



Fire Safety Tips

Children from the Little Red School House in Yorktown received some fire safety prevention tips from the Yorktown Fire Department last week.

Cortlandt Buys Con Edison Property to 'Stop the Buzz'

By Rick Pezzullo

Town of Cortlandt officials found the perfect way to prevent an unwanted high voltage converter station from invading the hamlet of Verplanck: buy the property.

And that's exactly what the Cortlandt Town Board did last week after conditionally winning a bid to purchase a 100-acre former quarry site on Broadway and 11th Street for \$2.75 million.

"We thank Con Edison for selecting the Town of Cortlandt to become the next owners of this property and we thank the many members of our community task force who have volunteered their time to help us achieve our goal," said Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi.

The Town Board authorized floating a bond to buy the property, a transaction

that still requires the approval of the state Public Service Commission. Cortlandt had unsuccessfully tried to purchase the site, where some trespassers have used to cool off in the summer by diving off cliffs into deep water, in 2006.

Puglisi said the town is planning to build some all-purpose recreational fields on the property, move the highway division of the town's Department of Environmental Services into a newer facility and possibly construct a central location for other town departments.

"We can't wait to start planning this field complex with our Recreation Department, Recreation Advisory Board, our Fields Task Force, all of our youth programs and their officials and with our schools," Puglisi said. "Literally the

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SOAC Product Brings Local Pride Playing in World Series

By Rick Pezzullo

Shrub Oak Athletic Club President Steve Rosen said there was no doubt that at an early age there was something special about Joe Panik.

Panik, 23, a rookie starting second baseman for the San Francisco Giants, who are representing the National League in the World Series against the Kansas City Royals, started his baseball career in the SOAC at about five years old.

Of the thousands of kids over the years who have put on a uniform in the SOAC, Rosen said Panik is the first to make it to the Major Leagues.

"Dreams do come true," said Rosen, who has led the SOAC for the last 13 years and has been involved with the organization for about 40 years. "He was the best athlete to ever come through here that I have seen, no doubt."

Panik played shortstop and pitched during his time in the SOAC, which he

was a member of until he was 10 when his family moved from Mohegan Lake to Hopewell Junction. He also was a solid basketball player.

"He was a hard worker. He never talked about it (being a Major League Baseball player) but he was determined to be a good player," Rosen said. "He was quick. He made contact with the ball. He's got a sweet swing. He was always the first kid drafted. Everybody



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Joe Panik during his days with the SOAC.

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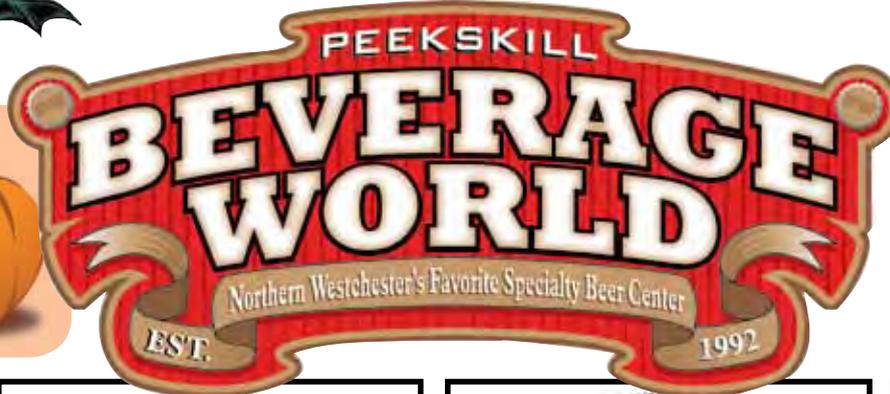
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Officials Join Forces to Bash Pipeline at Peekskill Rally

By Rick Pezullo

Representatives from municipalities directly affected by a proposed expansion of natural gas pipeline banded together Saturday in Peekskill to vehemently oppose the controversial project.

"This pipeline is frightening. It is not safe for our communities," said Courtney Williams, a cancer research scientist and member of Concerned Peekskill Residents (CPR).

"This pipeline is bad for animals, wetlands, humans, particularly for children and the elderly," said Nancy Vann of Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion. "We all stand together. We're a family of cities and towns."

The Algonquin Pipeline Project proposed by Spectra Energy Corporation would run from Stony Point, under the Hudson River, through Peekskill, Cortlandt, portions of Yorktown and into Southeast, Connecticut,

Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The proposal, which is being reviewed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), would remove an existing 26-inch gas pipeline and replace it with a 42-inch one.

State Assemblywoman Sandra Galef (D/Ossining) was the highest ranking official to appear at Saturday's rally at Pugsley Park. She said what was particularly disturbing about Spectra's plan was the siting of the pipeline under extreme high pressure right next to the Indian Point nuclear power facility in Buchanan just 1,500 feet away and its 40 years of spent nuclear fuel rods.

"I think we're all here to say no we have energy right here. I think we have to continue to put the pressure on. Don't give up," Galef said.

During a FERC public hearing in Cortlandt last month, opponents of the pipeline presented FERC with a petition containing more than 26,000 signatures. They were countered by about 200 union laborers from Westchester and Rockland counties clad in bright orange shirts who supported the project for the jobs it would create.

Several speakers at the rally in Peekskill contended Spectra wasn't being forthcoming with vital details about its plans.

"I think they know what's in these pipes and what it will do to our communities," Williams remarked. "I believe Spectra is ly-



PHOTOS BY RICK PEZULLO

Some Yorktown residents make displeasure known.



Local officials join forces to oppose pipeline.

ing to us when they say this pipeline is safe. Produce the data that will allow us to sleep at night."

"Spectra is playing games with us," maintained Cortlandt Councilwoman Debbie Costello. "We can't trust them. We have to keep fighting them."

Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel, a retired IBM scientist who has been the most vocal opponent of the pipeline on his town board, the health and safety risks from the pipeline are alarming.

"We can't afford to put this in the air, in the water and in the ground," Patel asserted. "I promise to keep up the fight that I started

in June. Nobody is going to buy my vote."

Other speakers included Peekskill councilmen Joe Torres and Darren Rigger, Cortlandt Councilman Seth Freach, congressional candidate Chris Day and State Senate hopeful Justin Wagner, who lambasted his opponent, Yorktown Councilman Terrence Murphy, for voting to send a resolution to the state Legislature seeking permission to alienate parkland for the pipeline.

"This really is about the future of our children. This is about the future of our communities," Wagner said. "We have to continue to fight this. Only by speaking out can we make a difference.

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Town Board Gets an Earful on Proposed Sober Living Facility

By Sue Guzman

The Yorktown Town Board continued to listen to residents' concerns last week about a proposed sober living facility at 482 Underhill Avenue.

Tom Crossin and Mark McGoldrick with Compass Westchester are seeking a three-year special permit for the home, which would house up to 14 people recovering from substance and alcohol addictions.

Pia Rivero, a Yorktown resident and attorney, presented a lengthy list of stipulated conditions compiled by area residents regarding the sober residence application. Rivero asked that the site meet all necessary septic approvals, arguing that the septic approval for the home did not conform with standards for a convalescent group home and that the applicants should apply for a SPDES permit.

The list also called for regular random

town inspections of the site, to ensure that the sober living residence is in compliance with rules and regulations and asks the town board to forfeit the special use permit if there is a failure to report any incident of drug, alcohol use or criminal activity on the premises.

In addition, Rivero called for video surveillance cameras to be installed on the property to monitor activity and for Compass Westchester to obtain appropriate liability insurance.

The board also heard from Dr. Arnold Washton, Ph.D, an internationally renowned addiction psychologist who spoke of the therapeutic effects of the sober home. Washton said residents of the home would undergo a rigorous evaluation to rule out those who have a criminal record or a history of violence. The average stay for recovering addicts is 60

to 90 days, he noted, adding that drug and alcohol testing is done two to three times a week on residents of the home.

Washton cautioned against reading about what he called "internet horror stories" about "poorly run sober homes" that didn't offer proper pre-screening and appropriate home management for the residents. He said studies show properly managed sober residences provide proper safety for all involved, including people in the neighboring community.

Washton maintained that Yorktown, like many suburban communities, is in need of services for recovering drug and alcohol addicts, noting that there are "no less than 33 AA meetings in Yorktown weekly." According to Washton, recovering addicts typically crave anonymity and would be barely visible in the neighboring community and highly unlikely

to be involved in negative activities that call attention to themselves.

"Sober living residences have become a major ingredient in therapeutic recovery, which is something as a society that we all want. I'll be damned as a supervisor if this place is not run properly if it's approved, and I will hold their feet to the fire," said Supervisor Michael Grace.

Councilman Terrence Murphy said he will meet with members of the Planning Board soon to discuss concerns about the age and condition of the site's septic fields. Murphy said he had not made up his mind about the proposed project, and that it's a decision he's not taking lightly.

"I've got to take a very close look at everything. This is not about an agenda that Terrence Murphy has. I have to represent what the people of Yorktown want," he said.

Cortlandt, School Officials Urge Community Not to Lose Sight of Drug Problem

by Janine Bowen

With a variety of other health crises dominating the headlines in recent weeks, Cortlandt officials want to make sure residents don't forget about the heroin epidemic that is still affecting people in the region and across the country.

The area has seen two deaths in the

Hendrick Hudson area of Cortlandt this year alone, and Supervisor Linda Puglisi said that education and prevention are the keys to saving lives.

"We have lost some wonderful people in our community over the years," said Puglisi.

At a community round table event on

Thursday at Cortlandt Town Hall, a variety of experts from various fields spoke about how to prevent children from experimenting with drugs and what to do if a loved one is already in the throes of an addiction.

Student assistance counselors from the Lakeland and Hendrick Hudson school

districts urged parents to keep open lines of communication with their children and advised creating a safe word to use if your child find himself in an uncomfortable situation. Counselor Lisamaria Albanese of Blue Mountain Middle School explained that parents should agree on a

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State Police

October 17 - 10:53 p.m. – Paulo Pilco Rivas, 31, of Peekskill, was charged with aggravated driving while intoxicated after troopers encountered a one-car collision in the area of Route 6 and Roa Hook Road. Pilco Rivas supplied a positive breath sample that yielded a blood alcohol content of .19%, more than two times the legal limit of intoxication. He was released on bail.

October 19 - 4:12 p.m. – Joseph Velders, 21, of Cortlandt, was charged with assault in the third degree in connection with an incident that occurred August 4 at about 10:05 p.m. at Steamboat Riverfront Park in Verplanck. An investigation at the time revealed the victim was at the park talking to friends when a male known to him only as “Joey” struck him in the face with a closed fist. The victim left the park and called 911 for assistance. The suspect fled the area prior to police arrival. Velders was subsequently identified as the suspect and a warrant was issued for his arrest on September 28.

October 21 - Byron Summers, 31, of Peekskill, was charged with one count of sexual abuse the first degree after allegedly subjecting a juvenile to sexual content on several occasions online. He was arraigned in Peekskill City Court and remanded to Westchester County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 bail.

Westchester County Police

October 22 - County Police Officer Matthew Wirth arrested two people on burglary charges after he observed suspicious activity at a house on Furnace Dock Road. Wirth was aware that wire fencing around the property had been altered and some plywood used to secure the vacant front door had been removed. He also observed several sections of a baseboard heating system protruding from the vehicle along with wiring and other components. One of the suspects identified claimed she had permission from the owner to remove various items to sell for scrap. That proved not to be the case. Gina Shipman, 36, of Verplanck, and James Simmons, 49,

of Cortlandt, were each charged with burglary in the third degree, criminal possession of stolen property, grand larceny, possession of burglar tools and criminal mischief.

Yorktown Police

October 16 - 1:16 p.m. – Patrick Hickey, 49, of Yorktown, was charged with petit larceny for allegedly stealing two blankets, valued at \$190, from Sears at the Jefferson Valley Mall.

October 17 - 6 p.m. – Anthony Caldararo, Jr., 29, of Mohegan Lake, was charged with petit larceny and criminal possession of a controlled substance following a report from Sears security of alleged larceny suspect who fled the area in a black vehicle. Caldararo's vehicle was later stopped on Delaware Road and he was found to be in possession of a quantity of heroin and prescription medications.

SOAC Product Brings Local Pride Playing in World Series

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wanted him on their team.”

At John Jay High School as a senior, Panik set three Class AA state records in hits, runs and doubles. He went on to star at St. John's, hitting .370 for his career, which ranks him second in the history of the university. He was selected 29th in the 2011 draft by the Giants and was called up this June.

In 73 games with the Giants, Panik hit .305 and finished second in on-base

percentage among rookies. He has had many key hits in the playoffs, including a home run in Game 5 of the National League Championship Series.

Rosen is rooting hard for Panik and the Giants and made a bold prediction about his potential for a long career.

“He could be the next Jeter,” Rosen said, comparing Panik to legendary New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter. “He could get 2,500 hits. He's a cool customer.”

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Endorsements

Murphy's Experience Key in Nasty Senate Race to Replace Ball

Neither Republican Terrence Murphy nor Democrat Justin Wagner have distinguished themselves in one of the nastiest campaigns in recent memory where issues have been overshadowed by juvenile jabs and a barrage of pointless media attacks that reinforce why so many people are disgusted and turned off by politicians.

Both candidates have a tough act to follow in the 40th Senate District trying to replace Sen. Greg Ball, who made an infamous name for himself with some zany antics, and both have made it difficult with their unscrupulous tactics to cut through the minutia and find some substance in what they're attempting to relay to voters who have been subjected to these follies for nearly two months now.

To highlight the hysteria generated through their campaign by sound bite, the last point in the proposed Women's Equality Act, which would allow for late-term abortions if the mother's health was at stake, has been so exaggerated by both sides for political gain it's a sad commentary on the two candidates.

The problem is this race carries great significance in the balance of power in the state Senate and thus can't be taken lightly, which is why so much money

has been pumped into both candidates' campaigns by political action committees. What voters have to decide on their own is which candidate has the experience and strength of his convictions to be an effective representative for his constituents.

