Brian Skanes, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester in Mount Kisco for the past 21 years, will step down from his post this Friday, Apr. 10.

By Neal Rentz

It’s not an exaggeration to say that the Boys & Girls Club has played a dominant role in the life of Mount Kisco resident Brian Skanes.

From his youth in New England through nearly all of his professional career, he has spent decades with the nonprofit organization. Now, one chapter of his work will end when he steps aside as executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester in Mount Kisco this Friday, a position he has held for 21 years. He will be moving to the Albany area with his wife, Jean, to be close to their two children, Mark and Monica, who live in the capital region.

But his involvement with the organization will continue. He will be working with the national Boys & Girls Club and will travel throughout the country in his new role as director of organizational development for major metro clubs.

“My wife and I had decided that it was time to move to Albany,” he said.

When officials from the Boys & Girls Clubs of America learned he was planning to move upstate, they offered him the job.

Before being hired to oversee the Mount Kisco club, Skanes was a regional vice president for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America for five years. He had also been CEO of the Boys & Girls Club in Binghamton, N.Y.; CEO of a club in Massachusetts and program director and acting executive director of another in Salem, N.H. It’s been 41 years with the Boys & Girls Club after his original plans to become a teacher were scrapped because there were few openings in a tough economy in 1974.

Skanes said like many of his generation, it was important that his career was fulfilling.

“We were interested in doing a job that felt like it was important,” he recalled. “My wife and I looked for careers that would be satisfying and exciting and really help people.”

Skanes was a club member of the Boys Club in Lynn, Mass. while growing up in neighboring Saugus. It was only boys then. By the 1960s and ’70s, girls were included.

“It was a place where I could go and do some great things,” said Skanes, a graduate of the of the University of Massachusetts’ Amherst campus. He remembered a game room, racing model cars, a gym, an indoor swimming pool and a snack bar.

By Janine Bowen

Stricter enforcement of traffic laws and levying heftier fines for drivers who ignore railroad crossing warnings were recommended by a group of local, state and federal representatives last Tuesday at Chappaqua’s problematic Roaring Brook Road crossing.

Sarah Feinberg, acting administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), was joined by Rep. Nita Lowey, MTA Police Chief Mike Coan, New Castle Police Chief Charles Ferry and other officials and police officers to explore various actions that can be taken at Roaring Brook Road and many other grade crossings throughout the metropolitan area to enhance safety.

A key focus is ticketing drivers who unlawfully race through crossings when the warning lights and gates are activated, Feinberg said. By more aggressively penalizing drivers for breaking the law, they would be less likely to repeat making risky decisions, she said.

Ferry also suggested that state officials should raise fines and the number of points associated with that offense.

“What is amazing to me is that that horrific accident [in Valhalla], the vision of the loss of life and the pain and the suffering wasn’t imprinted, implanted on the minds of people and that they could still race to get across,” Lowey said.

Feinberg said there are more than 800 grade crossings in the tri-state area belonging to Metro-North, New Jersey Transit and the Long Island Railroad. She said education and enforcement should be stepped up as officials look to find more permanent solutions to improve grade crossing safety.

During the past month 20 tickets have been issued to drivers who tried to sneak under the arm at Roaring Brook Road, Ferry said. He noted those drivers made the attempt to beat the train while marked police cars were present and wondered how many drivers have tried that when no officers where present.

“It’s not just an issue for the person driving the car… it’s dangerous to all the commuters who are on the trains, so I think we need more enforcement,” Ferry said.

New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein, who was unable to attend the continued on page 4

Skanes Bids Farewell to Boys & Girls Club in Mount Kisco

 Officials, Police Urge for More Traffic Enforcement at Rail Crossings
P'ville Assisted Living Plan
Developer Submits Zoning Request for
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environmental impacts and the amount of the 24,000-square-foot building, as potential noise, the use and mass of the proposal regarding issues such as parking. Residents were generally skeptical about Benchmark. Close to 20 residents attended the meeting, with four residents speaking. Close to 20 residents attended the meeting, with four residents speaking.

Benchmark is adjusting its plans after the meeting. The plan is to move the entrance to Bedford Road rather than using Maple Hill Road. The latter proposal drew the ire of some residents. The updated version has the entrance on Bedford Road. The updated version has the entrance on Bedford Road. The updated version has the entrance on Bedford Road. The updated version has the entrance on Bedford Road.

Dwyer said. “Commercial area, residential area, industrial area provided the responsiveness of Benchmark in the neighborhood if Benchmark does not make a decision, and where these underlying conditions are met."

On volunteers for its ambulance and fire services, can handle the four-story building Benchmark is proposing. Blaney said he was concerned with the property value of the houses in the neighborhood if Benchmark does not make a decision, and where these underlying conditions are met."

Scherer said he was happy that the board approved motions declaring the neighborhood a commercial area, residential area, industrial area provided the responsiveness of Benchmark in the neighborhood if Benchmark does not make a decision, and where these underlying conditions are met."

A date for the work session was not met. "I am certainly pleased thus far with the job generated by the facility would be for village residents. Also, he was willing to accept, " DiDonato-Roth said."

In addition to density and traffic issues, some residents at previous forums have been raised. She said the board wanted to iron out the critical issues that have been raised. She said the board wanted to iron out the critical issues that have been raised. She said the board wanted to iron out the critical issues that have been raised. She said the board wanted to iron out the critical issues that have been raised. She said the board wanted to iron out the critical issues that have been raised.

quality of supporting ligaments.

Q: How long does a replacement knee usually last? A: While the longevity of replacement joints used to be of concern, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons has found that more than 85 percent of knee replacement joints will last 20 years. At Northern Westchester Hospital, we use leading-edge technology that allows the surgeon to tailor the surgery to each patient. We can create a 3D image of the joint and then make customized guides and replacement joints to fit each patient’s unique bone structure. Customization often results in better outcomes, quicker recovery and longer lasting replacement joints.

* American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

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If knee replacement surgery is indicated, your orthopedic surgeon will determine the type of knee replacement based on your individual circumstances, amount of bone loss and the quality of supporting ligaments.

Q: How will I know if I need knee replacement surgery? A: Typically, knee replacement surgery is used to treat debilitating arthritis. If you’ve tried more conservative treatments such as those I mentioned and they are no longer providing relief, you may want to consider joint replacement. Two primary considerations are visible joint trouble on an x-ray and pain that doesn’t respond to other treatment. Pain is perhaps the most important factor.
State Budget Elicits Varied Reactions From Area Legislators

By Martin Wilbur and David Prepper

Area state legislators gave mixed reviews to last week’s passage of New York State’s nearly $142 billion 2015-16 budget that linked controversial changes to education and ethics reform to the annual spending plan.

While local lawmakers were able to find positive aspects to the budget, completed in the wee hours of last Wednesday morning, some voiced concern over the heavy-handedness of the Education Transformation Act, which tied a $1.3 billion statewide increase in education funding to new rules for tenure and teacher evaluation.

“It’s very mixed,” said Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D–Pleasantville). “(There’s) some good, some not so good and some terrible.”

Key education changes include extending the period for tenure from three years to at least four years and requiring that teachers be rated as effective or highly effective for at least three of those years.

A redesigned evaluation plan is also in place combining student performance with teacher observations. Districts may use a standardized state measure or a state designed supplemental assessment.

The reforms have included will move us to an education system that rewards results, addresses challenges and demands accountability.”

The ethics reform package will see new disclosure requirements for legislators. Also, Assemblyman David Buchwald’s (D–White Plains) pension forfeiture proposal that would strip public officials of their state pension if convicted of a corruption-related offense was included. A second passage is needed by the legislature before it can go to voters in 2017.

“When I was first elected to the state Assembly two years ago, some seasoned legislators said there’s no way this will make progress,” Buchwald said. “Thanks to a concerted effort on my part and many great partners, we’re on the threshold of real meaningful changes that will improve ethics in state government.”

Abinanti, who has been critical of many of Cuomo’s policies, praised the 6 percent across-the-board increase in education spending, which resulted in the additional aid. That pushes state spending on education to about $23.5 billion and includes a roughly 60 percent reduction in the Gap Elimination Adjustment.

He also applauded the $1 billion from the $5 billion settlement money that will be put toward the construction of the new Tappan Zee Bridge.

However, Abinanti blasted many of the education policy changes that he said will make it more difficult for city school districts to attract and retain quality teachers.

The assemblyman also bristled that Cuomo sought to have greater disclosure requirements for legislators but no additional safeguards for the executive branch.

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“Murphy said he was happy the budget contains a $12 million increase to combat opioid addiction, a $200 million boost for new clean water and infrastructure and the extra $50 million for road improvements.

As for the controversial education bill that Murphy voted in favor of, he said “I joined my colleagues in rejecting the Governor’s evaluation proposals for our teachers and shifted this responsibility to professionals at the state Education Department with the goal of reducing standardized testing and returning local control to our schools.”

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Officials, Police Urge for More Traffic Enforcement at Rail Crossings

continued from page 1

March 31 press conference, has repeatedly called for a bridge to be constructed at the Saw Mill Parkway-Roaring Brook Road interchange that would carry traffic over the tracks. Greenstein has stepped up that appeal following two more recent incidents.

On March 7, a driver was trapped after the arms came down, but was able to escape by putting the vehicle into reverse to move back from the tracks and causing the gate to break away. On March 30, an unidentified driver drove through the safety arm after it had lowered in order to get across the tracks before the train arrived.

“We need a bridge,” Greenstein said in an e-mail following Monday’s incident.

The Roaring Brook Road crossing is also less than a half-mile from Horace Greeley High School and the proposed Chappaqua Crossing site.

Coan said the MTA has jurisdiction over all its grade crossings but works closely with local, county and state police on enforcement. With so many crossings, it is impossible to have officers at all of them during peak hours, Coan said. The MTA will send officers to various locations when resources are available, especially when there is a nearby accident that requires drivers to be rerouted near a grade crossing.

