Railroads and caused \$4.5 billion in damages in the United States. As a unit, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) named the official 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season (lasting May 16, 2020 to Nov. 18, 2020) as the most active on record, with 30 named storms – 14 were hurricanes – when the average season sees 12 storms in total.

While no storms are currently approaching, the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season that began on June 1, will not end until November 30.

Other dangers covered during the webinar included active shooting situations, flooding, prolonged blackouts, heat waves, epidemics/pandemics, potential failures at Indian Point and home fires.

“One of the things that we have also



PAUL J. RICHARDS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

been talking about is what Red Cross is mostly involved in,” said Alex Poku, an American Red Cross volunteer and the main presenter. “The Red Cross is involved in responding to a home fire every eight minutes across this country.”

Their advice for responding to home fires was in-depth, but some important takeaways were the necessity of using the right type of fire extinguisher for the type of fire source you are dealing with, and that residents need to get out of their home within two minutes after hearing a

fire alarm go off, as fire can spread very quickly.

Regarding the related issue of carbon monoxide poisoning, the same time limit applies. Other important subjects to remember are not to try to search for the source of the leak, not to operate portable power generators inside and that New York State mandates the use of carbon monoxide detectors in all homes and provides them for free upon request.

The advice provided for navigating an active shooter situation was summarized

as Run, Hide or Fight, in that order. First, if there is a viable escape path, run to it, leaving belongings behind, and not attempting to move the wounded (let first responders know their location). If you can’t run, find a safe space, block the entrance, and turn off all lights and device sound to buy yourself time. Only if neither running nor hiding is possible are you advised to fight.

“In situations like active shooter, you are your own first responder,” Red Cross Volunteer Berklea Going said. “These situations happen so quickly that they are often over before law enforcement or help arrives on the scene. You have to prioritize your own safety and ensure your survival.”

General advice on disaster preparation, regardless of the disaster, was provided by Poku. Poku went over survival items residents should buy, essential items for a quick, light 10-day evacuation bag and the necessity of creating a comprehensive Family Emergency Plan that all members of the household understand.

Advice on responding to disasters and their aftermath was provided by Red Cross Volunteer Sean McCarthy. They included the basics of sheltering in place, evacuation, and what to do when trapped.

“Make sure that you and your loved ones are safe,” McCarthy said. “Then, once everything is done on your end, check in on your neighborhood...because that’s how we come back, together.”



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County Approves Restoration of Historic Farmhouse

By Sam Barron

An historic farmhouse in Bedford and Mount Kisco is getting a mini-makeover.

The Westchester County Board of Legislators approved \$400,000 in financing last week for a design for the restoration of the Farm House at Merestead Park. The 19th century farmhouse, located on 130 acres, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The county has had ownership of the property since 2002.

Legislator Kitley Covill (D-Katonah), who has been a major advocate for maintaining Merestead, cheered the deal.

"It is important that we properly care for and preserve the historic buildings entrusted to us," Covill said. "The restored Farm House will not only give future visitors a window into our past, but also stand as a symbol of good county stewardship of our history."

Assemblyman Chris Burdick (D-Bedford) said he plans to request the release of \$250,000 in state grant money to assist with the restoration.

Margaret Sloane Patterson and her husband Robert willed the property to the county for use as a park in 1981, and the county took ownership after Sloane Patterson died in 2001. The property also includes a 28-room mansion built in 1907. At the time, the Patterson's donation was the largest in county history.

The county was also given the couple's



The Farm House at Merestead Park is getting a \$400,000 facelift from Westchester County.

art collection and a collection of autographs from almost every former American President, with the notable exception of Warren G. Harding, since Sloane

Patterson's mother wouldn't have him in the house, according to an interview she gave when she donated the property. The Pattersons also had autographs from

Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson and a letter from Eugene O'Neill.

The couple also provided the county with a \$4.1 million endowment to ensure the property was maintained.

The county has tried various ways to use the property since taking ownership, including using it as a performance space for Copeland House, according to Bedford Town Historian John Stockbridge, a longtime proponent of Merestead.