Based on those factors, with five years on the Yorktown Town Board under his belt, as compared to no public service by his opponent, it is recommended that Murphy be given the nod for the two-year Senate seat.

During his time as a councilman, Murphy has been staunchly "pro-business" and tackled head-on the drug problem in the region before it was garnering headlines.

Wagner, rightfully so, has taken Murphy to task for not being in the forefront of opposing the planned natural gas pipeline expansion in northern Westchester, but, at the same time, Wagner has distorted Murphy's record on the issue. Murphy, and the other three members of the town board, voted to ask the state legislature for permission to possibly alienate parkland for the pipeline. It was a vote to justify the process.

Meanwhile, Murphy did vote to support a resolution calling for strict health and safety conditions be imposed on

Spectra Energy if the federal government okays the pipeline. The anti-"Murphy Pipeline" effort has really just been misguided hype.

On the issue of hydraulic fracturing, Murphy has been clear in his opposition, yet Wagner, who said he would vote to support a moratorium bill and a ban on fracking, also remarked "if there's a way to do it safely and create jobs, let's do it."

It's not the first time that Murphy has sought higher office, having come up short twice for county legislator, while Wagner put a major scare in Ball two years ago when he lost by only a few percentage points.

In a race that's tough to call, and with a lot at stake, having someone like Murphy in Albany who won't have to start from square one in learning the ropes, as a novice like Wagner would, could be more beneficial to constituents in the district in terms of getting necessary funding that communities have grown accustomed to expect with Ball.

Wagner seems to have good intentions in running for office, even stating he would quit his job with a top law firm to serve in the Senate. However, his inexperience in government is glaring and impossible to overlook.

Falk Best Choice for State Assembly over Katz

When Patterson resident and local attorney Andrew Falk ran for the 94th assembly seat in 2012, he was a newcomer on the political scene. Describing his campaign as a snowball that kept gaining momentum two years ago, but just couldn't outlast opponent Steve Katz, Falk hopes this time the mountain is steep enough to replace the Republican incumbent.

Just like two years ago, we endorse Falk for state Assembly because of his message of fighting for middle class families and common sense and even handed approach to social issues. Two ways Falk wants to make life more affordable for Northern Westchester and Putnam County families is by providing tax rebates to those companies that hire more employees and to raise the minimum wage, which is very much needed in a time where life expenses continue to rise, making it impossible to live in the area on such small salaries.

As a father of two young sons looking

to pay off his mortgage like many Hudson Valley homeowners and run a law firm located on Brewster's main street, Falk seems to grasp the real issues at hand.

Katz, in the meantime, has done good things for veterans and seniors, which is why he's been able to win two consecutive elections. His calls for ethics reform and criticism of corruption in Albany should be commended. Rarely do politicians speak their minds, but Katz is refreshing for the fact he says what he means. That being said, his continuing onslaught against Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver is not helping his district. Yes, it's time for Silver to be pushed out. That's something Democrats and Republicans should be able to agree on. But Katz can't seem to talk about the issues at hand without bringing Silver into it. He's even tried to link Falk to Silver regarding campaign donations, but according to Falk he has gotten donations from the Democratic Assembly

Campaign Committee and State Democrats, which is fairly common in races.

It was also inexcusable when Katz voted against legalizing medical marijuana, then embarrassingly got caught with pot possession on his way to the State Capitol to cast votes, and then reversed his stance on medical marijuana following the incident. Voters should demand more out of their representatives. That's why Falk should get your support for the 94th Assembly. With the hope that Falk is independent from his own party, but still willing to work with everyone, we wholeheartedly recommend Falk for election.

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Endorsements

Lowey Still a Solid Choice for Congress After All These Years

It's usually pretty easy to make an argument why an elected official should be turned out after serving for a certain length of time.

Perhaps certain representatives have become complacent or if they are older and suffering from a serious health malady they may not have the ability to serve as effectively as they once had.

On occasion, change for the sake of change can breathe new life into a district. Then there are the proponents of term limits who believe that regular turnover is healthy for the democratic process and prevents corruption.

Sometimes any of those arguments can be true, although in most fields, when you need an important job done, typically a person with the most experience and best track record is sought.

In the case of Rep. Nita Lowey, a 26-year veteran in the House of Representatives who has spent the last third of her life in Congress, she is clearly the candidate with the most experience and best track record for the 17th Con-

gressional District in 2014.

Perhaps you can take issue with Lowey on any particular issue, but not her drive and passion for the job. Moreover, she has been a tireless representative for the people of Westchester and Rockland, not only concentrating on the large issues, but also on constituents' services that might involve helping an individual, such as a veteran, wade through a problem with benefits or the VA, or trying to get legislation passed where college students could save some money if they were allowed to refinance their loans.

As the ranking Democrat on the critical Appropriations Committee, she is a valuable resource for the district, even as the country endures a Congress that is as polarized as any time in the nation's history. While perhaps her ability to get things done has been hampered since the Republicans took over following the 2010 elections, her willingness to work with moderate Republicans is a hopeful sign.

At this point, with a war weary U.S. having been embroiled in combat for much of the last 13 years, it is prudent for her to view sending ground troops to Iraq to fight ISIS as a last resort.

And while the economic recovery has at times been at a snail's pace, there has been steady progress. If re-elected, it would be nice to hear her more ideas from Lowey on how to better address income inequality and prepare our upcoming workforce for the high-skilled jobs that are unfilled.

Chris Day is a new and refreshing voice who has put thought, time and effort into various proposals, particularly how to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

As much as Lowey's age--78--shouldn't be held against her, the same is true for Day, who at 29 years old has impressive credentials. He earned a bachelor's degree from Yale in political science, was a former U.S. infantry officer who served for 14 months in Iraq and Afghanistan and works for a ven-

ture capital firm that invests in Israeli tech startups.

Unlike parroting many other Republicans who call for knee-jerk tax cuts as the answer for most economic ills, Day has a complicated but intriguing plan to provide tax incentives to corporations if they lift stagnant wages, prevent outsourcing overseas and place controls on executive compensation. If certain criteria is reached they receive a sizeable tax break, a rate of about 13 percent. If not, the current 35 percent rate remains in effect.

However, at this time the U.S. shouldn't be racing to put troops again into Iraq until there is greater urgency. Furthermore, criticizing Lowey for the FAA's brief interruption of flights to Tel Aviv when unrest surfaced there last summer when Lowey is one of the staunchest pro-Israel representatives lacked credibility.

For voters the choice should be clear on Nov. 4: Lowey has earned a 14th term in Washington.

After Two Years of Bipartisanship, Maloney Should Earn Reelection

The 18th congressional race between incumbent Sean Patrick Maloney and challenger Nan Hayworth has been an entertaining one. Both have gone back and forth putting the other one down, from Maloney calling Hayworth a "Tea Party radical," to Hayworth accusing Maloney of being a "Washington insider."

All the political mudslinging aside, voters within the district should select Maloney to be their representative for another two years.

This election is unique because both candidates have had the chance to rep-

resent the Hudson Valley in Congress. Hayworth served from 2011 to 2012 and Maloney the past two years. When comparing records, Maloney should be given the edge for the way he reached across the aisle numerous times. He has also been responsive to issues that directly impact residents in his district.

For instance, after a December 1 train crash, Maloney acted to put in place legislation to make those rails like Metro-North safer. After the troubles surfaced regarding Veteran's Affairs hospitals, Maloney introduced the Disabled Veterans Red Tape Reduction

Act, which allowed veterans to have medical examinations done by physicians outside the VA system. And now he is taking on FERC and the new capacity zone raising energy prices at an unreasonable rate.

While Hayworth is not the suggested choice, there's little doubt about the hard work she's put into helping Hudson Valley residents and she's made this race closer than many originally thought was possible. Some critiques she makes about the Affordable Care Act are valid, and cosponsoring the REINS Act--meant to control regulators like FERC--deserve

praise.

While Maloney, without mercy, has labeled Hayworth a Tea Party candidate, her campaign seems to suggest a more moderate approach. But when asked directly if she is a Tea Party candidate, Hayworth deflected immediately, never answering the question.

Voting Hayworth back into office might have been a more tempting option if the representative in place was ineffective, but, overall, Maloney has proven to be a skillful and independent advocate for his constituents.

Hanauer Has Been More Than an Effective Leader in Ossining

The Village of Ossining has undergone a noticeable transformation in recent years, thanks, in part, to the leadership of Mayor William Hanauer, who has more than earned the right to be reelected to a fifth term.

It appears Hanauer became a victim of petty politics when the Democratic Committee endorsed first term Trustee Victoria Gearity and Gearity went on to the win the primary in September. But the election should not be determined by political differences or personality conflicts, it should be based on who is best qualified to keep

Ossining headed in the positive direction it has been, and that candidate is clearly Hanauer.

Even Gearity admitted during a candidates' forum at Ossining Library last week that "businesses are starting to open because they're excited about the future of Ossining." Of course, Gearity believes her campaign has jump started the business surge downtown, but it has more likely been Hanauer's approach to enhancing the village's commercial growth that should be credited.

Gearity has made one focus of her

campaign criticizing the openness of Hanauer's administration and promising a more "collaborative process" if she is elected. However, there has been little evidence shown that would indicate Hanauer is making decisions behind closed doors without the knowledge of the village board.

For years, officials and candidates in Ossining talked about bringing new life to Main Street and the surrounding area. Hanauer has actually spearheaded a change, and that momentum should not be curtailed. Hanauer has shown his dedication to the village

and his managerial and administrative experience and expertise is too valuable to discard.



Endorsements

Siegel Gets Slight Nod in Yorktown for Knowledge of Issues

The candidates and their supporters have been claiming the election to fill the final 13 months of former Councilman Dave Paganelli's unexpired term on the Yorktown Town Board will change the future of the town. That's a bit of a stretch.

There are no pressing issues before the board that adding either Susan Siegel or Thomas Diana to the equation will make that much of a difference. Costco is well on its way to being approved and the sober home, whether the special permit is approved or denied, will likely be tied up in the courts for a long time. Depot Square? That hasn't even got out of the

starting gate yet. The gas pipeline? The major decisions will be made at the federal level.

The main thing at stake in the election is the balance of power on the board since it is assumed Siegel will side mostly with Councilman Vishnu Patel and Diana will vote in lockstep with Supervisor Michael Grace and Councilman Terrence Murphy. Of course, Murphy could also be off the board and headed to Albany, so a special election, if the voters see fit to grant the board that option, could come into play.

Both Siegel and Diana claim they will not be rubber stamps and will vote inde-

pendently. Only time will tell. It's a difficult decision for voters in Yorktown to make because both candidates are more than qualified to serve and actually agree on several issues. Whoever falls short next week should definitely be in the mix for an appointment to the board.

On the surface, Siegel has definitely been more in tune with the issues having attended nearly every meeting since 2012 after she was defeated by Grace and keeping residents informed through her blogs. The only reservation with Siegel is will she simply be a thorn in Grace's side on the dais? She maintains she can work with Grace. And every legislative body

should have checks and balances.

Diana lost last year to Paganelli for highway superintendent, a position he could have easily handled. He was also a dedicated police officer in Yorktown, Cortlandt and Westchester County enforcing laws. Does he possess the same skillset to now make laws?

Both candidates are longtime residents with a proven commitment to their community. Based on her dedication as a town watchdog and her two years' experience as supervisor, the nod goes to Siegel for having the ability to step right in and make educated decisions without missing a beat.

Letters

Gearity Gives Confidence to Invest in Ossining

To the Editor:

I am writing to endorse Victoria Gearity for Mayor of Ossining.

I have wanted to open a business downtown pretty much since we moved here 4 years ago. Various things stopped me until now, not the least of which is now 2 years old. However, she is far from the only reason.

For years, depending on the day, my enthusiasm for the village would waver,

but my excitement reached a high point, probably about a year ago, when I was meeting with Victoria. I found her passion for the entrepreneurial spirit she knows exists within the community to be awesome. She knows Ossining's greatest resource is its residents, our creativity, our O-Pride, our history and our unique makeup that attracts one of the most interesting groups of residents in Westchester County. After our initial conversa-

tion, she sent me emails upon emails of ideas, inspirations, and how-to advice.

I admit, I have also had my lower moments. Taking my investors on a drive through Ossining a little over a year ago--empty store fronts, dilapidated buildings--they couldn't see what I could imagine.

Thoughts about this election season have been all over social media, which has been illuminating to me as a po-

tential business owner. What I have observed is that people want to take ownership of our village. They feel that there isn't room for new ideas within the current administration's vision. The very thought of Victoria as Mayor has given many, including me and mine, the impetus to consider investing in our downtown. I look forward to 2015.

JESSICA IRONS
Ossining

Siegel is the Best (Wo)man for the Job

To the Editor:

In the 1964 musical "My Fair Lady," Professor Henry Higgins, played by Rex Harrison, sings, "Why Can't a Woman Be More Like a Man?" Fifty years later we've come a long way in achieving gender equality. In many respects women are more like men. There are almost as many women in the labor force as men, and with every passing year, more women occupy positions of power in government and business.

When it comes to management style, however, there is still a deep divide in how our society views women. A forceful and decisive man is regarded as a leader. But when a woman displays these same traits, she is all too often considered bossy, unfeminine, unsympathetic, or even bitchy.

Why do I raise this distinction? Because in the upcoming election for the open seat on the Yorktown Town Board, we have a woman running for

the position who has extensive experience, having already served as Supervisor, who is clearly more qualified than her male opponent. Yet when I talk to people about why I am supporting Susan Siegel over the genial but inexperienced Tom Diana, I often hear something to the effect of, "But Susan is so bossy." To which I respond, "She's no bossier than Michael Grace." But then again, in our society, it's far more acceptable for a man to display conviction and certitude.

Electing a candidate to public office is not a personality contest. It isn't—or shouldn't be—even a matter of picking the person you like better. It's about electing the most qualified person, and in this case, that's Susan Siegel. Also in her favor is that Susan is not aspiring to higher office or planning to use this position as a steppingstone to a lucrative business opportunity. Her sole objective is to improve our town. The fact that she

is a woman is incidental, although it's hard to ignore that the current Board displays an excess of testosterone. After all, half of the electorate is female!

