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May 29, 2026

RIVERTOWNS Dispatch

Local News,
Locally Sourced

\$2⁵⁰

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ARDSLEY — DOBBS FERRY — HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON — IRVINGTON



Memorial Day on the Hudson

Don Marra and Paula McCarthy toss a wreath into the Hudson River from the pier at Waterfront Park after a Memorial Day ceremony at Dobbs Ferry High School on the morning of May 25. Marra served as mayor of Dobbs Ferry from 1989–97 and as a village trustee from 1982–89. McCarthy is a member of the American Legion Post 1048 Auxiliary.

District to proceed with turf despite challenge

BY AMY BOCHNER

HASTINGS — The Hastings School District is moving forward with the installation of artificial turf fields at the Burke Estate following a legal petition challenging the board of education's contract for the material to be used.

Last June, voters approved a \$38,475,489 capital bond, which was broken up into three propositions, with the third centered on creating a synthetic multipurpose field and a synthetic softball field to replace grass fields at the Burke Estate. Proposition three was approved by a vote of 1,440–1,369.

On April 8, the school board voted 4–1 to award a \$5,789,761 contract to Laura Li Industries for the two playing fields, which includes \$1,246,640 for artificial turf. Two board members were absent. The product the board approved is the FieldTurf Vertex Prime with Purefill, which has an infill of cork and sand instead of rubber.

On May 4, Hastings parents Aarthi Muthukrishnan, Ariella Gastel, and Rachel Thornton filed a petition with the New York

Continued on page 4

RiverArts musters talent for Music Tour

88 acts featuring 305 musicians to perform across 26 venues

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL
REGION — The RiverArts Music Tour returns on Saturday, June 6, for a full day of free concerts throughout Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, Tarrytown, and Sleepy Hollow, ranging from blues, rock, and bluegrass, to classical, jazz, and hip-hop.

For the 11th annual Music Tour, 305 musicians representing 88 different acts will perform across 26 venues throughout the villages. According to Adam Hart, who has served as the Music Tour's producer for the past seven years, the more than 400

applicants were the most the tour has ever received.

"First of all, I get to listen to all of their music, and there's some incredible music being made now," Hart told the Dispatch. "Our local musicians are making some really, really meaningful music to reflect the times that we're living in."

The venues on the tour include formal spaces like Jazz Forum Arts in Tarrytown; community spaces like the Hastings Public Library; gathering spots like The Good Witch Coffee Bar in Hastings and the Old Croton Aqueduct's Keeper's House in Dobbs Ferry; and private properties where homeowners will welcome audiences and musicians to assemble outside. When the

RiverArts Music Tour first launched, performances at private residences were the primary focus.

"If you're in a really funky place and you're hearing something really extraordinary, it's like, 'Wow, who would've thought this could've happened here?'" Hart explained. "And that's the beauty of the Music Tour. We're taking our neighborhoods and transforming them."

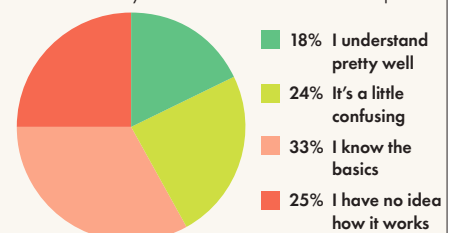
Guitarist Vicente Saavedra, who has performed at Rivertowns farmers' markets, will bring his synthesis of bossa nova and blues, called The Blue Train Project, to the Irvington Boat Club. Saavedra, who lives in Peekskill, is also a visual artist who runs the

Continued on page 15

— You Answered —

How well do you understand how local property taxes are assessed?

As answered by 151 readers of the Rivertowns Dispatch



Vote at rivertownsdispatch.com/the-weekly-poll



The Blotter

ARDSLEY

Vehicles entered: Eleven unlocked vehicles were entered on Glen Road, Huntley Drive, Oakhill Road, and Overlook Road between the evening of Tuesday, May 19, and the morning Wednesday, May 20. The only theft was of a laptop on Oakhill Road.

DOBBS FERRY

Unlicensed and uninsured: A 61-year-old New Rochelle resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree and for a counterfeited inspection sticker — both misdemeanors — on Maple Street on the morning of Monday, May 18. He was also cited for an uninspected vehicle, a vio-

lation. Sgt. Julius Derevanjik made the arrest.

Theft from Ulta: An unidentified man shoplifted \$642 worth of fragrances from the Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square on the morning of Tuesday, May 19. The theft was reported on May 20.

Mischief to Subaru: The driver's side front-quarter panel of a 2025 Subaru Outback parked outside Chipotle, Chopt, and Ulta Beauty at Rivertowns Square was scratched on Tuesday, May 19, between 5:50–6:05 p.m.

Shoplifting arrest: A 29-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for shoplifting three cases of Ensure worth \$119.97 from Walgreens, 11 Ashford Ave., on the morning of Wednesday, May 20. He was charged with petit larceny, a misdemeanor. Officer Victor Wilson made the arrest.

Suspended license: A 31-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed op-

eration of a motor vehicle in the third degree, a misdemeanor, on Main Street on the afternoon of Thursday, May 21. Officer Victor Wilson made the arrest.

HASTINGS

Stolen plates arrest: A 38-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for driving a vehicle with stolen license plates on Warburton Avenue on the morning of Wednesday, May 20. She was charged with criminal possession of stolen property in the fifth degree, a misdemeanor. Officer Wuilber Maldonado made the arrest.

Suspended license arrest: A 66-year-old Tuckahoe resident was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree, a misdemeanor, during a police click-it-or-ticket checkpoint on Saw Mill River Road (Route 9A) on the morning of Wednesday, May 20. He was also cited for not wearing a seatbelt. Officer Kevin Barry made the arrest.

Contempt arrest: A 34-year-old Yonkers resident was arrested for violating an order of protection prohibiting him from being with his 3-year-old daughter on the morning of Wednesday, May 20. The defendant was apprehended at a police click-it-or-ticket checkpoint on Broadway (Route 9). He was charged with criminal contempt in the second degree, a misdemeanor. Officer Thomas Gunther made the arrest.

Dispute at bank: A 65-year-old Hastings resident was told to not return to the Chase branch, 565 Warburton Ave., after a dispute over the fact that his car was booted in the bank's parking lot on the morning of Wednesday, May 20.

Road rage: An unidentified man tailgated another driver on Farragut Avenue and then, on Ravensdale Road, pulled in front of the other driver, stopped, yelled, and left the scene on the morning of Thursday, May 21. The other driver reported the incident on May 22.

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McCarthy delves into the method, not magic, of assessments

BY TIMOTHY REUTER

The Rivertowns Dispatch Podcast recently spoke with Greenburgh Assessor Edye McCarthy, whose office is responsible for providing fair and equitable assessed valuations to all properties in the unincorporated section of the town and its six incorporated villages. The transcript excerpted below is lightly edited for clarity. You can listen to the full interviews on Spotify or Apple Podcasts or visit anchor.fm/rivertownsdispach.



Rivertowns Dispatch Podcast (RDP): I wanted to have you on the show to better understand the assessment process. Can you walk us through how you figure out what the value of our homes are?

Edye McCarthy (EM): I'll start at the end and I'll go back to the beginning. At the end of the day, you write a check for your property taxes or your property taxes are paid through your mortgage company and you'll get a receipt on how much you paid.

In 37 years of doing this, I'm not sure I've met one person that didn't think that they were overpaying in their property taxes — me included... The majority of people that buy a house have a mortgage. And in order to get your mortgage from the banks, they require an appraisal. And the most simplistic way that I could put this is when you go to the bank to get a mortgage, and they require the appraisal, an appraiser comes out, does a physical inspection of the property, and finds properties similar to yours — to the subject property — and makes adjustments for the similarities and dissimilarities. They do that on a one-parcel basis. That's what appraisers do...

As an assessor, because in the town entire we have approximately 18,000 residential properties, I am responsible, as an assessor, to value all the real property in the Town of Greenburgh...



Assessor Edye McCarthy in her office at Greenburgh Town Hall.

We do something called mass appraisal. There's no way, as big and wonderful as my staff is, there's no way that my staff could look at 18,000 properties every single year. So we do it on a mass appraisal basis. We go out and we look at your property.

I'll use you for an example, if you don't mind. You have a neighborhood and there's 10 houses in a neighborhood, and we look at all 10 homes, whichever have sold, and we put all of that inventory into a computer model. It's called CAMA, computer aided mass appraisal. We put all the inventory into a model and we build this model based on the inventory that we get, and the model will create those values. And my most unfavorable line, apologize for the incorrect grammar, is that not all

properties fit into that model. And that's why you have an opportunity to review your assessments and come speak with me and my team.

RDP: What is the most common point of confusion you see people have around their assessment?

EM: "Where'd you get the number from? It's black magic." That's what I hear all the time. It's really and truly not black magic. It's not. I'm gonna break it down for you. We take your property and we take three bedrooms, two baths, and the condition of your house is good. O, that's you. Then we look at the other properties that have sold, just like you got an appraisal when you were buying your house, or just like

you got an appraisal when you were refinancing your house. It's the same exact thing, just on a much larger scale. We make adjustments.

If you have, an example, if you have a two-car garage and the property that I'm using as a comparable has a three-car garage, of course they're gonna sell for more than yours because you have two cars, they have three. We're gonna make a negative adjustment for that third car to bring it down to figure out what your property is worth.

There is a method. There is this model that is built for every piece of value of your home. It's called a contributory value. So again, this is the thought process that we try and get through to taxpayers.

RiverArts

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Artificial turf
Continued from page 1

State Education Department challenging the school board's decision. As part of that challenge, the petitioners sought a stay, or a pause, of the April 8 contract and any related construction at the Burke Estate, which the district announced will begin Monday, June 1.

In a May 22 email blast to the community, Schools Superintendent William McKersie wrote that the petitioners and the district's counsel were informed that no stay order would be issued by the New York State Commissioner of Education. Because there is no stay preventing the contract from proceeding, McKersie said, construction at the Burke Estate will begin as scheduled.

The district's challenge to the petition is pending. According to an FAQ on the NYS Education Department website, the commissioner "endeavors" to make a decision within eight to 10 months after the initial petition is filed. The work at the Burke Estate is estimated to take six to nine months, which "requires that we proceed even while the legal challenge based on specifications related to the artificial turf fields is being considered," McKersie wrote.

The petition contends that the board's decision to approve the contract failed to comply with the "bid specifications and representations made... to the petitioners and the public."

Prior to last June's referendum, the board released preliminary bidding specifications for the artificial turf, one of which required that it "not be manufactured using PFAS," which

stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. These are also known as "forever chemicals" and are linked to health and environmental concerns. On Feb. 10, the board updated its specs, which required "a manufacturer certified letter stating that the synthetic turf shall not contain or be treated with PFAS substances for any purpose."