It is believed that Ellen Brody, the driver of the SUV involved in the Feb. 3 Valhalla accident, ended up at the Commerce Street crossing after being diverted off of the Taconic Parkway because of a car crash. Feinberg said it is still being investigated and that permanent solutions there will not be proposed until probable cause is known.

Lowey also spoke at the Roaring Brook Road crossing in early March with Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney to discuss the need for a public awareness campaign, similar to the “click it or ticket” seatbelt campaign. Metro-North President Joseph Giulietti said the railroad is also working with the state Department of Transportation and the Town of New Castle on making road and sign improvements at the crossing.

Several representatives who attended last week's press conference also renewed calls for improved technology that would detect obstructions at grade crossings and stop an approaching train remotely.

By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville Lions Club to Host Dart Tournament Fundraiser

Pleasantville Lions Club is hoping for a bulls-eye with the first ever Luck of the Draw Benefit Dart Tournament this Saturday, Apr. 11.

The fundraiser, which was organized by Lions Club member John Apicelli, will benefit The Vacation Camp for the Blind in Rockland County. The core mission of the Lions Club is to help raise money and awareness for sight-related programs, said Apicelli. He added that the Vacation Camp for the Blind also needs to purchase new computers and equipment.

The tournament will be held at 2 p.m. at Foley’s Club Lounge on Bedford Road. There is a $10 entry fee. Half of that fee will go to the camp, while the other half will be given as prizes to the tournament’s first- and second-place finishers.

Apicelli, who competes in the Westchester/Putnam Dart League, is a member for one of three teams sponsored by Foley’s. He explained that owners Anthony Amato and Pete Christie offered the bar to the Lions Club for the tournament at no cost. The Lions Club chose a darts tournament for the fundraiser because it’s an easy-to-run event that can raise money without much manpower, Apicelli said.

“It is fairly easy to organize and the players enjoy the competitiveness of the tournament,” he said.

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April 7 - April 13, 2015 The Examiner
P’ville to Vote on Joining Consortium in Hopes of Reducing Energy Costs

By Janine Bowen

A program that could reduce energy costs for Pleasantville residents through Community Choice Aggregation (CAC) drew sharp differences last week between Mayor Peter Scherer and Trustee Mindy Berard.

Through the program, Sustainable Westchester, Inc., a non-profit organization comprised of local municipalities, would negotiate with energy service companies (ESCOs) on behalf of municipalities. An alternative energy provider would be selected that meets residents’ needs while providing a savings over Con Edison prices.

Berard is firmly opposed to participating in the program, which was first discussed in early March. She said the village would be unable to demonstrate to residents a monthly savings on their energy bills.

Under the program, every resident who still uses Con Edison as their energy provider would automatically be included in the group-buying effort. Sustainable Westchester would only enter into a contract with an ESCO if the rates with the alternative energy company demonstrate a savings over current Con Edison rates.

“You…for the first time in New York history, certainly Westchester history, will have the option of buying into an ESCO through Sustainable Westchester, which will generate a report that said how did we do relative to what would happen if we didn’t,” Scherer said.

Although Sustainable Westchester will provide reports that show the savings accrued from the community buying effort, Berard questioned how these reports would be distributed to residents and whether or not that responsibility would fall on the municipality. Berard also noted that most residents are unaware of Sustainable Westchester, so the municipality would have to take on the “administrative burden” of educating them about the program.

Scherer, who has been supportive of Pleasantville joining Sustainable Westchester, said that residents could learn of the program by a one-page letter mailed to every home. The letter would be distributed once Sustainable Westchester identifies an ESCO and enters into a contract, he said.

One of the main concerns Berard has voiced about Sustainable Westchester is that residents who are still using Con Edison as their energy provider are automatically enrolled in the program and don’t have the choice to opt in. She said making the decision to adopt an ESCO on behalf of residents implies that government is smarter than residents, thereby changing the role of the board and forcing them to act as a utility.

Scherer said the program isn’t run on an opt-in basis because it is difficult to make residents pay attention and take the time to join.

“If you can’t get them to pay attention to opt in, how are you going to get them to pay attention if they know they’re going to opt out?” Berard asked.

Scherer said participation in Sustainable Westchester would give residents an alternative energy option that they may not have known existed. He said he has personally remained with Con Edison because he didn’t know how to find an alternative energy provider.

“It turns out that government can actually play a role in trying to create a more responsive, more capitalistic economy in the world of energy,” Scherer said.

The board is scheduled to vote on whether to join Sustainable Westchester at its Apr. 13 meeting. Residents would not see changes to their energy bills until other local municipalities join and the organization secures a contract with an ESCO. So far, Lewisboro is the only local town to join the program but New Castle, North Castle, Mount Pleasant and Mount Kisco are considering participation.

Once an ESCO contract is secured, residents have the ability to opt out and return to Con Edison, Mike Gordon, CEO of Joule Assets, a Bedford Hills company that provides financing for energy efficiency projects and a member of Sustainable Westchester’s board of directors, explained in a recent e-mail to Scherer that residents are able to opt out at any time and will not face a penalty for doing so.

Penguin Power

The Pleasantville Penguins U-11 fifth-grade girls winter soccer team finished in first place in their division and went on to win the championship for the second consecutive year, winning the title game last month at the bubble in Armonk 3-1 to retain their title.
Skanes Bids Farewell to Boys & Girls Club in Mount Kisco

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In Mount Kisco, the Boys & Girls Club has been around for 75 years. The community's support and a dedicated staff that enjoys what it does and has the confidence of parents who know their children will be safe and well-supervised has been the key to its success.

"I think the success of any club is the fact that we have people in the community who care about kids, who provide the resources that create an environment where they can grow and develop," he said.

"The magic sauce that we have is daily programming, low-cost programming with a trained professional staff who devote their lives to working with kids. And they have an impact on children's lives. And I think parents and kids alike like to come here because it's a good place to come and they have fun and they learn things."

The club in Mount Kisco has about 1,700 members, Skanes noted. "The facility is also rented by outside groups. On an average day, about 500 to 600 youngsters visit the club. The facility, which is also a licensed child care center, has a full-time staff of 25 and up to 50 seasonal part-time employees, he said. About $2 million of the $3.2 million annual budget are staff costs.

All of the funds are raised through fees, special events and an annual fund drive, Skanes said.

"Any CEO of a nonprofit is similar to a CEO of a profit-making enterprise," he said. "We're the go-betweens between the board of directors and the staff."

The club offers a wide variety of services, including a pre-school program; an after-school program; gym and indoor swimming programs with the Marlins competitive swim team competing against other local swimmers; teen center programs; a community sports program; and a summer camp.

"We've really changed a lot," Skanes said. "At the tail end of the Depression there were a lot of kids that were on the streets and they were just getting in trouble. They were breaking into homes. They were stealing things out of stores. So a bunch of folks got together and said these kids need something to do. So they literally purchased an old school building (on Main Street) and fixed it up."

For many years, the village's Recreation Department shared the club, but in 1993 an independent study recommended the department and the club be separated.

"The only advice I could say is really drive, Skanes said. "I really like the people here, the staff, the board (and) the community," he said. Since Skanes has been active in local organizations, including Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce and the President's Council of Northern Westchester Hospital.

He will be honored by the club with this year's Humanitarian Award on June 6 at its annual dinner at the Rye Town Hilton.

"It's a tremendous honor," he said. "But I was reluctant to say yes because I think that I do this for a living and the other people who have received this in years past got the award because they're volunteers. But I'm accepting because I believe in the club."

"No new executive director has been chosen but Skanes had simple guidance for whomever takes his place. "The only advice I could say is really enjoy it because it's great experience," he said. "Just get totally involved in the job and the community and it will be very rewarding for you."

The North Castle Historical Society will present the program "Daughters of Liberty's Legacy: Telling Ann's Story," about Ann Fisher Miller who lived with her husband in the historic Miller House, on Sunday Apr. 12 at 2 p.m. at the North Castle Public Library in Armonk.

Cynthia Abbott Kauffman will portray Miller, who was born in 1728. Learn about her trials, losses, courage and endeavors. She married Patriot Elijah Miller, who was born in 1728. Learn about Ann Fisher Miller who lived in the historic Miller House, on Sunday Apr. 12 at 2 p.m. at the North Castle Public Library in Armonk. For more information, call 914-273-3887.

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No. Castle Comp Plan Update Moving Forward With New Site

By Martin Wilbur

North Castle officials recently unveiled a new interactive website to solicit suggestions from the public that will be considered for inclusion in the town's Comprehensive Plan update.

This winter the town launched www.northcastleforeward.com, a site where residents and merchants could exchange ideas on improving the town with other citizens, weigh in on various topics and issues and receive updates and announcements. In order to participate, residents create a personal account.

"Undertaking the Comprehensive Plan update is a long project and a very exacting one and one that is really going to be most successful if the greatest number of community residents and commercial business owners participate," said Town Clerk Anne Curran, who is working with the town's Communications Committee on the initiative.

At tomorrow night's (Wednesday) town board meeting, Planning Director Adam Kaufman is expected to give an update on the initiative.

"It's going to be a fantastic way to look at the questions that are on there, the topics that are on there and to weigh in on what you think North Castle does great, what you would like to see here and how you would like the community to grow and change and improve," Curran said.

The site could also reveal trends how people feel about certain development issues in the different areas of town.

"So you can see that people in different areas of town have different aspirations and goals," Curran said.

At the last board meeting on March 25, Simon made a brief presentation and played a 45-second teaser video and a four-minute introductory video to help inform residents what the town is doing and to entice them to participate. The videos are also on the town's website.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro said not only does the website look professionally done but it was done by volunteers and with in-house staff.

"It's a great way to launch this effort," Schiliro said.