Please join me in casting your vote for Susan Siegel on Tuesday, November 4.

OLIVIA BELL BUEHL
Yorktown Heights

Setting the Record Straight on Missing Debate

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere apology for any inconvenience that may have been caused by not being able to attend last Wednesday's debate due to a family emergency. I wish I could have been able to share with the students my ideas on bringing a third consecutive tax cut to Yorktown, by building a commercial tax base for funding our town services. It is unfortunate people like to put their spin on my absence. With that being said I owe no one an explanation but an apology. The

Yorktown GOP chairwomen Serafina Mastro reached out on my behalf and left two messages to my opponent Susan Siegel, which she chose to not share with the people located at the debate location, which was confirmed by a local reporter. I had to choose between attending to a family emergency or attending the debate I chose to support my family, which always comes first. On Election Day November 4th let's remember to put people before politics and move Yorktown forward together.

TOM DIANA

Letters

Goal of Peekskill District on Charter School is for Public to be Informed

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Mr. George Ondek's recent guest column in the Examiner Newspaper titled, "Attacks on Proposed Charter School Were Awful". The meeting in which Mr. Ondek had a conversation with me is part of public record of the October 7, 2014 meeting of the Peekskill City School District Board of Education. I ask your readers to please access our website at www.peakskillcsd.org, click on the Board of Education tab, BOE Meeting Videos and click on the BOE 10/7/14 meeting to replay the meeting.

Upon viewing the video of this meeting you will learn that Mr. Ondek's portrayal of the meeting as reported in his guest column is simply not true. You will learn among other things the following facts:

1. The goal of the district and the Peekskill Pride Committee is for our community to make an informed decision about the Guardian Charter School Application. Toward that end, it was discussed that upon review of the application, it was clear that the Guardian Academy does not offer anything different than what we have in the school district, and that the personnel who may be teaching in the Academy cannot match the level of highly qualified professionals we have on staff in addition to the professional development we are providing by nationally recognized educational leaders.

2. Moreover, the financial impact statement grossly misstates that the financial impact on the district is negligible. The shift of revenue factoring in the transi-

tion aid would result in supermajority votes on tax levies from 5% to 10% over the next 5 years if we were to try to maintain our current programs. That is not a fiscal reality for Peekskill or most communities. Indeed, major curricular and extracurricular programs would be at risk of elimination.

3. In the course of our discussion, I asked Mr. Ondek whether he read the Charter School Application to which he replied, "not thoroughly". I believe for anyone to make an informed decision, one needs to "thoroughly" read and understand a proposal or scenario otherwise how can they make an informed opinion about its merit?

4. I never stated that our achievement results were the "fault" of our students.

On the contrary, I stated that these assessments are flawed and they do not report the year to year growth of our kids. Our students, in most circumstances are growing at an acceptable rate—we just need to accelerate it which is the sum and substance of our goals and commitment to improving literacy for all students, partnering with Lesley University, and providing new enrichment programs at the elementary level.

5. Finally, I personally invited Mr. Ondek to an "open house" in order to observe our classrooms and meet our staff to which he ultimately declined to attend.

In closing, watch the video and you will see for yourself.

Sincerely,

LORENZO LICOPOLI, PH.D.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Yorktown Students for Good Government Seeks Answers on No-Show Diana

To the Editor:

As high school students, it's our job to give answers to hard questions. That's why we were so excited to plan a debate - to be the ones asking questions and receiving answers. For months, we were busily preparing for this debate. We were excited for this opportunity to be leaders in our community, to do our part for the democratic process. We were ready to ask the tough questions. However, after Tom Diana was not able to show up at our scheduled debate, we are left with more questions than ever before.

After spending weeks formulating questions and meeting with local newspaper editors Brian Marschhauser and Rick Pezzullo, the Yorktown Students for Good Government were more than ready for a debate between Republican Tom Diana and Democrat Susan Siegel,

the candidates for Yorktown Town Board. It was nerve-racking to sit there and watch the minutes count down until seven o'clock, our scheduled start time. As time ticked by and Tom Diana never arrived, we became worried.

It wasn't until 7:40 that we learned, via text message, that Mr. Diana was at a hospital "across the river," with his granddaughter, and would not be able to make it. That was the statement we received, a text read by a person who wasn't even one of Diana's staffers. We then proceeded to have a debate between Susan Siegel and the aptly named "empty chair." Although Ms. Siegel answered all the questions we asked, the purpose of holding a debate was to hear both candidates' sides of local issues. If we had wanted a town hall with Ms. Siegel, we would have had a town hall, but there is

an interplay between candidates during a debate that provides insight that no other medium can. That being said, we still don't know Diana's stand on issues that are important to voters.

Not only was Mr. Diana not at the debate, but neglected to send any staffers to the debate. He also neglected to promote the debate, resulting in a space that was half filled and lacking in Republicans. There is no mention of a debate on the Yorktown Republican website or on Tom Diana's facebook and twitter pages. Why was this debate not publicized by the Republicans? The Yorktown Democratic Committee heavily promoted the debate, why didn't Diana do the same?

After spending so much time and effort planning a debate for the people of Yorktown, why does it feel as if it's all so futile? Why does it feel like our hard work

is for nothing? Why didn't Tom Diana ever ask for the rules of the debate like Susan Siegel had? If he really planned on attending, why didn't he want people to know about it? And when he couldn't attend, we sent a tweet informing him that he could still participate in the debate through the wonders that are modern technology. Why didn't he respond?

Yorktown Students for Good Government is a nonpartisan organization that gives candidates a forum to inform the voters, but if candidates fail to attend, there's nothing we can do for you. We aren't telling anyone to not vote for Diana, but even if we wanted to we couldn't. We don't know what he stands for, we don't know what he's like, we didn't get to see him. We are left with questions.

**ETTA GRIFFITHS AND
JESSE HOROWITZ**

Council Must Nix Proposed Garbage Tax in Peekskill

To the Editor:

Peekskill homeowners will be shocked to learn of the new taxation policy presented to them in next year's proposed city budget.

The city manager's new idea is that when you pay your city taxes each year, all you really get is the privilege to own a home in Peekskill. If you actually want any services for your tax dollars - well, you have to pay for those too.

The new plan is for homeowners to pay an extra \$364 each year when their garbage is picked up. That's right - your taxes suddenly won't pay for garbage pickup any more come Jan. 1 if this budget is passed.

Next year, I guess, fire calls will be \$1,000 - cash in advance - if there's a fire

at your house. A pothole in a city street in front of your home will bring you a bill of \$500 after the city fills it. This is pure madness.

Hopefully, the seven members of the Peekskill Common Council will quickly strike this ridiculous proposal and find other ways to fill the \$2 million budget hole the city manager has presented them.

Like the Tea Party patriots in Boston in 1773, Peekskill residents will be called upon to drop their bags of garbage on the steps of City Hall next year if this proposal is accepted. Let's hope a little Thomas Paine "Common Sense" prevails before we reach that point.

JIM ROBERTS
Peekskill

Gearity Will Provide Positive Leadership in Ossining

To the Editor:

Victoria Gearity is our family's clear choice for the next Mayor of the Village of Ossining. We believe that since she has two young children in our school system, she has the best understanding of our schools, particularly with the overcrowding issues we are experiencing. We know she takes these issues very seriously and will make sure the schools are part of any development conversations early in the planning process.

As small local business owners, we also believe that, coupled with her experience as trustee, her openness and

positive personality will be a bridge to new and existing businesses in Ossining, and help her to understand and support both fairly.

Having lived here since 1995 and marrying and buying our first home in Ossining in 1997, it is so important to us to have positive leadership and someone who listens and cares. That type of leader is Victoria Gearity which is why we will be voting for Victoria for Mayor on November 4th. We hope you will too.

**MATTHEW AND
CINTHIA GULLOTTA**

Obituaries

Stella Modesta

Stella Modesta, a resident of Ossining, died October 19. She was 79.

She was born November 5, 1934 to Joseph F. Pileggi and Gertrude Partelow. She worked for many years at The Westchester Inn in Ossining and later at St. Ann's School. She is survived by her son Frederick T. Modesta Jr. (Desiree), daughter Kim Ann Palka, sisters Evelyn Dolcimascolo, Valerie Coletti, Eleanor DeMilio, and Veronica Felicione; and grandchildren John, Samantha and Liam. She was predeceased by her husband Fred and brothers Dominick and Joseph Pileggi.

Frederick Bottega

Frederick A. Bottega, a resident of Yorktown Heights, died October 19.

He was born in the Bronx on December 5, 1934 to Arthur and Madeleine Bottega. He served honorably in the United States Army during the Korean War from 1953 to 1956. On June 1, 1957, he married Josephine Duenas in Bisbee Arizona. He worked for the United States Postal service for 31 years at Gracie Station in NYC. They moved to Yorktown in 1972 to raise their family. Frederick was an auxiliary policeman in Yorktown for over 25 years and was an avid ham radio operator.

He is survived by his wife Josephine, two daughters Kathy Turkewitz (Steve), Deb Lawlor (Chris), four grandchildren Stephanie and Daniel Turkewitz and Monique and Ariel Lawlor. He was predeceased by a sister, Dorothy Kulick.

Thomas Brogan

Thomas James Brogan, a resident of Peekskill, formerly of Lake Carmel, died on October 22. He was 84.

Mr. Brogan worked for Con Edison in Westchester, retiring as a General Fore-

man, in the Gas Department. He was born on September 21, 1930 in New York City to Martin and Bridget Loftus Brogan. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War. On June 11, 1955, he married Mary Callahan in New York City.

He is survived by his wife Mary Brogan of Peekskill and six children, Thomas (Jamie) Brogan of Beekman, James Brogan of Peekskill, Edward (Harriet) Brogan of Pawling, Mary (Michael) McCormick of Ridgefield, CT, Ann (Raymond) Morrison of Venice, FL and Martin (Debbi) Brogan of Yorktown. Also surviving are seventeen grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a sister, Mary Marchisello.

Ernest (Ted) Baehr Jr.

Ernest (Ted) Baehr Jr., a long-time resident of Briarcliff Manor, Pleasantville and Somers, died peacefully on October 17, just weeks after celebrating his 104th birthday with three generations of family and friends at Salem Hills Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Purdy's.

An intensely private man who also enjoyed performing for an audience, he "rose to the occasion" despite the effects of his advancing years, greeting people by name, wearing the red and gold crown first given to him on his 100th birthday four years earlier, holding his 14-month-old great-grandson on his lap and making the wry jokes that were his brand of humor.

Born in New York City on Sept. 7, 1910, he was the only child of Ernest Baehr and Louisa Torres. His father had grown up in Duisburg, Germany and his mother, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He grew up in Manhattan, graduating from Stuyvesant High School and attending New York University, where he studied civil engineering. He spent nearly 50 years as a sales executive in the construction industry.

Mr. Baehr married Aleda Van Gils of

Mahopac, NY in 1939. They moved to Briarcliff in 1948, where he served as a volunteer fireman, joined a local amateur theater company and also became an avid motorcyclist. After their three children graduated from college, they moved to neighboring Pleasantville, NY.

After his wife of 46 years died in 1985, he befriended Roberta Bengelsdorf, also a resident of Pleasantville. The friendship between the two recently widowed spouses blossomed into a strong and loving mutual companionship that lasted almost three decades until his death. They lived first in Pleasantville and later at the Heritage Hills in Somers.

He leaves, in addition to Roberta and her family, his three children, Guy of Luperon, Dominican Republic, Van of Santa Fe, NM and Karla of Newton, MA, and her spouse, Ann Dinsmoor. He also leaves two grandchildren, Amber West of Albuquerque, NM and Vanessa Baehr, and her son - Ted's great-grandchild - James Valdez Moore, and her fiancé, Peter Moore, all of Hudson, NY.



Ronald Lundberg

Ronald Lundberg

Ronald M. Lundberg, of Macungie, PA, formerly of Carmel, NY, and a longtime middle school teacher in Yorktown, died peacefully at home on October 21, surrounded by his devoted family. He was 72.

He was the loving husband of Barbara J. (Nyce) Lundberg, and they celebrated their 49th anniversary in June. He was a much beloved middle school teacher in Yorktown Heights, for 40 years until retiring in 2003. He was a born educator and many of his former students have remained in contact with him over the years, which brought great joy to him knowing that he had played a part in their success in life.

Born in the Bronx, Mr. Lundberg was the son of the late Edwin and Marjorie (Whitehead) Lundberg. In 1952, his family moved from New Rochelle,

to Carmel where he graduated in 1959 from Carmel High School. He earned a Bachelor's Degree at SUNY Oneonta, NY and received his Master's Degree from SUNY New Paltz. While a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Kisco, in addition to being very active in the music program there, he was instrumental in the installation of a von Beckerath pipe organ. After moving to Macungie in 2010, he became a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, PA where he was also very active in the Chancel Choir and music program. In addition, he taught English and Citizenship courses to Burmese refugees there. His work with them was very rewarding to him and greatly appreciated by the refugees, many of whom became Ron's friends and have become American citizens as a result of his tutelage. Mr. Lundberg deeply valued friendships and made many long-lasting relationships over the years. He will be deeply missed by his family and his large circle of close friends. We will especially miss his love of family, deep faith, generous spirit, larger than life personality, sense of humor, laughter, concern for others, his great love of music, and extreme delight in hosting dinner parties for which he was the "chef extraordinaire."

Survivors include his wife; daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer Lundberg and Dominick Martiniello of Airmont, NY; son and daughter-in-law, Jeremy and Christina Lundberg of Lovettsville, VA; brother and sister-in-law, Edwin and Lenore Lundberg of Carmel, NY; and six grandchildren, Anders Lewis, Matilda Lewis, Emily Martiniello, Dominick Martiniello, Holden Lundberg and Siena Lundberg.