During the bidding process, FieldTurf provided a letter to the district stating their products "do not contain any intentionally added [PFAS] in its formulation or manufacturing process." The company also provided a memorandum summarizing the results of independent testing overseen by Gradient, a risk science consulting firm. The results indicated trace levels of multiple PFAS compounds in the artificial turf components.

The memorandum concluded this was "not indicative of PFAS compounds being used in the products' manufacturing processes." It also stated these concentration levels "do not exceed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) residential soil or drinking water regional screening levels (RSLs)" and are "consistent with the low-level trace PFAS compounds found in soil and rainwater across North America."

The petition argues that because the letter did not state the product contains "no PFAs" and the testing indicates the chemicals are present in the product, the awarded contract does not meet the board's specifications.

"The RFP [request for proposal] issued by the district required turf with no PFAS 'for any purpose,'" Muthukrishnan told the Dispatch.

"The vendor's own testing... confirmed the presence of PFAS, including chemicals the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] says have no safe level of exposure."

Gastel elaborated on this concern.

"The EPA, the CDC [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] and numerous other well-recognized organizations have designated these chemicals as carcinogens," she said. "They accumulate in the body and we have no effective way of eliminating them... The reality is that many people voted expecting the turf to be safe."

The petition also argues that the district represented in communications with voters "that any installed turf would be free of PFAs." Among the exhibits are presentations by the district on May 29 and June 9, each with a slide about the fields that states "No PFAS"; a June 6 Facebook post from the district that states the turf will be "PFAS-free"; and a "Hastings Happenings" (district) newsletter released prior to the bond that states the specifications "stress" the product "must be free of lead and PFAS." A June 13 communication sent by the district stated that "in response to safety concerns... the district has prioritized environmentally responsible turf" followed by a list which included "PFAS-free."

Thornton said these statements influenced how voters cast their ballots.

"People on both sides were motivated by the same sentiment — wanting to support our children and students," she said. "We know that many residents voted in favor of the turf specifically because the board committed to

selecting a PFAS-free product, and the board reinforced this by including a stipulation in its RFP that the product would not 'contain or be treated with PFAS.' For the BOE to approve a product containing PFAS is a breach of their duty to our community and our kids."

Muthukrishnan called for the school board "to acknowledge that the contract does not meet its own specifications and either pause it or put it back to voters with the truth."

"The fields are scheduled for demolition on June 1," she continued. "There is still time to do the right thing."

According to McKersie's May 22 email blast, the district and board received requests to hold a revote on Proposition 3, which he wrote there is "no legal basis for." The petition challenges the April 8 contract awarded by the board, not the voters' approval of Proposition 3.

In a May 8 email informing the community of the petition, McKersie wrote that the district is "confident" the turf fields comply with New York State and federal law.

He continued, "The board has worked hard to meet the breadth of mandates our community put forth — to install dependable turf fields as part of our school athletic facilities, while renewing and reestablishing our other grass fields, and doing the entire project in the most environmentally-sound way possible."

Starting Dec. 31, 2026, the sale of artificial turf containing PFAS or treated with PFAS shall not be allowed in New York State, according to the Extended Producer Responsibility for Carpet Law that went into effect on Dec. 28, 2024.



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ARDSLEY

— Coming Up This Week —

Mitzvah Mixer

Sunday, May 31, noon–2 p.m.
Middle school gym

Celebrate Jewish Heritage Month with free crafts, activities, and music, plus food from Liebman's Deli for purchase.

Sign up and see the wish list for donations at ahs.ardsleyschools.org/familiescommunity

SEPTA Pickleball Tournament

Sunday, May 31, 3–4:30 p.m. for beginner/intermediate, 4:30–6 p.m. for advanced players
Ardsley Swim & Tennis Club
ahs.ardsleyschools.org/familiescommunity

Smart Growth Zoning Project

Monday, June 1, 6–7:30 p.m.
Village Hall
Work session about housing and the downtown area Details: ardsleyvillage.gov

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.
Village Hall

Architectural Review Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 8 p.m.
Village Hall

Senior Presentation: Brain Health

Wednesday, June 3, noon–1 p.m.
Community center

School Board Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 7 p.m.
High school library
Agenda and livestream: ardsleyschools.org

AMP FEST 2026

Saturday, June 6, 12:30–6 p.m.
Middle school
Purchase tickets (adults: \$12.50 in advance, \$15 at the door; kids: \$7.50 in advance, \$10 at the door) at ardsleymusicpartners.org/amp-fest

Eid Festival

Saturday, June 6, 1–4 p.m.
Pascone Park, 507 Ashford Ave.
Festivities include food trucks, halal vendors, bouncy castle, henna, and crafts
Rain location: Ardsley Middle School

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



Gordon Neumann, Beth Wallach, and Peter Neumann lift the Gold Star cap and cape off the monument as Peter Marcus and Gary Rappaport stand by to the left, and Todd Wallach helps his mother, Beth Wallach, to the right.

Garden restores legacy of 14 WWII vets

Memorial installed at school after decades in storage

BY RITA WALTON

The Ardsley Historical Society held a dedication ceremony for the Lewisohn Memorial Garden at Ardsley High School on Memorial Day (May 25). The centerpiece of the garden is a rediscovered stone monument that honors 14 servicemen from Ardsley who died during World War II.

The monument, which includes a bronze plaque that lists the names of the 14, was first unveiled at the Ashford Avenue School (now the Ashford Court condominiums) at 520 Ashford Avenue, in 1954. When the high school moved into its own new building on Farm Road in 1958, the monument went with it, stored in the basement until 2022, when the plan for a new installation began.

Relatives of two of the 14 fallen attended the May 25 ceremony, which opened with the high school's select chorus singing "America the Beautiful."

"In 1954, a bronze tablet was dedicated in Ardsley bearing 14 names," historical society president Gary Rappaport told attendees. "The parents of Fred Baker — killed in France 10 years earlier — could not be there. They sent a telegram from Chicago. It read: 'It is gratifying to know that our Fred has not been forgotten by students at Ardsley High.' That sentence carries the fear that haunts every family after a war — that time will move on, and the dead will be forgotten. The high school later moved. The tablet disappeared. For 50 years, the names were gone. Today, the names return."

Rappaport also spoke about the connection between one of the 14, Howard Secor, and the garden's namesake, Adolph Lewisohn, a

mining magnate and philanthropist whose 356-acre Heatherdell Farm encompassed the site of the current high school.

"The Lewisohn Memorial Garden now sits where greenhouses once stood," Rappaport said. "Lewisohn bought his first parcel in Ardsley from the Secor family. One of their descendants was among the 14 we honor today. His name was Howard Secor. He was a radioman aboard a Navy submarine in the Atlantic. He was 19 years old. He was lost at sea on June 12, 1943. The sea kept him. This ground will not forget him."

Peter Marcus, the former president of the historical society, read aloud the names of the 14 — Frederick C. Baker, Robert Bunch Jr., Angelo L. Delmerico, Charles Duryea, Daniel R. Geis, George H. Hauptman Jr., Robert L. Kakerbeck, Gordon Kreutz, David Longmuir, Edward J. Lynn Jr., Thomas F. Mack Jr., James B. Mackenzie, Howard Russell Secor, and Kenneth Dumont Wood.

Eight are buried in American military cemeteries across Europe, while two lost at sea are commemorated on the Tablets of the Missing in lower Manhattan and the Philippines.

The relatives in attendance included Kakerbeck's sister, Beth Wallach, as well as a niece and two nephews of Kreutz — Peter Neumann of Pennsylvania and Ruth Scott and Gordon Neumann of Ohio.

Peter Neumann recalled hearing about his uncle's childhood lemonade stand and his love for model airplanes. Kreutz was 18 when he died. Wallach recalled her brother's love of airplanes and how excited he had been to be assigned to the Air Force. Kakerbeck was 21 when he died two days before D-Day.

"I thank the Ardsley Historical Society for keeping the tradition alive, and to have restored the plaque is amazing," Wallach said. "I remember it at the old Ardsley High School — my parents attended. This is a real small-town event.

Ardsley keeps the patriotic spirit."

The ceremony started with the monument covered by a Gold Star cape and cap that belonged to Caroline Lynn, mother of Edward J. Lynn Jr. Former Ardsley resident Sharon Colabello borrowed the items from Fred and Patricia Arone, the authors of the book "Ardsley, The War Years: 1941-45."

Colabello, whose father, Marty Engleman, was a World War II veteran, has organized the installation of 142 tribute banners for veterans that decorate utility poles throughout the village every November. For the garden dedication, banners for the 14 fallen lined Heatherdell Road, along with a banner for Arthur Silliman, a World War I veteran and onetime Ardsley High School principal.

The relatives of Kreutz removed the Gold Star cape and cap to reveal the monument. On the back of the stone, the historical society plans to add an engraving of Archibald MacLeish's World War II poem "The Young Dead Soldiers Do Not Speak."

Ardsley Schools Superintendent Matthew Block and Jennifer Bradshaw, the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, then removed an America 250 flag to reveal a sign with information about Lewisohn and the monument.

The select chorus concluded the event by singing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Following the ceremony, Peter Neumann told the Dispatch that "We appreciated so much that the fallen 14 were remembered. The people we met within the Ardsley community were very warm and welcoming, like family. We appreciate knowing that the memory of our uncle, Gordon Boehm Kreutz's service and sacrifice, along with the others recognized today at the re-dedication, will not be forgotten."

To watch a recording of the event, visit the Ardsley Historical Society's website at ardsleyhistoricalsociety.org.

ARDSLEY

Panel says ‘hope through action’ quells climate-based anxieties

BY AMY BOCHNER

The Ardsley Green Task Force hosted a film screening and panel discussion to encourage residents to combat climate-based anxiety through community engagement on May 20.

The host was Tony Puliafico, a clinical psychologist who chairs the Ardsley Green Task Force’s Public Health Committee. He is also involved in Croton100, an organization that seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Croton-on-Hudson, and the Climate Psychiatry Alliance, which explores the intersection between mental health and climate change. The goal of the evening, Puliafico said, was to build “hope through action.”

“We’re all taking in news about climate change each and every day... It’s very easy to get overwhelmed and anxious or angry or despairing, and as a clinical psychologist and someone in the mental health field, I can say that these feelings regarding climate change, they’re pretty widespread.”

He posed the question of how residents can involve themselves in their community through environmental action, before screening the 2019 film “2040.” The documentary follows the director Damon Gameau, who, out of concern for his young

daughter’s future, travels the world to find new approaches and solutions to climate change. He meets with innovators and experts to learn about existing technology that can mitigate the effects, while imagining what a future would be like where they have been implemented on a large scale. Among the technologies discussed were rooftop solar microgrids, marine permaculture, ridesharing, and the empowerment of women and girls through education, which leads to a human rights-based approach to slowing population growth.

Following the film, Puliafico moderated a panel with Kathy Evers of the Ardsley Pollinator Pathway; Megan Ort of Sustainable Westchester; and Josh Malkin, a junior at The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry.

Each shared how they cope with climate-related anxiety through local action. Ort said she copes by finding what is within her control, and starting from there.

