

# THE Rye City REVIEW

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## ONE SHINING MOMENT

Taylor Maurer goes up for a layup on Feb. 28 against Ursuline. Maurer and the Garnets topped the Koalas 63-47 to bring home Rye's first section title since 2004. For story, see page 16. Photo/Andrew Dapolite

## Central business district streetscape project set to begin

By ANGELA JORDAN  
Staff Writer

More than a decade in the making, the city of Rye is finally moving forward with critical improvements to its central business district.

At the City Council meeting on Feb. 24, City Planner Christian Miller gave a detailed presentation on the upgrades, which will take place at the intersection of Purchase, Elm and Smith streets, including a stretch of Smith Street between Boston Post Road and Purchase Street.

According to Miller, the project

will focus on fixing deteriorated infrastructure, promoting greater pedestrian safety and improving sustainability in those areas. The city Planning Department has also taken traffic flow into consideration and therefore does not want to impede it, as well as minimizing any losses in parking to an area that already struggles with lack of parking at certain times during the business week.

According to Miller, the estimated cost of the project is \$880,000, and was included in a voter-approved bond referendum in 2012.

Some of the ideas outlined by

Miller during the presentation include extending the sidewalks and making them ADA compliant, adding trees and new streetlights, and improving drainage.

Ultimately, Miller said, the project is meant to support the central business district, CBD, and "preserve and enhance the CBD's character, and reinforce that this is a place of social gathering."

"The plan... we believe is not the city's plan, but the community's plan," Miller said. "And this is because of [the community's] involvement and input in a variety of ways, over a number

of years."

At the presentation, Miller described this project as "about a dozen years in the making," citing 2002 as the earliest the project was mentioned. Miller predicts construction will begin in May, and be completed in July.

Miller said the construction will commence in two phases, one taking place primarily on Smith Street and one primarily on Purchase Street. During the Purchase Street phase, the plan includes closing the north-bound lane of Purchase Street,

STREETSCAPE continued on page 7

## Rye Golf Club settlement awards city \$1.55M

By JAMES PERO  
Staff Writer

The city of Rye will walk away with \$1.55 million as a result of a settlement with its insurance carrier, Travelers, regarding money stolen by former Rye Golf Club manager Scott Yandrasevich between 2007 and 2012.

Though the city's original insurance claim against Travelers, which was filed in August 2013, sought a sum of \$2.1 million, according to Mayor Joe Sack, a Republican, the city is more than pleased with the results of its efforts.

"It took a good amount of fortitude to stick with it over time," Sack said. "Our hard work was rewarded with a \$1.55 million settlement. This is a big win for the city of Rye and the members of the Rye Golf Club."

After Traveler's repeated failure to respond to the city's claim for close to two years, in July 2015, the Rye City Council filed a formal suit against the insurance carrier.

The settlement comes as a result of Yandrasevich pleading guilty to stealing approximately \$271,000 from the city-owned golf club by setting up shell companies in order to bill the city for services.

However, city officials, including Sack, always felt the level of financial theft conducted through Yandrasevich's shell companies exceeded the amount

he was prosecuted for.

Yandrasevich was convicted of grand larceny and falsifying documents in August 2015 and is currently serving a one- to three-year sentence in state prison. He is currently serving out his sentence in Altona State Correctional Facility in upstate New York.

According to City Attorney Kristen Wilson, the city can actively pursue the additional \$271,000 that the Westchester County District Attorney's office charged Yandrasevich with stealing. Whether the city will be successful in its pursuit of money stolen by Yandrasevich, however, remains unclear. As a part of his plea agreement, Yandrasevich was required to pay restitution but was sentenced to extra time after failing to pay the sum.

Currently, according to Sack, the city is unsure of just how it will allocate the money awarded in the suit, but now that the \$1.55 million settlement has been awarded, its attention will turn to a potential class action lawsuit filed by RM Staffing—a shell company set up by Yandrasevich during his tenure as general manager.

The suit—which now includes more than 50 former employees of the shell company—seeks compensation for unpaid overtime, business expenses, stolen tips and their associated penalties.

According to attorney Brent

SETTLEMENT continued on page 10



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## Parents hoping for high school sign language course



Eighth-graders Audrey Miller, left, and Allie Depauw teach American Sign Language to first-graders at Midland Elementary School earlier this year. Photo courtesy Peter Gouveia

By SARAH VARNEY  
Education Reporter

Parents of special education students at Rye High School have their fingers crossed that the district's tentative plan to offer at least a one-year American Sign Language course will be ready by the fall.

So far, nearly 50 high school students have expressed interest in taking American Sign Language, ASL, as a foreign language that would allow them to meet graduation requirements.

In order to graduate with a Regents diploma, a student must receive credit for at least one year of a foreign language course. The school currently offers Latin, Mandarin, French and Spanish. An elective ASL class has been available at Rye Middle School for seventh- and eighth-graders since the 2014-2015 school year.

According to Peter Gouveia, a middle school English teacher who also teaches ASL to seventh- and eighth-graders,

the sign language class remains popular and there is currently one class of Level 1 students and one of Level 2 students. In total, approximately 28 students are enrolled in the ASL course.

Gouveia learned ASL as a senior at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut, while preparing for missionary work in Mexico. He spent six months in Mexico teaching English to a deaf girl.

Gouveia agrees that ASL is an excellent fit for students who have trouble writing, speaking and/or translating traditional foreign languages.

For special education students, some of whom have dyslexia or difficulty processing and retaining information, the foreign language credit requirement is a significant hurdle, according to one parent facing such a predicament.

"I've been pushing for this for a while," said Doreen Zion, co-president of the high school Rye All Inclusive Special Education parents' group. "It's very hard to

get a waiver for the foreign language requirement."

Dr. Betty Ann Wyks, the district's assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, said the district's curriculum council envisioned expanding the ASL program to the high school from the beginning of its implementation in the middle school in 2014.

The biggest roadblock, however, has been finding a certified teacher who meets the requirements of the New York State Education Department for foreign language instruction.

Despite the uncertainty, Zion and other parents of special education students are confident that the district will find a way provide a high school-level ASL class as long as the 2016-2017 school budget can accommodate it.

