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Covering Yorktown, Somers, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Buchanan, Ossining and Peekskill

December 23 - December 29, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 262



## Merry Christmas to All

Santa Claus made an early appearance in the Village of Ossining for breakfast with approximately 200 guests, youngsters ages 1-12 and their families, at the Joseph G. Caputo Community Center. Local children's group "Annie and the Natural Wonder Band" performed holiday favorites. (L-R:) Lilly Quezada and Anna Burchell of Ossining pose with Santa after turning in their wish list to the jolly fellow from the North Pole.

## Permits for BJ's, Costco Gas Stations Approved in Yorktown

By Rick Pezzullo

Required special permits for member-only gas stations at BJ's and a proposed Costco wholesale clubs on Route 202 in Yorktown were approved Friday at a special Yorktown Town Board meeting.

Plans for each project still need to be approved by the town's Planning Board and the state Department of Environmental Protection before they can be constructed.

"The BJ's and Costco (gas stations) meet all the town requirements, so we agree, but it's not a done deal yet," said Councilman Vishnu Patel.

The BJ's gas pumps, which will be built in the parking lot of the club near the existing exit road, also required a rezoning, which the Town Board granted.

David Steinmetz, attorney for BJ's, said 1,000 signatures were obtained from customers of BJ's supporting the gas pumps.

"This is a good thing for the state of the shopping center," Steinmetz said, noting other tenants in the shopping center also

welcome the gas station.

The owners of the shopping center are also planning to build a fast food restaurant in the middle of the parking lot near Dunkin Donuts.

Meanwhile, the gas pumps proposed to accompany the 151,000-square-foot Costco on the 18.75-acre site once occupied by a motel received a mixed reaction from residents who addressed the Town Board at a meeting earlier in the week that didn't end until 2 a.m.

Jonathan Nettelfield, a 25-year town resident, maintained the "era of big box stores is coming to an end" and predicted Costco "will suck the oxygen out of Yorktown Heights."

However, Ann Kutter, a former Planning Board member who is the closest neighbor to the Costco property, spoke in favor of the project, citing the many road and landscaping improvements it would bring to the area.

*continued on page 4*

## Peekskill to Celebrate New Year's Eve with Ball Drop

By Rick Pezzullo

The City of Peekskill will be ringing in 2015 with a new event featuring a ball drop at midnight.

Piggybacking on the success of other municipalities that stage similar New Year's Eve celebrations, such as the City of White Plains, the idea to host a com-

munity gathering was initiated by Mayor Frank Catalina, who is looking forward to what he hopes will become an annual tradition.

"It's going to be a great night and a great event," Catalina said. "A lot of people are putting a lot of volunteer time into this."

The ball drop, coordinated by Peekskill fire officials, will take place in downtown Peekskill across the street from the gazebo on Division Street. A brief special effects pyrotechnical display, launched from the roof of the parking garage near C-Town, will take place a few minutes before 2014 ends.

There will also be music from a DJ and a band that will kick off the festivities at 9 p.m. WHUD is planning a live broadcast with Kacey Morabito.

It is expected that a few street closures will be required shortly before midnight, including Division, Park, Central and James streets.

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# Police Blotter

## State Police

**December 20 - 11:45 a.m.** - State Police at Cortlandt arrested Daniel J. Everitt, 25, of Highland Falls, New York.

It is alleged that Everitt was at the Home Depot in the Cortlandt Town Center completing a fraudulent transaction. After completing the transaction, Home Depot security approached Everitt and attempted to interview him. Everitt physically resisted and a scuffle broke out. During the scuffle, Everitt produced a folding knife from his right pants pocket, which the security officer was able to knock out of his hand. Everitt then fled the store on foot.

Responding State Police units, including a K9 and Aviation Unit, established a perimeter around the area where Everitt was last seen running. A State Police K9 led troopers and investigators in the direction that Everitt fled. After a thorough search of the area, a trooper spotted Everitt and a foot pursuit ensued from Westbrook Drive, through the car dealerships on Route 6, and into a residential area near Laurie Road and Cynthia Road. Everitt was then apprehended in a backyard on Laurie Road.

Everitt was charged with Robbery 1st degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd degree, and Falsifying Business Records 1st degree, all felonies. If convicted of the

highest charge, Everitt faces up to 25 years in State Prison. He was arraigned Town of Cortlandt Court and was remanded to Westchester County Jail without bail.