The town board, which is looking to update the 1996 edition of the Comprehensive Plan, started the process last year by asking the county planning department to prepare a base line study and appointing a Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee.

The Comprehensive Plan is considered a blueprint for a municipality to follow for about 10 to 20 years regarding land use, development, open space and related issues.

Twigs Thrift Shop to Hold Spring Garage Sale Apr. 11

The Twigs Thrift Shop is holding its semiannual garage sale on Saturday, Apr. 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its location at 449 Lexington Ave. in Mount Kisco. Featured items will include small furniture, household bric-a-brac, tools and more. The shop will also be open, featuring clothing and accessories, jewelry, books and seasonal items. Offerings are always changing, so take advantage of this sale to check out what is new and different.

In the event of rain, the sale will be held on Saturday, Apr. 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To donate items for the sale, call 914-666-6557 for an appointment.

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Police Blotter

March 28: Report of a missing iPhone from Target on North Bedford Road at 5:04 p.m. The iPhone was reported pinged at Northern Westchester Hospital but police eventually lost contact with it.

March 29: A 38-year-old Mount Kisco man was arrested at 4:35 p.m. and charged with assault after he pulled a knife on another man he was engaged in a fight with on Oak Ridge Road. The victim, a 36-year-old Mount Kisco man, was transported to Westchester Medical Center with lacerations.

March 30: At 11:56 p.m., there was a report of a house on Manchester Drive being hit by eggs. The resident stated that a male subject had been in the area prior to the incident. No one fitting the description was located.

March 31: Report of criminal tampering on Lundy Lane at 12:03 a.m. A house was egged and the resident reported that a male was seen leaving the area. No one was located.

Apr. 2: Report of an assault at the Northern Westchester Hospital emergency room on Main Street at 8:32 p.m. An agitated 25-year-old Bedford man was brought to the hospital for treatment and was giving a female nurse difficulty. A male nurse was summoned to help her and the patient assaulted him, hitting the nurse in the face and right shin. After being subdued, staff continued its treatment of the man but he was taken into custody by police and charged at 10:06 p.m. with assault. The suspect was released on his own recognizance and is scheduled to appear in village court on Apr. 9.

Pleasantville Police Department

March 28: The Mount Pleasant Police Department reported receiving a 911 call at 7:30 p.m. from a Massapequa Park woman who stated that her purse was stolen from her 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee, which was parked in the Jean-Jacques parking lot on Bedford Road. The matter was handled by Pleasantville police. There are no suspects at this time.

March 30: A Sunnyside Avenue resident arrived at headquarters at 3:38 p.m. to report being the victim of identity theft.

March 31: A Edgewood Avenue resident reported at headquarters at 7:30 p.m. that she was targeted for a possible IRS phone scam.

Apr. 2: The Westchester County Department of Public Safety arrived at headquarters at 6:47 p.m. with a 40-year-old Montrose man who was wanted by the Pleasantville Village Court for violation of probation. Judge Curly arraigned the suspect who was remanded to the county jail in Valhalla.

Apr. 2: A 33-year-old Thornwood man was arrested at 10:28 p.m. and charged with driving with a suspended license following a traffic stop on Cooley Street.

Obituary

Alexander Newi

Alexander (Alec) Garnett Newi of Old Greenwich, Conn. passed away suddenly of natural causes on March 27.

He was 44.

A devoted and loving parent along with Ashley, Newi is survived by his daughter, Mackenzie, 8, and his son, Crosby, 7; his mother, Sally, of Bonita Springs, Fla.; his sister, Lisa Long, of Pleasantville, and his brother, George H. Newi, Jr., of Marietta, Ga. His father, George H. Newi, died in 1997.

A native of Chappaqua, Newi leaves a lasting legacy as a father, mentor and friend. He adored his children, of whom he spoke constantly and with great pride. He delivered caring, thoughtful guidance to colleagues and clients alike over the course of his 23-year career in sales, most recently as a senior vice president at Viacom, Inc. Tall, impeccably dressed and always smiling, Newi’s gentlemanly presence could not be missed in the halls of the company’s Times Square headquarters.

Newi was a proud graduate of Horace Greeley High School and Auburn University, where he was a starting pitcher for the Tigers. A member of the Stanwich Club, he was a passionate golfer and could often be found on the links there or at the Westchester Country Club.

He will be remembered always by his family, friends and colleagues.

Visitation was on Apr. 1 at Beecher Flocks Funeral Home, Inc. in Pleasantville. The funeral service was held on Apr. 2 at Christ Church in Greenwich, Conn. Interment was private.

In accordance with the family’s wishes, in lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Newi may be made to an educational fund for his children at the following link or mailing address: https://www.youcaring.com/alecnewifund, “Mackenzie and Crosby Newi” c/o Morgan Stanley, 4 Landmark Square, Stamford, Conn. 06901.

Car Overturns in Saw Mill P’kway Crash; Three Injured

By Martin Wilbur

Three drivers were sent to the hospital last Wednesday after a frightening afternoon rush-hour crash on the Saw Mill Parkway at Roaring Brook Road in Chappaqua resulted in one of the vehicles overturning onto its roof.

The accident at 4:55 p.m. occurred after the driver of a 2006 Volvo SUV, Jenna Petrillo, 24, of Valhalla, was traveling northbound on the parkway and couldn’t see the red signal because of sun glare, said Kieran O’Leary, a spokesman for the Westchester County Department of Public Safety.

Petrillo’s car was struck by a 2013 Ford pickup truck heading eastbound across the parkway driven by Joseph Cavolacci, 30, a Chappaqua resident, O’Leary said. The collision caused Petrillo’s car to careen into another vehicle, a 2007 Toyota SUV, that was travelling westbound through the intersection.

The Toyota, driven by 69-year-old Ossining resident Dominick Danna, overturned following impact, O’Leary said.

The crash closed the northbound lanes of the parkway for about a half-hour, police said. Traffic also slowed southbound because emergency responders needed to use a portion of those lanes.

All three drivers were transported to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, O’Leary said. None of the injuries were life threatening, he said.
Proposed $21M Mount Kisco Budget Within Tax Cap

By Neal Rentz

Mount Kisco’s tentative 2015-16 budget of nearly $21 million released late last month contains a tax increase but the village’s adherence to the state’s property tax cap would enable eligible property owners to collect a rebate.

If the budget was approved by the village board in its current form, taxes on the average home in Mount Kisco would rise by $106, the equivalent of a 3 percent tax rate increase. However, Interim Village Manager Gerry Faiella noted in his budget message to the board that since Mount Kisco had complied with the cap’s requirements, property owners would be reimbursed by the state.

Under the state formula, the maximum allowable tax levy for the village in 2015-16 is 1.68 percent.

Spending in the $20,976,447 budget is proposed to rise by 1.5 percent over the current year. Adding to the village’s expenses is higher electricity rates, Faiella stated. The New York Power Authority raised rates by 8 percent on March 1, he said.

The village’s contribution to the state’s public employee pension system has decreased by 4.6 percent. The monthly employee health insurance cost fell by 7 percent from June through December but it’s been estimated that it has risen 6 percent since January, Faiella said.

Failla is anticipating higher sales tax revenues in the coming fiscal year. Since sales tax revenue remains strong, expected to exceed by $47,000, or 3 percent for 2014-15, that revenue line has been increased by $55,000 for the upcoming year.

However, mortgage tax revenues were trending lower for the first half of the current fiscal year, forcing Failla to reduce that revenue line by $40,000 for next year.

While there are no changes proposed in village services, there is funding for the village to continue its police department but with one less officer. There also is another budget scenario should police consolidation with Westchester County be approved, which would save Mount Kisco about $141,000 the first year.

The proposed budget also includes expansion of a part-time safety inspector position in the building department into a full-time position and the purchase of two police cars and one pool car.

A public hearing on the proposed budget has been scheduled for Monday, Apr. 6 Village Hall at 7:30 p.m.

That Holiday Feeling

Grace Baptist Church in Chappaqua celebrated the days leading up to Easter Sunday by “flowering” its eight-foot cross at the corner of King Street and Orchard Ridge Road. The goal was to fill the entire cross with vibrant flowers by dusk Easter Sunday in symbolic remembrance of loved ones, for those troubled by a burden or praying for someone or simply happy that spring has finally arrived.

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LeChase Construction Services, LLC, a full-service construction management and general construction firm, is expanding its New York operations with the acquisition of C.W. Brown, Inc. of Armonk.

Under the contract terms, which took effect on Apr. 1, C.W. Brown will operate as a division of LeChase Construction, with the same workforce and market focus.

The combination of the two companies joining forces creates a highly skilled construction firm with the size and power to provide outstanding services in the health care, education, industrial and manufacturing, science and technology and commercial markets throughout the tri-state region.

This move is designed to help serve LeChase’s construction customers in the Northeast with more offices and more skilled construction professionals who have regional experience and a firm grasp of local resources and conditions. All existing offices will remain open and operate as they currently do. LeChase currently employs about 700 people while C.W. Brown has 80 employees, including office and skilled workforce. "C.W. Brown is a like-minded company with long-standing relationships in similar industries that will help LeChase continue to grow in the Northeast," said William H. Goodrich, president and CEO of LeChase. "The management team, staff and field personnel at C.W. Brown are welcome additions to the LeChase team."

Founded in 1984, C.W. Brown has averaged about $50 million annually in building construction in recent years. "This announcement is great news for our employees and our customers because it not only increases our ability to take on larger and more complex projects, but we share the same culture and mindset as LeChase, which is rare in the construction industry," said Renee Brown, president and CEO of C.W. Brown.

LeChase, which is headquartered in Rochester, with offices in Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Corning, Ithaca and Syracuse as well as Mansfield, Pa. and Charlotte and Durham N.C., was founded in 1944. The firm has averaged $700 million annually in building construction in recent years and is currently ranked in the Top 100 list of the nation’s top 400 contractors, according to the weekly trade magazine Engineering News-Record.