However, a decision on whether or not to include the program won't come until the Board of Education agrees on an adopted budget in April.

CONTACT: [sarah@hometwn.com](mailto:sarah@hometwn.com)

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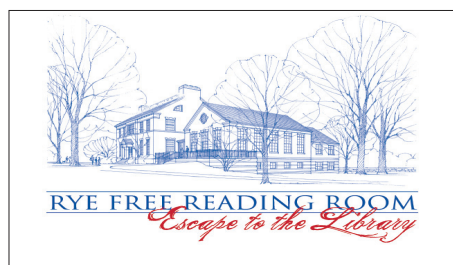
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## WHAT'S GOING ON...

## Rye Free Reading Room events



## Little Garden Club presentation

The Little Garden Club of Rye will be sharing a presentation called "The Nature of Dynamic Landscapes: New York's High Line and Beyond" on Tuesday, March 8 from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Meeting Room. This presentation will be led by Patrick Cullina, a respected horticulturalist and urban landscape designer. This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are not required.

## Writeopia

This hour-long writing workshop appropriate for writers of all levels will be held on Tuesday, March 8 from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Rye School Media Center Reference Library. This workshop, led by Maureen Mancini Amatore, will help participants create their own piece of writing in any genre. Participants will have a chance to share their writing at the end of the workshop. For more information or to register for this workshop, call 967-0480.

## Comedy workshop for teens

This workshop for teens will be held on Thursday, March 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Meeting Room. It will be held by comedian and actress Kaitlyn Murphy. This workshop will help participants sharpen their improvisation comedy skills, and will cover the beginning stages of how to make an improvisation scene. Participants will have time to rehearse their scenes and improvise during this workshop. For more information or to register, call 967-0480.

## Coding for middle school girls

This workshop, held on Friday, March 11 from 4 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. in the Raho Technology Center, is specifically to help middle school girls familiarize themselves with the world of coding. This class is designed for girls in grades six to eight and older students with no coding experience. This workshop will be held by Irum Khan, who has completed a professional development course to teach coding and has experience running coding workshops for students. Participants are asked to bring a pair of headphones to use during the class. For more information or to register, call 967-0480.

## Rye Arts Center

## Women's Day panel discussion

In celebration of International Women's Day on Tuesday, March 8, attend a community event at 7 p.m. held at The Rye Arts Center, located at

51 Milton Road in Rye. A panel discussion, called "Women in Emerging Digital Media Leadership," will feature Tina Exarhos, former CMO of MTV; Fran Hauser, former president of Time Inc. and digital and venture capitalist; Tiffany Pham, founder and CEO of Mogul; Shenan Reed, president of MEC Digital; and Johanna Zeilstra, entrepreneur and founder of Womensdebate.org. The discussion will be moderated by Suzanna Keith, social media executive. The Q&A will be run by Kim Berns and Deborah Sanguinetti of Rye TV show, "What's My Brand?" For more information and to register for this free event, email [skconcepts@hotmail.com](mailto:skconcepts@hotmail.com) or call 925-0753.

## Wainwright House



## Rug sale

A rug sale will be held from Friday, March 4 through Sunday, March 6 at Wainwright House, located at 160 Stuyvesant Ave. in Rye. The sale will feature discounts from 50 percent to 80 percent and will include vintage, modern, traditional and custom rugs. Admission to the sale is free. For more information, call 967-6080 or visit [wainwright.org](http://wainwright.org).

## Park activities

## Work Corp Volunteer Day

Participants can volunteer to work on Saturday, March 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Read Wildlife Sanctuary in Playland Park in Rye. Participants will be helping with invasive plant removal, trail maintenance and beach clean-up. For more information about this event, call 967-8720.

## Camouflaging Creatures

This workshop will teach participants about why and how different creatures camouflage themselves. The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 12 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Marshlands Conservancy, located at Route 1 on Boston Post Road in Rye. The workshop will also include a meeting with a variety of animals from around the world. For more information about this workshop, call 835-4466.

## Rye TV

Kent Iarocci has a telecast, "AIDS and Downs Syndrome," on Rye TV. It is educational and informative. Visit [ryetv.org](http://ryetv.org) for schedule listing.

*Deadline for our What's Going On section is every Thursday at noon. Though space is not guaranteed, we will do our best to accommodate your listing. Please send all items to [news@hometwn.com](mailto:news@hometwn.com).*

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# Westchester sewer line break leaks raw sewage



Repairs to a county sewer line that runs below the Beaver Swamp Brook underway near the Park Avenue Bridge. The line broke on Feb. 3 when manholes overflowed onto streets near the bridge in the city of Rye due to a blockage caused by paper and grease. Photos/Peter Linderoth

A county sewer line break near the Park Avenue Bridge in Rye discharged 2,400 gallons of raw sewage onto city streets, the Review has learned.

According to a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, DEC, report, the overflow—which emanated from a county trunk line—was mended after four hours on Feb. 3, following a combined effort from the DEC, Westchester

County and the city of Rye Department of Public Works.

The sewer line break occurred on Park Avenue when county manholes surcharged from a blockage of paper and grease, with sewage entering the storm drains in the area. The county's Department of Environmental Facilities responded after receiving a report of a manhole overflowing.

City Manager Marcus Serrano

said the issue was complicated further after a piece of equipment used to pass the blockage was lodged in the line and had to be extracted by the county DPW.

A DEC report shows that booms—catch basins meant to prevent the spread of raw sewage into storm water drains—were employed at the site in an attempt to prevent the raw sewage from entering the Beaver Swamp Brook, one of the county's most contaminated waterways.

Caren Halbfinger, director of public affairs for the county Department of Health, said that Department of Environmental Facilities staff discovered a softball-sized hole in a 12-inch pipe that allowed brook water to enter the sewer pipe, as well as rocks and sediment, while repairing the break. A section of the cast-iron pipe had to be replaced by a contractor.

Halbfinger added that to avoid further breaks in the sewer line—which runs below Beaver Swamp Brook—the Department of Environmental Facilities plans to evaluate the condition of the pipe to see if more sections need to be replaced. Repairs to the sewer line were completed on Feb. 9.

