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# The Journal News

Tuesday January 24, 2006

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## DEVELOPMENTALLY CHALLENGED | ATTITUDES CHANGING AS THE HEART RULES



Liz Scalice shares a laugh with her boyfriend, Kenny Sware. The two, who are both affiliated with Putnam's PARC, have lived together for more than two years. "I love her. I love her cooking. She's the only one," Sware says.

# Taboos fall for the disabled

Many find love and marriage work for them

### Contact information

PARC: 845-278-7272, www.putnamarc.org  
Westchester Arc: 914-428-8330, www.westchesterarc.org

The Arc of the United States: 301-565-3842, www.thearc.org

American Association on Mental Retardation: 800-424-3688, www.aamr.org

State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities: 518-473-9689, www.omr.state.ny.us

Marcela Rojas  
The Journal News

Judy Launhardt has a simple solution when she gets mad at her husband of 10 years. "I take a shower," she said with a giggle. "And when I come out, I say 'I'm sorry.'"

Ken Launhardt paused from eating a broccoli and chicken casserole his wife made for dinner and let out a hearty chuckle, interjecting that, in truth, they rarely argue.

"The secret to a long marriage," he said, "is to be happy and healthy."

Ever since they met at the Drew United Methodist Church in Carmel — after he sneezed and she asked if he was all right — the Launhardts have been inseparable. Traces of their joyful life together can be found throughout their one-bedroom Mount Kisco apartment, with pictures of the couple in loving embraces adorning the walls and their wedding video kept handy. Laughter is still a

### Coming tomorrow

A look at a program that helps developmentally disabled parents raise their children.

constant in their maturing relationship.

"I like his good humor," said Judy, 50, turning to Ken. "You make me laugh, honey. It's better than crying."

While their marriage may be similar to that of other couples — perhaps even stronger — the Launhardts' union was once taboo. Both are mentally impaired. Judy was born with the genetic disease phenylketonuria, also known as PKU, and 50 percent of her brain is

damaged. Ken, in addition to being developmentally disabled, has epileptic seizures.

It appears their marriage, despite their deficiencies, works because it is rooted in devotion, honesty and love. The two are often seen walking hand in hand around the neighborhood. The couple go out on dates to dinner and the movies, and recently returned from a Disneyland vacation.

Please see **DISABLED, 8A**



Liz Scalice shows the ring her boyfriend, Kenny Sware, gave to her as she talks about their relationship. The couple, who have lived together for more than two years, recently moved to Carmel.

**People are recognizing that the developmentally disabled are human and that they have desires.**

Dagmar Swanson, whose disabled daughter, Judy Launhardt, is married

# Yacht club plans debated

Mamaroneck residents discuss waterfront 'seasonal housing'

Candice Ferrette and Ken Valenti  
The Journal News

MAMARONECK VILLAGE — Residents on either side of a proposed amendment that would define "seasonal housing" on the waterfront sounded off at the first public hearing on the topic.

At issue is what type of buildings can be built on Mamaroneck Harbor and Long Island Sound, and who can use them.

The amendment to the existing Marine Recreation Law would restrict "seasonal residences" at beach clubs, saying that they are for members only and their guests, who would not be allowed to stay more than 30 days in a calendar year.

It also would limit each club to at most 12 of the residences, none larger than 600 square feet, with no "kitchen or cooking facilities." Cabanas, under the rules, would not be more than 200 square feet and could not include areas for sleeping or cooking.

The proposal comes on the heels of a bitter legal dispute between the Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht

Please see **WATERFRONT, 4A**

**I think it's ridiculous to spend taxpayer money on this because a few neighbors don't want it.**

Resident Joe Rinaldi

# Body found in Sound identified

Peekskill kite surfer disappeared off the Connecticut shoreline

Brian J. Howard  
The Journal News

The body of a Peekskill man, who disappeared over the weekend while kite surfing in the frigid waters of Long Island Sound, was found after a massive overnight search off the shore of Stratford, Conn.

The man was identified yesterday as Stoil Popow, 48, said Administrative Capt. Harvey Maxwell of the Stratford police.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard account, Popow was kite surfing on Saturday when he disappeared about two miles southeast of Stratford Point, Conn. A caller on shore reported Popow missing around 5 p.m. The water temperature was 39 degrees and the air temperature was 42 degrees, with winds gusting up to 40 mph.

Kite surfing is a form of windsurfing in which a kite is used to propel a specialized surfboard over the surface of the water.

Popow's body was found at 11:40 a.m. Sunday 7.5

Please see **KILLED, 4A**

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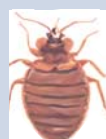
### Tomorrow in Life&Style

**Chef's Dish:** Jonathan Pratt writes the first column in a new series about Lower Hudson Valley chefs.



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### Don't let the bedbugs bite



Tips on how to get rid of bedbugs, from the Westchester County Health Department:

- Reduce clutter in the room.
- Bedding and clothing should be washed in 120-degree water or discarded.
- Vacuuming can remove bugs and eggs. Pay particular attention to seams, tufts and edges of mattresses and box springs, and the perimeter edge of wall-to-wall carpets. Dispose of the vacuum contents in a sealed trash bag.
- Consult a pest-control firm.

# Bedbugs take bite out of Lower Hudson Valley

Health departments get calls regarding pesky bloodsuckers

### On the Web

■ Learn more about bedbugs at [www.westchester.gov.com/health](http://www.westchester.gov.com/health)

Melissa Klein  
The Journal News

Bedbugs are invading New York City's bedroom communities.

The tiny bloodsuckers, no longer just an urban problem, have been found in Mount Kisco rooming houses, Scarsdale homes and even some of the area's hotels.

The Westchester County Health Department, which usually does not get any bedbug complaints, has received about 50 in the past month. Putnam County health officials have yet to get any calls. But Rockland County's chief housing inspector — who had gone 35 years with nary a bedbug case — has investigated four or

Please see **BEDBUGS, 4A**

### Storm update

■ A Bedford man electrocuted by power lines after last week's storm is identified as Dr. George C. Ialomitza, 82, a Manhattan surgeon. He was found Thursday on his property on Hook Road. **Details, 6A**

■ Many school districts are running out of snow days and may have to cut into spring vacations. North Salem's middle-school students haven't been in class since Jan. 14 **Details, 7A**

■ Westchester legislators want to know why so many people lost power, and why it took so long for service to be restored. **Details, 7A**