"It just didn't pan out too well," Stockbridge said. "They weren't getting much use out of the property and it was declining."

The farmhouse eventually became inhospitable as it continued to deteriorate, Stockbridge said. The county had already approved \$4 million in 2019 to restore the exterior of the main mansion.

Stockbridge said the property offers some of the best views in the county.

"You really oughta see it," Stockbridge said. "At the top of the hill you can look across the whole Hudson River Valley. It's really an incredible property. It offers one of the classic views of Bedford."

The town historian said he is hopeful this new financing will lead to a more positive future for Merestead.

"I want to see if the county can follow through and see if we can get it into this place where we can use it and enjoy it," Stockbridge said.

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Lineup for JazzFest White Plains Concerts Announced

The sounds of live jazz will be flowing throughout downtown White Plains as JazzFest White Plains returns with 15 live performances this September 9 – 12, 2021.

Headlining this year's much anticipated celebration of music and culture are rising stars and jazz legends including: Theo Croker, Ravi Coltrane, Emmet Cohen, Gabrielle Garo, Erena Terakubo, Alphonso Horne and the Ray Blue Quartet with special guest Samara Joy and more! JazzFest White Plains is an annual event sponsored by Bank of America and produced by ArtsWestchester, the City of White Plains and the White Plains BID.

For a full festival schedule and to purchase advanced tickets, please visit artswestchester.org/jazzfest.

"JazzFest features some of the most talented musicians you will ever hear, but it's also so much more. It's a celebration of cultures, communities and the artists who make it all come to life," says ArtsWestchester CEO Janet T. Langsam. "I invite everyone to join us at JazzFest this fall as we celebrate the return of live music to our streets and downtowns and restart the arts together!"

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach said, "It is a pleasure to partner with ArtsWestchester and the White Plains Business Improvement District for the 10th anniversary of JazzFest White Plains. Over the years, this event has grown from a one day, one venue event into a multi-day, multi-venue jazz destination event that brings world-class jazz musicians to White Plains and the Metro-NY region."

JazzFest 2021 returns to White Plains with

an all in-person program and a stellar lineup of artists. For its tenth year, the festival remains true to its roots, presenting jazz from an outstanding roster of Westchester and NYC musicians.

2021 JAZZFEST WHITE PLAINS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8 - Preview Event
12-1:30pm | Shah/Gomes/Belo Brazilian Jazz Trio (FREE) White Plains Farmers Market, 59 Court St.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 9
12-1pm | Gabrielle Garo Quartet (FREE) Grace Church, 33 Church Street
6-9pm | Jazz'n ARTSBASH ft. Ravi Coltrane Quartet, a benefit concert for ArtsWestchester. City Square Park, 50 Main Street, White Plains

ArtsWestchester and Ginsburg Development Companies present the first annual Jazz'n ArtsBash Benefit Concert with live music by the Ravi Coltrane Quartet.

Join us under the stars for cocktails, music, and hors d'oeuvres. The outdoor concert event will include two sets at 7pm and at 8:15pm.

Individual Tickets: \$100; ArtsWestchester Members: \$85. For sponsorship opportunities and to purchase tickets, visit <https://tinyurl.com/zr99frrt>

*For ticketholders, proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required for entry. Given



the outdoor setting and vaccination requirement, masks will be optional.

FRIDAY SEPT. 10

12pm | Jazz at Noon: Anaïs Reno with the Pete Malinverni Trio (FREE) White Plains Public Library

Plaza, 100 Martine Ave.

7:30pm | Emmet Cohen Trio (\$25 for 7:30pm | \$40 for both 7:30 & 9pm) Grace Church, 33 Church Street.

9pm | Emmet Cohen Trio (\$25 for 9pm | \$40 for both 7:30 & 9pm) Grace Church, 33 Church Street.

SATURDAY SEPT. 11

12-2 pm | Music in Motion: Alphonso Horne and the Gotham Kings (Free) Starting at White Plains Plaza, 1 North Broadway.