Wendy Rosenbach, a spokeswoman for the DEC Region 3, which covers Westchester County, said that no sewage entered the brook from the spill.

-Reporting by Sibylla Chipaziwa and James Pero



Pipes used to help clear the blockage in a sewer line run along Park Avenue Bridge during repairs. The overflow was mended after four hours, with repairs completed on Feb. 9.

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# THE Rye City REVIEW

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The community's opinion matters. If you have a view to express, write a letter to the editor by email to chris@hometwn.com. Please include a phone number and name for verification purposes.

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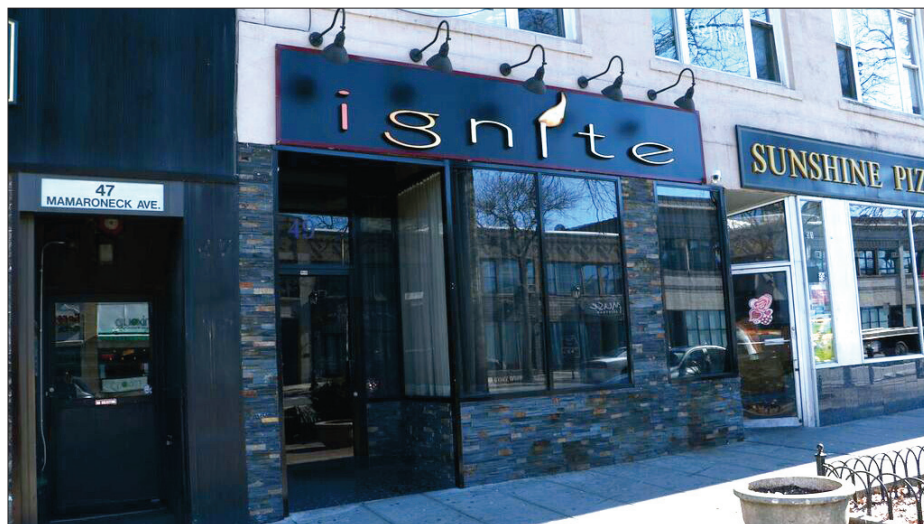
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# New LGBT-friendly bar lights up Westchester



Ignite Bar and Bistro opened in November 2015 and serves as one of Westchester County's first LGBT-friendly dining and drinking locations. Photo/Andrew Dapolite

By SUZY BERKOWITZ  
Editorial Assistant

Among the various bars and restaurants that line Mamaroneck Avenue in downtown White Plains, one stands out from the crowd: Ignite Bar and Bistro.

Open since November 2015, Ignite is one of Westchester County's first LGBT-friendly dining establishments—welcome to all, but built to serve as a safe

haven for those who identify as part of the LGBT community.

"Ignite adds a bit of color and culture to the community, and it's something completely different from anything else around here," Ignite owner, Kevin Burke, said. "In Manhattan, there's a gay bar on every street. As people become more progressive, they realize that this is something they want in their neighborhood."

Burke, 33, who has vast ex-

perience hosting parties in the downtown White Plains area, said that after producing events in various venues for several years, he was looking for a spot to call his own, and after scouting out a space, he decided to make his goal of opening an LGBT-friendly bar with a New York City vibe in the Westchester area a reality. Although owning a bar and restaurant comes with a lot of responsibilities, Burke, of Yonkers, said everything is com-



Owner Kevin Burke said he wanted to give Westchester County a glimpse into New York City's bar scene with Ignite's bar and lounge atmosphere.



Ignite is open seven days a week and is known for its Tuesday night karaoke and Sunday brunch featuring neighborhood drag queens. Photos/Suzy Berkowitz

ing together fairly quickly, and he hopes his business will give him a chance to become more involved in the community.

One such community member that Ignite has already positively impacted is Judy Troilo, executive director of The LOFT: LGBT Community Center. Based in downtown White Plains, The LOFT provides legal, medical and psychological support to LGBT individuals within Westchester County and the lower Hudson Valley area.

"The LOFT supports any organization that serves or provides a space for the LGBT community," Troilo said. "Ignite is a beautiful, charming place, and we will most certainly help to promote Kevin's vision."

Troilo said that it is important for members of the LGBT community to have access to a place like Ignite because it is a venue where people feel safe to be themselves. Troilo said the fact that Ignite is both a restaurant and a bar is also important because it accommodates people who want to have a night out in any capacity. She said she is excited to collaborate with Ignite to host events in the future.

"We've come a long way, but we've still got a long way to go," she said. "Everybody's welcome there, and that's im-

portant to know. If you embrace us, we'll embrace you."

Although Valhalla's The B Lounge was the first full-service gay bar to open in Westchester in 2011, Troilo said Ignite is different from any other location in the county. Burke said he could see his location quickly becoming a neighborhood favorite.

Besides serving as a regular restaurant and bar seven nights a week, Ignite, which is known for its extensive wine list, also uses its space to host Sunday brunch with a drag show and Tuesday night karaoke.

Although Burke has received an outpouring of positive feedback since Ignite has opened, he has also been hit with some online negativity as well. He said those who are against having this kind of establishment in their community weed themselves out from becoming involved in it, and that although it's unfortunate that not everyone can enjoy, understand or agree with Ignite's culture, there are plenty of other bars in the area.

"I look beyond the negative reviews because there's so much more to do," Burke said. "Every time I step back for a second and observe the interactions and the smiles and the laughter, it makes my heart swell."

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STREETSCAPE *from page 1*

beginning at the Locust Avenue intersection, while detouring traffic up to Boston Post Road.

During the presentation, City

Engineer Ryan Coyne said that there will be “unknown circumstances” during excavation for utilities, and described the infrastructure of the CBD as “ancient.”

“Our time frame is aggressive, and construction will be disruptive,” the city engineer said. “The more leeway we give the contractor, the sooner the project will [get] done.”

Miller said the city has not made a final decision on the exact scheduling for construction, but most of the work will likely occur during the daytime, with limited construction during evening hours.