“It is a collective problem,” she said, “but we do have to also come back down to the individual level. [I have] to be careful not to take too much on, but also remain curious about what I can do, and kind of surrender to the fact that, if I lead by example, I might have a butterfly effect [on] the

people around me.”

One initiative she suggested people get involved with is Grid Rewards, which is a free app that links to one’s Con Edison account to track and reduce electricity usage, earning the user cash rewards.

Evers shared that what gives her hope is the “amazing group of volunteers” that make up the Pollinator Pathway, which “keeps growing and growing.” She described how people can transform their yards to benefit their environment, including using non-chemical products to deter mosquitoes, planting native, and reducing lawn size.

“The landscaping practices in Westchester are just terrible,” Evers said. “I feel strongly there’s so much that we can do to change those practices, and it starts with everybody who hires a landscaper to tell them ‘I don’t want these non-native plants, I want native plants.’”

Doing research, she said, is easier than ever. The Ardsley Pollinator Pathway has a website with guides on native plants and how to start a pollinator garden, which can be found at ardsleypollinatorpathway.org.

Malkin described how he became involved with environmental initiatives at his school, like having recycling bins placed in classrooms on the last day of school to encourage

students to put their paper there, instead of throwing it in the trash.

Puliafico mentioned the importance of finding ways to become involved that play to individual strength and bandwidth. Ort agreed, encouraging residents to start small, slow down, think “carefully about our decisions, and [stay] informed and curious.”



— COMMUNITY BRIEFS —

Tri-County Science Fair

Three Ardsley High School Science Research students won awards from the annual Tri-County Science and Technology Fair, a virtual competition organized by the Putnam Children’s Discovery Center for students in Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester counties. Aditri Inamdar placed first in mathematics and computer science; Aira Jain placed second in biology; and Joseph Park placed third in engineering and technology.

DECA standout

Ardsley High School junior Devaki Inamader, a member of her school’s DECA chapter, placed sixth for her financial literacy project during the 80th annual International Career Development Conference in Atlanta from April 25–29.





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DOBBS FERRY

— Coming Up This Week —

PTSA Flea

Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Springhurst Elementary School
Featuring used books, like-new kids' clothing, baked goods, repair center, and an upcycle and reuse station.

“Trees for Tribs”

Saturday, May 30, 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Chauncey Park
Volunteer to help plant 300 trees and shrubs
Sign up at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search for the Dobbs Ferry Conservation Advisory Board

Musical Petting Zoo

Saturday, May 30, noon–1 p.m.
Dobbs Ferry Public Library
Register by emailing
childrens@dobbsferrylibrary.org

Children's Book Nook

Saturday, May 30, and Sunday,
May 31, 1–4 p.m.
Keeper's House, 15 Walnut St.
Explore a special selection of books and interactive displays in a new cozy space

Wickers Creek Market: Antiques and Vintage Goods

Sunday, May 31, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Waterfront Park
Shuttle available to downtown for additional shopping and dining

Rivertowns Chamber: Dobbs Ferry Village Chat

Tuesday, June 2, 10–11 a.m.
Climbing Wolf, 78 Main St.

Summer Reading Games

June 3–Aug. 14
Dobbs Ferry Public Library
Visit dobbsferrypubliclibrary.org for information about the games for adults, teens, and children

Planning/Architectural Review Board Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 7 p.m.
Village Hall
Agenda available at dobbsferry.gov

Got news?

Email staff writer Julian Michael Caldwell at
julian@rivertownsdispatch.com



The cast of “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” at Zion Episcopal Church.

Company stages a Charlie Brown debut

*Musical to be performed at
Shames JCC on June 5–6*

BY LAURA SCHILLER

Amy Hamlin of Dobbs Ferry has a new philosophy — theater is for everyone, and Rivertowns residents (move over, theater kids) are craving it.

Next Friday, June 5, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, June 6, at 2 p.m., a cast of 10 will transform The Ark Stage at the Shames JCC in Tarrytown into a day in the life of the Peanuts gang through the 1967 musical “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown.”

Hamlin directs the show, which will be the debut production for the nonprofit Good Company Performing Arts Center, which she co-founded with Dan Spitzer of Irvington, who plays Charlie Brown. The two first floated the idea of launching a community theater program while working on Springhurst Elementary School’s 2025 production of “*Seussical*.” Hamlin chose “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown,” based on the classic comic strip by Charles Schultz, because of its hopeful message.

“At its heart, the show is about Charlie Brown trying to find his place in the world,” Hamlin told the Dispatch. “No matter what happens, he always clings to hope.”

Hope is what drew aspiring performers to auditions held in March at Zion Episcopal Church in Dobbs Ferry. Fliers posted around the Rivertowns invited locals to audition, and about 30 people arrived prepared with a song from the musical.

“To be quite honest, at first I wasn’t sure what to expect,” Hamlin said. “Coming from the Broadway world, I had certain

assumptions about community theater. But I was floored by the talent that walked in.

“What’s even more incredible is how many people are returning to theater after doing it in high school or college,” she added. “You can see the joy it’s brought them.”

If anyone embodies the show’s sense of joy, it’s Snoopy at supertime, portrayed by Dobbs Ferry resident John de Guzmán, a father of two and vice president of products at BenefitHub. Though he performed in regional theater in his youth, this is his first time back on stage in years. In his favorite number, “Supertime,” the lovable beagle finally gets fed.

“There’s honestly a 50-50 chance I pass out during the song,” de Guzmán, said. “Snoopy spends the entire show waiting for supper, and when he finally gets it, it turns into a huge celebration. Charlie Brown comes out and basically says, ‘Can you cut it out and just eat your food like a normal dog?’ To which Snoopy responds, ‘What’s wrong with making mealtime a joyous occasion?’ “That’s who Snoopy is — he’s always happy,” de Guzmán continued. “When he finally gets his supper, the whole thing explodes into this giant gospel-style number. There’s so much energy packed into it. If I do pass out, that’s just a bonus for the audience.”

Spitzer, a lawyer and father of three whose last stage role was Seymour in “*Little Shop of Horrors*” 16 years ago, relates to Charlie Brown’s optimism. His favorite scene comes after Charlie Brown receives no valentines and visits Lucy’s psychiatrist booth for advice.

“She tells him he should admit everything wrong with him,” Spitzer said. “She thinks she’s helping, and Charlie Brown believes her, which is probably his first mistake.”

Georgia DeFalco, the vocal music and theater

director at Dobbs Ferry Middle and High School, plays Sally Brown, Charlie Brown’s younger sister — a bubbly, outspoken character who loves antagonizing her brother and is smitten with Linus, played by Dobbs Ferry resident and software engineer Dennis Zollo.

DeFalco said she has loved the song “My New Philosophy” since hearing Kristin Chenoweth perform it in the show’s 1999 Broadway revival. In the song, Sally receives a “D” on a school assignment and embraces denial as her new worldview. When asked if she relates to Sally, DeFalco said, laughing, “I never got a ‘D’ in my life. And if I did, I definitely wouldn’t have developed that philosophy.”

Another favorite moment is Sally’s famous “coat hanger” monologue, which DeFalco has coached students through for years.

“Now I’m on the other side of it, preparing it myself,” she said. “It’s funny how things come full circle.”

In the scene, Sally dissects the grading of a coat hanger sculpture she made — and received only a “C” on — spiraling into a philosophical argument about whether she should be judged on her talent, her effort, or even the quality of the coat hanger itself.

“She completely overthinks it in the funniest way,” DeFalco said.

Spitzer said audiences can expect the musical to balance energetic comedy with more reflective moments as Charlie Brown searches for where he fits in. Throughout the show, he struggles with self-doubt and questions what it really means to be “a good man.” By the finale, Spitzer said, Charlie Brown begins to understand where he belongs.

Tickets, \$25 for adults and \$10 for children under 12, are available at gcpac.booktix.com or at the door.

DOBBS FERRY

Math, ceramics, architecture converge in former vault

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

Rana Amirtahmasebi has a new installation at a bank vault in White Plains, making the Dobbs Ferry resident the latest artist featured in ArtsWestchester's unique gallery space. Amirtahmasebi's work, titled "Continuum: Terra," was created for ArtsWestchester's Janet Langsam Vault Project, which is roughly 15x10 feet.

Amirtahmasebi is an Iranian immigrant who came to the U.S. for an architectural internship in New Haven, Connecticut, in 2003, before earning her master's degrees in advanced urban studies and city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), in 2006 and 2008, respectively. For the past 20 years she has worked in ceramics and printmaking, with her art often featuring traditional Middle Eastern geometric patterns.

"Continuum: Terra," which has been on view since May 16, was inspired by a contemporary mathematical pattern known as "the hat," which was discovered in 2023 and created excitement among mathematicians for its unique properties. In the process of developing the installation, Amirtahmasebi talked with professors at the University of Waterloo in Canada who were involved in the discovery.



Rana Amirtahmasebi in the vault at ArtsWestchester

"It's significant because it's one shape," Amirtahmasebi told the Dispatch. "It's one tile, and you can cover the entire universe with it without ever once repeating a pattern."

"Continuum: Terra" features ceramic planters of various sizes attached to the wall or resting on the floor or shelves, with

each of the planters — and the walls of the vault itself — covered in "the hat" pattern. Amirtahmasebi chose to produce the pattern in red and yellow, though the pattern can be any color. The unusual nature of the pattern presented a unique challenge for Amirtahmasebi.

"If you look at [other types of] fabric or

tile design, it's one pattern that repeats, and you can use the repetition to cover the space," Amirtahmasebi said. "This doesn't repeat, so it was extremely difficult to pick one part of it and try to cover a whole space with it. So I find it very challenging and interesting, and it was a new discovery, so I thought it would be a perfect pattern to cover everything with."

"The idea is to have an immersive space, so when you go in, you kind of get lost in the pattern," Amirtahmasebi continued. "The idea really comes from my background, which is a Middle Eastern geometric space where there's really no boundary between object and space and architecture and decoration. They all get dissolved in one."

Amirtahmasebi spent years developing the process by which she prints intricate patterns onto her ceramic pieces. Inspired by her desire to adorn her pieces with Iranian calligraphy, Amirtahmasebi started using a silkscreen process transferring the pattern onto slab of clay, pushing the pattern deep into the clay, and then drawing it out onto the surface using colorful glazes. For a few of the larger vessels in the exhibition, Amirtahmasebi had to instead create paper stencil guides to hand print the pattern.

Continued on page 15



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HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

— Coming Up This Week —

Gala with The Rivertowns Ramblers

Sunday, May 31, 5:30–8 p.m.

Hastings Public Library

The lively old-time string band performs for the Friends of the Library’s annual cocktail party and silent auction fundraiser.

Purchase tickets (\$40–\$50 in advance, \$60 at the door) at hastingslibrary.org

Architectural Review Board Meeting

Monday, June 1, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

Agenda available at hohny.gov

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 6 p.m.

Hillside Multipurpose Room

Agenda available at hohschools.org

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 7 p.m.