**December 18 - 7:30 p.m.** - Troopers were called to a parking lot on Route 202 in the Town of Cortlandt in response to a menacing with a knife complaint. An investigation revealed Waldy Negron, 34, of Mohegan Lake, was involved in a domestic dispute with a family member when a good Samaritan tried to intervene and assist the victim. At that point, Negron produced a knife and threatened to stab the individual. Negron then returned to his vehicle and fled the scene when he heard approaching police sirens. As he fled, Negron nearly struck the good Samaritan with his vehicle. Troopers caught up to Negron nearby shortly after the incident and he was taken into custody and charged with criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree (Class D felony) and menacing in the second degree (Class A misdemeanor). The first charged was elevated to a felony due to a previous felony conviction. He was arraigned in Town of Cortlandt Court and remanded to Westchester County Jail in lieu of \$7,500 bail.

11 p.m. - Troopers were patrolling on Oragon Road in the Town of Cortlandt when



Waldy Negron

they observed a 2013 Honda that was failing to stay in its lane. After a traffic stop troopers investigating revealed that the driver, Alvaro Corado, 26, of Mohegan Lake, was intoxicated and operating the vehicle with his wife and child, age 7, as passengers. Corado submitted to a breath sample and was charged with Felony DWI Leandra's Law (a felony for having a child passenger under the age of 16)

and failing to maintain a lane.

## Yorktown Police

**December 13 - 5:11 a.m.** - Police were dispatched to the intersection of Underhill Avenue and Baldwin Road on a report of a motor vehicle accident.

An investigation revealed a vehicle went off the roadway and struck a utility pole, snapping it in half. It was also determined that the driver, James Mantey, 35, of Yorktown, was driving while intoxicated. Mantey was transported by Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps to Hudson Valley Hospital Center for a minor injury and is due in Yorktown Justice Court on January 15.

**December 16 - 5:55 p.m.** - On December 14 at 2:31 a.m. police received a call from an employee of Mohegan Diner reporting that he was assaulted by a former employee. An investigation by Police Officer Samuel Sansone revealed Francisco Aguilar Lopez, 32, of Mohegan Lake, allegedly punched the current employee in the face causing a broken nose. On December 16 Lopez voluntarily appeared at police headquarters where he was charged with assault in the third degree. He is due in Yorktown Justice Court on January 6.

**December 17 - 2:11 a.m.** - Michael Dinsmore, 34, of Mohegan Lake, was charged with aggravated driving while intoxicated after Police Officer Paul Grieve observed a vehicle exit the Taconic State Parkway and swerve on the roadway. He is due in Yorktown Justice Court on January 20.

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Director, Bariatric Surgery  
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[nwhsurgicalweightloss.org/DrRoslin](http://nwhsurgicalweightloss.org/DrRoslin)

#### Q: Who can benefit from weight-loss surgery?

**A:** First, let's look at the host of major health problems linked to obesity. Two frequent consequences are type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure, which increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. Another serious potential problem is sleep apnea, in which a person's airway collapses during sleep, and breathing stops for long periods. The condition can raise blood pressure, and can cause a dangerous level of daytime sleepiness. Obesity is also a known cause of elevated blood fats, arthritis pain, mobility problems, asthma, and infertility. Despite the major health, emotional and social problems they face, many obese people can't lose weight through dieting and exercise. For these people, surgical weight-loss (bariatric surgery) can be the route to almost miraculously improved health - and greater happiness.

#### Q: What are the benefits of bariatric surgery?

**A:** They are remarkable. Studies published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* show that, for obese patients, bariatric surgery is more effective than exercise, dieting and even drugs, in controlling the high blood sugar of

diabetes, reducing blood pressure, lowering the risk of heart disease, and improving overall health. What's more, type 2 diabetes often decreases dramatically, or sometimes completely abates, due to the large weight loss common after bariatric surgery. The same weight loss can actually cure sleep apnea, and can also normalize female hormones, enhancing fertility and improving the ability to become pregnant.

#### Q: What are my surgical options?

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# HV Hospital Santa's Helpers Make Wishes Come True for Needy Children

Santa's Helpers at Hudson Valley Hospital Center wrapped mountains of presents last Thursday to make wishes come true for local children and their families.

In an annual tradition that has been going on for 19 years, staff wrapped more than 800 gifts. The presents will be donated to local social services agencies and delivered to families in need in time for the holidays. Pajamas and books, dolls, trucks, musical instruments and art supplies, boots, socks and tons of toys, clothing and other gifts were packaged from 1 to 3 p.m. in the hospital's lobby. Santa Claus stopped by to supervise the hospital elves at work.