In order to help make way for construction, the annual sidewalk sale in August has been postponed, according to Margaret Ricketts, president of the Rye Chamber of Commerce. Ricketts said the chamber is looking to plan something at some point after Labor Day, but nothing has been settled on. Overall, Ricketts is very supportive of the streetscape project despite any inconvenience construction may cause.

“It will involve a bit of patience on everyone’s part, but we’re happy that the city is looking at improving the CBD,” Ricketts said. “It’s a much-needed improvement and will enhance the downtown experience.”



The intersection of Purchase and Elm streets, where some of the streetscape construction toward will take place. Photos/Andrew Dapolite

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A project to restore the streetscape of the central business district in Rye is set to begin this spring and be completed by July, according to the city Planning Department.



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# Hudson Valley sets the table for 10th restaurant week



By SUZY BERKOWITZ  
Editorial Assistant

The Hudson Valley has long been a source of fresh air and fresh food, and the culinary creations it has to offer will be showcased during the 10th biannual Hudson Valley Restaurant Week.

Presented by The Valley Table, a regional food magazine, Hudson Valley Restaurant Week, running from March 7 through March 20, incorporates more than 200 restaurants from Westchester, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam, Orange, Ulster and Sullivan counties, 127 of which are located in Westchester.

The event kicked off on Monday, Feb. 29 at X20 Xaviars on

the Hudson in Yonkers with a special Toast to the 10th celebration. Chefs, sponsors and county executives from participating regions all came together to recognize the event's decade milestone, the impact it has had on businesses, tourism revenue and exposure, and to enjoy the sampling of fine cuisine on hand for the event.

"Hudson Valley Restaurant Week is really a celebration of everything that has made the Hudson Valley a great dining destination," said Janet Crawshaw, founder of restaurant week and publisher of The Valley Table.

According to Crawshaw, the event launched in 2006 with 70 participating locations, and has vastly expanded, now bring-

ing out roughly 250,000 diners and generating \$10 million in revenue.

Restaurants throughout the area utilize the promotional opportunity to highlight unique dishes that will keep diners hungry for more while expanding

the profile of the Hudson Valley as a go-to source of fine dining.

Well-known chef Peter Kelly, owner of X20 Xaviars on the Hudson, co-chair and founding board member of Hudson Valley Restaurant Week, opened his first restaurant in the Hud-

son Valley back in 1984 and said restaurant week has helped put the Hudson Valley on the map as a premiere dining location.

"It's nice to see the Hudson Valley coming into its own," Kelly said. "It's amazing to see that this is now home to some of the most renowned chefs. They're beginning to see what I've known for 30-plus years."

In Harrison, Anthony Delfino, owner of participating restaurant Delfino's on Halstead

Avenue, is excited to showcase a meatball dish in a truffle polenta as an appetizer and a lobster and avocado omelet for Sunday brunch.

Delfino said his location has consistently participated because it's a great opportunity to find new customers and show them standout dishes.

"I'm most excited about the menu we've put together," he said. "We've created something

CONTINUED on next page



Peter Kelly, chef, owner of X20 Xaviars on the Hudson and co-chair and founding board member of Hudson Valley Restaurant Week, pours locally sourced wine for guests at the Hudson Valley Restaurant Week kickoff event on Tuesday, Feb. 29. Photo/James Pero



Participating location Chat 19, an American grill in Larchmont, will be showcasing a balanced menu consisting of chicken, fish, meat and pasta dishes for diners to try. Photo/Andrew Dapolite





Restaurant week sponsors Widow Jane Distillery, left, based in Brooklyn, New York, and Denny's Point Distillery, based in Beacon, New York, provide samples of their products during Tuesday night's kickoff event. Photo/James Pero

different and unique that people will really love."

Another participating location, an American grill on Palmer Avenue in Larchmont called Chat 19, will be showcasing a balanced menu of chicken, fish, meat and pasta dishes this year to accommodate all different tastes. Manager Maurizio Caputi said restaurant week is a great opportunity to gain clientele that wouldn't normally frequent the location.

Westchester County Execu-

tive Rob Astorino recognized how much restaurant week has grown.

"This is really a great opportunity to sample the restaurants you've always wanted to try," he said. "It's a half a billion dollar industry; it's growing leaps and bounds."

The event runs for two weeks every spring and fall, showcasing the quality and service of eateries from the mid- and lower Hudson Valley regions. A list of participating restaurants

can be found at valleytable.com, and each location's prix fixe menu can be found on their corresponding website. Offers include three-course dinners for \$29.95 and three-course lunches for \$20.95, not including the cost of beverages, tax and tip. Diners interested in sampling participating restaurants' menus can make reservations on opentable.com or call locations directly.

CONTACT: suzy@hometwn.com



Italian restaurant Delfino's on Halstead Avenue in Harrison will be participating in Hudson Valley Restaurant Week, showcasing unique standout dishes from their menu, including a lobster and avocado omelet as a brunch dish. Photo/Andrew Dapolite



Hudson Valley county executives, chefs and guests toast 10 years of restaurant week at X20 on the Yonkers waterfront. Photo/James Pero

## Hudson Valley Restaurant Week's Themed Cocktails



### Hudson Valley Drake Manhattan

created by The Iron Horse Grill in Pleasantville

- 2 1/4 oz. Tuthilltown Hudson Baby Bourbon
- 1 oz. Graham's 10-year Tawny Port
- 1 (1/2 oz.) bar spoon maple syrup
- Dash of angostura bitters

Pour all ingredients over ice into a mixing glass • Stir the drink and strain into a cocktail glass • Garnish with brandied cherries



### Westchester Whiskey Sour

created by Madison Kitchen in Larchmont

- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary
- 3 oz. 287 Whiskey
- 3/4 oz. White Oak Farm maple syrup (Yorktown Heights)
- 1/4 oz. rosemary simple syrup
- 1 oz. lemon juice
- 1 oz. triple sec

Crush large sprig of rosemary by hand and add to shaker • Add all ingredients and ice to shaker • Shake vigorously for 15 seconds • Strain mixture into martini glass and garnish with remaining rosemary sprigs and orange slice