Catch Alphonso Horne and the Gotham Kings live in downtown White Plains as they serenade outdoor cafés! Eat at your favorite restaurant and enjoy the band's performance as they stroll along the sidewalk playing music for outdoor diners.

4:30 pm | Dinner and a Show: Carole Alexis Company / Ballet des Amériques at Via Garibaldi (Dinner price \$58pp | Children aged 5-12 \$29pp) White Plains Plaza, 1 North Broadway.

Advance tickets include:

- live performance by members of professional dance company Ballet des Amériques

- 3-course dinner inclusive of tax and gratuity
- premier seating

* This performance will take place outdoors with advanced dining reservations required for premier seating. Patrons can also view the performance on the plaza, but must bring their own chair.

7:30 pm | Theo Croker Quartet (\$25 for 7:30pm set | \$40 for both 7:30 & 9pm sets) The Playgroup Theatre, 1 North Broadway, #111

9 pm | Theo Croker Quartet (\$25 for 9pm set | \$40 for both 7:30 & 9pm sets) The Playgroup Theatre, 1 North Broadway, #111

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12:

1-6:30pm | White Plains JazzFest Culminating Event (Ticket Prices: \$25/\$15) Court Street (between Main St. and Martine Ave.) Tickets required for Admission**

1-1:45 pm | Westchester Center for Jazz & Contemporary Music

2:05-2:55 pm | Gilberto Colón Jr. & Ensalada De Pulpo

3:15-4:05pm | Erena Terakubo Quartet

4:25-5:15pm | Kotoko Brass

5:35-6:30pm | Ray Blue Quartet with Special Guest Samara Joy

** The Sunday performance will take place outdoors, at reduced capacity with advanced ticket purchase required. For the safety of all attendees and employees, tickets are sold in group seating's. Each group will have their designated table for the duration of the event and re-enter the event at their leisure. Tickets are non-refundable.

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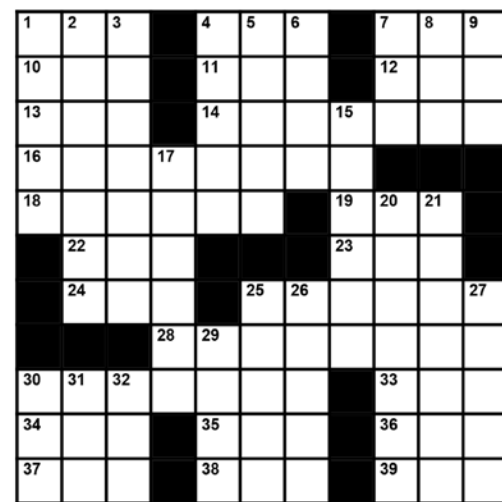
Crossword

Across

- Avenue crossers, abbr.
- ___ vivant
- Valueless
- ___ rule (usually)
- Mad feeling
- "The greatest" boxer
- Nonetheless
- There is no "ceiling" on what you can find at this Mt. Kisco jewelry store: ___ Unlimited
- Caviar source
- Jerusalem nation
- Carrier to Copenhagen, for short
- Lowest commissioned officer (abbr.)
- Stately tree
- Mach 1 breaker, abbr.
- "Pleasantville's Latest Catch": A Seafood ___ Grill
- Traitor
- Dense fog
- Young boy
- Everyone
- Compass point
- Ft. Wayne's home, abbr.
- Request for proposal, for short
- Great gymnastics score
- Approximately

Down

- "Everyone ___ love you" (Woody Allen movie)
- Scary African flies



- Ion and Vue, in the auto industry
- Dirty water in a ship's bottom
- Architectural projection
- Lost fish in film
- ___ King Cole
- Suffix with percent
- Jar part
- Supplement
- Many Bob Marley fans
- Acid neutralizers
- Czech composer
- Pad dweller
- Ski town
- Stuffed bear
- Assignment
- Hole goal
- Little one
- Piz Bernina, e.g.

Answers on page 19

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Support Connection Ambassadors Chosen for Annual Support-A-Walk

By Rick Pezzullo

Support Connection, Inc. recently announced the selection of the Walk Ambassadors for its Annual Support-A-Walk, which will hopefully take place on Sunday, October 3, at FDR State Park in Yorktown.