"We wrapped about 800 gifts today and they will all be distributed to families in our community," said Hudson Valley Hospital President John Federspiel. "This is a very exciting event for us. I thank everyone in our hospital family who worked so hard this year to raise the funds, shop for the gifts and wrap the presents to make a lot of children happy this holiday season."

This year - the 19th year of Santa's Helpers - the Hospital spent \$125 per child on 107 children. The Santa's Helpers project is also delivering gifts to 57 families and 1 group home.

Sue Lepore, facilitator of the program in



Santa Claus (Edward Hess Jr.) and Troop 2248 Cortlandt Manor at Santa's Helpers event at Hudson Valley Hospital Center.

the administration office at HVHC, said she is always amazed at the outpouring from the community and the hospital staff each year.

For the second year, the Paramount Theater in Peekskill has pledged to donate a percentage of ticket sales from its production of "A Colonial Nutcracker." The proceeds will go towards next year's Santa's Helpers program. Last year, the Paramount donated \$600 from ticket sales.

In addition to contributions from employees, physicians and the community, hospital employees held several fundraisers, including three days when employees



Teresa Pizzola, medical records, HVHC Hospital President John Federspiel and Santa (Edward Hess, Jr.)

paid \$10 each to wear denim to work and a number of 50/50 raffles.

# Permits for BJ's, Costco Gas Stations Approved

*continued from page 1*

Supervisor Michael Grace stressed Costco was adhering to the town's regulations and was not being given any special treatment.

"I can't deny someone in order to protect someone who exists," said Grace, mentioning the healthy competition that would be created among Yorktown businesses. "Whether they're big box, little box or mom and pop, they deserve the same consideration as anyone else."

Grace and Councilman Terrence Murphy were prepared to approve Costco's special permit Tuesday night but Councilwoman Susan Siegel asked that it be delayed until Friday so she had ample time to read material that wasn't submitted to the board until a few minutes before the meeting.

On Monday night, the Planning Board issued a negative declaration on Costco's plans after determining the environmental impact statement to be sufficient.

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# 2015 Yorktown Budget Approved with 3.6% Tax Increase

By Rick Pezzullo

The average property owner in Yorktown will pay about \$80 more in town taxes next year under a \$57 million budget approved by the town board Friday.

The spending plan approved by a 3-1 vote was nearly identical to the preliminary budget agreed upon last month and

was passed one day before the December 20 deadline.

Included in the budget is a 5% salary increase for Supervisor Michael Grace, the town board, the two town justices and Town Clerk Alice Roker. Town Board members Vishnu Patel and Susan Siegel voted to eliminate the salary hikes but were handcuffed when Grace and

Councilman Terrence Murphy voted to retain the increases.

Also kept in the budget was \$60,000 for a projector at Yorktown Stage, which Patel and Siegel opposed, and \$5,000 for cable services to potentially broadcast town board work sessions. "I am very pleased to Michael's openness to taping work sessions," Siegel said.

After meeting with department heads, the board decided last month to add approximately \$300,000 to Grace's budget, including \$76,900 for a new employee in Grace's office, \$86,900 for a deputy comptroller and \$45,000 for the purchase of a new police vehicle.

To balance the budget, \$4.6 million from 14 different town fund balances was utilized. Yorktown is \$198,000 below the state mandated tax levy cap, which means property owners may be eligible for rebates from the state.

Siegel said there was no reason to oppose the budget since the preliminary budget would have funded the same expenditures.

"I have misgivings about it but I didn't have a vote until the very end," said Siegel, who was elected to fill a vacant seat in early November but didn't take office until about three weeks later.

Patel, who annually returns 10% of his salary, said he still believes the budget is not "sustainable" but supported it any way.

Meanwhile, Murphy, who will be leaving the board at the end of the year to join the state Senate, voted against the budget.

"I thought the supervisor's budget was very good. It had a very limited increase, with still keeping all services," he said.



PHOTO BY AARON ARMISTO

River Towns Real Estate recently became Westchester County's First Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate: pictured (L-R): Peekskill City Councilman Joe Torres, Croton-on-Hudson Mayor Leo Wiegman, Cortlandt Town Supervisor Linda Puglisi, Janeesa Rentas, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices River Towns Real Estate; New York State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef; Cynthia Lippolis, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices River Towns Real Estate President and CEO; Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina; Westchester County Legislator John Testa; Deb Milone, Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce Executive Director; Mariela Cherry, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices River Towns Real Estate; Joe Lippolis, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices River Towns Real Estate.