### The Hudson Hop

created by The Tap House in Tuckahoe

- 1 oz. blood orange juice
- 6 dashes of The Hudson Standard Lovestruck Bitters
- 1/2 oz. St. Germaine

Shake and pour over snifter with ice • Top it off with Capt. Lawrence Freshchester Pale Ale



### The Southside Sazerac

created by the Saint George Bistro in Hastings-on-Hudson

- 2 1/2 oz. high-proof rye
- just under 1/2 oz. simple syrup
- 3 dashes aromatic bitters
- 2 dashes orange bitters
- Delaware Phoenix Walton Waters Absinthe
- Large orange twist

Fill a rocks glass with water and ice to chill it • Combine the rye, simple syrup and bitters in a cocktail shaker • Add ice and shake well • Discard the ice and water from the rocks glass, then spray or coat the inside with absinthe • Strain the contents of the cocktail shaker into the glass • Garnish with the orange twist



### Le Express Fizz

created by Le Express Bistro and Bar in Poughkeepsie

- 2 oz. Laird's Applejack brandy
- 3/4 oz. apple cider syrup
- 3/4 oz. lemon juice
- 1 local farm-raised egg white

Shake all ingredients well for 30 seconds • Garnish with sage



### The Apple Royale

Created by the Iron Horse Grill in Pleasantville

- 1 oz. Harvest Spirits Core Apple Brandy
- 4 oz. apple cider or apple juice
- 1 oz. sparkling wine or champagne

Chill all ingredients • Into a cold martini glass, add two drops bitters, swirl it around • Pour ingredients • Add cinnamon stick and serve • Note: For apple cider, we use Thompson Cider Mill



## Our 'presidential' playground's lack of manners

**A RYE  
OLDTIMER**  
Judge John Carey



Seldom has language been so misused as the word "debate" in connection with recent public shouting matches among people seeking to be president. Anyone who has done high school debating knows that what we have been seeing is more like bullying during recess. At least high school debaters must mind their manners.

Lincoln and Douglas, who set the gold standard for debates among political candidates, must be turning over in their graves at the level we have sunk to. They surely took turns, and kept quiet when their opponent had the floor. I doubt very much that either deliberately interrupted the other. I can't imagine they shout-

ed insults at each other.

In the 1850s, the memory was not too stale of how a hurtful diatribe had led to the death of the enormously talented Alexander Hamilton at the hands of Aaron Burr. It is just as well that dueling today is limited to nasty words and does not resort to lethal weapons.

Wherein lies the blame for this unworthy behavior? Surely with those who themselves utter high-volume insults in public discourse, but also with those who condone it. Those who sit in apparent authority but allow high-decibel insults to resound could insist on decent behavior and put to shame those who misbehave.

Why do "moderators" choose to sometimes act as "instigators," encouraging misbehavior by allowing it? It must be because that is the way they like it. Why would they like it? Maybe

because that is what the TV networks want. The networks compete for viewers, and may believe that the rowdier the show, the larger the audience.

Why does Dr. Ben Carson stand out so among his rivals? Not just because of his complexion or his impressive medical credentials, but because of his polite dignity and calm demeanor in the face of schoolyard antics.

As a young teen, I had a teacher who had also taught my father 30 years earlier. If he was cross at me for something I had done or said, he would comment quietly, "Your father would never have done that." This gave me pause, more than any scolding. He liked to admonish us rascals with the slogan that, "Manners Maketh Man." We did not much agree, but still paid attention.

CONTACT: [j\\_pcary@verizon.net](mailto:j_pcary@verizon.net)

SETTLEMENT from page 1



An insurance agency, Travelers, has awarded the city of Rye \$1.55 million in a settlement that sought to recover money stolen by Scott Yandrasevich, the former Rye Golf Club general manager. File photo

Pelton of Pelton Associates—the law firm representing the former employees—they are awaiting a judge's decision on their movement to proceed as a class action suit; a suit that involves multiple plaintiffs suing collectively.

If this movement is granted, Pelton said, he and his clients will proceed with a short discovery period—the time in which each side gathers its evi-

dence—and then will actively pursue the damages.

Damages being sought in the suit total nearly \$4 million, Pelton said. Of that \$4 million, he told the Review, \$2 million is being sought in unpaid tips and overtime, \$1.28 million will go to penalty for failure to pay wages owed, and the remaining sum will go toward interest on

back wages, additional penalties and legal fees.

Pelton said he is expecting a decision on whether the suit can proceed as a class action to come any day.

"We believe we're going to prevail on the motion," he said.

Wilson could not be reached for additional comment

CONTACT: [james@hometown.com](mailto:james@hometown.com)

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## Fire rips through Mamaroneck Avenue home

The village of Mamaroneck Fire Department responded to a call at about 11:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 27 at 1028 Halstead Ave. According to Mamaroneck Fire Chief Craig Casterella, the village Fire Department was on the scene within three minutes.

The residents of the home, the Lisella family, all escaped to safety before the house was completely engulfed in flames. The town of Mamaroneck, Harrison and Port Chester fire departments also responded to the scene, which took place near the Mamaroneck-Harrison border.

However, the house was quickly engulfed in flames and was left scorched beyond recognition the following day.

Casterella told the Review that the fire was very intense and moved quickly.

The Cause and Origin, C&O, Team, a group of trained experts who assist in determining the cause and origins of fires, also responded to the scene, as is typical protocol for house fires.

"[The fire] originated from outside, [on] the right side of the house, and we know it was some kind of electrical [fire],"



The fire, which began on the right side of the house, blazed through all three floors of the single-family home. Photo/Andrew Dapolite

Casterella said.

Louis Santoro, deputy mayor for the village of Mamaroneck and a volunteer firefighter for the town of Mamaroneck, was also on the scene at the time of the blaze. Although he was not responding as a firefighter, he told the Review that it took firefighters two hours to control the fire at the single-family home. He added that they fought the fire from both inside and out-

side the home.

Casterella said, "My men did an excellent job that night. I have the right people."

Since the home was destroyed, an online GoFundMe fundraiser page accepting donations toward the family's recovery was started by Elizabeth Maffei, a relative of the family. As of press time, the page had received \$25,980 in donations.