Village Hall

Agenda available at hohny.gov

The Introverts Book Club

Friday, June 5, 4–6 p.m.

The Good Witch Coffee Bar,
134 Southside Ave.

Email amanning@hastingslibrary.org for details

Declaration of Independence LIVE!

Friday, June 5, 5–9:30 p.m.

On village hall/public library grounds,
7 Maple Ave.

Immersive living history festivities with food and beverages available for purchase

“The Promise of Liberty”

Friday, June 5, 5–9 p.m.

Village Hall Gallery

A traveling exhibit of historic documents

Del Caraballo 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Saturday, June 6, 11 a.m.

High school

Register a team, \$175 for the adult bracket, \$75 for kids (grades 4–8), at hohny.gov

Got news?

Email staff writer Amy Bochner at amy@rivertownsdispatch.com



Emma Waterhouse and Addie Wiggins rehearse “The Tempest” at the River’s Edge studio. Photo by Meghan Covington.

River’s Edge conjures the Bard’s ‘Tempest’

Six performances to be staged from May 29 to June 7

BY AMY BOCHNER

The River’s Edge Theater Company explores family dynamics and experimental storytelling with its adaptation of Shakespeare’s “The Tempest,” opening this weekend (May 29–31) and running through June 7.

Directing the production is Hastings resident Josh Santiago, a musician, producer, actor, and co-founder of NYC-based sketch comedy group Loop Troupe. Last year, he joined the River’s Edge community, which is based in Hastings and led by Ardsley resident Meghan Covington. Santiago first participated in the company’s “Cold Reads”

program, where actors perform together without a rehearsal, and he later took part in “Homegrown Shakespeare,” which is similar to “Cold Reads” but with the actors creating their costumes at home using recycled materials. In December, “Ebenezer,” Covington’s wordless adaptation of “A Christmas Carol,” featured Santiago as a dancer.

“The Tempest” is Santiago’s first time directing a play with River’s Edge. For other theater groups he has directed productions of Shakespeare’s “King Lear,” “The Importance of Being Earnest” by Oscar Wilde, and “The Man with the Flower in His Mouth” by Luigi Pirandello.

Santiago chose “The Tempest” for its parallels with current events, particularly with the theme of displacement. The story follows Prospero, the exiled Duke of Milan, who

uses sorcery to conjure a massive storm, shipwrecking his treacherous brother and enemies on his magical island.

Going into the production, Santiago was inspired by the idea of framing a Shakespeare play within another story. His adaptation begins with two siblings, played by New York City based actors Emma Waterhouse and Addie Wiggins, looking through the relics of their childhood home after their parents pass away. They find a dusty copy of their favorite play, “The Tempest,” which they begin to perform using makeshift props and costumes.

In these first 5 minutes, the siblings do not speak, and instead communicate through their actions. According to Santiago, this was inspired by his experience miming, clowning,

Continued on page 15



Rain-soaked salute

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and U.S. Army veteran Marty Roos stand at attention in the rain during the Memorial Day ceremony held outside VFW Post 200 on Warburton Avenue on the morning of Sunday, May 24. The annual parade scheduled for that afternoon was canceled due to the weather.

Local Curiosities

— ASK THE DISPATCH —

What's that sculpture at Draper Park?

BY JANINE ANNETT

Hastings has a few public sculptures, including the bronze squirrel at the entrance of the path to Riverview Place (aka "Squirrel Alley") by Raffaele Menconi (1877-1942), as well as the 11-foot "Between Heaven and Earth" outside the library by Jacques Lipchitz, who lived in Hastings for 26 years, until his death in 1973.

Now, there's a nine-piece steel sculpture in the southwest corner of Draper called "Stromatolites," the work of Malcolm D. MacDougall III, that is on loan to the Village of Hastings. MacDougall grew up in Ardsley and now resides in Hastings with his wife, son, and daughter.

For 15 years, MacDougall's studio was in a hangar on the Hudson River in Dobbs Ferry (he's since moved his studio to Ossining). MacDougall has worked as a sculptor since 2011, and has taught sculpture since 2013. He currently teaches bronze casting and sculpture classes at Queens College. Many of MacDougall's sculptures are installed outdoors in New York City and the lower Hudson Valley.



Part of Malcolm MacDougall's "Stromatolites" at Draper Park.

"Stromatolites" was going to be placed in Prospect Park in Brooklyn, but the logistics of moving the piece to and from Brooklyn, in addition to moving his studio from Dobbs Ferry to Ossining, proved daunting. Quarry Park in Hastings was also considered as a location for "Stromatolites," but Draper Park ended up being a better fit, and the Hastings Board of Trustees approved its installation in July 2025.

"This particular sculpture was made on the riverfront in Dobbs Ferry," MacDougall told the

Dispatch. "It had a relationship to the clouds and the landscape there. It was finished for nine years and was set up just outside the building. It felt very integrated into the landscape. When there was snow or ice, it would build up, and the work was quite animated as a result of that. The dynamic of it would change quite a lot every day."

Stromatolites are sedimentary rock foundations formed by microorganisms such as cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) that produce adhesive

compounds, cementing sand together.

"The effect of sculpture is all about the impression, or the image — the space between the thing and the context of it," MacDougall said. "So sculpture that looks like rocks, snow, clouds, turtle shells — there's a springboard for jumping into other things. My hope is that someone maybe sees the sculpture and then on their walk home, they like a pattern on a rock, or maybe on a sidewalk, there's a veiny crack that they're attracted to or interested in."

MacDougall's mother is an earth science teacher, which influenced his way of seeing. "We'd always be out in the world doing stuff, not on screens or computers," he said. "I get real pleasure in that. I think sculpture is an opportunity to care for our world, in a different way."

"Stromatolites" was made with a methodology similar to putting together a stained-glass window or a quilt. "Instead of stitching with thread, there are stainless steel panels that are welded together. All of the seams are like a kind of drawing on the surface, almost like a map," MacDougall said.

MacDougall believes Draper is a great spot for "Stromatolites" since the sculpture "needs a lot of space to function."


"It's such a pleasure to have it there," he said. "I think it offers a real encounter with what sculpture can do when it's given a space to itself, where it's not necessarily being shown as 'this is an important thing' but 'this is a thing that decorates this other space.'"

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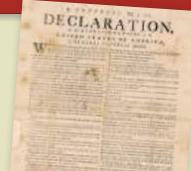
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IRVINGTON

— Coming Up This Week —

Stewardship at O'Hara & Irvington Woods Park

Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Meet at O'Hara Nature Center, 170 Mountain Road
Register at irvingtonny.gov

Brooklyn Robot Foundry: Free Family Event

Saturday, May 30, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
25 N. Broadway
Featuring robots, arts and crafts, interactive tables, take-home projects, and music
rivertownschamber.com

Bulldog Art & Food Festival

Sunday, May 31, 1–4 p.m. (rain date June 7)
Main Street

Kick off this summer's display of 24 decorated bulldog statues handcrafted by local artists

"Butterfly Gallery – Pollinator Gardens"

Through May 31
Painted sculptures on display on Main Street

Tabletop Game Night for Adults and Seniors

Tuesday, June 2, 6:30–8:45 p.m.
Irvington Public Library

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 2, 7:30 p.m.
High school library
Agenda available at irvingtonnschools.org

Planning Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 7 p.m.
Village Hall

To attend via Zoom, visit irvingtonny.gov

Chaos & Catharsis

Wednesday, June 3, 7–8:30 p.m.
Irvington Presbyterian Church,
25 N. Broadway
Jeremy Lent presents "From Breakdown to Belonging" followed by guided connection and music with Nick Demeris
Register (\$15) at irvingtongreen.org/events

"Treason of the Blackest Dye"

On view Saturdays and Thursdays, 1–4 p.m., through August
McVickar House, 131 Main St.

Got news?

Email staff writer Julian Michael Caldwell at julian@rivertownsdispatch.com



East Irvington neighbors at their lemonade stand on May 17.

Neighbors help as 7-year-old awaits heart

Lemonade sale adds to \$150K fundraiser for family

BY JULIAN MICHAEL CALDWELL

The East Irvington community is rallying behind the family of Walker Farrington, a 7-year-old born with a congenital heart defect, after he began his one-to-two-year wait for a heart transplant at Boston Children's Hospital. Walker has had a pacemaker since he was 3 months old, which was inserted following the first of two heart surgeries he underwent before turning 6 years old. The day after that first surgery, Walker went into cardiac arrest, spent 12 days with an open chest while on life support, and remained in the hospital for eight

weeks. His second heart surgery was in the summer of 2024.

After learning on July 1 of last year that Walker would need a heart transplant, Walker and his parents — Brian Farrington, Dobbs Ferry High School Class of 2006, and Nicole Farrington (née Schade), who graduated from Irvington High School the same year — were called back to Boston Children's Hospital on April 12 for Walker to begin testing. After evaluation, Walker was added to the transplant list on April 29. His parents have been told by doctors that the expected wait time for a donor is roughly 12 to 18 months, and according to his mother, 12 other families at the same hospital are also waiting for hearts. Walker will have to stay on the grounds of the hospital 24/7

while awaiting a donor, as well as during the 3-to-6-month recovery period after the transplant.

On May 17, a group of parents and their children, most of whom didn't know Walker or his family personally, set up a lemonade stand in East Irvington as part of an ongoing fundraiser for Walker and his family. The money raised went to an online GoFundMe created by Eden Sankin, who is a high school classmate of Nicole Farrington. The lemonade stand was organized by Caitlin Buffa, who knows of Walker because she has daughters in kindergarten and third grade at Dows Lane, where Walker also goes to school, and because of mutual friends. Buffa hadn't met any members of the family until

Continued on page 15



Memorial Day volley

U.S. Army veteran Seth Hidek, volunteer firefighter Chris DePaoli, and U.S. Air Force veteran James Englishby fire a rifle volley during the Village of Irvington's annual Memorial Day service on Main Street on the morning of May 25. Hidek served from 1995–99 and in the reserves from 2001–06. Englishby served from 1993–96. He works as the water and sewer superintendent for Irvington.

IRVINGTON

Public art installations to intersect along Main Street

BY TIM LAMORTE

Butterflies and bulldogs will cross-pollinate as public art installations coincide this Sunday, May 31, along the sidewalks of Main Street.

From 1-4 p.m., the Irvington Arts and Culture Committee will host the Bulldog Art & Food Festival, which will kick off the fourth annual display of hand-painted bulldog statues and wrap up the inaugural display of hand-painted butterfly sculptures.

Committee chair Kristina Schmidt fabricated the prototype for the 24 fiberglass bulldogs, which stand 28 inches tall, and made all 10 of the wooden butterflies, which measure 24-by-18 inches.

Schmidt also painted one of the butterflies and three of the bulldogs (plus one with committee vice chair Gloria Marerro). Marerro painted two bulldogs on her own, as did Schmidt's daughter, Angelica, an Irvington High School senior who is headed to the Savannah College of Art and Design.