Marilyn Blenkinsopp

Marilyn Alice Blenkinsopp, a resident of the Village of Buchanan, died on October 1. She was 86.

Mrs. Blenkinsopp was a clerical assistant for NY Tel. in New York City. She was born on January 21, 1928 in Brooklyn to Edwin and Florence Avery Yarwood. On October 14, 1956, she married William Blenkinsopp in Brooklyn. She was a Sunday School Teacher at Trinity Boscobel Church in Buchanan and a Girl Scout Leader. She also volunteered at the Hendrick Hudson Free Library and Peekskill Hospital.

She is survived by her husband William Blenkinsopp of Buchanan and two daughters, Heather Blenkinsopp of Ossining and Hazel Blenkinsopp (Jose Pena) of Tarrytown and a granddaughter, Jasmine Pena. Also surviving is a sister-in-law May Blenkinsopp of Liverpool, England and her Bethel and Springvale families. She was predeceased by an infant son, Keith William.

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Ossining Village Police to Provide Services to Town

By Rick Pezzullo

Officials in the Village and Town of Ossining announced last week they had agreed on terms for the village to provide police services to the unincorporated area of town for four years, starting January 1.

Under the contract, the town will pay the village about \$7.5 million, part of which will allow the village to add at least five new officers to the police force next year.

“I am really pleased to announce another remarkable achievement to share services and save the village money,” said Village Mayor William Hanauer. “The name Ossining Police Department will finally be inclusive.”

The deal ends a four-year relationship with Westchester County Police, which Supervisor Susanne Donnelly stressed demonstrated professionalism “above and beyond our expectations, and have set a high bar for any police department that becomes responsible for the safety and well-being of the unincorporated area.”

Donnelly said the cost and public opinion were factors in the town opting to sign on with the village, adding the final agreement “covers in detail all the expectations of the town in relation to these services.”

Besides providing services, the pact calls on the Village cops to regularly report to town officials and listen to input from residents.



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Town and village officials announce deal at Village Hall.

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Bill Primavera

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William “Bill” Primavera is a NYS Licensed Real Estate salesperson, William Raveis Real Estate, 1820 Commerce Street, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598, 914-245-0460. www.raveis.com. Learn more about Bill Primavera, “The Home Guru” Realtor, at: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com.

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Seven Compete for Three Seats on Croton Village Board

By Rick Pezullo

Seven candidates are competing for three available seats on the Village of Croton-on-Hudson Board of Trustees on November 4.

Trustee and Deputy Mayor Ann Gallelli is seeking reelection on the Democratic and Working Families lines, along with political newcomer Brian Pugh, for two full-term positions on the board, as are John Brijeski and Virginia Calcutti of the Croton United Party, and Kevin McClone, a Croton firefighter and independent candidate.

Incumbent Trustee Kevin Davis opted not to seek reelection after serving one two-year term on the board.

Meanwhile, Trustee Maria Slippen, who was appointed to the board in January after Trustee Casey Raskob was named village prosecutor, is running to serve the last year of Raskob's unexpired term on the Democratic and Working Families lines. She is squaring off against Robert Anderson of the Croton United Party.

Gallelli, a 40-year resident, has served six terms on the Village Board of Trustees and served 12 years on the Planning Board. She was also a founding member of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

Slippen has been involved in many village and school organizations, including the Croton Harmon Education Foundation, the Croton Caring Committee and Cortlandt Master Plan Committee. Pugh ran unsuccessfully for the Cortlandt Town Board last year but did not actively campaign after falling short in a Democratic primary.

Anderson has been a resident of Croton for 40 years. He taught second and third grade in the Hendrick Hudson School District, as well as special needs children at Northern Westchester BOCES. In 1983, he joined IBM research, retiring in 2002 as a technical recruiter. He has volunteered for the last 12 years with the Croton Caring Committee.

Brijeski has lived in Croton for 12 years. He's a certified public accountant and is employed as a vice president at Citibank. He and his wife also own and operate the Kumon Education Center in Tarrytown.

Calcutti is a 52-year resident of Croton. She worked 24 years in the Croton-Harmon School District and served as president and negotiator of the Civil Service Employees Association Clerical Unit. She is an active member of the Croton Senior Citizens Club.



COURTESY OF THE MAHOPAC FIRE DEPARTMENT

Feed Barn Catches Fire Overnight Friday

A fire ripped through and destroyed the Feed Barn in Mahopac overnight Friday, marking the second time in less than a month a business in the area has caught fire. According to the Mahopac Fire Department, the company was dispatched to a commercial fire alarm overnight to fight the blaze. Calls were put out to the Mahopac Falls, Mohegan, Somers, Brewster, Putnam Valley and Croton Falls fire departments to fight it. The Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services was also on the scene, as well as Carmel Police and the county's Sheriff Department. The Route 6 business is located in Mahopac Village Center and is a pet supply store. It has two other locations in Brewster and New Milford, Ct. Other stores near Feed Barn were affected but the damage wasn't as devastating. Another Mahopac business, the Olympic Diner caught fire a few weeks ago and is still closed, though the fire was not as serious.

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Deskovic Wins Suit Against Putnam, Former Sheriff's Investigator

By David Propper

After years of waiting for this moment, Jeffrey Deskovic finally heard the verdict he hoped would eventually come.

A federal jury awarded Deskovic, an exoneree from a 1990 criminal trial in which he was wrongly convicted of murder and rape, \$40 million after finding that former Putnam County Sheriff's investigator Daniel Stephens coerced Deskovic into a false confession and made up evidence. Because of an agreement reached between Deskovic and Putnam County before the trial, the county only has to pay \$10 million to him. If the jury found in favor of Stephens, the county still would've had to pay \$6 million.

"I was very, very emotional," Deskovic said in an interview. "It was the first jury verdict I heard since I was wrongly convicted back in 1990 so it was definitely emotional for me."

"I feel totally vindicated," he added.

Only 16 years old at the time, Deskovic was accused of killing a Peekskill High School classmate and spent 16 years in prison for it. Eventually, he was freed by DNA evidence in 2006 and another man was found to have committed the heinous crime.

In Deskovic's opinion, Stephens was the most culpable in sending him to prison. From the jury's findings, prior to Deskovic's arrest, Stephens conducted an aggressive six-hour polygraph test that eventually led to a false confession.

The jury also found Stephens fabricated evidence. While DNA on the body of murdered Angela Correa did not match

Deskovic, the assertion during the criminal trial was Correa had consensual sex with someone before she was killed. That argument could only be made because Stephens claimed Deskovic told him the killer may not have ejaculated, but Deskovic denies ever saying that.

When Stephens was on the stand and testified, Deskovic said he believes Stephens came across as "very cold and uncaring." Stephens said while testifying that he didn't feel remorse for his part in the conviction because he felt he did

nothing intentionally wrong.

Stephens is an elected Putnam County coroner. According to his testimony, he actually sued the county at one point and won so he could assume that position. He also considered at one point running for sheriff, according to testimony.

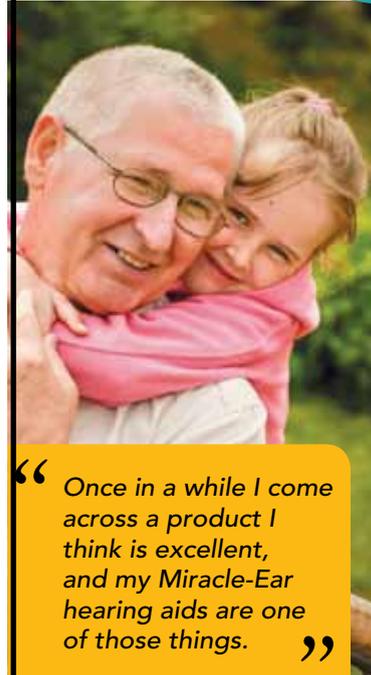
The verdict in favor of Deskovic ends a lawsuit that he brought to federal court in 2007. Deskovic settled with Westchester County for \$6.5 million and with Peekskill for \$5.4 million.

Putnam County Attorney Jennifer

Bumgarner said \$6 million of the money paid to Deskovic would come from insurance, while the other \$4 million must come directly from the county. The Department of Finance would determine where that pool of money comes from.

Now that all the litigation from his lawsuit is over, Deskovic will focus on making his organization, The Jeffrey Deskovic Foundation for Justice that helps free the wrongly convicted, sustainable and possibility begin law school to become a lawyer himself.

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Cortlandt Buys Con Edison Property to 'Stop the Buzz'

continued from page 1

purchase of this property will be a 'home run' for everyone."

Local officials and residents made passionate pleas to the New York State Public Service Commission last April to reject the proposed high voltage converter station that generates a constant buzzing sound.

West Point Partners was looking to construct a 50-foot-high, 1,000 megawatt high voltage converter station with buried high voltage cables behind Letteri Field on Broadway and 11th Street, the same location where the Spectra/Algonquin Energy natural gas pipeline project is proposed to run underground. The pipeline falls under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, whose authority supersedes town regulations.

The construction of the station in Verplanck would have enabled the connection of an 80-mile transmission line to the Town of Athens in Greene County.

**Businesses
of the Week**

Yorktown Pharmacy Yorktown

By Neal Rentz

Raj Venkat has continued a long tradition in northern Westchester by owning the Yorktown Pharmacy for the past 11 years.

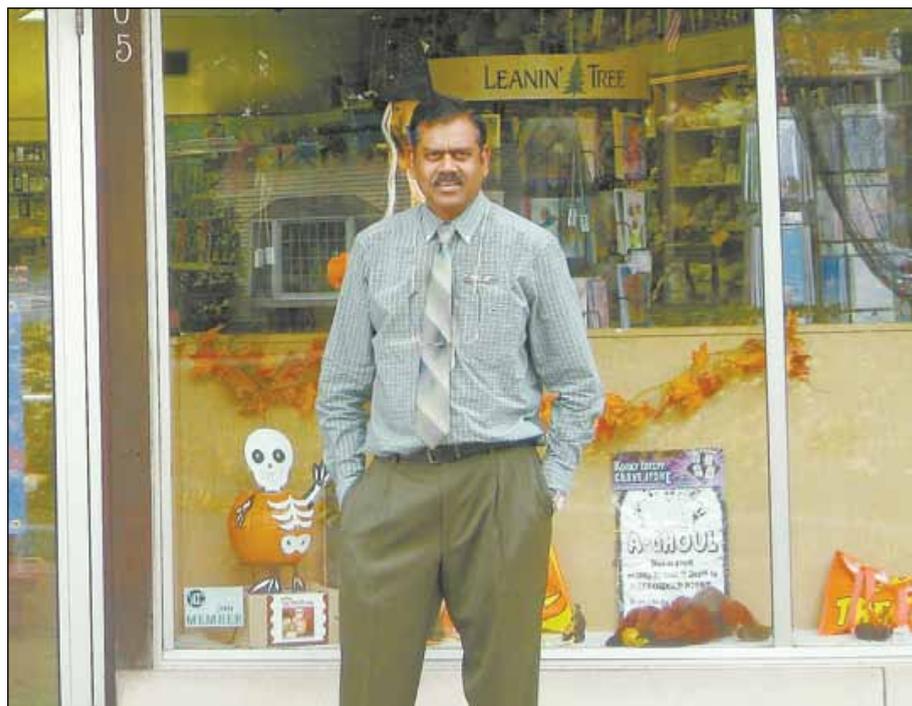
The store has been in business since 1930. It is a throwback to the locally owned drug stores that were common before CVS and other chains began to dominate the market.

Venkat purchased the store from longtime owner Robert Cecere, whose father originally opened it in 1930. Cecere continued to work part-time at the store even after he sold it. "He used to work Sunday until 2010 when he retired," Venkat said last week.

Cecere donated a park to the town, which is located in front of the pharmacy.

Yorktown Pharmacy offers a wide range of products, including gift items, seasonal candy, newspapers and magazines, as well as health related items, such as cold and flu vitamins, and items for those with sports-related injuries, including Ace bandages and knee braces.

The store offers individualized service. For example, the staff will work with a customer to get the correct fitting for a knee brace, Venkat said. If the store



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Raj Venkat, owner of the Yorktown Pharmacy.

does not have in stock a specific product sought by a customer, it will be ordered.

Personalized service has been a key to the success of the Yorktown Pharmacy,

Venkat said. "People know us," he said. Many of his customers have been patronizing the pharmacy long before he purchased it, Venkat noted.

"It's long entrenched in the community," he said.

Venkat is giving back to the community through his efforts made on behalf of the Yorktown Lions Club, which he has done for many years. The pharmacy is continuing its tradition of sponsoring the Club's annual Halloween Celebration and Parade. This year's event is scheduled for October 25 and the parade will begin at 2 from in front of Yorktown Pharmacy.

"We support the Club in any way we can," Venkat said.

Venkat came to the United States in 1989 "for higher education opportunities" not available in his native land of India. He received a graduate degree to qualify him as pharmacist from Long Island University.

Yorktown Pharmacy is located at 1905 Commerce St. For more information call 914-962-2600.

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MICHAEL GIULIANO PHOTOS

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Veatch Documentary at Jacob Burns Highlights Teen Substance Abuse

By Neal Rentz

"Whispering Spirits" is a title with great significance for Jeffrey Veatch. It is one of the songs written and performed by his late son, Justin, an immensely talented musician who died from a drug overdose in 2008 as he was starting his senior year at Yorktown High School.

"Whispering Spirits" is also the name of the documentary that will be presented Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville. The 27-minute film shows how the Veatch family struggles with Justin's death and how they reconnect with him through the music he recorded and left behind.

The event is being presented in partnership with Pleasantville STRONG (Safe Teens, Real Opportunities, New Goals), a newly formed community coalition dedicated to creating and supporting teen substance abuse prevention strategies.

Music from the CD "Permagrin: The Music of Justin Veatch," originally released by Polyvinyl Records, is also featured in the film as well as other original music that had never been released. The CD is a combination of songs recorded by Justin and other bands performing his music.