Walk Ambassadors are cancer survivors who represent the spirit and purpose of the Support-A-Walk. The Walk brings attention to the needs of people affected by breast and ovarian cancer and raises funds for Support Connection's free counseling and other support services for those affected by these diseases.

This year's Walk Ambassadors are Jacqueline Baker and Beth Gilinsky, both of Yorktown.

Baker is an ovarian cancer survivor who credits Support Connection services with helping her cope with her illness.

"Support Connection was and still is a big part of my successful recovery. I faced many difficult challenges with my treatments but I 'weathered the storm' and came through strong, feeling like myself again and a very positive attitude," Baker said.

In December 2019, Baker began experiencing an array of symptoms: digestive issues, bloating, feeling too full, and losing weight. She wasted no time seeking answers, but it took many tests and medical consults before she learned, in February 2020, that she had Stage 3 ovarian cancer.

"So many people think a Pap smear screens for ovarian cancer, but that's not true. There is no screening for ovarian cancer," she said.

When Baker had surgery on March 3, 2020, doctors found the tumors were too large to remove. She went through 18 weeks of chemotherapy, at the height of the COVID pandemic, making it even more difficult and isolating.

"It was frightening and scary. I had my family and friends, but I still needed someone else to talk to. Support Connection was there to give me exactly what they do: 'support' living with ovarian cancer even in the middle of a pandemic!" she said.

After her chemo ended in July 2020, Baker had surgery again and now she's on maintenance therapy.

Always committed to making a difference in the community, Baker attended her first

Support-A-Walk in 2019. In 2020 she walked again, with a Team she called "Jackie O."

Being a Walk Ambassador is something Baker takes seriously.

"It gives me a platform to share my experiences with ovarian cancer. I hope my story will inspire other women, give them some comfort and sense of well-being, and let them know they don't have to go through this alone," she said. "Giving your time to participate in the Walk shows you care, encourages others to get involved, and brightens everyone's day. No one should have to go through this difficult journey alone. The Walk spreads awareness and lets us come together as a community to support one another. You can make a difference for someone who has or has had cancer by just being there."

With a family history of breast cancer, Gilinsky has always been vigilant about getting screenings.

In 2006 a biopsy revealed she had lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS), where abnormal cells form in the breast's milk glands, and indicates an increased risk of developing breast cancer. She called Support Connection for the first time when she got that news.

Eight years later, in 2014, Gilinsky was told she had breast cancer. Even though her cancer was caught early, she made the difficult decision to have a double mastectomy.

"It's a very personal choice. With all I'd gone through for so long – screenings twice a year, a biopsy almost every year – I didn't want to continue to live with so much uncertainty," she said.

Gilinsky reached out again to Support Connection, speaking regularly to a Peer Counselor.

"Talking to my counselor was so valuable. Sometimes I felt like the 'lucky' one, but it was still so hard. My counselor validated my feelings and my decisions and really helped me through it," she said.

Gilinsky is very grateful for the help she received. She regularly attends events including the Support-A-Walk, where she walks and raises funds with a group of friends she calls "Beth's Bosom Buddies."

"It's so important to share Support Connection's message. It's an amazing organization. They give cancer patients, survivors and families a place to talk, vent, or ask for guidance. All the counselors have



Jacqueline Baker



Beth Gilinsky

been there. They know, from experience, how you feel," she said.

Gilinsky explained why others should join her and participate in the Walk.

"Unfortunately, too many people are affected by breast or ovarian cancer. At my first Walk I was shocked to see how many people attended. Support Connection can only do their job if we support them

with donations. The Walk is their biggest fundraiser. It's a great day to do something to help those who are going through cancer," she said.

To donate to the Support-A-Walk, or to learn how to participate or fundraise, visit <http://www.supportconnection.org/support-a-walk> or call 914-962-6402.

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Want to Escape the Pandemic Blues? Think Pink!