LeChase and C.W. Brown share a similar focus on green building and safety practices, with both companies having received numerous U.S. Green Building Council and Associated General Contractors of America Safety Awards.

Pleasantville Optician to Be Honored as Business Person of the Year

By Janine Bowen

Michael Marchica, owner of I Fetish Optique, will be honored this month as the Business Person of the Year by the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce.

"Mike is a longtime outstanding member of the Chamber of Commerce and runs a great business," said the organization’s President Bill Flooks. "He epitomizes the type of person we talk about when we talk about business person of the year."

I Fetish Optique, which Marchica, a licensed optician, opened on Wheeler Avenue in 2001, offers unique handcrafted frames, mainly from small European boutiques as well as quality lenses manufactured by Carl Zeiss of Germany.

Marchica began his career in optics 30 years ago after he became interested in the industry when buying glasses for himself. After 18 years of working at a high-end establishment in Manhattan, he decided to open his own business close to his Briarcliff Manor home.

"There was a real void of the type of products that I carry and the quality of the work that we do as well," Marchica said.

Marchica, who beat out Peter Scherer, owner of H Plus Design, Inc., to win this year’s honor, will be recognized at a dinner reception at Unique Affair Catering & Events in Pleasantville on Apr. 22.
Plenty of Work for Town Road Crews Filling Potholes This Year

By Martin Wilbur

Now that spring has arrived, highway crews throughout the area can turn their attention to filling the hundreds, if not thousands, of potholes that have pothole pockmarked local roads.

Filling those potholes takes money and manpower, although for the municipalities contacted recently that doesn’t appear to be as big a problem as having the weather cooperate and obtaining the amount of material needed to do the work.

“The issue is we need more fill and there are a lot of other towns that have the same needs,” Mount Pleasant Highway Superintendent Peter Sciliano said nearly two weeks ago.

That should change for his department with the scheduled re-opening this week of the outlet where the town buys its material from in Bedford, Sciliano said.

However, even if the materials and manpower is in place for crews to begin pothole filling, they need dry weather and temperatures over 45 degrees for the repairs to be done, New Castle DPW Deputy Commissioner Gerry Moerschell told the town board during his March 24 road repair presentation.

Because of extensive road damage during the recently completed winter, it may take until October for the department to finish all that needs to get done, Moerschell said.

Meanwhile, Pleasantville, which has only about 18 curb miles of roads within its borders, was spared extensive damage and expenses, said Village Administrator Patricia Dwyer. She said most of the village’s thoroughfares are state roads, which is the responsibility of the state Department of Transportation (DOT).

If there is a bright spot, municipalities throughout the state will receive healthy contributions from the Consolidated Local Streets and Highway Program (CHIPS). The state legislature and Gov. Andrew Cuomo approved a $50 million increase in local road repairs in the 2015-16 budget that was finished last week, said state Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown).

That brings the new fiscal year’s statewide CHIPS funding to $488 million. That figure doesn’t include the $1 billion set aside for bridge repairs.

Mount Pleasant will receive $279,562 from CHIPS funds in 2015-16, while New Castle is to get $255,237.

“Coming from a local government background myself, I understand the need to provide relief to our local governments,” Murphy said in a joint statement with Mount Pleasant Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi. “I’m proud to partner with Supervisor Fulgenzi to work together to support our ailing infrastructure. Local roads matter.”

Meanwhile, Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Pleasantville) last month pressed the DOT to set up an emergency repair program.

Abinanti also called for the creation of an interactive website where motorists can report the locations of significant potholes, check the status of the repairs and view the locations of reported significant potholes that must be avoided.

“The potholes left unattended have become craters,” Abinanti said. “Cars are swerving around and stopping short of potholes, which could result in serious accidents. We need to fix the potholes before a game of dodging becomes a game of bumper cars.”

Abinanti is also sponsoring legislation that allows individuals to file claims against the state because of car damage due to potholes on state roads throughout the year. Current highway law limits state liability only from May 1 to Nov. 15.

New Castle residents can inform the town of pothole problems by e-mailing potholes@mynewcastle.org.

East Main Street Building Sold in Mt. Kisco

The site of a former furniture store located at 179 E. Main St. in Mount Kisco was recently sold.

Houlihan Lawrence Commercial Real Estate Group completed the sale of the 16,500-square-foot building, the site of the Leisure Living Shop, to Matthew Tynan. The transaction was brokered by Michael Rackenberg of Houlihan Lawrence.

Houlihan Lawrence spokeswoman Catherine Toor said Tynan wants to lease the 5,500-square-foot ground floor as retail space and keep the other two floors of the building for his personal use.

--Neal Rentz

BILL PRIMAVERA

“The Home Guru” Realtor

For many years, I have written as “The Home Guru” for this paper and online and, in interviewing experts on the real estate market and home improvement, I’ve learned a lot about my chosen field.

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“I’d love to work with you, so call me!"

Wrong to Distract From State Budget Process With Hot-Button Issues

A state legislature’s fiduciary responsibility is arguably the most important task that the elected officials are trusted to do.

Of course, there are plenty of other critical issues every governmental body faces during a given session. However, to combine the budgetary matters with a litany of other initiatives, as was done for this year’s budget season in Albany by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, wasn’t promoting efficiency. It was meant to confuse and distract.

Regardless of the merits of education reform, ethics reform, raising the age of legal responsibility from 16 to 18 or any number of legitimately important issues, the way this budget process was handled was a page out of the classic Cuomo blueprint. Take issues that have nothing to do with one another and link them under the on-time budget deadline to create pressure so if legislators want to fully vet them they don’t have the time or support from colleagues to take a closer look.

By doing that, Cuomo tapped into the distrust and impatience of the public, which sometimes wants to see something—anything—get done. Some would call that decisive leadership. It’s more like the neighborhood bully.

It may be smart politically to attempt to ram legislation through, especially with Albany’s history of shenanigans, but it doesn’t necessarily make for sound public policy.

It may be smart politically to attempt to ram legislation through, especially with Albany’s history of shenanigans, but it doesn’t necessarily make for sound public policy.

Abinanti Took Correct Stand in Voting Against Flawed Education Bill

Recently, the Pleasantville Board of Education and I called on the New York State Assembly and Senate to “hit the pause button” on the 2015-16 education budget bill and renegotiate the terms before voting. Unfortunately, the effort was unsuccessful and the bill passed only 11 hours after publication.

Over 2.7 million public school students, parents and education professionals were counting on the Assembly and Senate to do their homework regarding education—not cram for the exam. Assemblyman Tom Abinanti pushed to get it right.

Tom worked with the Pleasantville Board of Education and the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association right up to the final vote attempting to mitigate new state education mandates. He continues to do so. It takes 76 yes votes to pass a bill in the New York State Assembly. The education budget bill received 92. Tom Abinanti was NOT one of them.

I thank Tom for his strong commitment to public education, belief in local control and our continued partnership.

Shane McGaffey
President, Pleasantville Board of Education

Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to mwilbur@theexaminernews.com. The Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.
Andrew Brozman has carried on his late wife’s legacy through what is believed to be the only nonprofit organization exclusively dedicated to the early detection and prevention of ovarian cancer. He serves on the board of directors of Tina’s Wish, which has raised about $5.5 million since its inception.

“My wife always felt that those who are fortunate and talented to achieve success have an obligation to share that good fortune with others,” Brozman, 63, recalled of his wife’s passion and commitment. “And I view this as just an extension of that view that she had in that she decided that women should not suffer the same fate, that there should be a way to prevent this devastation.”

The symptoms often associated with ovarian cancer are often mistaken for gastrointestinal or gynecological problems, and, therefore, can be easily missed. Once detected, it is often too late to help the patient.

It was Tina Brozman’s general practitioner who suspected ovarian cancer after she had gone elsewhere with persistent symptoms, Andrew Brozman said. A day later she was in surgery. By then, the cancer was Stage 4.

“She wasn’t angry that she had cancer,” Brozman said. “She was angry that the medical world was incapable of devoting significant attention to this issue and that insurance companies were not supportive of the...tests that were available at the time, and she was inalterably committed to changing the situation.”

The foundation helped forge a consortium late last year that includes five of the most prominent cancer research facilities in the country—the University of Pennsylvania, Yale, Johns Hopkins, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute—featuring groundbreaking cooperation in the area of medical research.

Next Tuesday an event may provide Tina’s Wish with an even more notable exposure. The foundation’s inaugural Tina’s Wish Global Women’s Health Award will be presented to fellow Chappaqua resident and former president Bill Clinton at The Waldorf Astoria.

There is certainly the local connection, but Tina’s Wish and Clinton’s foundation share a key mission, Brozman said. “We recognize, and perhaps that’s why we reached out to the president, that what we’re able to solve here through our research will have a global impact,” Brozman said. “It’s kind of like a toggle switch—we solve it here, we solve it everywhere, and this is a tremendous, tremendous benefit for women worldwide.”

Helping to steer a nonprofit was something Brozman had no prior experience with and little preparation. A Long Island native, he had graduated Colgate, then NYU Law School and initially was a litigator.

He worked in the same law firm as Tina, a Fordham Law School graduate and financial restructuring attorney. One weekend she asked him to assist her with work and realized he was in the wrong area of law.

“What she was doing was a lot more interesting than what I was doing,” he said.

They married and had three children, a son, Nick, now 31, and twin daughters Alix, also a financial restructuring attorney, and Wallis, now 28. The family moved to Chappaqua about 30 years ago.

Currently, Andrew Brozman leads the financial restructuring group at a Manhattan-based international law firm. Eventually Tina rose to become chief judge of the bankruptcy court before returning to practice law.

Brozman is determined that his family’s tragedy will not deter him from seeing Tina’s wish come true.

“There really is no alternative but to carry on, and I think Tina’s death teaches us to try and do that as best we could,” Brozman said.