The butterflies were installed in April, which was Earth Month, as the centerpieces of native plant pedestal gardens on Main Street. The bulldogs will perch atop their own pedestals on Main Street and Bridge Street through September.

The committee solicited designs from



Kristina Schmidt with the "Applejack" statue she decorated for the Irvington Historical Society as an homage to the orchards of the village's past.

artists for the butterflies and bulldogs as well as sponsors for the bulldogs. Co-sponsorships cost \$550, while full sponsorships cost \$1,000. The bulldogs each cost \$700 to produce, according to Schmidt.

For the butterflies, the designs were inspired by Salvador Dali, Frida Kahlo,

Keith Haring, Yayoi Kusama, Claude Monet, Georgia O'Keeffe, Barry W. Vanguard, Victor Vasarely, Vincent van Gogh, and Andy Warhol. For the bulldogs, the artists had free rein to paint the statues and add accessories.

Through their website (www.artscultureirv.org), the committee launched an

online action for the butterflies that started May 24 and will end May 31, with opening bids of \$250. In September, the committee will auction off the bulldogs, with bids starting at \$500. The auction will culminate during the annual Rocktoberfest at Matthiessen Park on Sept. 26.

Each artist will receive 30 percent of the winning bid, while the committee will use the rest to cover the costs of current and future projects.

The Bulldog Gallery featured 20 statues in 2023, 27 in 2024, and 23 in 2025. Schmidt has since become known as the "Mother of Bulldogs," a riff on the "Game of Thrones" character Daenerys Targaryen, who was called the "Mother of Dragons."

— COMMUNITY BRIEFS —

Lifting Up finalists

Irvington Middle School eighth-graders Addison Schutzman and Sydney Pollack were named finalists in the 2026 Lifting Up Westchester Essay Contest. The competition required students in grades 7-12 to write a 750- to 1,000-word essay proposing an idea Lifting Up Westchester could implement to strengthen emotional connections within their programs.



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The Agenda

SATURDAY MAY 30

Rock & Pop: Mugshot

ARDSLEY

9 p.m. / No cover charge. Saw Mill Tavern, 925 Saw Mill River Road. Reservations encouraged. smtavern.com

PTSA Flea

DOBBS FERRY

10 a.m.–2 p.m. Springhurst Elementary School, 175 Walgrove Ave. Featuring used books, like-new kids' clothing, baked goods, repair center, and an upcycle and reuse station. All proceeds benefit the Dobbs Ferry PTSA.

Children's Book Nook

DOBBS FERRY

1–4 p.m. / Free. Keeper's House, 15 Walnut St. Explore a special selection of books and interactive displays in a cozy space. Also on Sunday. aqueduct.org

"The Tempest"

HASTINGS

7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 4 p.m. Sundays / \$37, \$27 seniors and students. River's Edge Theatre Studio, 546 Warburton Ave. Imaginative adaptation of Shakespeare's play. For ages 8+. Performances through June 7. riversedgetheatre.com

Family Event

IRVINGTON

11 a.m.–2 p.m. / Free. 25 N. Broadway. Brooklyn Robot Foundry celebrates the opening of its summer camp location with robots, arts and crafts, interactive tables, take-home projects, and music. rivertownschamber.com

"Acting Shakespeare"

IRVINGTON

8 p.m. / suggested donation starts at \$25. Rivertowns Playhouse, 25 N. Broadway. Kamran Saliani, executive artistic director of the Irvington Shakespeare Company, blends Shakespeare's scenes and soliloquies in an adaptation of Ian McKellen's one-man musical. Donations support free, professional Shakespeare performances for the community. Tickets available at irvshakespeare.org

TaSH Farmers Market

TARRYTOWN

8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Patriot's Park, 121 N. Broadway. The weekly market continues through the fall. For details, visit tashfarmersmarket.org.

Pop-up Book Sale

TARRYTOWN

10 a.m.–4 p.m. / Free. Front lawn of the Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway. Shop donated adult and children's books. All proceeds benefit programming at the library. The sale will be canceled in the event of rain. warnerlibrary.org



"Night Fishing at Antibes," woven by Jacqueline de la Baume Dürrbach, is on view in "Woven Wonders: Kykuit's Picasso Tapestries" opening at The Pocantico Center in Tarrytown on Saturday, May 30.

Minnie Untermeyer Concert Series

YONKERS

6 p.m. / \$55 (includes a Persian snack plate and drink). Untermeyer Park and Gardens, 945 N. Broadway. The series of outdoor concerts kicks off with the Saba Ensemble performing Persian classical music. Rain date Sunday. Register at untermyergardens.org

SUNDAY MAY 31

Mitzvah Mixer

ARDSLEY

Noon–2 p.m. / Free. Ardsley Middle School gym, 700 Ashford Ave. Celebrate Jewish Heritage Month with crafts, activities, and music, plus food from Liebman's Deli for purchase. Sign up and see the wish list for donations at ahs.ardsleyschools.org/familiescommunity

Wickers Creek Market: Antiques and Vintage Goods

DOBBS FERRY

10 a.m.–4 p.m. / Free admission. Waterfront Park. wickerscreekmarket.com

Outdoor Live Music: Milton

DOBBS FERRY

2–5 p.m. / No cover charge. Hudson Social, 11 Station Plaza. hudsonsocial.com

A Revolutionary Tea

DOBBS FERRY

2–3:30 p.m. / \$55. Dobbs Ferry Historical Society, 12 Elm St. Interactive tea with historical storytelling and parlor games. For ages 16 and up. Purchase tickets at eventbrite.com

The Rivertowns Ramblers

HASTINGS

5:30–8 p.m. / \$40–\$50 in advance, \$60 at

the door. Hastings Public Library, 7 Maple Ave. The lively old-time string band performs for the Friends of the Library's annual fundraising gala featuring a cocktail party and silent auction. Purchase tickets at hastingslibrary.org

Bulldog Art & Food Festival

IRVINGTON

1–4 p.m. Main Street. Kick off this summer's display of 24 decorated bulldog statues hand-crafted by local artists with live music and food. Rain date June 7. bulldoggallery.org/festival

MONDAY JUNE 1

Meet-up for Shopkeepers

DOBBS FERRY

10–11 a.m. / Free. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Connect with innovators and develop ideas. Register at hudco.eventbrite.com

TUESDAY JUNE 2

Capitalism Reading Group

DOBBS FERRY

7 p.m. / Free. HudCo, 145 Palisade St., Suite 200. Discuss "Escape from Capitalism: An Intervention" by Clara E. Mattei. Register at hudco.eventbrite.com

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3

Chaos & Catharsis

IRVINGTON

7–8:30 p.m. / \$15. Irvington Presbyterian Church, 25 N. Broadway. Jeremy Lent presents "From Breakdown to Belonging," followed by guided connection and music with Nick Demeris. Register at irvingtongreen.org/events

THURSDAY JUNE 4

Outdoor Live Music:

Sonnie Daze

DOBBS FERRY

6–9 p.m. / No cover charge. Hudson Social, 11 Station Plaza. hudsonsocial.com

Brazilian Vocalist Sanny Alves

DOBBS FERRY

7–9:15 p.m. / No cover charge. Mirabella Cocina Latina Restaurant & Bar, 1 Hamilton St., in Rivertowns Square. mirbellacocina.com/calendar-dobbs-ferry

Champagne Art Reception

HASTINGS

6–9 p.m. / Free. Upstream Gallery, 8 Main St. Celebration for Upstream's 35th anniversary show on view this month. Opening reception on Sunday, June 7, 2–5 p.m. Artist talks on Sunday, June 14, 2–5 p.m. Hours: Thursday–Sunday, 12:30–5:30 p.m. upstreamgallery.com

"this is the beginning, this is the end"

TARRYTOWN

6:30 p.m. / \$15. The Pocantico Center, 200 Lake Road. Six dancers and two musicians explore how history repeats itself. Register at rbf.org/pocantico/events

FRIDAY JUNE 5

The Declaration of Independence LIVE!

HASTINGS

5–9:30 p.m. / Free. On village hall/public library grounds, 7 Maple Ave. Jonathan Kruk, as Thomas Jefferson, leads an immersive living history experience culminating in a theatrical performance at 8:30 p.m. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

"The Promise of Liberty"

HASTINGS

5–9 p.m. / Free. Village Hall, 7 Maple Ave. Opening reception for the travelling exhibit of historic American documents.

Ladies Comedy Night Out

IRVINGTON

7 p.m. / \$75 (includes open bar and light bites). The Lark, 50 S. Buckhout St., G107. thelark.club/events

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown"

TARRYTOWN

7 p.m. / \$25, \$10 for children under 12. Shames JCC, 371 S. Broadway. Good Company Performing Arts Center presents the beloved musical based on Charles M. Schulz's Peanuts characters. Also on June 6, 2 p.m. shamesjcc.org

Opinion

The Dispatch welcomes letters to the editor about subjects related to the Rivertowns. Letters must be no more than 300 words, submitted by Monday at noon for that week's issue, and include the names, home addresses, and phone numbers of their writers. No letter is guaranteed publication. To submit a letter, visit rivertownsdispatch.com/submissions

Class at library offers hope for participants with mobility issues

To the Editor:

Just came back from a lovely Rivertowns program that was held at the Hastings Library. I want to report how pleasurable this event was for the audience as well as the performers. Several vignettes were performed including a long-form hula, a mini-play about crossing the street, a poem about the dance class experience, and more. It was just wonderful to see all the little details of movement and dance practice come alive through performance. Many of us struggle with chronic conditions and balance issues and, honestly, I find the increasing physical challenges of aging to be frightening and weird. Being there and witnessing what is possible to achieve through consistent practice gave me hope. Bravo to all who danced today (May 17), and hats off to Hastings for supporting this vital and

healing program. Though the program is officially known as Dance for Parkinson's, it is my understanding that anyone wanting to work on balance and mobility is welcome in this friendly circle.

Monique Avakian

YONKERS

School board should provide information about safety of infill materials for fields

To the Editor:

With all the (justifiable) attention being paid to the PFAS content of the artificial turf about to be installed in two of our fields, I fear that another risk is being sidelined. At the presentation regarding the turf, it was stated that the infill would consist of sand and cork. I believe that there are no studies demonstrating the long-term or short-term safety to (children's) lungs of inhaling particulate silica or cork. I would ask that the school board

inform us of what has been done to ensure that no health risks are associated with these products.

Sharon Diamond, M.D.

HASTINGS

District should hold a referendum for the turf selected by the board of education

To the Editor:

Last June, Hastings voters were assured by the Board of Education (BOE) and school district that proposition III of the capital bond was for artificial turf "without PFAS". When asked to clarify whether that meant artificial turf with "no PFAS" or artificial turf only "manufactured without PFAS", i.e. without "intentionally added PFAS", BOE president Alex Dal Piaz replied that what they meant was "no PFAS". Indeed, the specifications for the bid approved in February 2026 stated that the artificial turf fields could not contain PFAS for any purpose.