After enduring the “blues” of the COVID-19 pandemic for almost two years, enduring “black” moods because many of us find ourselves in the “red” with the loss of jobs, or perhaps we’re “green” with envy of those doing better than we, why shouldn’t it seem appropriate to utilize the color metaphor to feel “in the pink” again? Specifically, with the color pink?

Physiologists and color psychologists say that pink in our living environment enhances mood and even improves our health, creating calm, feelings of security and actually lowering blood pressure. And, I remember an article The New York Times’ Home Section anointing the re-introduction of pink into our bathrooms, long banished since its heyday in the 1950s.

It’s funny because, from the time I got into the real estate business, any bathroom with pink tile and fixtures was considered dated and a problem to be remedied by a new buyer. But now some house hunters are again seeking that retro look from the slappy days of the 1950s when bathroom fixture manufacturers first learned to mix color into porcelain and went craziest with pink. And if retro isn’t to their taste, new surface materials, tiles and glass, are again available in pink.

In the 1990s, we embraced the confident



By Bill Primavera

boldness of such hues as Tuscan gold and Burgundy, right up to the early 2000s when our color choices retreated into the uncertainty of the recession at that time with the tepid beiges and pale greens. Today, however, we seem to want to color ourselves out of the neutrals and embrace pink once again as an antidote to the times.

The restorative powers attributed to pink have been out there for some time. Remember the stories of the prison wardens in several states who were experimenting with painting prison cells pink and even dressing inmates in pink prison garb? One jailer said that the color was chosen

not to humiliate inmates by feminizing them, but to promote calm and make violence less likely.

Now pink is also being used more in hospitals, dentists’ offices and even in male locker rooms, such as at Iowa State University.

Not only does pink resonate with our feelings of well-being, but the color reflects light in a very flattering way to inhabitants of a room. Note all the restaurants interiors painted pink or salmon? And it’s no secret why Broadway Babies always insisted on pink follow spots.

I have been a fan of pink for many years, sometimes enduring sarcasm about it from some of my buddies. I was most likely



influenced by the prominent use of that color in my childhood home. My mother told me that immediately after World War II, when she was a young girl, there was a trend that focused on the color pink, both in fashion and décor. So, when my parents bought their first new home in 1954 and were given the choice of color bathroom fixtures, my mother selected pink. She didn’t stop with the bathroom, but extended the color’s use to our living room and dining room as well.

In America, we have been attracted to pink for centuries. When I was a summer fellowship intern at Historic Deerfield in Massachusetts, a living museum village with homes from the 1700s and 1800s, my favorite room in any of the buildings was one with walls colored a delicate pink, which I was told was created by mixing brick dust directly into the plaster.

Today we don’t have to mix our own pink shades to achieve better health and spirit. Just check out the Benjamin Moore palette of pinks ranging in all shades and whimsical names to match any mood, from Tissue Pink and Pink Powderpuff to Damask Rose.

Color psychologists say that if you focus on the color pink, it will elevate your mood and actually lower your blood pressure. Something to think about when decorating in grey pandemic times.

Bill Primavera, while a publicist and journalist, is also a Realtor® associated with William

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Summer Movies that are Hot (and Not!)

Everyone is attempting to return to a sense of normalcy as vaccine rates slowly increase throughout the country. Part of that normalcy is just going for a casual night out to the movie theaters with your family and friends. While some may not be ready to return, the allure of the big screen and theater popcorn is enough to entice movie fans back into their seats to see the summer blockbusters that are here and upcoming. Most theaters do not require a mask, but you will certainly not be judged for wearing one and most screenings I have been to have not had full attendance. I felt comfortable going to the movies as someone who is vaccinated and going with people I knew were vaccinated as well. I know many people have gotten used to watching films at home, but as a movie nerd, I missed going with my friends for the experience of the crowd, surround sound, and special effects on an enormous screen. I'm happy to see life return to somewhat normal, even if it means I have to pay that overpriced fee for popcorn to experience that reality.



By Rick M. Pezzullo

in the film were entertaining on the whole, but had some uncharacteristically flawed CGI. Despite the shortcomings with visuals, Black Widow was certainly a fun movie with an interesting story that might not be known to most casual Avengers fans. Overall Black Widow felt more like a Mission Impossible film than an Avengers film, but gave the audience a welcome back that will surely satisfy the hungriest of Marvel enthusiasts.