To learn more about Tina’s Wish, visit tinaswish.org/globalhealth or contact Executive Director Beverly Wolfer at 212-880-5757 or e-mail bwolfer@tinaswish.org.
Hudson Stage to Present Acclaimed Shanley Work at Whippoorwill Hall

By Martin Wilbur

Whether you’re a Broadway producer or a director of local or regional theater, it’s usually a pretty good bet to go with a John Patrick Shanley work.

The Hudson Stage Company has put its money on the Pulitzer Prize recipient and Academy Award-winning screenwriter, best known for writing “Moonstruck” and “Doubt,” for its upcoming production that opens next week at Whippoorwill Hall in Armonk.

“Outside Mullingar,” one of Shanley’s most recent works, begins its nine-performance engagement at the theater on Friday, Apr. 17.

The four-actor play, directed for Hudson Stage by Dan Foster, centers around two families who own adjacent farms in the rural Irish Midlands. Rosemary, who lives with her mother on one property, has had a longstanding attraction to Anthony, who lives with his father on the neighboring cattle farm.

Rosemary and Anthony are both introverted and approaching middle age and any dreams that Rosemary had for romance may be dashed when a land dispute erupts between the two families.

Denise Bessette, one of the show’s producers, said she was drawn to the story as soon as she read the script. “Outside Mullingar” was critically acclaimed and had a limited run on Broadway early last year.

The cast consists of Susannah Schulman as Rosemary, Sean Hayden as Anthony, Susan Pellegrino as Aiofe (Rosemary’s mother) and Davis Hall as Tony (Anthony’s father). The cast has been rehearsing in Manhattan for its upcoming local run.

Hall, a veteran New York actor who is working with Hudson Stage for the first time, said while the subject matter may sound a bit depressing, there is plenty of comedy. He said his character is an enjoyable one to play.

“The play is about land and love and who gets a farm,” Hall said. “It’s a lot of fun to play for purely selfish reasons and it has its whimsical moments and there’s quite a lot of humor in the play.”

One of the challenges facing the four actors is maintaining consistency with the Irish dialect, Hall said.

“Outside Mullingar” will be presented on weekends through May 2. Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. on the three Fridays and Saturdays. The two Sunday matinees begin and an additional afternoon performance is set for 3 p.m. Tickets cost $35; seniors and students get in for $30.

For more information or purchase tickets, visit www.hudsonstage.com.

Spring Crafts at Lyndhurst Fair Also a Haven for Food Exhibitors

By Jerry Einbinder

At the Spring Crafts at Lyndhurst fair scheduled for May 1-3, long rows of booths will display jewelry, clothing and various creative and unique handmade objects. But prominent booth space will also be occupied by gourmet food and beverage exhibitors.

Gourmet products to be offered will include chocolate wine, wildflower honey elixir, pear/ginger jam, butter fudge and premium venison cuts.

This is the 31st annual staging in Tarrytown of Spring Crafts at Lyndhurst. About 275 artists and craftspeople will present hand-crafted wares on the grounds of the estate, a Tarrytown estate that was once the home of railroad baron Jay Gould. A similar fall show will be held on Sept. 18-20.

Here are some of the food-related exhibitors and their wares.

**Gourmet “Take-Home” Food Exhibitors**

- **Awesome Specialties of Little Tikes**: Dips and spreads and salads, soup and chowder mixes, muffin and cookie mixes.
- **Bella’s Home-Baked Goods**: Includes Italian biscotti, butter toffee, cookies and brownies.
- **Betty Jane’s Sweet Delights**: Peanut brittle packaged in bags.
- **Bittersweet Herb Farm**: Dips, sauces, jams, oils and balsamic vinegars.
- **Casa De Jorge’s Salsa**: Flavors include raspberry, peach, pineapple and mango.
- **Dutch Desserts**: Chocolate pies and fruit tarts. Other pies are Dutch apple, blueberry, red cherry, peach, raspberry, strawberry rhubarb, pumpkin and pecan.
- **Heitmann’s**: Glazed nuts include Bavarian, coffee and liquor. Handmade candies also available such as licorice, “gummies,” salt water taffy, lollipops, rock, candy corn and candied popcorn.
- **Hillrock Estate Distillery**: Small-batch spirits, wine, bourbon and rye whiskey.
- **ImmuneSchein**: Ginger elixirs.
- **JD Gourmet**: Barrel-aged balsamic vinegar and olive oil blends from Italy; marinades and handmade pasta.
- **Kissed By The Sun Spice Company**: All-natural Caribbean spices.
- **Oliver Kita Chocolates**: Made with satin cream, sweet butter, fruit, roasted nuts.
- **Mostly Myrtle’s**: Gluten-free baked goods including brownies and muffins.
- **Pazdar Winery**: Wine. Also carrying chocolate wine.
- **Pika’s Farm Table**: Hot super-size Belgian sugar waffles, take-home quiche, soup and hot pies.
- **Platte Cove Naturals**: Nut-based Granola and salad topper products include maple cranberry, maple ginger, apple cranberry nut and curry nut crunch.
- **Popcorn Man**: Kettle corn.
- **Really Good Fruit Spreads**: Jams and jellies including apricot, pineapple mango, strawberry, peach, blueberry, tart cherry, rhubarb/strawberry and pear/ginger.
- **Saptauqous Syrups of Vermont**: Syrups include yellow ginger, black currant, lemon basil, blackberry and chocolate mole.

Other pies are Dutch apple, raspberry, peach, pineapple and mango.

“Outside Mullingar,” one of Shanley’s most recent works, begins its nine-performance engagement at the theater on Friday, Apr. 17.

The four-actor play, directed for Hudson Stage by Dan Foster, centers around two families who own adjacent farms in the rural Irish Midlands. Rosemary, who lives with her mother on one property, has had a longtime attraction to Anthony, who lives with his father on the neighboring cattle farm.

Rosemary and Anthony are both introverted and approaching middle age and any dreams that Rosemary had for romance may be dashed when a land dispute erupts between the two families.

Denise Bessette, one of the show’s producers, said she was drawn to the story as soon as she read the script. “Outside Mullingar” was critically acclaimed and had a limited run on Broadway early last year.

“We’re always looking for terrific new works that people find entertaining and can relate to, and then I read it and it was wonderful,” Bessette said.

The cast consists of Susannah Schulman as Rosemary, Sean Hayden as Anthony,

Spring Crafts at Lyndhurst opens each day at 10 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m. on the three Fridays and Saturdays. The two Sunday matinees begin and an additional afternoon performance is set for 3 p.m. Tickets cost $35; seniors and students get in for $30.

For more information or purchase tickets, visit www.lyndhurst.org.

**Thai Taste Restaurant**: Pad thai and chicken skewers.

Items offered for sale include jewelry, clothing, leather, glassware, ceramics, woodwork, scenic photography, sculpture, handcrafted furniture, quilts, pottery, prints, paintings and blown-glass objects.

Live dance music will be provided by the Lindsey Webster Band. There are activities for children such as face painting, storytelling and balloon animal making.

Stilt walkers will entertain.

Other activities include the making of Shibumi silk scarves under the guidance of Patricia Disantis; watching or participating in craft demonstrations by potter Scott Martin and wood-turner Don Hart; trying more than 100 musical instruments in an interactive experience; and exploring a sculpture garden.

Admission (cash or check only) for a weekend ticket is $12 for adults, $11 for seniors (62 or older) and $4 for children (6 to 16). Children under six are admitted free. Parking is free on site and at other nearby parking areas with frequent free shuttle bus service.

**Spring Crafts at Lyndhurst** opens each day at 10 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m. on the Friday and Sunday and 6 p.m. on Saturday. It is sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and managed by Artrider Productions, P.O. Box 28, Woodstock, N.Y. 12498. For more information, call 845-331-7900 or visit www.artrider.com.

Lyndhurst is located at 635 S. Broadway in Tarrytown. Call 914-631-4481 or visit www.lyndhurst.org for more information.
THE GOLDEN GOOSE GAME

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EMPIRE CITY CASINO
The Making of a Master Craftsman: Is it Learned or Innate?

One of the favorite pieces my wife and I retrieved from our antiques shop when we closed it some years ago was a Sheraton-style (but not original) settee that is delicately made with three harp-like splats in the back. We’ve always had it in our central hall as though guests might linger there if they wanted to, but it was mainly for show and rarely ever sat on.

Somewhere along the way one of the splats’ spokes had broken away and because of that, the settee had lost much of its value. However, with a big throw pillow covering its flaw, it was still pretty to look at, but I had no idea or plan of ever getting it repaired.

Then I met Brad Goodman, the assistant building inspector in Yorktown. Lorin in my PR office had told me that he was an extraordinary craftsman and could “build and repair” anything made of wood. I was fascinated.

“How can you repair that broken splat so that it doesn’t show?” I asked.

“Without missing a beat, he responded, “I pressed him further asking “but how do you know how to do those things, Tell me.”

“I just picked it up along the way from the time my mother sent me to a YHMA woodworking class when I was eight years old,” he said modestly shrugging his shoulders.”

(Coincidentally, I was sent to a class when I was 10 to make something out of wood, a Bible holder to be hung on a wall, which I still possess. In my case, I somehow feel I committed a religious desecration.)

“Did you see the movie ‘Amadeus?’” Goodman asked me, referring to the story of Mozart and archival Salieri. Both were talented, but Mozart’s work came naturally while Salieri had to work harder to get the same results. “I wouldn’t compare myself to Mozart, but building things all came easily and naturally to me.”

After that first woodworking class, other classes followed that helped cultivate Goodman’s practice of craftsmanship, including art and sculpture. He would then pursue two passions: making furniture and, as a musician (or “bluesician” as he calls himself), the making of guitars.