The film took two years to make and is a collaboration by Westchester na-



JEFFREY VEATCH PHOTO

The life and music of the late Justin Veatch is featured in the documentary "Whispering Spirits," which will be screened Nov. 2 at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville.

tives Sean Gallagher, the documentary's director and editor, and director of photography Justin Drobinski. Following the free screening, a panel discussion about underage substance abuse in Westchester will be held.

The family, which also includes Jeffrey Veatch's wife Marina and daughter Elena, agreed to participate in the documentary "to honor Justin's legacy," Veatch said.

"It was very emotional for us," said Veatch, who was pleased with the docu-

mentary after he watched it for the first time recently in a screening room at the film center.

Justin Veatch died in his bedroom at the family's Yorktown home on Sept. 8, 2008. Justin, just 17, had been experimenting with drugs and died after taking a small amount of heroin, Veatch said.

The family has been seeking to educate parents about noticing warning signs of drug use through the nonprofit Justin Veatch Fund, which they created in 2009. The fund awards scholarships to talented teen musicians each year and offers emerging talent the chance to collaborate musically with their peers while guided by professionals. It also co-sponsors monthly open mic nights in Yorktown.

Sunday's post-screening panel will include John Mueller, a Yonkers police captain and member of Pleasantville STRONG; Ellen Morehouse, executive director of Student Assistance Services Corp.; Lilly Neuman, community outreach and education coordinator for St. Vincent's Hospital; and Jacob Burns Film Center Executive Director Edie Demas.

Pleasantville STRONG member and village Trustee Colleen Griffin-Wagner said the organization believed the film and panel discussion was a logical and potentially powerful combination, along

with a way to attract youths to the event.

The organization, a coalition of police, parents, teachers and other community stakeholders, is looking for new ideas to prevent youths from engaging in alcohol and drug use, Griffin-Wagner said.

She also said the film center's involvement was sought because it had helped the school district's Special Education PTA.

"Our hope is parents and children will see the film together," Griffin-Wagner said.

Veatch is the creator of "A Message from Justin," a 40-minute multimedia presentation that he has shown to nearly 20,000 students, primarily between the ages of 13 and 16, in the tristate area as part of talks he delivers to youngsters about how they can take care of themselves and overcome adversity.

Because seating is limited, reservations are requested. To obtain free tickets, RSVP by e-mailing Lori Zakalik at lzakalik@burnsfilmmcenter.org with the subject line "Pleasantville Event." A trailer of the film being shown can be seen by visiting www.whispering-spirits.com.

For more information, call 914-747-5555 or visit burnsfilmmcenter.org.

For more information about the Justin Veatch Fund, visit thejustinveatchfund.org.

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Stunning 3 BR/3 FB log home on 1.1 acre private acre. Open floor plan. Gorgeous stone FPL. Summer kit. in bsmt.

 **Thomas Santore**
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
845-590-5488



Cortlandt Manor \$324,900
Roomy 3 BR/2.5 BA ranch in quiet neighborhood. Updated EIK. LR w/stunning field stone FPL. CAC. Finished. Bsmt. Sun deck.

 **Michael O'Connor**
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
914-552-5143



Ossining \$314,900
3BR/1.5BA Village Colonial on quiet st. Hardwood flrs. & crown moldings. Ample back yard. Low taxes. Sunset views.

 **Deborah Glatz**
Real Estate Salesperson
845-206-1215



Mahopac \$300,000
Inviting 3 BR/2 FB home on corner lot. EIK w/granite & a pantry. Finished W-O bsmt. w/FR, Ofc, FB & laundry room.

 **Francesca Mulone**
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
914-943-6442



Garrison \$239,000
Picture perfect 3 BR/ 2 BA home! Updated EIK. Many updates! Large deck overlooks picturesque prop. Lake rights.

 **May Anderson**
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
914-420-6533



Putnam Valley \$149,000
2.3 acre Corner Property. Main structure needs to be demolished. Build to suit your needs! (with Town approval)

 **Lydia Gallo**
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914-844-9654



Peekskill \$67,000
Spacious 1 BR/1BA co-op. Large LR w/SGD to Patio, DA, Large EIK. Carefree living. Convenient to everything!

 **Barbara Bodnar**
Assoc. Real Estate Broker
914-649-2018

Mrs. Green's Looks to Move Forward; Eyes Expansion Plans

By Martin Wilbur

During the first six months of 2014, mention the name Mrs. Green's Natural Markets to anyone in Mount Kisco and the surrounding area and chances are the image of picketing workers comes to mind.

Before Pat Brown came aboard as CEO of Natural Markets Food Group in July, the parent company that operates Mrs. Green's in the United States and Planet Organic Markets in Canada, he was determined to change that image.

In the first two weeks of Brown's tenure at the Irvington-based corporation, the decision was made to bring the eight employees who were fired last winter back to work, he said.

After they were let go, representatives of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1500 said the company's actions were retribution for the employees attempting to organize.

Brown said it was important for the company to show the public that Mrs. Green's takes its commitment to its roughly 700 workers seriously.

"As a business, if we are as focused on our people as we are on our customers, generally a high level for both of them, the business is going to be successful and you're going to have a business that everybody is very attracted to, both cus-



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Pat Brown, CEO of Natural Markets Food Group, the parent company of Mrs. Green's Natural Markets surrounds himself with staff at the firm's headquarters in Irvington.

tomers and (workers)," said Brown, who declined to comment on whether his hiring was directly related to the labor strife.

"There's nothing I can do about the past but I can be really purposeful and focused on how we treat people going into future," he added. "That's where my attention is."

Messages left for Joseph Fedele, director of new media and research at Local 1500, were not returned.

Mount Kisco Mayor Michael Cindrich said he was adamant about bringing the two sides to the table to find a resolution after about six months of demonstrations

outside the Lexington Avenue store. Anytime there are long-term protests at a location it isn't good for business, Cindrich said.

"It's a very noticeable location whether you're coming from Armonk or from New Castle," he said. "The area is the gateway into the village and you don't want to see that driving into the village."

Putting the Mount Kisco labor episode in the past is important because the company can focus on the explosion of the natural/organic movement and the emphasis on farm-to-table products.

Mrs. Green's opened its first stores in 1991, with Mount Kisco being its fifth location, he said. Currently, there are 16 Mrs. Green's in the U.S., with all but the Chicago store in the tri-state area. One of Brown's top tasks is to help the company formulate its strategy to determine which markets to expand into next. By the end of the year, he expects that the expansion plans will be in place.

"We want to be in neighborhoods where people don't necessarily have the ability to (buy), or the access to, healthy products," said Brown, 55, a native Iowan who left his position as chief operating officer at New Seasons Market, a natural food retailer in Oregon to come to Westchester. "We want to be in these

neighborhoods. We want to be focused on health."

The natural/organic movement and taking greater interest in where your food comes from is partly the reason for the popularity of farmers markets locally, he said. Even though the markets could temporarily impact a Mrs. Green's on a Saturday, it actually promotes what the store sells, Brown contended.

"The more people are exposed to it the better, because when the farmers markets aren't there, where can they go to get that stuff? It's us," Brown said.

Over time, Mrs. Green's also hopes to become more involved in very local farms and growers in the communities they serve, he said.

Brown acknowledged that the prices are more expensive, but he quickly pointed out that because what's sold is fresher than preservative-laden product at a conventional supermarket, it will last longer.

Being committed to customers as well as employees, some of whom have been with the company for 15 to 20 years, will be a permanent goal moving forward, Brown vowed.

"We want to build stores that feel like home to our customers and if you do that, then it feels like home to people that work here," he said.

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The Restaurant Examiner

Dining Venues for “The Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze” Visitors in Croton

By Jerry Eimbinder

Croton-on-Hudson offers many close-by dining options for “The Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze” attendees or summertime manor-house tour takers.

The Blaze is held annually at the Van Cortlandt Manor on South Riverside Avenue by Historic Hudson Valley, a not-for-profit organization formed to preserve the history, culture and traditions of the Hudson Valley region.

A truly one-of-a-kind experience, the Blaze provides awesome displays of bright, glowing jack o’ lanterns arranged in massive ensembles of Halloween-inspired spooky scenes. Erie music and sound effects add to the fun. In its tenth year; the event concludes on Nov. 16.

Nearby dining places

Restaurants located in Croton-on-Hudson include:

Anton Restaurant. Mariscada (mussels, clams, shrimp, calamari and tilapia), salmon, garlic shrimp, filet mignon, Peruvian rib-eye steak, strip steak, chicken breast, crab cakes. Opened in 2011 by Belarmino and Virginia Anton. 337 South Riverside Avenue, 914-862-4811

Croton Colonial Restaurant & Diner. Burgers, steaks, chicken sandwiches, baked stuffed seafood, Greek dishes including spanakopita (spinach pie), baked eggplant moussaka, souvlaki and gyro. Opened in 1970. 221 South Riverside Avenue, 914-271-8868

Fino. Veal chop, steak, broiled filet mignon, rack of Colorado lamb, pork chop, scaloppine, breast of chicken, Atlantic salmon, Florida red snapper, Ahi tuna, calamari, clams, jumbo shrimp, crab cakes and pasta. Founded by Paul Vuli. 1 Baltic Place, 914-271-2600

Justin Thyme Café. Maryland crab cakes, shell steak, beer-batter fish & chips, Tilapia Provencal, Cod Oreganato, Thai salmon, jumbo shrimp scampi, crisp fried calamari, meatloaf, burgers, baby back ribs, Twelve years old. Chef/owner Scott Labis. 171 Grant Street, 914-271-0022

Hopscotch. Hot or cold skate, black bass, mussels, eggplant, strip, bay scallops, sausage, tortellini, Gazpacho, black



Large dinosaur is one of many colorful attractions at The Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze.

beans, tofu. Chef Kenyon Hart works out of an open kitchen. Opened by Marko Rudovic in October, 2014. 8 Old Post Road South, 914-271-1100

Memphis Mae’s BBQ Bistro. Memphis ribs (half or full rack), chicken fried steak, brisket, pulled pork, hog wings, fried BBQ-rubbed calamari, fried oysters, smoked Hudson Valley sausage, catfish, corn fritters. 173 South Riverside Avenue, 914-271-0125

Ocean House. Maine lobster roll, crab cakes, rainbow trout, oysters, shrimp stew, branzino, skate wing, salmon, yellowfin tuna, calamari, strip steak. Opened in 2004 by Brian and Paula Galvin who bought the Little Red Diner. 49 North Riverside Avenue, 914-271-0722

Pronto Brick Oven Pizzeria & Restaurant. Pizza, pasta, shrimp, sole, salmon, red snapper, veal, eggplant, chicken and shrimp parmigiana, linguini, ravioli, gluten-free pizza and pasta. Located in Shoprite Center mall. 440 South Riverside Avenue, 914-271-2820

Samurai Japanese Sushi Hibachi Steak House. Asian Fusion and Thai cuisine. Hibachi dinners including Samural Supreme for two (chicken, filet mignon, shrimp, scallops and lobster), teriyaki, tempura, sesame chicken. 352 South Riverside Avenue, 914-271-8988

Tagine. French/Moroccan menu, Moroccan chicken, fish stew, lamb, steak frites, sole, day boat scallops, burgers, horseshoe-shaped bar. Founded by Jonathan Pratt and Craig Purdy, owners of Peter Pratt’s Inn in Yorktown and Umami Café. 120 Grant Street, 914-827-9393

Tavern at Croton Landing. The. Burger with sunny-side egg, wings, thin-crust pizza, steak sandwich, corned beef Reuben, seafood stew, mussels, Greek calamari salad. Opened in 2004 by Lynn Panessa. Replaced Honey’s. 41 North Riverside Avenue, 914-271-5555

ümani Café. Salmon, Ahi tuna, hanger steak, St. Louis honey BBQ baby back ribs, Peking Duck quesadilla, Phillipine-style BBQ chicken, marinated shrimp, burgers. Opened in January 2002

by Jonathan Pratt and Craig Purdy. 325 South Riverside Avenue, 914-271-5555

Jessica Labis, the manager at Justin Thyme Café, said one noticeable difference during Blaze evenings is that large groups need to be accommodated. Melina, a waitress at Pronto agreed. “Groups of 20 or more are not unusual — we move tables and chairs back and forth to seat them,” she said and noted, “We are packed at 5 p.m. on Blaze evenings and stay busy until 8:30 or 9 p.m.”

Visitors coming from the North can stop off at Fat Sal’s Bar and Grill, opened on Sept. 2, 2014 in Buchanan by Matt Camerino and Sal Barone in space previously occupied by Taste Restaurant. On the eatery’s Facebook page, see “Fat Sal’s Bar & Grill” by Neal Rentz, Northwestern Examiner, Sept. 9, 2014, page 15.

Dining possibilities for visitors driving to Croton-on-Hudson from the South include Ossining’s The Boathouse Restaurant, Goldfish Oyster Bar & Restaurant, Keenan House & Tap Room (American menu), Travelers Rest (German dishes), and Wobble Cafe (dinner served Thursday through Saturday only).

When It's Tough for Retirees Scaling Back and Moving On

Like many people at my stage of life, I'm planning projects for not just one house but for two houses, as I prepare to move from a large oversized house to a brand new smaller one, a beautiful new condo with many nice amenities. I'm organizing what needs to be done with my current historic property, not to sell it as most people would do when they move on (in my case, I'm leasing it to my up-sized PR business and for a satellite office for my real estate company) and what things my wife and I will do to decorate our new digs, including what furnishings and accessories will come with us, what will stay with our property to be leased, what will be fixed up, and what will be junked.

And very frankly the double-duty job has my wife and me down to our last nerve as I used to hear people say in the south as a child, especially "the wife."

Through the years, I have worked with many clients in the same boat: people of retirement age who are moving on with their living arrangements, even if they're not fully retiring.

In some cases, it's a joyous occasion, a time to prepare for enjoyment of the golden years of their lives but, depending on circumstances, it can be the most stressful time of their lives. Both from personal experience and from an article I read earlier this

year in the Wall Street Journal, I learned more about how to advise clients to better prepare for this time of life when it comes to their housing options.