Rating: 8.5/10

Where to watch: In theaters, Disney+ (Premier Access)

In The Heights:

Lin-Manuel Miranda's original stage musical comes to life on the big screen with the much anticipated, In The Heights. The film revolves around the predominantly Latinx community of Washington Heights, New York in which everyone is trying to navigate how best to pursue their dreams and find purpose in life. Anthony Ramos carries the film as Usnavi, a bodega owner trying to recreate his childhood by opening a bar in his native Dominican Republic. Ramos' charisma and multi-talented ability allowed him to make an instant connection to the viewer while delivering flawless singing and dancing performances. Melissa Barrera and Leslie Grace were equally sensational in presenting two different paths for young Latina adults looking to make it in a country that has not always been so welcoming to this ethnic group. As a proud Dominican and someone who lived in Washington Heights for three years, I can say that the minor details in the film were spot on. From the men playing dominoes on the sidewalks to the apartments filled with religious candles, authenticity was never put into question with In The Heights. While I have never seen the original musical, In The Heights, was certainly a visual and artistic marvel and a film that provides a sense of pride for those that can relate to the sense of community, struggles, and triumphs of a minority population too often overlooked.

Rating: 9/10

Where to watch: In theaters

Raya and the Last Dragon:

In what was an under-the-radar release for Disney, Raya and the Last Dragon was another solid addition to its ever-growing film catalog. Raya and the Last Dragon follows the story of Raya, who attempts to unite her country that has been torn apart by selfishness and the Druun, which are evil spirits that petrify everything in its wake. Raya attempts to find the mythical dragon, Sisu, who was responsible for stopping the Druun and beginning an era of prosperity in Kumandra many years ago. The two journey together, with the help of some friends, to unite the pieces of a powerful gem that were responsible for defeating the Druun originally. Awkwafina is perfect for her role as Sisu and Kelly Marie Tran delivers an exceptional performance as Raya, giving young girls another strong female character



to model their personality after. The film is visually beautiful and is strongly rooted in Southeast Asian culture. The story itself provides an important message regarding trust and unity that is not often highlighted in the media realm. A lack of popular Disney sing-a-longs was the glaring difference in the film, but can also be looked at as a refreshing change of pace. Overall, Raya and the Last Dragon was a very good film and another compelling reason to sign up for Disney Plus.

Rating: 8/10

Where to watch: Disney+

A Quiet Place Part II:

Written and directed by The Office star, John Krasinski, A Quiet Place Part II follows the events of its predecessor as Evelyn, played by Emily Blunt, tries to lead her family through an apocalyptic world still ravaged by alien creatures attracted to sound. As they navigate a perilous landscape, Millicent, Evelyn's daughter, finds clues that lead her to believe that other benevolent people still exist and that her family can find sanctuary. Despite her ambition, Evelyn is weary about her daughter putting herself in danger while also having to take care of a newborn. A Quiet Place Part II proves to still have a compelling storyline with more dialogue and action than the original. Cillian Murphy delivers an excellent performance as a lonely survivor who assists the Abbotts in their quest for some semblance of a normal life. The film succeeds in not belaboring stale plot points and creating a clear path for a progression in the storyline. It may not have the originality effect of the first installment, but it still proves to be a captivating film worth a watch for any suspense/thriller fans.

Rating: 8/10

Where to watch: Paramount+

Space Jam: A New Legacy

Starring LeBron James and Don Cheadle, Space Jam: A New Legacy is the sequel that no one really requested or needed. Director Malcolm D. Lee looks to capitalize on millennial nostalgia as the Looney Tunes are somehow teamed up with another NBA icon in an attempt to save the world through a game of basketball. While the acting is expectedly atrocious and the writing is cringey at times, there are enough solid jokes for basketball and pop culture fans

that make the film entertaining. There are some important lessons in the movie that provide some valuable insight for children and parents alike, but that is sometimes lost in the ridiculousness of the plot. LeBron finishes second to Michael Jordan once again, but this time with his acting. The other NBA and WNBA stars don't get much screen time or character development, which is mildly disappointing. Don Cheadle does his best to provide the movie with some acting legitimacy, but even his talents couldn't overcome that obstacle. Despite its shortcomings, this is not a movie you should watch if you're expecting Oscar buzz. This is a children's movie with jokes for all ages and is a fun summer film to distract from what has been a stressful last year and a half. While it does not have the charm and originality of its predecessor, Space Jam: A New Legacy is entertaining enough to convince you to see it through to the end.