When he was as young as 20, Goodman purchased his first business, an antiques store in Scarsdale, with his mother and younger brother. That evolved into a kitchen sales business, and from there, his entrepreneurial pursuits brought him into the tiling, plumbing and electrical businesses until the physical labor took its toll. At that point, he transitioned to a building superintendent for a contractor until taking his current building inspector’s job.

Goodman took my settee for repair, and when I received the call that the job was done, I asked if I could visit his shop, which is in the lower level of his expanded raised ranch high on a hill in Brewster. There, the large space is filled with all of his automated equipment to which he oriented himself: a machinist’s lathe, a jointer, planer, band saw, a BIG band saw, a pin router, a table saw and a panel saw. Then he revealed my repaired settee and, for the life of me, I could not determine which spoke of the splat had been broken off. This man should be a restorer in a museum and yet his talent is available at reasonable cost to any homeowner who needs repair, big or small.

As I explored Goodman’s journey to becoming a true craftsman, I kept asking myself the same question: Would it have been possible if I had applied myself that I too might have become a true craftsman? I really doubt it.

While Goodman modestly quoted Thomas Edison when he said that genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration, I believe there is definitely something innate, a special knack, a certain “eye” that some of us have and others don’t. Brad Goodman definitely has it, and I definitely don’t.

If you would like his brand of genius put to work for a special project, Goodman can be reached at 845-480-6840.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc., the longest running public relations agency in Westchester (www.PrimaveraPR.com. His real estate site is: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is: www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.
Heart & Soles
Armonk

By Colette Connolly

Mariann Morales has always loved fashion. During her career as a shoe sales associate, customers would frequently ask her advice on the type of shoe to wear with a specific outfit.

Realizing she had a knack for harmonizing both, Morales set out to create a unique shoe boutique that she runs out of Ruthie'Z in Armonk.

Teaming up with proprietor Ruthie Zeide was a no-brainer for Morales. Zeide's high-fashion boutique has been a mainstay in the town for more than 25 years.

The architecturally beautiful house-turned-store has an array of contemporary clothing, belts, unique jewelry, and now, a line of fashionable shoes to match Zeide's merchandise.

Morales, a Goldens Bridge resident, used to sell her fashionable and comfortable-wearing merchandise in Mount Kisco before making the move to Armonk.

When customers walk in, they can't help but notice her eye-catching spring/summer collection of shoes, which includes caged and strappy spring sandals, dress shoes, espadrilles, gladiators, wedges and more.

Stylish brands like the tried and trusted Johnson & Murphy, the Italian-made Via Spiga shoes, the stylish Lucho brand from Brazil, the flamboyant line of Desigual shoe wear from Spain, Gentle Souls by Kenneth Cole and J/Slides can all be found at Heart & Soles.

"I look for shoes that you can't find in a department store, and I personally stand behind all of them," Morales said.

In fact, Morales, a Brooklyn native with two grown children, has worn nearly every style of shoe she sells. She has about 40 pairs of shoes on display in the store, but carries the same brands and more in a wide assortment of sizes that she houses in a storage room upstairs.

Morales also has a small collection of leather handbags from British Columbia and One Fated Knight as well as trendy pocket books from Desigual, the snakeskin Sorial bags and the popular Lolo totes and luggage tags.

Happy to be involved in something she has a true passion for and excited to have her business in a new home in Armonk, Morales said she is looking forward to expanding her merchandise in the coming months.

Heart & Soles, located at 470 Main St., is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays by appointment. Check out the Heart & Soles website at www.heartandsolesny.com and like the boutique on Facebook.
Italian Language and Culture With Mara De Matteo. De Matteo, born and raised in Italy, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes, creating interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and photography. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Tuesdays in April. Info: 914-273-3887.

First Tuesday Book Club. “Lila” by Marilyn Robinson will be discussed. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Wednesday, April 8

Master Networker Meeting. Join this high-energy interactive membership network of learning-based, service-oriented entrepreneurs and business leaders. Come be a guest any Wednesday to learn more about this world-class business training and referral program. Mount Kisco Coach Diner, 252 E. Main St., Mount. 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. RSVP suggested. Info and RSVP: Contact Julie Genovese at 303-929-7203 or e-mail julie@eurobella.net or just drop in.

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

Pound Fitness Program. A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix® and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10:15 a.m. $20. Every Wednesday. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

MOMMY MEET UP. Whether it’s your first child or your fifth, this program is a great way to get out of the house, meet new friends and enjoy time with your baby. For newborns birth to eight months old and their moms. Romperee Indoor Playground at World Cup Nursery School & Kindergarten 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua, 10:15 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday (except holidays) through June. Info: Contact Kim Bremer at 914-238-9267 ext. 20.

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

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

Blood Drive. The American Red Cross encourages eligible donors to give blood during National Volunteer Month and make a difference in the lives of patients in need. Extra help is needed. O negative, A negative and B negative, are needed. Pace University, 861 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointment recommended. Info and appointment: Download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Knitting Club. Come learn to knit, or if you already know how, bring your current project and enjoy a visit with other knitters and crocheters. Beginners should bring a pair off size 8 or 10 straight knitting needles and skein or worsted weight yarn. Open to knitters and crocheters 10 years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-666-8041.

Neu First Wednesdays: The Influence of Kuba Textiles on the Art of Europe and the United States. A roundtable discussion exploring two important aspects of Kuba textiles: their design and production and the influence of those designs on Western art. Guest includes artist Ghislaine Sabiti and textile designer Brooks Hagan (Rhode Island School of Design) who will join Purchase professors Genevieve Haycinthe (art history) and Julian Kreimer (painting and drawing) for a lively conversation. Try your hand at techniques employed by Kuba textile designers afterward. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 4:30 p.m. $5. Seniors (62 and up): $3. All students, Purchase faculty and staff, museum members and children (under 12): Free. Info: 914-251-6100 or 914-251-6117 or visit www.neuberger.org.

Let Your Yoga Dance Classes. The popular Kripalu noon dance class is now in Chappaqua! Combines easy dance, gentle yoga and great music. Come join this noncompetitive, heart pumping and joyful experience. Drop-ins welcome. Dance Emotions, 755 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. $20 per 75-minute class. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-238-8974 or email claudiayogadance@gmail.com.

Story Time Playgroup. Join Miss Debbie for a story, music and playtime with toys and books in this new program. Children and a parent or caregiver can spend special time together and make new friends. For children six months to four years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 1:45 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-769-0548 or visit www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.


Read to Rover. Dog love listening to stories. Come meet Rover and read your favorite story. For children five years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Every Thursday. Info: 914-251-6100 or 914-251-6117 or visit www.mountkiscolibrary.org.


A Local Family Saves By Going Solar. Most months John Mancuso and his family pay nothing for electricity since they installed solar panels on their roof three years ago. Come hear their story and learn how you can generate energy on your own property—free from the sun. Also, Lee Streisfeld-Leitner of Sunrise Solar gives a basic primer on the technical requirements and financing of residential solar installations. Followed by a Q&A. Presented in partnership with the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. Refreshments at 7 p.m. Program at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Ecological Impacts of Fracking on Plant and Animal Life. Dr. Erik Kiviati will discuss the ecological impacts of fracking and the disposal of fracking waste from other states on plant and animal life and the possible reversal of the state’s fracking ban. Also to be discussed is how expansion of the Algonquin Pipeline and other gas transmission pipelines could impact the ecology. Katonah Valley Library, 26 Bedford Rd., Katonah. Refreshments at 7 p.m. (Bring your own mug) Program at 7:30 p.m. Info: 914-232-1999 or visit on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BedfordAudubonSociety.

The Midtown Men in Concert. This production reunites the four stars from the original cast of Broadway’s “Jersey Boys.” Tony Award winner Christian Hoff, Michael Longoria, Daniel Reichard and Tony Award nominee J. Robert Spencer star in this one-of-a-kind concert experience celebrating the music that defined the ’60s. Presented by the Women’s Council of REALTORS® (WCR), Empire Westchester Chapter and benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 7:30 p.m. $50, $100, $150 and $250 (includes a pre-show VIP cocktail party with The Midtown Men.) continued on page 20
The California Drought’s Effect on the Wine Industry

Did you happen to see the photos on the front page of The New York Times last week depicting the effects of the four-year-long California drought? The photos accompanied the report that Gov. Jerry Brown had mandated water use reductions for the first time in California’s history. His executive order imposed a 25 percent usage reduction, affecting about 90 percent of residents.

The three photos vividly present the dilemma facing the state: a depleted lake bed that is completely dry, cracked and sprouting drought-hardy weeds; and skiers wending their way along small patches of snow on an otherwise brown ski slope.

With the sparse water surface reserves, the depletion of underground wells and, perhaps most important, the reduction of the water supply from a federal irrigation system, this year’s effects are anticipated to be more onerous to the state economy than any of the three previous years. For decades, the federal program has supplied water to the heartland of the California agriculture industry. Nearly three million acres – one third of the agricultural land in the state – have relied on this source.

As precious water resources dry up, so goes the economy. It is anticipated that the business loss in 2015 may approach $3 billion. The areas most affected are in the Central Valley, home to farms cultivating tomatoes, lettuce and other vegetables. Long a source to the rest of the U.S. food markets, such an impact would seriously affect local farmers’ revenues.

An increase in consumer prices would logically seem to be in lockstep with reduced crops of these staples. However, in the modern era of global food-sourcing and long-distance transportation logistics, this has not been the case. Neither the storyline nor the photos presented the effects of the drought on California’s vineyards. I began to ponder the continuing and future effect of the water shortage on the unique attributes of the California wine industry.

First, a severe lack of water for products with short life spans (several months), such as tomatoes, lettuce and peppers, is devastating. Root systems are shallow and dry out quickly. By contrast, grapevines have typical lifespans of 40 to 50 years; Zinfandel vines over 100 years old are growing today in California. This long lifespan allows vines to send roots deep into the ground, some to a depth of 100 feet. Here they can tap into water supplies unavailable to other crops.