-Reporting by Kiley Stevens





Planning ahead...

March 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<div>1</div> <div>National Women's History Month</div> <div>Worldwide Red Cross Month</div> <div> <b>American Red Cross</b></div>	<div>2</div> <div>Rye Neck Board of Education planning session</div> <div>6:30 p.m., Administration building</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>SAT testing</div>
<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Board of Architectural Review meeting</div> <div>7:30 p.m., City Hall</div>	<div>8</div> <div>International Women's Day</div> <div>Planning Commission meeting</div> <div>7 p.m., City Hall</div> <div>Rye City Board of Education meeting</div> <div>7:30 p.m., MS Multipurpose Room</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Rye City Council meeting</div> <div>7:30 p.m., City Hall</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Commission meeting</div> <div>7:30 p.m., City Hall</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>
<div>13</div> <div>Daylight Savings Time begins</div> <div>NCAA Selection Sunday</div> <div></div>	<div>14</div> <div>Board of Fire Wardens meeting</div> <div>7:30 p.m., Locust Avenue Firehouse</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Zoning Board of Appeals meeting</div> <div>7:30 p.m., City Hall</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Rye Neck Board of Education meeting</div> <div>9 a.m., MS/HS library</div> <div>Rye Golf Club Commission meeting</div> <div>7 p.m., Whitby Castle</div> <div>Osborn 5th Grade Musical</div> <div>7:30 p.m., Auditorium</div>	<div>17</div> <div>St. Patrick's Day</div> <div></div> <div>Osborn 5th Grade Musical</div> <div>7:30 p.m., Auditorium</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>
<div>20</div> <div>Palm Sunday</div> <div>Spring Equinox</div>	<div>21</div> <div>World Down Syndrome Day</div> <div>Rye City schools spring recess begins, schools closed</div> <div>Board of Architectural Review meeting</div> <div>7:30 p.m., City Hall</div>	<div>22</div> <div>American Diabetes Alert Day</div> <div></div>	<div>23</div> <div>Rye Neck Superintendent's Conference Day</div> <div>Rye Neck schools spring recess begin, schools closed</div> <div>Planning Commission meeting</div> <div>7:00 p.m., City Hall</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Purim</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Good Friday</div>	<div>26</div>
<div>27</div> <div>Easter Sunday</div> <div></div>	<div>28</div> <div>Rye City schools spring recess ends</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Rye Neck schools spring recess ends</div> <div>Rye City Board of Education meeting</div> <div>7:30 p.m., MS Multipurpose Room</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Rye City Council meeting</div> <div>7:30 p.m., City Hall</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Teens and Substance Symposium</div> <div>7 p.m., Performing Arts Center</div>		



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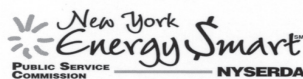
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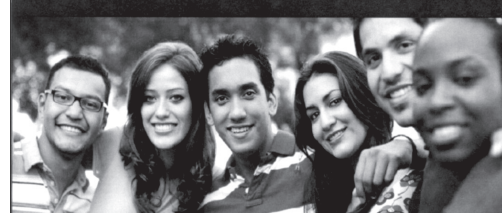
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## Why I'm chewing the instruction manual

**RHYMES  
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Lenore Skenazy



Man versus man. Man versus nature. Man versus himself. We learned in high school English that these are the three great themes in all literature, to which we must add one more: Man versus newly purchased dishwasher.

Oh, perhaps there are those who would quibble that "The Old Man and the Maytag" just does not carry the same gravitas as a grizzled grump in a boat moping about a marlin. (That was the basic plot, right? With some metaphors thrown in?) But that's only because they are not sitting in my kitchen examining, once again, a bunch of strangely slimy plates and still-milky glasses that just spent the past 90 minutes getting the wash of their lives. A wash courtesy of our new, ergonomic, European-made dishwasher with more buttons than a BlackBerry and all the cleaning power of a bar of Motel 6 soap.

"Read the manual," said my husband when I called him at work to complain that the dishes looked as if they'd been licked by a camel with a cold.

Read the manual? Perhaps he'd like me to perform a double cornea transplant while I'm at it. Maybe I can pop over to Afghanistan and hammer out some kind of evening of healing songs

and stories with the Taliban, too.

Did I mention the manual for this machine is 55 pages long and includes a section on, among other things, how to "Delay Start" the wash cycle? As if it's a NASA launch and there's a funnel cloud headed toward Cape Canaveral?

Manuals are great for people who read manuals. I have a husband and son who sit down and actually absorb the information, connecting the words to the diagrams to the real-world thing in front of them. They poke and prod, and suddenly the thing lights up or rings or records a TV program they then can play later. Bully for them.

The other 98 percent of us open randomly to a page, see a line like "Press and hold the 1 and 3 buttons and at the same time, turn on the dishwasher with the 'On' button" and wail in there-goes-my-marlin despair.

Here, you try reading about that "Delay Start" feature:

"To delay the start of the wash [or NASA launch—L.S.], press the 18 button until the desired delayed start time appears in the time display. The delay start is set in one-hour steps up to nine hours. If the Delay Start button is pressed after the nine-hour mark the delay start feature will be cancelled and must be reselected."

Copy that, Houston? I mean, typing it out, word for word, I do get the basic idea: Goof in

pressing button 18 and you have to start again. But that's just one tiny paragraph about one tiny button for one ridiculous feature I will never, ever use. There are still another 54.5 pages about all these other features: the "optic indicator" (the thing has eyes?) and the "data plate" (calling HAL!) and everyone's favorite, the "non-return valve." How I love to curl up with a good page or two about non-return valves!

The thing is, I don't want a dishwasher that requires years of study. I don't want anything in my house that requires years of study, be it my phone, my digital toaster (guess which spouse bought that?) or my master's degree. I got one of those in less time than it is taking me to calm down about THIS STUPID NON-WASHING DISHWASHER! AND MANUAL!