Rating: 5/10

Where to watch: In theaters, HBO Max

Jungle Cruise

Starring Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt, Jungle Cruise proves to be a fun summer adventure film for any avid moviegoer. Based on the classic ride in Disney World's Magic Kingdom, Jungle Cruise follows Dr. Lily Houghton as she searches for the legendary Tears of the Moon, a tree whose petals are thought to have extraordinary healing powers. She enlists the help of Frank Wolff, a river tour guide who seems to attract

trouble wherever he goes. In what might be his best ever performance, Johnson fits this role perfectly with his comedic charm and flawless chemistry with Blunt. Blunt delivers another solid display as is expected from one of Hollywood's elite actresses. While the originality of the film is questionable due to stark similarities to The Mummy and Pirates of the Caribbean, Jungle Cruise delivers witty humor that reminds us all while the Disney ride is so iconic. It certainly runs a little long, but there is enough action to keep you thoroughly interested to the end. Overall, Jungle Cruise is certainly worth a watch for any Disney fan or anyone looking for a light summer film that keeps you engaged from start to finish.

Rating: 7.5/10

Where to watch: In theaters, Disney+ (Premier Access)

Crossword Answers



I Know Why the Wild Bird Sings; Or Do I?

*The bird sings in the forest.
Does it seek to be admired for its song?*

-Kwai Chang Caine, Kung Fu

By Brian Kluepfel

A few years ago a young man came with his father to an Audubon Society event. Though he was legally blind, he was a complete ace at identifying birds by their song. Consequently, he went on at least one field trip with Saw Mill River Audubon. We welcomed his gift of bird gab and instead of seeing his sightlessness as a handicap, we prized his extrasensory hearing acumen as a gift.

This is a time when birders of all branches, pardon the pun, are being welcomed into the circle of observation. Black and Latinx birders are stepping to the fore, one positive outcome of the unfortunate "Central Park Karen Incident." And while handicapped accessibility has been an issue for many years—the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1990—some in the birding community are making it a priority.

Freya McGregor is one of those

people: the.ot.birder on Instagram, and key player in promoting the birdability.org website (Birdability was founded by Virginia Rose, who's been a wheelchair user for 48 years). Freya's frequent social media posts remind us that some things hold people back from birding: lack of wheelchair access, lack of braille signage, lack of equipment like binoculars, even lack of a ride to a birding outing.

Locally, we at Saw Mill River Audubon were happy to make birding easier for one of our members, a lifetime hiker and birder who had arthritis and has had spinal surgeries, requiring a walker, and sometimes, a wheelchair. She complained that "most boardwalks are very short and then revert to dirt. So I could never really enjoy any time in the woods."

After contacting SMRA, she was encouraged to visit our Pinecliff Sanctuary, and on her first trip there navigated the loop trail twice, spotting a Barred Owl, and Wood Thrush, and the mighty ruler of the forest canopy, a Pileated Woodpecker. All this was possible because there was a wheelchair-accessible boardwalk she could meander along with her husband.

I joke sometimes that my birding is



awful because as I get older my sight and hearing both are diminishing. But for some, addressing very real accessibility issues helps them to enter the universe of birding in a unique way, and may allow us to glimpse things differently, too.

So walk beside a birder with disabilities: try to see what they see, hear what they hear, feel what they feel. Give somebody a ride. Lend them your binoculars for a little while. You might be surprised by how much you get in

return.

Please contact Saw Mill River Audubon if you have any questions about our handicap-accessible sites or events.