Second, as naturally drought-resistant plants, many varieties of grapevines can tolerate reductions in available water of up to 40 percent, a survival edge unmatched in much of the agricultural industry.

Third, the lifecycle of any plant dictates that it ultimately must reproduce itself. Grapevines produce clusters of grapes to achieve their immortality. When stressed, many vines begin to shut down production of leaves and grapes, focusing instead on producing smaller grapes. For a grapevine, this fight for survival typically results in smaller yields with more concentrated fruit and greater potential for exceptional flavor and aging.

In fact, winemakers may intentionally stress the grapevines in their vineyards in order to produce concentrated wines that will command higher prices in the marketplace. In its extreme form, this is termed dry farming, wherein grapevines must sustain themselves solely on natural rainfall. A number of the most famous wines of California are produced in this manner.

What does the future hold for the California wine industry? In the short term, the economy seems resilient. The 2014 wine harvest was the third largest on record, receiving high acclaim for its quality. But is this sustainable?

For that matter, what does the future hold for the water-stressed macro economy of California? NASA recently issued a report projecting that in the next several decades the Southwest and the Central Plains could suffer the worst droughts in 1,000 years. This is not very encouraging news to anyone – farmers or residents – living in that great swath of green America in 2015.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. 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.
**Happenings**

continued from page 18

Info and tickets: Contact Pat Palumbo at 917-673-0830 or e-mail ppalumbo@houlihanlawrence.com.

Osteoporosis Empowerment Group. Mount Kisco Medical Group’s presents the first of three monthly sessions with physical therapist Bobbi Ornstein. The sessions will help attendees renew and refresh themselves with weight bearing and weight training exercise. Mount Kisco Medical Group’s third-floor conference room, 110 S. Bedford Road, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Free. RSVP required. Info and RSVP: Contact Bobbi Ornstein at 914-242-1562.

**Friday, Apr. 10**

**Zumba Gold Class.** A trial class featuring Zumba's low-impact approach. Drop in anytime. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. Free. ($12 drop-in fee after free trial class.) Every Friday. Also Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Info: Contact Amy Olin at olin.amyj@gmail.com.


**For students in grades 7-12.** Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Fridays through Apr. 24. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaquailibrary.org.

**Cupcake Day.** Come decorate a cupcake. Sprinkles, marshmallows and lots of frosting will be on hand. For students in grades 6-12. Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaquailibrary.org.

**Creating Broadway Series: Martin Charnin.** Tony Award-winning lyricist Martin Charnin will give a lecture-style class where he will share stories about his life in the theatre and give advice for rounding out songs in an actor's repertoire for audition or performance. Six to eight people will be selected from ticket buyers, by audition, to join Charnin on stage. White Plains Performing Art Center, 11 City Place, White Plains. 7 p.m. $20. Info and tickets: 914-328-1600 or visit www.cppac.com.

**Friday Night Flights: “Chariots of Fire.”** A 1981 film about the true story of Britain's quest for gold at the 1924 Summer Olympics. Inspired partly by the life of Lord Burghley, who ran in two Olympics for England, the film looks at the factors that unite people as well as how people choose to separate themselves from others. Discussion led by Professor Val Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd., Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

**WCC Film Series: “Even the Rain.”** A Spanish director and his executive producer and his crew are in Bolivia to shoot a motion picture about Christopher Columbus. The budget of the film is tight and local actors and extras are hired on the cheap. Things go smoothly until a conflict erupts over the privatization of the water supply because one of the local actors is a leading activist in the protest movement. Westchester Community College's Gateway Center, Davis Auditorium, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. Doors open at 7:10 p.m. Refreshments at 7:30 p.m. Screening at 7:50 p.m. $11. Seniors (60 and up): $10. Series subscription: $54. Seniors: $48. Info: Contact Bob Bruckenthal at 914-403-23186.

**Saturday, Apr. 11**

**Northern Westchester Hospital's Teddy Bear Clinic and Health Fair.** Children may bring their teddy bear and stuffed animals to the hospital's doctors and nurses to learn about health and safety. Also featuring games and healthy snacks, an ambulance tour and local police providing bicycle safety information. Northern Westchester Hospital, 400 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 9 a.m. to noon. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit www.nwhconnect.org/2015teddybearclinic.

**Pleasantville Farmers Market.** The market moves indoors featuring vendors with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce along with winter-grown produce 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By Neal Rentz

The Westchester Jewish Film Festival, a signature event at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, returns this week with 38 programs and a new adult education program related to the subject matter. Selections for this year festival, which runs from Apr. 8-30, were chosen by Programming Director Brian Ackerman, Programmer Karen Sloe Goodman and Associate Programmer Carrie Barnhouse.

The festival has been held every year since the film center opened its doors in 2001, Goodman said. A major reason for the annual event’s success and popularity is demographics; there are about 250,000 Jews living in Westchester, she said.

However, the series is intended for a wide audience. There is a mix of fiction from several countries, documentaries and family films, Goodman said. On Apr. 15 and 26 “From Darkness into Light,” a program of short films, will be screened.

This year’s series will open with director Christian Petzold’s “Phoenix.” Goodman said she was impressed with the German film when she originally saw it at last year’s Toronto Film Festival.

“Phoenix,” which will also be presented on Apr. 12, is a film told in the style of Alfred Hitchcock about a concentration camp survivor who, following facial reconstruction surgery to correct disfigurement, searches for her husband in Berlin. The movie features “strikingly beautiful” cinematography and outstanding performances, Goodman said.

Several documentaries will be presented, including “Touchdown Israel,” about the country’s American-style football league. Following the Apr. 19 screening, a question-and-answer session featuring former Miami Dolphin and New York Jets quarterback Jay Fiedler will be held.

There are two American-made documentaries created last year that focus on food. “Deli Man,” directed by Erik Greenberg Anjou, explores the stories behind American Jewish delis while “Famous Nathan” is about Nathan and Ida Handwerker, who opened Coney Island’s renowned hot dog establishment.

Director Lloyd Handwerker, grandson of the Nathan’s founders, will participate in a Q&A with Goodman following the Apr. 22 screening. In addition to question-and-answer sessions and panel discussions, two of the screenings will be followed by live musical performances. The Aaron Alexander Klezmer Trio will be on hand following the Apr. 15 presentation of “Theodore Bikel: In the Shoes of Sholom Aleichem,” a 2014 film directed by John Lollos. A live cabaret performance by Christine Pedi accompanied by Matthew Martin Ward will be presented after the Apr. 16 screening of “The Outrageous Sophie Tucker,” another American film directed by William Gazecki. Pedi, an impressionist and radio personality, has performed on Broadway.

In addition to adult oriented movies there are some excellent films for families during the festival, Goodman said. One is “Belle and Sebastian,” a French film directed by Nicolas Vanier about an orphan boy and a dog during World War II in Nazi occupied France, Goodman said.

The day before the series opens, “Films in Focus: WJFF 2015,” will debut. The four-week program intended for adults and college students will be held on consecutive Tuesdays starting Apr. 7 from 12 to 3 p.m. Goodman said the noncredit course will provide opportunities to have more in depth discussions of the films and the topics they address than could be provided during or after a screening.

The Jacob Burns Film Center is located at 364 Manville Rd. in Pleasantville. Call 914-747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org for ticket prices and the full schedule.
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Connecticut Superior Court J. D. Stamford/Norwalk at Stamford. NOTICE TO Fredy de Maria Ortega Lara. A Custody case was filed against you by Suleidy Alegría. Hearing Date 4/22/15. The Court finds that all reasonable efforts to find you have failed; your last known address was 19 Main St. Apt. 3, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. The Court orders notice by this publication once a week for two weeks starting on or before 4/3/15. To respond to or be informed of this case, you or your attorney must file an Appearance with the Court. Automatic Orders are in effect as required by P.B. §25-5 and are part of the Application on file with the Court. H. Valassis, Clerk. 3/11/15

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Examiner

Sports

Panthers Stay Unbeaten by Crushing Putnam Valley

By Monica D'Ippolito

After playing back-to-back one-goal games to start the season, the Pleasantville boys' lacrosse team cruised to a comfortable 13-3 road victory against Putnam Valley on Thursday afternoon.

"It's a relief and I just feel good for some of the other guys who practice hard, get more time in games like this," Panthers coach Chris Kear said after the game. "Sometimes it can be stressful with the one-goal games and it comes right down to the wire. You make one mistake, it could be a loss. So it's nice to get a nice little cushion, a nice little lead, and you can walk away a little more comfortably."

Despite the lopsided final score, Pleasantville held just one-goal lead after the opening quarter. Hayden McBride got the Panthers on the board at the 10:21 mark, but it wasn't until the second period when P'ville started separating itself from the host Tigers.

McBride helped aid the Panthers' second goal, as he tried feeding Declan McDermott in front of the net. But the ball instead deflected off McDermott's stick and snuck past Putnam Valley goalie Ryan Mello, giving the Panthers their second goal.

The Tigers cut the Pleasantville lead in half when Kyle Bronzo ripped a shot past Oscar Marchi at the 3:31 mark of the second quarter. Shortly after, though, Bryan Arcidiacono started off a four-goal run by the Panthers, cleaning up a loose ball in front of the Tigers' net. Josh Della Puca then assisted on the score.

Arcidiacono and two by Della Puca, the Panthers opened up a 12-2 advantage heading into the final 12 minutes of the game.

At 9:04, the Tigers' Jacob DeMey finally broke up the Pleasantville run, scoring Putnam Valley's third and final goal of the game. Arcidiacono provided his fourth goal of the afternoon two minutes later to conclude the game's scoring.

"It's great to start 3-0, it's the momentum we wanted to start the season," Kear said. "It's a long season, but one win at a time. We knew this was a Class C opponent and we wanted to make sure we had a good game against them. We have some big games on the horizon, so it's great to start off on a high note."