A year later, the BOE and District approved a product that contains PFAS. We can debate why it was added (intentionally or not), but there is no other way to describe the findings in the report from the manufacturer except that it does in fact contain PFAS.

So where do we go from here? The answer is that we need to a new vote. We trust that the BOE did all it could to find a product meeting their specifications and fulfilling their commitment to the community for PFAS-free turf. Unfortunately, they failed in that effort. What they should do now is abandon the 2025 vote, based on their inability to meet their own specs, and hold a new vote on the product they have selected.

If they are confident that the product they approved is what the community wants then why not have a new vote to verify the community's support?

We understand the idea of a new vote makes some people angry and upset, probably as angry and upset as the people who voted for prop III based on the promise of the artificial turf having "zero PFAS" who now feel deceived.

Chloe Teasdale, Louise Mullan, Alan Golds

HASTINGS



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Farrington fundraiser

Continued from page 11

Nicole and Walker Facetimed from the hospital during the lemonade sale.

“I thought, what can we do for him outside of monetary support that shows the community cares about you and is behind you?” Buffa told the Dispatch. “And what more basic, down-home thing to do than a lemonade stand?”

Buffa galvanized a group of parents who either didn’t know Nicole or Brian at all, or only met them once. They baked cookies and provided the lemonade, and their children, all of whom are in elementary school.

Margaret Clabes, her husband Sven, and their twin daughters, Mia and Sebastian, who are in third grade at Dows Lane, printed and posted flyers to promote the stand.

“Even though I don’t personally know them, I’ve been following them on Facebook, and to send them good wishes, or do something like this, I hope the family feels the love they truly deserve,” Clabes told the Dispatch. The parents plan to launch more efforts to support the Farringtons.

The stand raised roughly \$1,000 in cash, plus another \$1,000 from people who sent money to the GoFundMe. As of May 28, the GoFundMe had raised just under \$123,000 of the \$150,000 goal to

support the family with hospital, childcare, and living expenses. The funds raised are allowing the Farringtons to rent a home in Boston, where, starting in mid-June, Brian, Nicole, their 5-year-old daughter, Kennedy, and 3-year-old son, McCoy, will be living together 15 minutes from the hospital. They plan to return to East Irvington after Walker recovers.

For the past month, Brian and Nicole have been trading off week-to-week, with one of them staying with Walker in Boston while the other stays with McCoy and Kennedy in East Irvington. During the week, Brian is able to work remotely as a TV sales manager for Fox 5 New York, while Nicole manages the home. They spend weekends altogether in Boston before switching which parent stays and which one comes back to New York.

“The kids like to spend time in the hospital with Walker, so we want to make sure that connection stays intact,” Brian told the Dispatch. “And obviously we’re cognizant of our husband-wife connection that also needs to stay intact as well. So thanks to those people who donate. We’re so grateful for those people who stepped up to give us this opportunity to keep the family together.”

Despite not being allowed to leave the hospital grounds until after he’s recovered from the transplant, Walker continues to stay active in the hospital garden, on the

rooftop, and among other spaces where he can run, hit golf balls, play baseball, and take advantage of more activities the hospital offers. Before checking into the hospital, Walker needed five medications every morning, plus more in the afternoon and at night. Now Walker has a central line in his arm that attaches to a device in a backpack that gives him medicine 24/7 without an IV pole.

“He is extremely mobile, and his doctors can never catch him because he’s just never in the room,” Nicole said.

Walker is an avid Yankees fan, and last September he rounded the bases during a Savannah Bananas game at Yankee Stadium as more than 40,000 people cheered. A couple of weeks after Walker arrived in Boston in April, he took to TikTok to invite the Yankees to visit him in the hospital as they played the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park. Yankees players and staff including Ben Rice, Cam Schlittler, Will Warren, and team manager Aaron Boone visited Walker three days in a row, and players Aaron Judge and Gerrit Cole FaceTimed him during the week. Boone had open-heart surgery in 2009, and he and Walker bonded over their scars. Walker gave the players red bracelets he and his family made for them, which Nicole saw Rice wearing during a game more than a month later.

“It’s been really incredible to see the

continued support from this team,” Nicole said. “They’re back in town at the end of June and we’ve had a few players reach out and say they can’t wait to see Walker again.”

Walker and his family have also seen support from Irvington’s Spring Youth Baseball Program, which Walker was registered to participate in for a second-straight year, until he had to begin his extended stay in the hospital. After his parents notified the program they would have to withdraw Walker’s registration, the program decided to add a heart with a ‘W’ on all of the players’ game shirts, and sent out an email to families explaining why.

Now that Walker could wind up needing hospitalization for almost two years, his parents are grateful for the support of his doctors.

“Considering the amount of medical care Nicole and I have been giving to Walker at home the last seven years, to be able to bring him to a team that is fully devoted to making him feel and be better — there’s a relieving feeling to that,” Brian said.

“It’s time,” Nicole added. “We want him to live this long beautiful life. He’s fought so hard for seven years, and he really deserves to feel so good and get a second chance.”

To donate to the GoFundMe, visit gofundme.com and type “Walker the Warrior’s Heart Transplant Journey” in the search box.

‘Continuum: Terra’

Continued from page 8

“It took a couple of years to perfect it because it has to be very specific in terms of how wet the clay is,” Amirtahmasebi said of the silkscreen process. “If it’s too dry it’s going to break; if it’s too wet it’s going to smudge. And then I usually shape those slabs into whatever I want to do.”

Each year, ArtsWestchester issues an application for two artists to create installations in its vault. Those chosen are each awarded a \$3,500 grant. Amirtahmasebi had wanted to make her ceramics the centerpiece of an art installation for years, and

after discovering the Janet Langsam Vault Project, she applied in the winter of last year.

Amirtahmasebi will be part of a panel discussion with two other ArtsWestchester exhibiting artists, Chioma Nwana and Christina Picciano, on Saturday, June 27, at 3 p.m.

Professionally, Amirtahmasebi is the principal strategist of an urban planning company called Eparque Urban Strategies, which she founded in 2016. Eparque is a term used in ancient Persia referring to the person managing an urban area. Through Eparque, Amirtahmasebi helps to develop public spaces internationally, with a particular focus on places that are going through conflicts. She recently worked on a project to

develop plans on how to rebuild Gaza. Amirtahmasebi describes much of Eparque’s work as operating at the intersection of urban planning, arts, and culture.

“I’ve always helped institutions give out grants to artists to create work; now, I’m actually on the other side working as an artist who got a grant to do this,” Amirtahmasebi said.

Amirtahmasebi noted that the installation was conceptualized well before the U.S. and Israeli airstrikes that killed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and the heightened tension between the countries. So while her latest work is not meant to serve as commentary on the current conflict, Amirtahmasebi views all of her artwork as

driven by her immigrant experience. It’s an experience she sees as common for emigres all across the world.

“For me it’s about how I can hold cultural memory, especially when places, traditions or communities are under threat, and how I can transfer this cultural memory to the next generation,” Amirtahmasebi said. “And how immigrants in general can make sure that their cultural traditions and visual memories are transferred throughout generations and through borders.”

“Continuum: Terra” is free to view on display at ArtsWestchester’s building, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, through Aug. 2.

RiverArts Music Tour

Continued from page 1

Art Academy of Westchester in the Hudson River Landing building at 145 Palisade Street in Dobbs Ferry. The tour will also include classical music at Irvington Presbyterian Church, a bluegrass jam led by Josh Suniewick at the Hastings Tennis Club, and traditional Irish music at a private home at 53 Bellewood Avenue in Dobbs Ferry.

Due to funding cuts to the National Endowment for the Arts, and other grants that supported the music tour in the past, there will be no culminating concert in the evening at Dobbs Ferry Waterfront Park, as had become custom. Instead, Uncle Lefty’s in Hastings, the Irvington Boat Club, Mirabella Cucina Latina in Dobbs Ferry, and a private home in Tarrytown will host music in the evening. The music tour also received a boost from community members like James John Wilson, who is hosting stages throughout the day and donated his personal sound

equipment to the tour.

“In this world where it costs so much money for people to go to concerts these days, the idea of playing music where people can go for free is incredible,” Hart noted. “There are a lot of people who have done this for many, many years and there are people who are doing it for the first time, and the excitement is palpable.”

Saxophonist Gary Smulyan of Yonkers and pianist David Janeway of Hastings will return to perform a jazz set in the Orr Room at the Hastings Public Library. Dobbs Ferry resident Jon Hatch will join TundraGhosts and Canoli for a lineup of electronic music sets at a home at 7 Crossbar Road in Hastings. Mount Vernon resident Ljthebaddest will make RiverArts Music Tour history as the first hip-hop artist ever to perform, with a set at the Hastings Tennis Club.

The RiverArts Music Tour starts at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 6, and goes through 9 p.m. There’s no rain date. To RSVP and receive the full tour map, visit riverartsmusictour.com.

‘The Tempest’

Continued from page 9

and performing in the wordless “Ebenezer.”

“We pick up on certain cues that there’s some sort of familial strife between them,” he told the Dispatch. “Who knows how long they haven’t spoken with each other? The idea is you come back to your childhood home, and you’re going through your old belongings. What types of memories and emotions from your past come back up? It’s interesting to just watch two people interact without having to say anything. It’s... like the old adage, ‘Actions speak louder than words.’”

The set and props are minimal, with everything made of cardboard. Santiago said this aligned with the ethos of the “Home-grown Shakespeare” series, which gets “back to the root of play and how we can use our imaginations to tell interesting stories.”

Another creative decision by Santiago was to have two actors take on 12 roles, including a harpy, which Santiago describes as an

overwhelming presence. For that character, Santiago created a large cardboard puppet, controlled by the two actors.

From his take on “The Tempest,” Santiago hopes audiences will take away a sense of creativity and reinvention.

“I think when a lot of people hear ‘theater,’ they think of what [the late British director] Peter Brook might refer to as ‘dead theater,’ which is when you have to dress up nice, there’s red velvet ropes, you get a playbill,” he said. “You think of Broadway. I’m more in line with ‘theater’ can be whatever you put on stage, essentially, and I think [that aligns] with the themes of the play, being more open to opening your mind.”

Performances of “The Tempest” will take place at 546 Warburton Ave., off Boulanger Plaza, on May 29, May 30, June 5, and June 6 at 7:30 p.m., and May 31 and June 7 at 4 p.m. Tickets are available online at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/the-tempest-4>. General admission is \$37; senior and student admission is \$27.

Sports

EDITED BY ROB DIANTONIO

Irvington stuns Rye Neck in sectional playoffs

— GIRLS' LACROSSE ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Irvington never believed it was an ordinary No. 14 seed.

After battling through one of the tougher schedules in Section 1 Class D during the regular season, the Bulldogs felt prepared for the postseason. That confidence showed as Irvington stunned third-seeded Rye Neck 15-6 on the road in the opening round of the Section 1 Class D tournament on May 23.