Update: When the toaster-buying dishwasher-decider-in-chief arrived home, he thumbed through the 55-page marriage destroyer and discovered the problem. I hadn't put in precisely the right amount of detergent: two flat tablespoons. No more, no less. How could I have missed the "Adding Detergent" instructions? There they are, just 28 fascinating pages in. Right after the marlin eats the old man and licks his bones clean. Next time, when I choose the dishwasher, I know what I'm going to get. A marlin.

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## Enjoy April Fools' Day at a live comedy show

By MARA RUPNERS  
Contributor

We all know the drill. Come April 1, it is wise to watch one's step. Be on your toes. Read anything and everything with a healthy dose of skepticism, and think twice before agreeing to run a strange errand. On this day, outlandish tales, practical jokes and silly pranks of all kinds abound. It's harmless and in good fun, and we all get caught up in it—but have you ever stopped and wondered why?

The origins of April Fool's Day are hazy, as a quick Google search will tell you. There are many theories. One has to do with the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in parts of Europe during the 1500s, which moved the new year from late March to Jan. 1, and opened up the opportunity for peasants to try to fool their neighbors into celebrating New Year's festivals on the wrong day. Other theories tie the holiday to the Vernal Equinox, or the arrival of spring, with its fickle weather. Others see its roots in ancient festivals—

Hilaria, a Roman end-of-winter celebration; the medieval Festus Fatuorum (Feast of Fools) that evolved out of the Saturnalia; the northern European Festival of Lud, who was a Celtic god of humor; or perhaps even the Hindu spring festival of Holi.

Many of these theories sound far-fetched enough to be April Fool's tales themselves, and in the end, we will probably never know. And, in the end, it really doesn't matter. What does matter is that, in our fast-paced and intense world, we take a day each year to lighten up, play along, and have a really, really good laugh.

On that note—and this is no joke—The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College is getting in on the April Fool's Day fun by presenting one of the funniest live shows you will ever see. Experience Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, of "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" as they team up for "Two Man Group"—a riotously funny, interactive and completely improvised tour de force. They will play the fools, so you don't have to. The performance begins at 8 p.m. on Fri-

day, April 1. Tickets are \$45, \$50 and \$60, and good seats are still available.

Also at The Center this month: Montana Rep's new production of Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" on March 10; Irish fiddle sensation Eileen Ivers and her band on March 11; a National Theatre Live screening of "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" on March 12; the renowned baroque orchestra and chorus Apollo's Fire performing Bach's "St. John Passion" on March 13; and a Rising Alternative screening of Puccini's "Tosca" on March 20. Visit The Center's website for complete event details and tickets.

*Mara Rupners is the director of marketing at The Performing Arts Center. The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, N.Y. 10577. Box Office: 251-6200. Hours: Tuesday-Friday, noon to 6 p.m. and on weekends before performances. Website: [artscenter.org](http://artscenter.org)*

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# A golden week

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Mike Smith

When you look at the sports landscape this time of year, championship week in Section I couldn't possibly come at a better time.



Mamaroneck goalie Tommy Spero raises his arms in victory at the Brewster Ice Arena. With a 5-1 win over Suffern, Mamaroneck won its first section crown since 2009. Photo/Mike Smith

I mean, just take a gander at what's going on around the world of sports: the Super Bowl has come and gone, the interminable slog toward the NHL and NBA playoffs continues, and the most exciting news coming out of MLB Spring Training these days concerns the daily commute of Mets' outfielder Yoenis Cespedes.

(Editor's note: on Monday, he took a horse to the ballpark!)

Not real exciting, but at least the last week has been a godsend in terms of generating a little sports buzz, locally.

It helps, of course, that this was a pretty strong year for teams in the area. Mamaroneck's ice hockey team and Rye's girls basketball squad proved as much with some well-deserved section titles. But the sports hysteria went far beyond the teams that happened to bring home the gold; it was just about the atmosphere in general.

It's been pretty much established that few venues across New York state can consistently get quite as rowdy as the Westchester County Center. The arena, which traditionally hosts the semifinal and championship rounds of the boys and girls basketball playoffs, certainly did not disappoint this year as area fans turned out in droves to pack both levels. On Feb. 28, during the second half of the Class A girls finals between Ursuline and Rye, Garnet fans in attendance seemed to take over the gym as



The Rye girls basketball team celebrates its section title win at the Westchester County Center on Feb. 28. For Sports Editor Mike Smith, following the title runs of our local squads has made up for a dearth of pro sports drama in the last two weeks. Photo/Andrew Dapolite

Rye extended its lead, supporting their girls—and good-naturedly joshing the opposition—until it seemed like the foundation was shaking.

And it wasn't limited to the County Center; Mamaroneck fans headed up to the Brewster Ice Arena two hours early to secure a good vantage point for the game. And once the game started, as the Tigers dominated Suffern in each facet of the game, you could sense the anticipation boiling over in their fans, ready to erupt when that final buzzer sounded.

And boy, did they ever.

I know I often write about sports fans behaving badly. They're easy targets. But this past weekend, I was heartened to see the opposite: fans taking cues from their team, getting loud, and helping to raise the stakes in some of the biggest games of the year. The fact that these fans were so heavily invested in the outcome of these games—and by extension, the success of these student-athletes—is always fantastic to see.

When the alternative is scour-



Taylor Maurer drives to the hoop in front of a packed house at the Westchester County Center. Photo/Andrew Dapolite

ing the sports pages for quotes about Yoenis' latest Palomino, it kind of makes you wish that championship week could

last a little longer.

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Two Mamaroneck Tigers embrace after winning the section title on Feb. 28. Photo/Mike Smith



# Titans foiled in finals again

ICE HOCKEY DIVISION 2

## FINALS

PELHAM 5

RTH 1

@BREWSTER 2/28/16

## Game Notes:

- Pelham has won the last three Division 2 titles
- Rye Town/Harrison has reached the last two section finals
- The Titans graduate just three players from this year's team

By MIKE SMITH  
Sports Editor

For a program that didn't reach its first section final until 2015, Rye Town/Harrison is quickly becoming acclimated to playing in championship games. On Sunday, Feb. 28, the Titans squared off against Pelham for the Division 2 crown for the second year in a row. Although Pelham came out on top with a 5-1 win, the Titans have shown that they expect to be in the championship conversation for years to come.