In addition to the offense by Arcidiacono, Pleasantville got three goals from McBride, while Della Puca wound up with two goals and two assists. The Panthers outshot the Tigers 37-13 in the game and won the majority of the face-offs as well.

Panthers Stay Unbeaten by Crushing Putnam Valley

Pleasantville's Bryan Arcidiacono (right) receives congratulations from teammates Brian Reda and Lucas Cohen after scoring one of his four goals vs. Putnam Valley.

Mike Hammond of Pleasantville takes the ball toward the goal in the fourth quarter of last week's Panther win vs. Putnam Valley.

Valley more than half of the period to just get its first shot on goal. With goals by McBride, Jack Howe, Nolan McAndrew, Arcidiacono and two by Della Puca, the Panthers opened up a 12-2 advantage heading into the final 12 minutes of the game.

The Panthers' Jack Howe gets a step on Putnam Valley's Kyle Anderson in the second half of Thursday's game.

Pleasantville's Bryan Arcidiacono (right) receives congratulations from teammates Brian Reda and Lucas Cohen after scoring one of his four goals vs. Putnam Valley.

Pleasantville's Declan McDermott runs past J T Montaldo of Putnam Valley in back of the goal during Thursday's game.

Brendan Casey, goes in, there isn't much of a drop off. The defense has been solid so far this whole season and I think they're really organized defensively. We do a good job taking away the other team's strengths and that forces them to play with their weaknesses. As a team, we've done a good job with that."

Pleasantville, now 3-0 after dramatic victories over Fox Lane and Hen Hud to start the season, is hoping another shot at the sectional title is in its future. After falling just short against Bronxville in the final a season ago, it seems like the Panthers are poised once again to contend for a championship.

"The goal is always to get back to sectionals and get to the section final," Kear said. "We know what's ahead of us and we know what we need to do. Like I said, it's a long season. But right now, we have one goal and that's to get back to the section final and win it this year."
SPORTS SCENE
Focus on PACE

Joyce LaBonte watches the action on the field as she waits to bat.

Junior Josh Garran pitches in the win vs. Nyack College.

The Setters' Andrew Coffey rounds third base vs. Nyack.

Anthony Gadaleto controls the ball in the third quarter vs. Le Moyne.

Ryan O'Hagan protects the ball as he gets hit in the Setters' loss to Le Moyne last week.

Sophomore Peter Sharp heads toward the goal in the Setters' loss to Le Moyne.

Above: Matt Ruquet takes the ball across the field in the second quarter vs. Le Moyne.

Right: Shortstop Brett Bittiger chases after a pop fly in last Wednesday's game.

The Setters' Jordan Chillinsky swings the bat in Thursday's doubleheader vs. Saint Rose.
Nikole Larm runs toward third base during last Thursday’s home doubleheader.

John Kukura runs the bases in last Wednesday’s game at Purchase College.

Tyler Meigel moves the ball behind the cage vs. visiting Le Moyne College.

Caitlin McCann delivers to the plate in the Setters’ loss to Adelphi.

First baseman Tom Midolo awaits a late pickoff throw in the 5-3 victory vs. Nyack last week.

Tara Bernstein (right) and Larissa Labs practice some outfield choreography between innings vs. Saint Rose.

Matt Cossidente tries to run past Le Moyne’s Kyle DeAngelis during last Wednesday’s game at Ossining High School.

Mike Gulino swings the bat in last Wednesday’s game, played at Purchase.

The Setters’ Michael Pappalaro, an Ossining High graduate, runs with the ball in last week’s game, played at his old home field in Ossining.

Natalie Gellos slams a pitch down the left-field line vs. Saint Rose.

Above: Nick LoBello awaits a pitch in the Setters’ 5-3 victory over Nyack. Right: Surina Sandhu follows the flight of her fly ball vs. Adelphi last Wednesday.
Fox Lane Girls’ Lacrosse Team Loses at John Jay

By Monica D’Ippolito

The Fox Lane girls’ lacrosse team couldn’t capitalize on enough of its offensive opportunities last Wednesday evening and wound up falling to John Jay 13-6 on the road.

“We worked hard,” Foxes coach Bill Broggy said afterwards. “The kids played hard, they hustled. We played the entire 50 minutes, we just didn’t get enough possessions. And when we did, we didn’t make the best use of it. When they (the Indians) had the possessions, they made very good use of it. That was the difference.”

The Indians won the draw controls by a 12-6 margin, but, most notably, Fox Lane seemed to struggle within its offensive sets. Four of the Foxes’ six goals came via free-position opportunities, although John Jay goalie Abby Silverstein did make some huge saves, especially in the first half.

“I think we do have to work on some of our shot selections,” Fox Lane’s Lindsay West said. "The goalie did such a great job. She’s such a great goalie, props to her, but we definitely do need to work on some shot selection. I think that if we’d done better in that area it would have increased our chances of coming back earlier, which would have increased our chances of winning this game.”

The Foxes came out strong, winning possession on the opening draw, but couldn’t get on the scoreboard. After regaining possession off an excellent ride, Fox Lane still couldn’t get the ball into the back of the net, missing on an opportunity from the second hash mark.

John Jay finally held possession three minutes after the opening draw and capitalized on its first shot on goal. But the Foxes quickly responded, with West tying the game at 1-1 off a free position from the center hash.

After John Jay scored two consecutive goals, the Foxes’ Bridget Connors answered with just under 13 minutes to play in the opening half, cutting the John Jay lead to 3-2. But the Indians ended the half on a 3-0 run, giving themselves a comfortable four-goal cushion entering halftime.

The second half began just like the first had, with Fox Lane winning the opening draw control. This time, though, the Foxes eventually scored as West finished off a feed from Connors in a semi-transition with 21:43 to play.

Alison Moky then added to the strong start for the Foxes, scoring on a free position at the center hash nearly a minute later to narrow the deficit even more.

“I was very pleased with how hard we played,” said Broggy. “I think we still have a lot of work to do — we need to be a little more crisp, we need to move a little better without the ball — but other than that, the fact that we’re playing hard, that’s the most important thing.”

After the Moky goal, John Jay all but put the outcome out of doubt, scoring the game’s next five goals over the following 11 minutes. It took until 9:36 was left to play before West finished on a free position to finally get Fox Lane back on the scoreboard and put an end to the Indians’ big run.

“We just turned the ball over too many times and we can’t,” Broggy said. "We turned the ball over a lot and they won a lot of the draws, and this game is all about possessions. They made the most of their possessions and we didn’t. We try to win the game between the 30’s and 50’s, we didn’t today.”

Keely Connors put in another goal for Fox Lane to cut the Indians’ lead to 11-6, but the margin was still too large, especially when the Indians later added two more insurance goals.

West finished with three goals, Bridget Connors wound up with a goal and an assist, while Moky and Keely Connors recorded a goal each. Hallie Vernon made seven saves for the Foxes in net.

“Maybe it was the score,” Broggy said. “We just turned the ball over a lot better,” said West. “But I guess when the middle, when John Jay started scoring a bunch in a row, we kind of lost it. But I think at the end we got it back and, even though the score didn’t turn out how we wanted it to, we still tried really hard and we fought for it. So hopefully next time we play them, we come out on top.”
Byram Hills Unveils New Sports Hall of Fame

Members of the Byram Hills 2007 Boys Soccer Team – the first team in the district’s history to win “States” – will achieve another first this spring. Team members will be among the inaugural class of athletes elected to the school district’s new Sports Hall of Fame.

The team, along with nine former Bobcats who played for other district teams, will be inducted during a May 28th ceremony and dinner that will be held at Brynwood Country Club in Armonk.

District Athletic Director Michael Gulino said the Hall of Fame would provide a way to both recognize the district’s top athletes and motivate current Bobcats, giving rise to the slogan “Honoring the Past ... Inspiring the Future.”

“The Byram Hills community has a lot of pride in the athletic program at the schools,” said Mr. Gulino. “The Hall of Fame will link the past, present and the future of the athletic program.” He added that the district was grateful to the Bobcat Boosters for their support and sponsorship of the Hall of Fame.

Mr. Gulino said the idea for a hall of fame has been floating around in recent years, fueled in part by former graduates who drop by the school and often start reminiscing about past high school victories or athletes that were standouts on certain teams.

During the last school year, the district formed a committee chaired by Mr. Gulino and teacher and soccer coach Matt Allen. The committee, aided by research performed by Byram Hills alumnus James Boyle, set out to identify teams and athletes worthy of becoming the first inductees. The 2007 Boys Soccer Team was an easy choice; the players won the Class A State Championship that year. The committee, which also included former coaches and athletes, also chose nine individuals: Pam Crikelair Garrity, class of 1997; Michelle Suozzi Verzello, class of 1995; Nancy Fay-Peter, class of 1981; Barbara Liebowitz-Bettigole, class of 1974; Abigail Gutstein, class of 1992; Matt Muller, class of 1989; Marty Durkin, class of 1982; Kevin O’Callaghan, class of 1978 and Greg Simonds, class of 2002.

“The nine Bobcat athletes elected to the first Hall Of Fame Class represent four decades of athletic success,” said Mr. Boyle. The group includes athletes who were awarded All-American, All-State and All-County honors in multiple sports. Mr. Boyle added that, considering Byram Hills is a relatively small community, “we can savor some truly big-time athletes from our high school that excelled across the decades.”

The Hall of Fame will be in the High School atrium, which students walk through daily on their way to locker rooms and the fields.

“Our current students will be able to see the names of people who have excelled in our program, see what they accomplished,” said Mr. Gulino. Future inductees, who will be chosen by soliciting nominees from the community, are expected to not only include athletes, but also coaches and others who have made strong contributions to the athletic program. Future nominees must have graduated from high school at least 10 years ago.
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