Brian Kluepfel is a proud member of Saw Mill River Audubon and a contributing author to Lonely Planet travel guides, Westchester Magazine, and Birdwatching magazine. Check him out at www.birdmanwalking.com and on IG @briankluepfel.



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Italian Women Winemakers Add Their Imprint to Family Legacies



By Nick Antonaccio

In my last two columns, I've discussed the role of women in winemaking - specifically in the United States and Western Europe. Selective strides have been made in the last quarter century by women winemakers who have been given the opportunity to ply their trade. In the United States, women have been able to penetrate the wine industry based on their proven skill and talent. However, in Western Europe, women have attained success not necessarily through talent but through the fickle finger of genealogy or marriage.

This week, my focus is on Italian wineries.

The traditional Italian winery patriarch wields autocratic power within an egocentric culture that is typical of old-line, stereotyped Italian males. The current economic plight in Italy has stifled career opportunities by historic proportions.

These factors permeate the ranks of the

Italian wine industry, even now in the enlightened 21st century movement of equal rights. Many women have been denied access to the male-dominated positions of responsibility in wineries. Ironically, this discrimination applies equally to women seeking career employment in the industry and to family members in the line of succession at family-owned wineries.

In the face of these obstacles, inroads are being made. Many of today's women are more highly educated, and in many cases more highly motivated, than their predecessors and male counterparts. And they are proving that women have more sensitive palates than men, thus helping wineries appeal to a broader customer base.

How so?

Italian families have farmed their vineyards for generations. Invariably - almost exclusively - the wines have been imprinted with the stamp of the patriarch of the family. And being male dominated, the wines have invariably been "masculine": bold, tannic and meant to age for years. However, in the last 25 years, more women consumers have become the primary wine purchasers and

You Heard It Through the Grapevine

their palates and preferences differ from masculine wines, and toward those wines that are more aromatic and structured with greater finesse. Savvy male Italian winemakers are slowly ceding decision-making authority concerning style and balance to women (typically their daughters).

In the face of this slow change and halting diversity, there are prominent Italian women who are at the helms of successful and world-acclaimed family businesses. Here are two examples:

The Marchesi Antinori estate has been a family-owned Tuscan wine business since 1385. Over that span, 26 consecutive generations of males have led the winery to great success. Several years ago, the current family head, 83-year-old Marchese Piero Antinori, was faced with a monumental dilemma: all his offspring were daughters. Three of them - Alessia, Albiera and Allegra.

A woman had never been at the helm of this 636-year-old winery. What to do? Compounding his dilemma, none of his daughters expressed an interest in assuming the reins of the business - even if offered.

Fearful of losing his business, the Marchese reluctantly brought in an outside investor as a partner. This proved to be untenable. Miraculously, the daughters - and their father - had a change of heart. Fast forward to 2021: the outside investor is

gone, and all three daughters have executive management roles in the now world-wide business. Family succession is assured in the qualified hands of highly educated, capable and tradition-focused family members - who happen to be women.

The Colombini family began their long tradition of Brunello winemaking in the Tuscan region of Montalcino in 1592. In the 1960s, the reins to their Fattoria dei Barbi were assumed by the first female heir, Francesca Cinelli Columbini, a historic first. However, when choosing between her son and daughter to be her successor, Stefano was given the reins. Daughter Donatella eventually left to assume the reins of her eponymous winery. Now, nearly a quarter century later, her wines are renowned for marrying tradition with new technology. She has achieved world prominence with a singular focus: all of the winemakers are female. They in turn have designed an award-winning Colombini Brunello. Next in line? Donatella's daughter, Violante.

Next week, the French wineries.

Nick Antonaccio is a 45-year Pleasantville resident. For over 25 years, he has conducted numerous wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member and Program Director 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.



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an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing building located at 307 N. Division Street, Peekskill, Westchester County, NY 10556. The modifications will consist of the collocation of antennas at centerline heights of 46 feet and 47 feet on a 57.6-foot building (overall height with appurtenances). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6121004738 - SNA EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or via telephone at (757) 354-3537.



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