It's odd, considering that for most people, their house is their biggest asset, as well as their biggest expense, but when it comes to retirement planning, their house most often falls to the bottom of the list involving changes in later life.

There are many reasons for not wanting to face the music about moving on. Our homes are filled with memories for all of us and, emotionally it's hard to let go of them. Also, let's face it, moving is a hassle at any age, and downsizing to a smaller home isn't always the cash cow it's made out to be. That was the sad case for many who got caught up in the Great Recession.

But experience shows, that while most wait until well into retirement before moving to a smaller house or condo, it's much smarter to downsize sooner rather than later.

The financial benefits may not seem significant at first, but over time, they can make a meaningful difference in extending the life of a nest egg. Also, there are lifestyles considerations, such as being in a community with other citizens of the same age group. But most importantly, making a move before one spouse dies can ensure that the sur-

viving spouse or the couple's children won't have to deal with the stress of emptying and selling a big house.

Some financial planners say that the reluctance stems from the idea that trading a house with a paid-off mortgage for a rental or a condo with maintenance fees will involve higher monthly costs, but that's a false impression. Actually, a home's hidden expenses, such as maintenance for a roof, a boiler, heating and landscaping, can far exceed condo fees or monthly rental costs.

Also, retirees might have a desire to hold on to a house where their children were raised so that they and their grandchildren can come back and visit, when actually it's far cheaper to put them up in a hotel room rather than clinging to a four-bedroom home and paying for the heating of it.

Another major issue is that property taxes have become a growing burden in recent years, especially in our region. Who needs a good school district and the high taxes it demands when the children are long gone?

The aging process itself makes it harder to move. The process is physically and mentally exhausting, even at a young age, and it's much more daunting for older adults. And once a spouse dies, it's even harder to move from a home that a wife and husband shared for decades. In such cases, the responsibility for helping take care of a house and ultimately selling it, often falls to the children.

According to the Wall Street Journal ar-

ticle, downsizing can have a big impact on a retiree's financial plan. Even with a mortgage that has been paid off, housing often accounts for 30% of retirement expenses. For those trying to assess the financial benefit of downsizing, the Boston College Retirement Center has a new online tool. It's available at squaredaway.bc.edu and can be found on the site by clicking the "Housing" link at the bottom of the page.

And, it's about more than just money. I was in New York City last week to attend the Cabaret Convention, and the couple sitting next to me with whom I struck up a conversation had sold a very large home in the suburbs to buy a small apartment in the city specifically to attend cultural and theatrical events every day and night in New York City. "This is how we wanted to spend our retirement, and we are loving it," the woman said. "We're using our nest egg from the sale of our home, having a doorman and security, enjoying restaurants, and a very active cultural life."

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



By Bill Primavera

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Do You Know What's Behind the Label on a Bottle of Wine?`

When shopping for the produce and/or meats necessary to prepare an at-home meal, consumers are increasingly aware of the nutritional and health values of unprocessed ingredients. Many products contain nutrition and ingredient information on government-mandated food labels. But what of the produce and meats in supermarkets? Current regulations are not always effective in food labeling.

Increasing numbers of consumers are seeking out products grown, raised or prepared as they were for centuries before the industrialization of food products; before the era of chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides; before GMO products and Monsanto corn.

Conscientious consumers have more food information available today than ever before. However, the availability of nutritional and health information still has a few wide gaps.

When consumers prepare a meal of the most healthful foods in the marketplace, they sit at table proud of their accomplishment. Typically they will celebrate their meal with a glass of wine. Herein

lies the rub. That bottle of wine may be "industrialized" with man-made additives. But how is a discerning consumer able to make an informed decision on the quality of the wines they purchase? No government regulations exist that require a nutrition or ingredients label on a bottle of wine.

Last week I addressed the nutrition contents of wine in the absence of mandated labels. This week I move on to the ingredients in wine.

Ironically, there is no lack of verbiage on wine labels today: where the grapes are grown; which grapes were blended together; flowery adjectives describing the bouquet, aroma, flavor; even suggestions for food pairing. All with the implied intent of making a consumer's decision-making process easier: the more information the better, right?

Maybe. Does nice-to-know trump need-to-know?

In the face of this lack of mandatory ingredients labelling, many consumers might question the need for any disclosure. To them, wine is simply fermented grape juice that "contains sulfites." The reality is that many wines contain addi-

tives introduced during the winemaking process, including several that remain present in the final product.

In varying degrees and in varying winemakers' end products, numerous man-made enzymes may be added to enhance the color or balance the flavors or aromas. Sugar may be added to control alcohol levels; powdered tannins to influence overall quality. Many of these additives have not (yet) been shown to be harmful. However, otherwise natural wines are being adulterated in a significant amount of the wine Americans unwittingly consume.

The industry has successfully resisted any form of disclosure. However, several pioneering American winemakers have taken the bold step of voluntary disclosure. As one might suspect, these virtuous winemakers have nothing to hide, although several of their specific disclosures might turn heads amongst uninitiated or naïve wine consumers.

Ridge Vineyards, one of California's most respected wineries, has begun to add a list of ingredients to the back label of several of their wines. Here's the highly lauded language for the Ridge 2011 Paso Robles Zinfandel: "Hand harvested, sustainably grown grapes, indigenous yeasts, naturally occurring malolactic bacteria, 1.4% water addition, minimum

effective SO₂." This is a very straightforward presentation, with an ideal list of ingredients I wouldn't mind ingesting into my physiology.

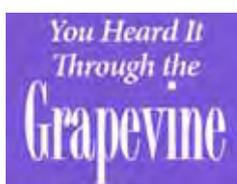
However, several of these terms may startle consumers. "Bacteria?" "Water?" These are natural ingredients many winemakers add to their wines to improve their quality. The harmless bacteria are naturally produced during the fermentation process; a portion may remain in the wine upon bottling. "Jesus units" (a term for water, referencing his miracle of transforming water into wine at the marriage in Cana) may be added to a wine during its aging process to compensate for overly ripe grapes or to reduce high levels of alcohol.

Informed consumers spend considerable time – and money – seeking out food products that conform to their lifestyle choices. Shouldn't wines be able to be scrutinized in a similar fashion?

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.



By Nick Antonaccio



Yorktown Eagle Scouts Honored

Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel recently honored a pair of Eagle Scouts for their accomplishments. (L:) Aron H. Licht of Troop 165 BSA Yorktown received a certificate of achievement with his parents Daniel A. and Marissa Licht. (R:) Robert Peter Kramer, a Yorktown High senior, of Troop 164 BSA received a certificate for renovating and painting the Yorktown Elks Lodge. On hand was Troop 164 Scout Master John McBride.

Cortlandt, School Officials Urge Community Not to Lose Sight of Drug Problem

continued from page 6

code word that, if sent by the child, indicates that the parent will pick their child up with no questions asked.

For older children, who are allowed to go out unsupervised, Albanese stressed that it is important for parents to be awake when their child returns home, so that they can see if the child appears to be under the influence.

Although the social lives of teens are often centered on their friends, Albanese, as well as Walter Panas High School counselor, Danielle Gamar, said that in their experience, most kids who avoid drugs or alcohol do so because they don't want to disappoint their parents.

"Even though it may seem as though they're not listening, for them to know that you have this standard for them, and it's based out of your love and your concern...it really does mean a lot and it's such an influential factor as far as their decision to use or continue to use," said Gamar.

Counselors reminded parents to set an example, noting that children will pick up on even subtle behaviors. Gamar noted that something as simple as seeing everyone congregate around alcohol at a party might send the message that substances are fun and exciting.

Experts noted that even if a parent does everything right, their child could still develop an addiction. This is especially true of opioids, like heroin, as a user can become hooked after just one use.

Many heroine addictions start out innocently, with young people taking medications like Vicodin after an injury and



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi makes a point at community drug forum.

moving on to heroin which is easier to obtain and cheaper, at only \$10 per bag, according to Puglisi.

Local pediatrician, Dr. Larry Baskin, noted that opioid-based drugs are not bad when they are prescribed appropriately and taken correctly and in moderation.

"If anyone's had surgery, pain medicines are great, it's just that a lot of people don't know when to turn them on and turn them off," said Baskin.

The heroin epidemic has been growing since 2003, when doctors began prescribing prescription pain killers more

frequently and experts agree that the problem has not yet reached its peak. Currently more than 700 new prescriptions for opioid-based drugs are written each day in New York alone.

Baskin stated that doctors need to be more involved in the lives of their young patients, and can't be afraid to ask tough questions about drugs and alcohol. In addition, he said that parents should question the methods of a doctor if they believe too much pain medication is being prescribed.

Westchester County Police Officer Tim Joyce noted that prescription narcotics have recently become the new gateway drug in society and has become more dangerous over the years as dealers "step on" the drugs, and cut them with things like aspirin or baby laxatives.

He stated that County Police are cur-

rently working on eliminating heroin at the source, but noted that it is a slow process. Rather than bust offenders with small amounts of a substance, police often need to wait for the problem to grow, so that they can apprehend multiple culprits and remove large amounts of heroin from the streets.

"This is taxpayer dollars, we can't spend \$11 million and come in with \$800 worth of drugs," explained Joyce, who noted that it can often take up to two years to make an arrest in a case of this nature.

Joyce stated that, in his time as a police officer, he has seen addicts to go extreme lengths to get their hands on narcotics before resorting to purchasing them on the streets. He recalled a man who would continually break his own arm so that he could get prescription pain killers but Dr. Rachel Schoolcraft, a psychiatrist with Phelps addiction treatment services, noted that a person does not need to be addicted to warrant help.

It is often beneficial to seek out patient treatment or support groups, like Narcotics Anonymous, for people who are having problems with substances in order to prevent that problem from escalating to an addiction, said Schoolcraft. Often times, people turn to drug abuse to self-medicate underlying mental disorders which, if diagnosed and treated, may eliminate their desire to use illegal substances.

Albanese reminded parents that, while school counselors can provide resources for treatment and rehabilitation, they cannot mandate it for a student. She noted that it is crucial for a parent to follow through when a kid asks for help in order to treat the problem before it worsens.

Puglisi stated that a list of resources for residents struggling with addiction will soon be available on Cortlandt's website.



PHOTO BY SUE GUZMAN

Hillary Rodham Clinton supported Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney during a campaign rally in Somers Monday.

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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "When the moon hits your eye" it could be this Mahopac hair salon
- 6 If Al Gore and January Jones became an item or Mahopac jeweler
- 11 Pillowcase
- 12 Stir up, in a way
- 13 Hospital supply
- 14 Pharaoh's land
- 15 Totally botch
- 16 Upbraid
- 19 Body trunk
- 24 Momentum
- 25 Indian bread
- 26 Silly trick
- 28 Look
- 29 Allergic reaction
- 30 Waste away
- 34 Force back
- 38 Rest on joints
- 39 Intense suffering
- 40 Like some seals
- 41 Stance

DOWN

- 1 Linen vestment
- 2 "Thanks a ___!"
- 3 Mrs. John Lennon
- 4 Requisition again
- 5 Endow with a gift
- 6 Spy
- 7 Journal
- 8 Rapture
- 9 Pharaohs symbol of power
- 10 Volleyball obstacle
- 16 Number cruncher, for short
- 17 Luck
- 18 Rocks at the bar
- 20 Busy
- 21 Beam
- 22 Mineo of "Exodus"
- 23 Formula ___
- 27 Traffic sign
- 28 Toss out
- 30 Scrape up, with "out"
- 31 Genetic initials
- 32 The Who song "Love, Reign ___
Me"
- 33 Sandra of "Gidget"
- 35 Taro fare
- 36 Coast Guard officer: Abbr.
- 37 Solution from leaching

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
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38						39				
40						41				

See solution on page 28

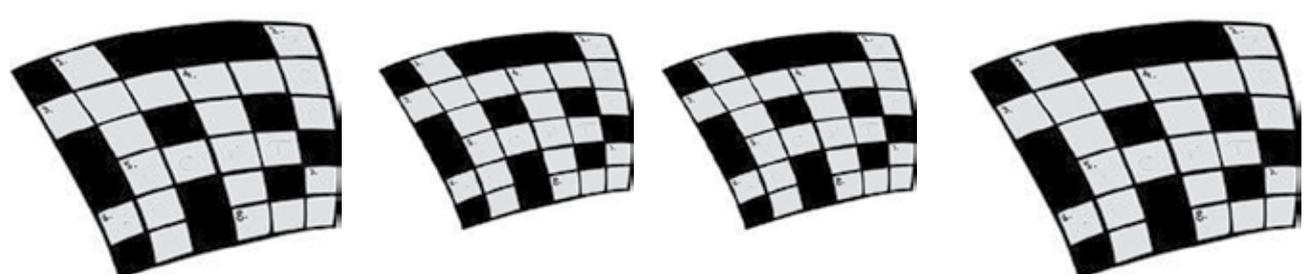
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1	A	2	M	3	O	4	R	5	E	6	A	7	L	8	J	9	A	10	N
11	L	I	N	E	N	12	G	O	O	S	E								
13	B	L	O	O	D	14	E	G	Y	P	T								
					15	R	U	I	N										
16	C	17	H	18	I	D	E	19	T	20	O	21	R	22	S	23	O		
24	P	A	C	E	25	N	A	A	N										
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38	K	N	E	E	L	39	A	G	O	N	Y								
40	E	A	R	E	D	41	P	O	I	S	E								

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features and sports

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Happenings

The Northern Westchester Examiner We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Neal Rentz at nrentz@theexaminernews.com.com.

Tuesday, Oct. 28

Breast Cancer Group: A breast cancer support group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Yorktown offices of Support Connection, 40 Triangle Center, Suite 100, Advance registration is required for all groups; call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290. For a complete calendar of groups at all locations, visit www.supportconnection.org.

Coat Drive: The Northeast Westchester Rotary Club is holding its annual Coat and Sweater Drive through November 6. Every year the club collects several tons of clothing and distributes it to community centers and social service agencies through northern Westchester. Drop-off points will feature large boxes with yellow signs. Locations include the Somers Library, post offices, Stop & Shop, Route 100 Market (Somers Mobil), town Hall, JFK High School and Somers schools.