"We had a tough schedule this year," Irvington coach Pat DiBenedetto said. "Having an opportunity to kind of have a new season for us to see what we can do was important for us. I think the seniors really don't want to leave on a sour note."

The Bulldogs had faced larger programs such as Lakeland/Panas and Fox Lane during the regular season while also matching up against perennial Class D powers Pleasantville and Briarcliff. That difficult slate now appears to have had benefits.

Rye Neck grabbed an early 2-0 lead, but Irvington quickly settled in and completely took over the game with a dominant run fueled by draw controls, ball movement, and balanced scoring.

Eighth-grader Lizzy Villa scored off an assist from senior Sophia Im with 5:32 left in the first quarter to tie the game at 2-2. Just 23 seconds later, freshman Marina Foley converted another feed from Im to give Irvington its first lead at 3-2.

After Rye Neck tied the game, Foley struck again off a pass from senior Federica Ricciardella with 1:42 remaining in the quarter to put the Bulldogs ahead for good.

Irvington then blew the game open in the second quarter. Ricciardella scored on a free-position shot early in the period before



Irvington's Federica Ricciardella looks to work her way past a Rye Neck defender. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

adding another goal off an assist from Im to make it 6-3. Im followed with a goal off a Ricciardella assist, and Villa scored off another feed from Ricciardella as the Bulldogs continued to pour it on.

Villa later curled around from behind the cage and fired home another goal to extend the lead to 9-3. Ricciardella and Im each

added late goals before halftime, including Im scoring on the run with 28.8 seconds left to send Irvington into the break ahead 11-4. Goalie Sadie Kilbury preserved the momentum by making a save as time expired in the half.

"We knew that as we were down 2-0, we really needed to step up our game,"

Ricciardella said. "I think we all worked really well together, and running our plays correctly helped us take the lead."

Irvington's dominance on the draw circle played a major role throughout the game. Ricciardella controlled 14 draws while surpassing the 100-draw-control milestone

Continued on page 18

Panthers shut out by John Jay-CR in softball quarterfinals

— VARSITY ROUNDUP —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

Fourth-seeded Ardsley's season came to an end in the Section 1 Class A quarterfinals on May 26, as the Panthers were shut out by No. 5 John Jay-Cross River, 2-0, in a tightly contested playoff matchup.

The Wolves did all their scoring in the opening inning, stringing together timely hits to grab an early advantage. From there, Ardsley senior ace Sofia Haber settled in and kept the Panthers within striking distance the rest of the way, but Ardsley's offense could never find the breakthrough it needed against John Jay pitchers Julia

Gieras and Maria DeGaetano.

Despite the loss, Haber turned in another strong outing to cap off a decorated varsity career. The Gettysburg College commit pitched all seven innings, allowing two earned runs on five hits while striking out six.

After the difficult first inning, Haber regrouped quickly and gave the Panthers a chance to battle back.

"Those two runs happened in the first inning and unfortunately, they were just able to string a few hits together and capitalize on it," Haber said. "But after that we were able to shut them down and the defense came through in a big way."

Ardsley's defense backed its senior pitcher throughout the game, helping keep the Wolves off the scoreboard over the final six innings. But the Panthers struggled to generate offense against Gieras and DeGaetano, who combined to allow just three hits while striking out eight. Ardsley's hits came from Haber, Noemi Ippolito, and Summer Lopez.

"[Their pitchers] had good speed and movement, but I think it was more about us not really stringing hits together when we had opportunities," Haber said. "We hit some balls hard, but it was either right at them or just not at the right time to get runs on the board."

The quarterfinal defeat closed the curtain on the careers of Haber and fellow senior Haley Albano, who helped lead Ardsley (16-6) through another strong season and deep playoff run.

Haber leaves as one of the most accomplished players in program history. Earlier in the postseason, she recorded her 700th career strikeout during a 9-0 opening-round victory over No. 13 Nanuet on May 22. In that game, Haber tossed a two-hit shutout with 12 strikeouts and no walks. She finished her remarkable career with 714 strikeouts.

Albano also played a key role in the

Continued on page 19

Sports

Last-second goal sends Irvington into sectional semis

— BOYS' LACROSSE —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

For a moment, it looked like Irvington's season was slipping away.

Third-seeded Irvington watched a four-goal halftime lead disappear as visiting No. 6 Westlake stormed back in the second half and grabbed a one-goal lead with under 6 minutes remaining in the Section 1 Class D quarterfinals on May 26.

But the Bulldogs never panicked. Instead, they delivered one final breathtaking sequence that will be remembered for a long time in Irvington lacrosse.

After Liam Wade tied the game with 1:14 left, Irvington pulled off a miraculous full-field play in the final seconds, as senior Nick Grados found sophomore D.J. Ufer cutting to the cage for the game-winning goal with just 2 seconds remaining to lift the Bulldogs to a thrilling 9-8 victory.

The dramatic win sends Irvington into the Section 1 Class D semifinals, where the Bulldogs will travel to face second-seeded Bronxville on May 29.

Irvington appeared to be in complete control early on, building a 7-3 halftime lead behind balanced offensive production and strong ball movement. But Westlake completely shifted the momentum after the break.

The Wildcats outscored Irvington 3-0 in the third quarter to cut the deficit to 7-6 entering the fourth, and the pressure only intensified from there.

Westlake tied the game early in the fourth before taking its first lead at 8-7 with 5:46 remaining. Despite watching the momentum swing heavily toward the Wildcats, Irvington stayed composed.

"We just reminded the team that even though they came back from four goals, the game was tied," Grados said. "It was all business. We can't ride the wave of emotions. We just had to stay calm and finish the job."

The Bulldogs finally broke through with 1:14 left when Wade fired home a goal on the run to knot the game at 8-8.

Then came the sequence nobody at Meszaros Field will forget.

After Irvington forced a turnover, the Bulldogs got one final possession with 13 seconds left as overtime appeared inevitable. Grant Malakoff launched a full-field towering pass toward Grados. Irvington calls the play "touchdown."

"So when it's under 20 seconds left, we call 'touchdown,'" Grados said. "You just chuck it as far as you can. Grant threw an unbelievable pass, D.J. had the big goal, and the rest is history."

Grados hauled it in near the offensive end, worked his way toward the cage, and spotted Ufer cutting through the middle. Ufer buried the chance with 2 seconds left, igniting a wild celebration.



(Above) Irvington's Saxon Frank looks to work his way to the cage. (Below) Irvington's Harrison Malakoff looks to make a save against Westlake. Photos by Rob DiAntonio.

"I saw there was no time left and I was yelling, 'touchdown,'" Ufer said. "I knew Nick got it, and honestly all I wanted to do was get him one last assist. He's our captain and it meant so much to me to put that in the back of the net and win a playoff game for the first time in my career."

The Bulldogs leaned heavily on their attack throughout the night. Saxon Frank led Irvington with three goals and an assist, while Grados finished with two goals and three assists. Chris Callahan added two goals, Wade had one goal and three assists, and Ufer delivered the biggest goal of the night.

Irvington coach Mike Schaefer was especially pleased with how unselfishly the offense played.

"Our attack scored six of our nine goals, but equally impressive was the fact they assisted on seven of our nine goals," Schaefer said. "We shared the ball really nicely."

Harrison Malakoff also played a major role in preserving the win, making 16 saves in net, including several key stops during Westlake's second-half surge. "He's come up big for us all year long," Schaefer said.

The victory carried added meaning for

Irvington after last season's heartbreaking one-goal playoff loss to Blind Brook in the quarterfinals. Grados missed that game because of an injury, making Thursday night's breakthrough even more emotional for the senior captain.

"I was hurt for that game and it hurt me so much not being able to play with two of my best friends for the last time," Grados said, referencing former teammates Alex Zimman and Bowie Frank, who both transferred. "Making the semifinals has been a goal of mine my whole life, so this means a lot."

Ufer also remembered the sting of last year's loss.

"I hit a couple pipes in the playoffs last year," he said. "A lot of the seniors, this has been their lifelong goal to make it to the semifinals. I'm just so glad we could do that for them."

Schaefer said the postgame message centered around appreciating the moment.

"I've enjoyed every moment with these guys," Schaefer said. "This whole high school sports thing is fleeting. I told them to enjoy every slice of pizza, every sandwich, and every practice together."



Now, Irvington (12-5) turns its attention to Bronxville with a trip to the sectional final on the line.

"I've never beaten them," Grados said. "We're very excited to give them a fight."

Sports

Dobbs Ferry's breakthrough season ends in semifinals

— FLAG FOOTBALL —

BY ROB DIANTONIO

The Dobbs Ferry flag football team's first trip to the Section 1 Class C semifinals did not end with another postseason breakthrough, but still showed how far the Eagles have come in only two years as a program.

Sixth-seeded Dobbs Ferry fell to No. 7 Byram Hills, 33-20, in a semifinal that began on May 20 and had to be finished the following day after thunder and darkness halted play midway through the fourth quarter.

The Eagles, who lost in the quarterfinals last year, had already made program history with their first playoff win in the quarterfinals against Bronxville. Against Byram Hills, they ran into a dynamic playmaker in Amelia Amenedo, whose blazing speed helped her score four touchdowns and send the Bobcats to the sectional final.

"The first time we played Byram during the year they were missing some players," Dobbs Ferry coach Vinny Garofalo said. "We knew that the playoff game was going to come down to pulling flags and containing their big plays. Unfortunately, we gave up a few long touchdowns to a very talented player and team."

Dobbs Ferry trailed early after Byram Hills struck on a 25-yard touchdown pass with 3:34 left in the first quarter. The Eagles answered in the second quarter behind senior quarterback Mya Ustares. With 9:05 left in the half, Ustares found fellow senior Jane Bolger for a 45-yard touchdown pass to tie the game at 6-6.

Dobbs Ferry then grabbed the lead after Mimi Phillips came up with an interception and returned it to the Byram Hills



Dobbs Ferry's Leia Brandon picks up yards along the sideline. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

34-yard line. Ustares moved the Eagles closer with a swing pass to Leia Brandon, who turned it into a 14-yard gain down to the five. With 1:55 remaining in the half, Ustares connected with Brooke Perri for a 5-yard touchdown pass to put Dobbs Ferry ahead 12-6.

But Byram Hills responded quickly. With 1:18 left before halftime, the Bobcats scored

on a long touchdown pass and converted the extra point to take a 13-12 lead into the break.

Amenedo helped Byram Hills create separation in the second half.

She broke free for a 45-yard touchdown run with 6:56 left in the third quarter, stretching the Bobcats' lead to 19-12. Dobbs Ferry had a chance to answer after a big run

by Ustares, but the Eagles turned the ball over on downs.

Byram Hills added another touchdown with 15.8 seconds left in the third quarter and converted the extra point to make it 26-12.

Still, Dobbs Ferry did not go quietly. Ustares led the Eagles on another scoring

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Natalie Rushford carries the ball. Photo by Rob DiAntonio.

Girls' lacrosse

Continued from page 16

for her career.