According to Rye Town/Harrison coach Jason Head, one glance at this year's final score



Doug Harrison pushes the puck up the ice against Pelham on Feb. 28. Harrison scored the Titans' lone goal in a 5-1 loss.

proves that the Titans came into Sunday's title game with more confidence than they did a year ago, when they were trounced by an eight-goal margin by the same Pelicans team.

"We were ready, we knew we could play with them and we executed," Head said. "I think we gave a tremendous effort."

The two teams battled through a scoreless first period until Stefan Mikalos gave Pelham its first lead of the game with 1:02 remaining. Although the Titans

complained that goalie Joey Livornese had been interfered with, the goal stood and sent the Pelicans heading back to the locker room up 1-0.

In the opening minutes of the second period, however, Rye Town/Harrison roared back, tying the game on a goal by Doug Harrison.

"I think that first goal should have been waived off, but it wasn't," Head said. "But everyone knows the type of hockey team we are; we've come from behind before and we've been resilient all year."

Unfortunately for the Titans, Harrison's goal would be final bright spot, as the Pelicans were able to extend their lead to 4-1 by the end of the second period and add an insurance goal in the first minute of the third.

"[Pelham] did a great job getting in front of the net and disrupting things for Joey," Head said. "And they were able to capitalize on their chances."

Despite Sunday's loss, Head is confident that the Titans will be in a position to contend for Pelham's crown next year. The team will graduate three key seniors, including Livornese, Harrison and leading scorer Max Picker, who finished the season with 43 goals, but return a few offensive standouts, including Jackson Schultz, and the entire defensive unit, led by Clay Kopri and Matt Milone.

Sam Smith, who served as



Max Chalfin battles for the puck with a Pelham defender on Feb. 28. Photos/Mike Smith

Livornese's backup in net, will get the chance to vie for the starting job next year alongside a pair of freshman goalies poised to make their varsity debuts.

Head is hoping that the goaltending transition will be

as smooth as when Livornese stepped into the crease after the departure of former standout Jamie Ketchebaw.

"Everyone overlooked Joey [Livornese] when we had Ketchabaw, but when he got his

chance, he proved what kind of player he was," Head said. "We know what kinds of players we have, and I'm excited to see what's coming up."

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## COMMUNITY FAREWELL FOR THE SMOKE SHOP



Saturday, March 19 from 6-8pm

Rye Free Reading Room

After nearly 50 years in Rye, T.D.'s Rye Smoke Shop will close its doors at the end of March. The community is invited to stop by the library and wish Peggy and Tony all the best and share fond memories. Please bring your children!

If you would like to contribute to the event, contact Anja Porto of The Rye Camera Shop at 967-2164 or [anja@ryecamera.com](mailto:anja@ryecamera.com)



Ike Murov chases down a puck at the Brewster Ice Arena. The Titans lost the Division 2 Championship to Pelham for the second year in a row.



# Rye earns gold ball, bests Ursuline

BASKETBALL CLASS A

FINALS

RYE 63

URSULINE 47

@COUNTY CENTER 2/28/16

## Game Notes:

- Katie Popp scored her 1,000th career point in Sunday night's game and was named the Class A Tournament MVP
- The Garnets outscored Ursuline by a 21-point margin in the third quarter
- Rye last won a section title in 2004

By MIKE SMITH  
Sports Editor

After back-to-back ousters in the Class A semifinals the last two years, Rye's third consecutive trip to the Westchester County Center proved a charm, as the Garnets finally hoisted the gold ball after riding a strong second half against Ursuline to a 63-47 win and a section title.

For the Garnets, the reward was well worth the wait.

"This is amazing," senior cap-



Katie Popp drives to the hoop against Ursuline on Feb. 28. Popp had 27 points to lead the Garnets to a win in the Class A championship game.

tain Madeline Eck said following the Feb. 28 win. "We hadn't won a game in the playoffs here at the County Center, so to come out this year and win two games and the section championship, it's really great."

After advancing to the finals with a 37-31 win over Pearl River on Feb. 25, the Garnets found themselves in a championship dogfight with Ursuline through two quarters, as the teams headed into halftime tied at 23. But the Garnets were able to turn the tide in the third quarter, outscoring the Koalas 25-4, thanks in

part to a 13-point explosion from junior Katie Popp. The outburst helped to put the game effectively out of reach.

"I think we were just able to get rid of some of our nerves," said Popp, who scored her 1,000th career point on a foul shot in the fourth quarter. "This is a determined team and the hardest working group of girls I've ever played with, and that made the difference tonight."

Popp finished with 27 points and was named the Class A tournament MVP, while Eck contributed 14 points, 11 rebounds



Katie Popp takes a jumper at the Westchester County Center. Popp reached the 1,000-point milestone in the second half of Sunday's victory.

and four assists en route to being named to the All-Tournament team. According to the two Rye standouts, getting the chance to shine on Section I's biggest stage was especially important, given the team's history in big games.

"I think if we hadn't had those failures, if we hadn't had the experience of playing on this court, I don't know if we'd be as prepared as we were today," Eck said. "We executed brilliantly and we were really firing on all fronts."

Rye coach Dennis Hurlie also believed that Rye's familiarity with postseason play showed up in the final score.

"Just playing this late in the season, understanding how to practice at this point in the year and knowing what it takes to win on this floor, that all helped," he said. "These last two years, we totally expected to win both games here, too."

Rye will be back at the County Center on March 1, after press time, when they take on Section IX champion Saugerties in the Class A Regional Semifinals. For



Madeline Eck attacks the rim in Rye's Feb. 25 semifinal win over Pearl River. The Garnets would also take the section championship defeating Ursuline. Photo/Mike Smith Photo/Mike Smith

the Garnets, the chance to continue playing is just as sweet as raising a championship banner.

"This is fun, I love coaching these kids, and the best thing is, we don't have to stop," Hurlie

said. "We'll practice...get ready for our next game, and this is going to be something these kids have forever."

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The Garnets celebrate after clinching the Class A title with a 63-47 win over the Koalas. Photos/Andrew Dapolite