Library Art Exhibit: Gina Bodelsen and Kjersti Lovece will do a joint art exhibit at the Somers Library during the month of October. Bodelsen will exhibit works in oils and acrylics, showcasing still life, floral, and landscaping scenes. Originally from Petorano Sul Gizio Italy, Bodelsen now lives in Mahopac. Lovece, a native of Norway and now Mahopac resident, will exhibit landscapes in colored pencil. Ms. Lovece loves to travel, take home impressions, and work on canvas with light and color. She has won awards in oil and graphics and is a member of local art councils in Mahopac and Garrison. Call the library for viewing times in the Program Room (914-232-5717). A price list will be available at the library circulation desk.

Free Medicare Counseling: Get help understanding your Medicare benefits and coverage on Tuesdays year-round (except holidays) at the John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Field Library in Peekskill. No appointments are necessary for the free service. Meet with a trained counselor for information about Medicare Parts A, B and D, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Savings Plans, Extra Help and EPIC. You can also call the Senior Benefits Information Center helpline with your questions at 914-231-3260 and a counselor will return your call within two business days. For a listing of all eight SBIC centers in Westchester libraries, go to <http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/senior-benefits-information-centers/>.

Farmers' Market: The Putnam Valley Grange Farmers' Market is held every Tuesday from 3 to 7 p.m. at the corner of Mill Street and Peekskill Hollow Road (Adams Corners).

Senior Benefits Information: Trained volunteer counselors help older adults and

their caregivers find information about government benefits to help them stretch their budgets every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E. Main St., Shrub Oak. Get information on Medicare health and prescription plans, nutrition assistance, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), tax relief programs, and much more. Info: 914-245-5262 Ext.227 or <http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/sbic>.

Checkmate: A chess program is held every Tuesday at 4 p.m. at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave. It is held in the second floor conference room. Info: 914-941-2416 Ext. 336.

Wednesday, Oct. 29

Hair For HOPE: La Moda Hair Studio of Somers, along with Somersfields, located in the Somers Towne Shopping Center, are joining forces for a night of Pink Hair for HOPE at 6 p.m. An extension of Pink hair is showing awareness and concern for breast cancer research. Refreshments will be served, along with raffle prizes for hair products. An extension of hair will be a donation of \$10. For more information call La Moda Hair Studio at 914 301 5872

Beer Tasting: The 2014 Oktoberfest Beer Tasting will be held at 6 p.m. at Savannah's Southern House, 3901 Crompond Rd., Yorktown The \$50 presale reservation fee will include buffet dinner, beer tasting, tip and donation to the American Cancer Society. Reservations made prior to the event can be done either online or by stopping into Savannahs to pay your reservation fee or deposit. A \$60 reservation fee will be accepted at the door without a deposit (cash or check only There will be a cash bar and a 50/50 raffle! The event is open to those 21 and older. Info: <http://rockforrelay.weebly.com>.

Bingo Wednesdays: Come to First Hebrew for \$2,000 in total guaranteed bingo prizes, plus an average of \$1,000 awarded in specialty games. Doors open 5 p.m. and games begin 7:15 p.m. every Wednesday (except holidays - check First Hebrew's website calendar). First Hebrew is just west of the Beach Shopping Center at 1821 Main St., Peekskill. Info: 914 -739-0500 of www.firsthebrew.org.

Thursday, Oct. 30

IBM Retirees Club: The Tri-State IBM Retirees Club will hold its October meeting at 1:30 p.m. in the meeting hall of the United Methodist Church, 1176 E. Main Street, Shrub Oak. The expected speaker is Beth Casso, representing a Medicare rights organization. Refreshments will be served and sign-in will be held at 1 p.m. New members are welcome. Information: 914 -528-5916.

Somers Library Events: Two events are slated for this week at the Somers Library. A Medicare Open Enrollment Information & EPIC Update will be held on Oct. 30 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. This free presentation will cover Medicare open enrollment options and rules for the new year, plus important information regarding EPIC income level changes. It will be presented by Flo Brodley for the Medicare Rights Center. Registration is requested. Please call the Somers Library to register at 914-232-5717, or register online at www.somerslibrary.org. Scam Avoidance & How to be Consumer Savvy Teens will be held on Nov. 3 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Brian Rauer from the Better Business Bureau will present important information for teens and their parents to successfully navigate our consumer world. Topics to include: Identity Theft Prevention & Detection, Consumer Fraud Prevention and Detection. And Online Shopping Pitfalls to avoid. Space is limited and registration is required. Call the library at 914-232-5717 or register online at www.somerslibrary.org

Friday, Oct. 31

Rocky Horror Picture Show: Screenings of the Halloween cult film "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" will be screened at 8 p.m. and midnight at the Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill A Happy Hour will be held at 10 p.m. featuring Party DJ SG Sounds.. Info: 914-739-0039 or ParamountHudsonValley.com.

Ossining Halloween DARE Party: The Village of Ossining, together with the Ossining Police Department, invite youngsters ages 1-10 to celebrate Halloween the safe way. Wear your costume, play games, win prizes and candy, be on TV with Officer Ed Walker, and have a great time with all your friends. Adults in costume are welcome. The free party will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Joseph G. Caputo Community Center, 95 Broadway, Ossining. Info: 914-941-3189. or www.villageofossining.org.

Free Play Dates: A free play date program is being held every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Rosenthal JCC Early Childhood Center at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The program is intended for children between the ages of 16 and 36 months and their parents or caregivers. Children can play, do art and socialize all under the direction of an experienced early childhood teacher. Pre-registration is suggested. Contact Jennifer at 914-962-8430 or e-mail her at Jennifer@rosenthaljcc.org.

Jewish Center Services: During the autumn months, Sabbath services will begin at 8 p.m. on Friday evenings and at 9:15 a.m. on Saturday mornings at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Info: 914 -245 -2324 or www.info@yorktownjewishcenter.org.

yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Job Hunting Help: Free drop-in, hands-on assistance with online applications, resume writing, e-mail accounts and more is held on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the second floor conference room at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave. Assistance is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. This is not a computer class. Info: Cheryl at 941-2416 Ext. 315.

Saturday, Nov. 1

Django Festival: The Django Festival All Stars, featuring French gypsy guitarist Dorado Schmitt, will perform at 8 p.m. at the Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. Info: 914-739-0039 or ParamountHudsonValley.com.

Torah Study: Study Torah at Temple Beth Am will be held at 9 a.m. All are invited to study Torah with our engaging Rabbi Robbie Weiner. Bagels and coffee are provided for all. No previous knowledge is required and all backgrounds are welcome. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown. For information please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or e-mail him at rabbiv@optonline.net.

Somers Library Exhibit: The work of Chad Wallace will be exhibited during the month of November at the Somers Library. Wallace is an award-winning artist who grew up in Somers. His first grade class was lucky enough to be at the Somers Library opening ceremony in 1982. He has illustrated 10 books for children including: "Earth Day Birthday" (2003) "Earth Feeling the Heat" (2010) and "Seahorses" (2012). To view more of his work, please visit: www.chadwallace.com. For visiting hours at the Somers Library, please call 914 232-5717 or check the library's website at www.somerslibrary.org.

Hebrew Congregation Events: Two events are slated for this weekend at the Hebrew Congregation of Somers, located at Cypress Lane and Mervin Drive. A Shabbat service followed by Lunch & Learn will be held on Nov. 1 at 9:30 a.m. An adult education program will be conducted on Nov. 2 at 10:30 a.m. Info: 914-248-9532.

Ossining Farmers Market: The Ossining Down to Earth Farmers Market is held year-round on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the corner of Main and Spring Streets. Info: 914-923-4837 Ext. 202.

Overeaters Anony-mous: Worried about the way you eat? If food rules your life, Overeaters Anony-mous may have the answer for you. There is no weigh-ins, dues or fees. The group meets on Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 am at the fourth floor conference at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, 1350 Route 9, Garrison. Info: call/text Lisa at 917-716-2488.

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SOLAR

The Northern Westchester
Examiner
Sports
 Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

October 28 - November 3, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION



'Matt'er
 of Fact,
 Somers
 is Good!

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Two-Time Defending Champs Oust Panas, 45-0

Somers RB/DB Matt Morgante (26) celebrates the first of his two TDs (inset) with SE Jason Holland during the Tuskers' 45-0 triumph of visiting Walter Panas in the Section 1 Class A quarterfinal playoff round last Friday when the No.2-seeded, two-time defending champion Tuskers advanced to face top-seeded host Rye this Saturday at Nugent Stadium. No.1A Yorktown also advanced to Friday's semis after a last-minute,

Sports

Grid Notebook

Yorktown, Somers A Win Away from Collision Course

Huskers to Face Sleepy Hollow on Halloween, Tuskers Get Rye Saturday with Title Berths on Line

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
CLASS A

And now, after seven weeks of regular-season action, and a fairly predictable quarterfinal round of playoff rehearsal this past weekend, Week 9 finds us just two wins away from perhaps the single greatest championship showdown in Northern Westchester history.

Two Class A semifinal wins – one from No.1A Yorktown over No.2B Sleepy Hollow, and one from No.2A Somers over No.1B Rye -- is what it will take before mayhem strike the region, the kind of madcap lunacy we've never seen before in the quarter century of coverage provided by this scribe.

If Coach Mike Rescigno's state-ranked (No.9) Huskers and Coach Tony DeMatteo's state-ranked (No.10) Tuskers do what is expected of them this coming weekend in a pivotal Week 9, all heck will break loose on Twitter before the two neighboring rivals and their invigorated fan bases have at it on the grid.

That subject matter is taboo



Somers FB Timmy Fazzinga is chased after big gain before being dropped by Panas DB Nick Mlynar in 45-0 Tusker win.



Somers HB Joe Spor is dragged down after gain by flying Panther LB Tom Ferrari in 45-0 Tusker win.

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS



Somers SE Tyler DeVito hauls in 31-yard TD strike from QB Nick Lombardo in 45-0 win over Panas.

among players and coaches and cannot be broached until the moment is right, but seconds after host Yorktown (8-0) sweated out a 28-21 over No.4B Nyack, and host Somers (7-1) had made short work of No.3 B Walter Panas in a 45-0 rout, football fans across the region couldn't help but look ahead to potential gridiron matchup that might spawn tent cities at Mahopac, home of the Section 1 football championships, the weekend of November 8th.

Two-time reigning Section 1 Class A champion Somers vs. state-ranked (No.12) Rye will pit two coaches that have nearly 600 victories between them, as DeMatteo – Section 1's prime minister of defense – locks horns with Garnet legend Dino Garr and his high-flying wave of offense. Yeah, the two mentors respect the crap out of each other, but there ain't a football field big enough

to contain the Id, Ego and Super Ego of these two giants. Wit will be winged as the internal chess match decides the outcome of what could be one of the best semifinals matchups in a decade, which just happens to be a rematch of last year's title tilt.

Somers is hitting on all cylinders after

shaking off Panas in a game that was essentially decided seven minutes into the first quarter with the Tuskers holding a 21-0 lead. Tusker RB/DB Matt Morgante, who broke two long TD runs, set the tone with a snot-knocking hit on Panas RB Nayquan Harris, who got rocked but took the helmet-jarring hit in stride before heading to the hospital with foggy recollection. It was the kind of hit kids talk about for a lifetime, but nothing new to Morgante (112 yards on 4 carries), pound for pound one of the best players in the section.

"The Morgante stick was easily the hardest hit I've ever seen in real life," Fazzinga said. "Morgante is all instinct



Somers QB Nick Lombardo sets up his 31-yard TD strike with solid blocking from OL Matt Crowley and John Lombardi.

Sports

Grid Notebook

and he sniffed that screen out right away and knocked the kid's face off.

I think what's pretty amazing is that Panas is a pretty good football team, but we were on our game, not only last night but this whole week at practice and everything just clicked tonight."

Before long, Timmy Fazzinga (two-yard plunge), Morgante, Tyler Devito (31 yards from QB Nick Lombardo) and Joe Spor (pick 6) were celebrating first-half TDs as the Tuskers built a 31-0 halftime edge and never ceded. It was football at its purest form; swarming, ball-hawking defense and Wing-T precision (10 different rushers going for 259 yards), which Panas (4-4), despite a solid campaign, had no answer for.

Somers kicker Eric Silvester, just a junior, is the best in Section 1 this season, adding nine points. This kid is a serious weapon and has D-I written all over him.

It wasn't nearly as easy for **YORKTOWN**, which saw HB Nick Santavicca rush 25 times for 120 yards and a touchdown. Just a junior, Santavicca's become the program's most punishing rusher since John Fennessy (circa 2008).

Husker FB Tim Forbes scored the winning TD with 29 seconds remaining, capping the fate-sealing 40-yard drive, on which QB Ryan Baker's fourth-and-9 pass to TE Daniel Del Bene (6 catches, 75 yards) extended the drive. Del Bene's juggling catch at the sideline gave Yorktown first-and-goal at the 10. It didn't go for a TD,

but it was one of the biggest grabs of the last decade for Yorktown.

"Dan made a great play on a ball that wasn't the best I've ever thrown but he's an athlete and got it done to save our season," said Baker, who was exceptional through the air, hitting on 13 for 26 for 162 yards and a TD strike to TE James Fennessy (5 grabs, 66 yards). "Nyack was probably the toughest team we've faced so far and had great players."

Talk about your spooky ironies: Yorktown will host Sleepy Hollow in the semifinals Friday at 7 p.m. on Halloween for the right to contest for its first sectional title since 1998. Yorktown defense will be tested and has to stop Headless Horsemen QB Joey Good, who is every bit his namesake, and every bit as frightening as Ichabod Crane if the Huskers can't put pressure on him.

"Whichever two teams that deserve to play in that sectional title game will make it an absolute war, with all the talent in these Final 4 teams have," Baker said.