"She's the type of kid that works outside of practice," DiBenedetto said. "She's constantly at home working on her game. When she gets laser focused on something, she puts all her energy into it."

Ricciardella credited her teammates for helping her control possession throughout the afternoon.

"I have to give it to my teammates on the circle as well," she said. "They're always stepping up and helping me get the draw. We practice a lot of it whenever we're running a scrimmage, so that really helps with it."

Foley opened the second half with another goal to push the lead to 12-4. Rye Neck scored twice late in the third quarter to trim the deficit to 12-6, but Irvington quickly shut down any hopes of a comeback.

Im opened the fourth-quarter scoring before Villa buried another goal off an assist from Ricciardella to make it 14-6. Villa later capped the scoring with with 1:39 remaining.

Villa finished with five goals and one assist along with five ground balls. Im recorded four goals and two assists, Ricciardella tallied three goals and four assists, and Foley added three goals. Senior Leila Schneider contributed four assists, senior Natalie Rushford caused four turnovers, and Kilbury made five saves while also coming through with several key stops in the second half.

The contributions from eighth-grader Villa and freshman Foley proved vital and are something DiBenedetto believes bodes well for the future of the program. "There's a lot of talent coming up," he said.

Ricciardella agreed.

"Our team is relatively young," she said. "Having those younger teammates really step up is really important for us. They've

helped us gain the lead not just this game, but in multiple games."

Irvington improved to 6-11 and was scheduled to travel to No. 11 Pawling for the quarterfinals on May 27.

Dobbs Ferry falls to Croton

Ninth-seeded Dobbs Ferry (9-8) lost to No. 8 Croton-Harmon 19-8 in the Section 1 Class D opening round on May 23. Scarlett Kilroe (2G, 2A), Juliet Curanovic (2G, 1A), Megan Hartnett (2G), Molly O'Brien (1G), Hollen Peet (1G), and Claire Coughlin (14S) led the Eagles.

Ardley comes up short vs. Nanuet

No. 7 Ardley (9-8) fell to No. 10 Nanuet 18-12 in the Section 1 Class C opening round on May 22. Mairead Gowran led the Panthers with seven goals, one assist, and five draw controls. Krista Kelly (3G), Lily Tiernan (1G, 3A), Liliana Champion (1G), Anna Gallante (2A), Lyla Vega (1A), and Sienna Kay (7S) contributed.

Classies

The Dispatch Classies are for person-to-person ads and notices to the community. Submissions are due by 12 p.m. Monday for that Friday's paper. To purchase a classified notice, go to market.rivertownsdispatch.com/classies



IN SEARCH OF

LOOKING FOR A GARAGE.

Hastings resident looking for Rivertown garage space for running and driving vintage car that does not leak oil. Primarily over the winter. Willing to clean out your space if needed. Please call or text 917-553-0770. Thank you.

HUMANS CONNECTING WITH HUMANS

Looking for a violin teacher, a puppy trainer, some fidgets, a

couch, some native plants, or a conversation? The Dispatch Classifieds are for real people, reaching real people — no bots, no algorithms, no AI.

Share your news — either here in Announcements or on the Photo Wall. market.rivertownsdispatch.com/classies



PUBLIC NOTICES

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will

be received by the Village Clerk of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson until 11:00 AM on June 10th, 2026, Hastings-on-Hudson, Municipal Building, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706, at which time and place said sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for the furnishing and/or placing of the following materials:

The Village of Hastings-on-Hudson ("Village") is soliciting proposals from qualified geothermal well drillers ("Proposers") to provide material and installation services for geothermal test bore at the Village Hall. The project shall be delivered as a turn-key installation, based on the Test Bore Specifications prepared

by the Engineer of Record. Specifications and Bid proposal forms will be available on May 22nd, 2026 online at <https://www.hohny.gov/Bids> or by sending an email to the Village Clerk/Treasurer at Acostantini@hohny.gov. All bidders are to notify Anthony Costantini upon downloading the project documents.

In addition to the above, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson has partnered with BidNet as part of the Empire State Purchasing Group and will post our bid opportunities and any addendums to this site. As a vendor, you can register with Empire State Purchasing Group and be sure that you see all of the Village's available bids, addendums, and opportunities. Detailed

plans and specifications for said bid may be obtained through the Empire State Purchasing Group at the following link: <http://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/hastings-on-hudson>

Bids shall be made on the Proposal Forms, furnished with the Specifications and must be accompanied by a Bid Bond acceptable to the Village, in the amount of not less than 5% of the total amount of the Bid to be held by the Village as a guarantee for the proper execution and delivery of the Contract and bonds to secure the faithful performance thereof. In default of such execution and delivery of Contract and Bonds, the bond shall be forfeited to and retained by the Village

of Hastings-on-Hudson as liquidated damages.

All questions should be directed in writing to Mary Beth Murphy by email to Villagemanager@hohny.gov no later than May 29th, 2026. Any Addenda will be emailed to prospective bidders and be posted on BidNet by June 4th, 2026.

A site walk-through is optional and can be scheduled by contacting the Village Manger in writing at villagemanager@hohny.gov.

All bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes with accompanying flash drive plainly marked "Bid for 2026 Geothermal Test Bore — due June 10th, 2026" or submit-

PHOTO WALL



DOG OF THE WEEK

Ophelia is one of the Paws Crossed Animal Rescue's Pets of the Week. Reach out to adoptions@pawscrossedny.org to learn more!

ted online via BidNet.

The Village reserves the right

to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities at its discretion.

Varsity roundup

Continued from page 16

first-round victory over Nanuet, collecting two hits, including a double, while driving in a run and scoring twice. Samantha Morganelli added an RBI double, while Lopez had a hit and scored twice.

While the Panthers fell short of a sectional title, Haber said the relationships and memories built during her five years on varsity will stay with her long after her playing career at Ardsley ends.

"The last five years on varsity have shaped me not only as a player but as a person," Haber said. "Coach [Noreen] Degnan always says, 'one team, one family,' and it's really true. This team and this community are extremely supportive, and there's no place like it. I will definitely miss that the most."

Haber reflected on how much representing Ardsley has meant to her, dating back to her earliest softball memories.

"From my days at Ardsley Little League where I started playing at 4 years old to my last day on the varsity mound, I am so honored and proud to have represented this school and town and will forever be a Panther," she said.

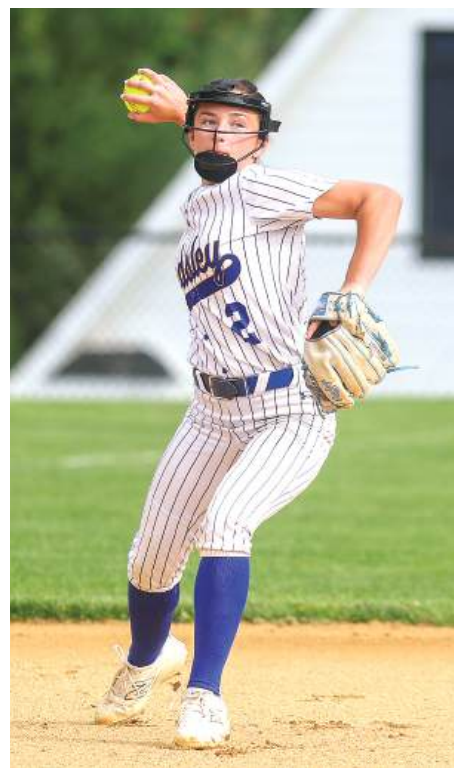
No. 15 Irvington (6-14) lost to second-seeded Pearl River 17-0 in five innings on the road in the Section 1 Class A opening round on May 22.

Track and field

Dobbs Ferry senior Chris Doherty won the 800 meters (1:54.97) at Suffern's Mountie Madness on May 21.

Hastings sent a large group to the event, with senior Danae Morgan leading the way for the girls. She placed first in the shot put with a heave of 36-feet, 4 1/2 inches and was also fourth in the discus (103-3).

Emma Boudrias was sixth in the long jump (15-6) and seventh in the high jump



In the quarterfinals, Ardsley's Noemi Ippolito throws the ball (left); teammate Sofia Haber pitches (right). Photos by Rob DiAntonio.

(4-3). Claire Grushko took 10th in the 1,500 meters (4:47.11).

Kai Ghalib paced Hastings' boys, finishing 10th in the 400-meters (51.95) and 15th in the 100-meter dash (11.49).

Masters School junior Mason Rosenblatt, a Hastings resident, placed first in the 400-meters at the NYSAIS championship for the second straight season on May 20. He recorded a season-best time of 49.51 seconds.

Rosenblatt combined with David Morris, Khair Parris of Dobbs Ferry, and Henry Frasca to finish first in the 4x400-meter relay in a meet record time of 3:21.99.

Boys' tennis

Third-seeded and host Irvington defeated No. 6 Pleasantville 3-0 in the



Flag football

Continued from page 18

drive in the fourth quarter, hitting Perri for a 15-yard gain and later finding her again to move the ball to the 6-yard line. With 7:21 left, Ustares found Phillips in the left corner of the end zone for a 6-yard touchdown pass, cutting the deficit to 26-18.

Before Dobbs could attempt the extra point, the game was stopped. When play resumed on May 21, the Eagles converted the two-point try on another pass from Ustares to Phillips, making it 26-20 and giving Dobbs a chance to complete the comeback.

But Byram Hills delivered the final answer, adding a late touchdown to close out the win.

For Dobbs Ferry, the loss ended a season that Garofalo still viewed as triumph.

"This season was a huge success in my eyes," Garofalo said. "We were able to obtain two of our team's goals — a winning record for the year and advancing further in the playoffs than last season. We had a lot of individual growth in all aspects of the game. I felt like our execution of plays improved as the season went on, demonstrating the effort of the team at practice also."

The Eagles will graduate Ustares, Bolger, Phillips, and Olivia Nunez, a quartet that played a major role in building the program from the ground up.

"This senior group was a pretty small class, having only four, with one of them playing for the first time this season," Garofalo said. "However, their impact on and off the field is going to be hard to replace. They have been a huge part of the success we have had so far over the last two years."

He continued, "They should be extremely proud of what they have started in Dobbs Ferry. We will miss them greatly, but I know that there are younger players in the program ready to step in and fill their shoes."

quarterfinals of the Division 2 team tournament on May 26.

The Bulldogs swept the doubles matches to clinch the win. The teams of A.J. Sloyer and Paul Van Haetsdaele (6-1, 7-6), Hagai Frechter and Sawyer Stein (6-2, 6-2), and Oliver Huang and Levent Sarayli (6-1, 6-0) were each victorious. Eldad Frechter (5-1) and Connor Maglienti (3-0) were each leading in singles action when the match concluded.

No. 4 Hastings lost to No. 5 Briarcliff 3-1 on the road in the D2 quarterfinals on May 26. The doubles team of Jude El Yaman and Marcus Gelman picked up the lone win: 6-2, 6-3.

Irvington and Hastings shared the League C title with both finishing 9-1 in league play.



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