CLASS AA

MAHOPAC BUILDING FOR FUTURE

Like it often does, visiting **MAHOPAC** (5-3) gave state-ranked (No.3) New Rochelle fits but fell short in a 21-7 quarterfinal loss last Saturday. There is no denying the Huguenots were the better team, but the never-say-die



Panas HB Joey DeLuca is hunted by hobbled Tusker DL Tom Castelluccio, who Somers hopes to have back ASAP.

Indians should be credited with a solid season and a heck of an effort against one of New York State's best programs (if not the best the last decade).

Competing in Class AA is no easy deal, particularly with the advent of two state-ranked Dutchess County programs – No.19 John Jay EF and No.30 Arlington – making serious hay the last few years. But Mahopac got back into the playoffs for the first time since 2010 and gave both New Ro' and Jay EF all they could handle in two stiff challenges provided by Coach Tom Donahoe's Indians.

With a stout offensive line returning intact next season, plus a gutsy quarterback – junior Dan Foley – and a core of fresh RBs – like junior Christian Donahoe and Joe Cavaciutti -- who improved each game, the sky is the limit next season. Mark it down: Barring poor health or something unforeseen, Mahopac should be poised to win a playoff game next season, and who knows what else after a 2014 campaign that has them clearly ranked at No.5 in Section 1 Class AA. This, from a program that has had three of its finest student athletes transfer to private schools like Don Bosco (Tommy Courtney, who might start in the secondary as a

soph, whoa!), Trinity Catholic (Anthony Lombardi, who is lighting it up on the CT circuit) and Stepinac (Antonio Giannico, a dashing RB).

For now, though, the Indians will have to buy a ticket into their own stadium for the Class AA finals the weekend of Nov. 8th as the No. 2A Arlington vs. No 1B New Ro winner takes on the No 3A Mamaroneck vs. No.1A JJEJF winner.

Speaking of Next Year: Watch out for Brewster junior signal caller Matt Catalano, who went off in Friday's 35-28 win over Lakeland, completing 12 of 18 passes for 272 yards and four touchdowns. Kid can spin it.



Panas QB Justin Lee sets up a throw in loss to Somers with blocking from FB Tom Ferrari.

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Sports

Soccer Notebook

Somers, Lakeland, Hen Hud, Yorktown Survive Round 1

Carmel, Mahopac, Put Valley Exit Early

By A.J. Martelli

When the game was over at Somers this past Friday evening, Head Coach Chris Pietris gathered his team together with a smile as wide as the Grand Canyon. The mood was euphoric, as the Class A No. 7 Tuskers had just assassinated No. 10 Lincoln 7-1 in the opening round of the sectional playoffs.

The win marked Pietris's first career postseason win as varsity boss, having served at the helm of the JV squad last year, and he spoke highly of his boys and the type of effort they gave to pick up the big win.

"They played real hard, they worked really hard," said Pietris, the former All-Section Lakeland High star. "It was a great season, and we're very proud of our record (11-4-2). They've been preparing for this all season; sectionals are here. They're showing they have the talent, but they have the heart for it as well. I like that they've been playing collectively as a unit, and I think they're in a good place right now."

Tusker sniper Zach Lichtman started the thumping right away, putting one in the back of the net within the first 20 seconds



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Carmel's Sebastian Lopez tries to turn on Mahopac's Aiden Hynes in 1-0 Indian win.

When the jubilation of making it through to the next round subsided, the Tusker players journeyed to The Hive – Pietris' old stomping ground – to scout their next opponent: No. 2 **LAKELAND**, which dispatched No. 15 Rye, 2-0.

With the Somers team and a whole crowd of others watching, Tim Hourahan's Hornets went up 2-0 on Rye by halftime and never looked back to dance on in Class A.

Nick Foci scored on a header first for the 13-3-1 state-ranked (No.12) Hornets, and Matias Prando backed it up for another Lakeland score off a rebound.

"We were able to come out on top because we wanted to win," Prando said. "Our one goal was to win, and everyone came

together, played hard. It was a great game; great atmosphere – everything was great. We played well, came out with everything, and we won."

The Garnets were able to halt Hornets' lead man Johnny Denis and returning force Devin Flanagan on the sideline, but Lakeland's lockdown defense led by Captain Gino Cassese and quarterback David Acevedo was enough to hold on for the win.

"We stuck together, played it out, kept amping each other up, and just kept going," Cassese said. "We didn't let each other get down for a second; we were

always on each other, making sure we do everything right. One of our goals in the beginning of the season was to win league – we won league. We wanted that first or second seed – got the second seed. And now we're just pushing on to the next one: win sectionals."

Halloween came early for the No. 3 seed in Class A, **HEN HUD**. The state-ranked (No.,16) Sailors (12-3-1) were pitted against 14th-seeded Sleepy Hollow and hosted the Horsemen at home this past Friday night. Hen Hud put Sleepy Hollow to sleep to the tune of a 2-1 win, advancing to the quarterfinals.

The Horsemen were able to contain front men Miguel Perez and Aidan Datene, but couldn't stop Wali Azizi, who scored both Sailor goals.

"Wali was on fire today – he had two, but he could have easily had five or six. He almost had two rebounds and three or four breakaways, and still put two in," Sailors Head Coach Chris Cassidy said of his round one ace. "Sleepy came to play, came to compete; gave us everything we could handle. I guess we just had a little bit more. Maybe them having that (outbracket) game yesterday took some from their tank. Expectations are high because our guys are seniors and they've put a lot of time in; know what's at stake. They've risen to the occasion all year – I sure hope it continues. On to the next one; survive and advance. What more can you say?"

The No. 11 **YORKTOWN** Huskers also lived through the Class A opening round, first beating No. 22 PANAS 4-0 in the outbracket game last Thursday, then shutting down sixth-seeded Tappan Zee

4-0 away from the crop this past Friday – the Huskers (9-8-1) being the only team to win a road game in the opening round.

Mohamed Hamza put on a show, notching a hat trick to lead the Huskers over the Panthers. Hamza followed with another lights-out performance, scoring two goals in the win over Tappan Zee. Roy Reynolds and Joey Landicino provided reinforcements, scoring a goal apiece.

While a number of teams advanced, the dream ended for the likes of **MAHOPAC**, **CARMEL**, and **PUTNAM VALLEY**.

The Mahopac Indians, Class AA's 15 seed, faced off with the No. 18 Carmel Rams in the outbracket round last Thursday – a rematch of last weekend's wild game which Mahopac won on a radical goal by way of a free kick from 65 yards out by keeper Mike Bernardi.

The outbracket match didn't offer as much drama, though it put forth similar results. 'Pac came out on top 1-0 to oust Carmel on the strength of a Ray Arcieri winded-aided goal, which traveled 50 yards into the upper right corner, just beyond the outstretched reach of Ram goalie Brian Sposato. Bernardi was stellar, denying Carmel hotshot Sebastian Lopez and the Rams time and time again.

The next day the tribe faced No. 2 Port Chester in round one. The Indians worked well facing a high seed, but fell just short, 2-1. Arcieri scored the Indians' lone goal in the season-ending loss.

In Class B, 15th-seeded Putnam Valley had the task of facing second-seeded Hastings in round one – a team that handed Hen Hud a 4-0 loss on Oct. 17. The Tigers suffered the same fate, dropping a 4-0 decision to Hastings in round one for the postseason exit.



Lakeland's Dante Caputi clears zone in 2-0 playoff win over Rye last Thursday.

– his first of two goals. Gerald Maher then found the back of the net on a free kick for Somers' second goal, and Scott Colombo scored on assist by Lichtman to make it 3-1 Tuskers at halftime.

Somers gave Lincoln no breathing room in the second half, receiving another goal from Maher distributed by Colombo with 27:47 to play. Nick Rienzi and Justin Levine each scored within the final 10 minutes to seal the deal.

"A win like this gives us confidence," Pietris added. "It proves to us that we are the team that we believe we are, and it gives us the faith to continue on."



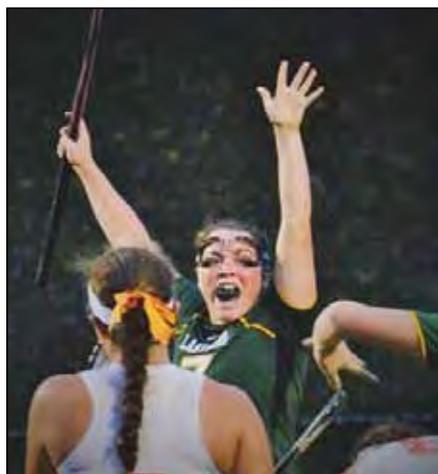
Carmel goalie Brian Sposato narrowly missed Mahopac's Ray Arcieri's wind-aided free kick from 50 yards in Indians 1-0 win over Rams last Thursday.

Lakeland, Mahopac Hoping for Fruitful Playoff Runs

By Ray Gallagher

It will be in the spirit of Hornets past that five-time defending NYS champion Lakeland High goes about its quest to six-peat (as if anyone ever really gets to use that term) as Class B field hockey champions, what would be the ninth state title in school history, the most of any program in NYS.

But riding the coattails of former Hornet alum is hardly the Lakeland way; resetting the bar and establishing a new high is the only option under distinguished Coach Sharon Sarsen. Her eminence is no front, no put on, and the Hornets have followed her lead since the early '80s before winning their first state crown in 1989.



RAY GALLAGHER/AUDREY KAUFMANN PHOTOS

Lakeland's Molly Fitzpatrick will lead the onslaught.

The 2014 version, top-seeded going into the tournament, will put its unblemished 16-0 record and 46-game win streak on the line as the Class B tournament gets under way this Friday against No.9 Harrison/No.8 John Jay winner.

Like the great goal scorers before her – Melissa Gonzalez, Emma Bozek and Shannon Scavelli to name a few – All-Section senior Molly Fitzpatrick (29 G, 5A) will see to it that the attack is in good hands while All-American junior Dana Bozek (16G, 18A) solidifies the midfield like nobody else in the state does.



Mahopac's Sarah Quarto and Lakeland's Dana Bozek are expected to lead their teams into deep playoff runs in the days ahead.

Just a few years from now, this dynamic duo, along with All-Section goalie Alex Halpin and All-Section D Ellie Dineen-Carey, will be the spirit of Hornets past, but for now it's go time at Lakeland... full throttle, pedal to the medal.

Lakeland has outscored its opponents 107-3 this year, and the only serious threat between the Hornets and the Section 1 title is the same Rye team that lost 3-2 to a Mahopac team that Lakeland beat 6-0. In essence, the only thing stopping Lakeland might be its own ability to stay focused within the section before looking at the big state picture.

"I will be stressing that as we get closer and closer to Friday," Sarsen said.

No.12 BREWSTER was set to visit No.5 **YORKTOWN** in an effort to stop Husker sniper Jenna Gammer, who comes in to the playoffs on a goal-scoring tear. The junior had banged the boards four times in a recent 6-1 win over White Plains, giving the Huskers the confidence they will need to get past a program with Brewster's on-storied tradition.

No.11 SOMERS visits No.6 Nyack today.

In Class B, PUTNAM VALLEY has earned a No.9 seed and will visit No.8 Valhalla. The Tigers have had a streaky season but their playoff history suggests they may have a run in them under first-year Coach Kristi Vucetic. The Tigers

enter the tournament having played No.2 Class A seed Mahopac hard in a 3-0 loss.

"All things considered, we did a tremendous job of keeping up with such an athletic team," Vucetic said. "Junior Jaime Turner and Junior Stephanie Wagner showed extreme athleticism. Both juniors left everything on the field and I am extremely proud of their performance. Mahopac's team had wonderful ball movement and we did the best we could reading the ball and getting there. Mahopac just had a bit more edge than we did."

Freshman Goalie Lauren Turner had 6 saves, in her second Varsity appearance of the season.

No.2 MAHOPAC has but one goal which will suffice: a date with top-seeded Mamaroneck in the Class A finals. The Indians (11-2-1) will host the winner of No.10 Arlington/No.7 North Rockland on Wednesday and would likely host No.3 Greeley in the semis in what could be a whale of a game if it comes to fruition. Should the Indians reach the finals, they would be the first Mahopac team to do so since the 2001 NYS championship team did so.

No.5 CARMEL is on the other side of the Class A bracket and was set to host No.12 Fox Lane last night, hoping to keep its hot streak of 31 goals in the last six game going.

Yorktown, Somers, Panas Advance in Class A Girls' Soccer

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

Soccer is all the rave these days among many of the ladies on the local scene.

In addition to state-ranked (No.2) Haldane (12-4), the reigning NYS Class C Section 1 champ and NYS runner-up, the Class A girls soccer circuit provides three local teams with a lot of post-season juice.

Yorktown's Alyssa Francese (22G this

season) had a hat trick and an assist in the 4th-seeded Huskers' 6-0 win over visiting Sleepy Hollow last Saturday when a host of local soccer clubs advanced into the quarterfinals, including No.6 Panas – a 4-2 winner over Harrison – and No.2 Somers – a 7-0 winner over Lourdes. Megan Metz and Ivana Pjetri also scored for state-ranked (No.20) Yorktown (14-2-1), who has gotten a tremendous season from Francese (No.7 pictured above). Yorktown will host the winner of No. 5 Rye and Panas (11-5-1) will travel to No.3 Pearl River.

Cara Ostrander and Jessica Rosenblum each scored twice for the state-ranked (No.3) Tuskers (16-0), who will host No.7 Eastchester in Tuesday's quarterfinals. Yorktown is hoping to survive the quarters and face top-seeded Byram Hills (No.6 in NYS) in the semis where they hope to throw a monkey wrench into the Bobcats' plans of facing Somers in the finals.



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO

Alyssa Francese

Mahopac Survives, Advances in Class AA

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO



No.7 Mahopac saw Jolynn Magnani (pictured above) score both goals in the Indians' 3-1 win over Clarkstown South last Saturday in the opening round of the Section 1 Class A soccer playoffs where the Indians (11-6) advanced to face No.2 Ossining (13-2-1) in today's quarterfinals against a Pride team that is having its best season in quite some time.

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