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## Obituaries

### Melissa D. Brown

Melissa D. Brown, a resident of Cortlandt Manor, died on December 14. She was 34.

A beautician, she worked in New York City and Westchester. She was born on May 31, 1980 in Cortlandt Manor to William and Cathy Cordi Brown. She is survived by her daughter Xiomara Rivera, her parents William T. and Cathy Brown of Cortlandt Manor, a brother, William Brown and a sister, Jessica (Christopher) Porteus.

### Edward Gurka

Edward J. Gurka, a resident of Montrose, died on December 14. He was 83.

Mr. Gurka worked as a Chemical Technician at EM Industries in Hawthorne. He was born on July 16, 1931 in Yonkers, to Michael and Jean Kumanga. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He was a member of the American Legion Post 506 in Ossining and also belonged to the Moose Lodge. He is survived by two sisters; Linda M. (James) Adler-Esper and Joan F. (Pat) Viggiano and a brother, Donald F. (Becky) Gurka as well as many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two sisters; Josephine T. DiPasquale and Barbara F. Tighe.

### Madye Jackson

Madye Jackson, a longtime Peekskill resident, died on December 18. She was 87.

She was born on April 6, 1947 in Inman, SC, to William McKenzie and Ailey Thompson. On June 29, 1947 at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Peekskill, she married John W. Jackson, Jr., who predeceased her on October 7, 1993. She has been a longtime member of Mt. Olivet Baptist. She worked for many years at the Marrs Nursing Home in Mohegan Lake, until retiring. She was an avid reader and walker.

She is survived by four children: John W. Jackson, 3rd, Gail Jackson, June Kersey, Crystal Moss; and also her three grandchildren.

### Helen Beuchert

Helen A. Beuchert, a longtime Peekskill resident, died peacefully December 16 surrounded by her loving family. She was 86.

She was born on February 11, 1928 in New Milford, CT, to the late Claus and Emma (nee Hellberg) Anderson. On November 20, 1948, she married Fred J. Beuchert, who predeceased her on January 1, 2005. Mrs. Beuchert became a registered

nurse in 1949, she served in the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corp; she worked at the Peekskill Community Hospital and in 1962 became Director of Nursing, then became Associate Administrator until she retired in November 1987. She enjoyed homemaking, gardening, traveling, and her 'red hat' ladies.

She is survived by two daughters: Lisa (Stan) Cutts and Karen (Louis) Cortese; three grandchildren, Sarah (Michael) Santoiemma, Jessica (Craig) DeStefano, Louis (Teela) Cortese; five great-grandchildren: Michael, Natalia, Emma, Alexia, Hannah; Stanley (Wendy) Cutts 3rd, and children, Stanley and Savannah.

### Paul Morton

Paul Morton, a resident of Peekskill, died on December 13. He was 78.

Mr. Morton was a Master Craftsman in clock making and repair having worked at Franklin Clocks in White Plains. He was born in England on December 26, 1935 to Albert and Anne Cryan Morton. On October 4, 1961, he married Patricia Hebden in Bradford, England. He is survived by his wife Patricia of Peekskill, a son, David Morton of Stratford, CT, a daughter, Kathryn (Vincent) Landers of Peekskill, two grandchildren; Mary and Tristan Morton

and a sister, Anne Morton of Ontario, Canada.

### Jacqueline Salicco

Jacqueline A. Salicco, a longtime Peekskill resident, died on December 15. She was 80.

She was born on October 24, 1934, to James and Jennie (nee Cavallo) Acker. On April 14, 1956 at the Assumption Church in Peekskill, she married William J. Salicco, who survives at home. She was a graduate of PHS class of '52; she attended Cochran Nursing School at St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers. She was a registered nurse at Peekskill Hospital and Sky View Nursing Home, until retiring. Along with her husband of 58 years, she is survived by five children: Catherine Bischoff, William Salicco Jr., Susan, Marilu and Michelle Salicco; four grandchildren: Christine and John Bischoff, Jennifer and Zachary Sheridan; five great-grandchildren: Melissa, Isabel, Ethan, Bennie, Ziva; three sisters: Elizabeth Robillard, Mary Lou (Mel) Henning and Patricia (Gerald) Cancredi; and also her aunt Ernestine Slaving; and several nieces and nephews.

*continued on page 9*



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## Editorial

### "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus"

Dear Editor,

*I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say that there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in the Sun, it is so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?*

VIRGINIA,

**Y**our little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.

All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?

Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is



no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, or even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy,

poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond.

Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else as real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, maybe 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the hearts of children.

WRITTEN BY FRANCIS P.  
CHURCH IN SEPTEMBER 21, 1897  
THE NEW YORK SUN

## Letters

### Yorktown Town Board Needs to Follow the Will of the People

To the Editor:

In November, by a 3 to 1 count of voters, a proposition passed giving the town board 30 days to appoint a person to a vacant seat, and if no candidate could be agreed upon, to hold either a special election or to wait for the next general election, whichever would come first based on the notice needed for a special election. As of December 1st, the seat vacated by Councilman Bianco should have been filled or an election date should have been announced. This is unconscionable and a complete disregard for the voters by people that feel they know better. During the last two town board meetings, Councilman Murphy tried to

follow the will of the people of Yorktown by motioning for a special election. Twice Supervisor Grace tried to follow the will of the people and supported it. Twice Councilman Patel and Councilwoman Siegel denied the will of the people.

I am not sure if I am more insulted by the total disregard of the people that voted for them, or the opportunistic change of opinion that is obviously a grab for control of the board regardless of what the people of Yorktown should want. I honestly do not know how someone like Councilman Patel can preach for almost a full year that "The people of Yorktown should be heard" and then turn around

and say, never mind what I said – appointment works better now.

Councilwoman Siegel is now also in favor of appointments saying it is a "Win-Win situation for all" and that she and Councilman Patel are ready to move forward with this "compromise plan". She hopes that Supervisor Grace will consider it. I hope that he does not. The only things that this "Compromise Plan" will compromise are the morals of those that go with it and the will of the people that put them there. I hope the town board will do what the people have asked, now that we have passed the 30-day impasse.

ED LACHTERMAN

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## Guest commentary

### Why We Voted Yes on the County Budget

**By John Testa**  
**Minority Leader Westchester County**  
**Board of Legislators**

On Tuesday December 9, The Board of Legislators passed a bipartisan coalition budget for 2015 by a vote of 10-7. The 2015 budget keeps taxes flat, preserves the County's reserves and increases funding to many social safety net programs. As Minority Leader of the Republican Caucus, I would like to share with you some of the highlights of that budget and why I voted 'yes'.

This was a tough budget that required us to make difficult decisions and compromises but at the end of our negotiations with the County Executive and Democrats on the Board, we were able to craft a plan that keeps taxes flat, protects the County's favorable credit rating and provides a strong social safety net for our low income families. Some Legislators have criticized and complained about this budget throughout the negotiation process but at the end of the day, those same Legislators never offered their own solutions until after the fact when they said we should have raised taxes. Adding to the tax burden of Westchester Families was something we were not willing to do.

Despite the massive bills from Albany that we must deal with, we were able to provide some very important funding for our partners in the non-profit sector. Non-profits help the county provide services to our neediest residents. The Republican caucus and the County Executive recognize the important role

that non-profits play in our county and that is why we increased funding for programs like Subsidized Childcare. This program allows low-income families to pursue employment opportunities with the confidence that their children are cared for in a safe environment. Giving people the freedom to work and advance their education and careers instead of relying totally on public assistance makes our communities stronger and keeps the costs of social services down.

We held three Public Hearings on the county budget where we heard from an array of citizens, non-profits and service providers. We used the information we gathered during the process and the evidence of success of the many organizations throughout the county to determine how tax dollars would be spent.

We increased funding for legal services. A modest increase was added for Legal Aid, which brings public defender's compensation in line with their counterparts in the District Attorney's office. Keeping Legal Aid adequately funded ensures that criminal matters are adjudicated fairly and competently, thus limiting the number of appeals that clog our court system and cost more money in the long run.

We also increased funding of legal services for the Northern Westchester office established in 2014 by the Legal Services of the Hudson Valley. This busy office focuses on providing free legal services for senior citizens, veterans and victims of domestic violence. It was

important that we establish this office for the residents of Peekskill, Cortlandt and Yorktown since all the previous locations were in the southern portion of the county. The new office, which is located in Peekskill, has been a tremendous success and needed the additional support.

Playland Amusement Park has been the subject of much consideration and debate throughout the year at the Board of Legislators and as expected was a big topic in our budget negotiation as well. Playland carries a significant amount of debt and the interest on that debt means that taxpayers must subsidize the cost of running the park. Depending on attendance in any given season the cost to taxpayers is between \$3-\$5 million annually. We have been reviewing proposals from private operators who want to partner with the County to run the amusement park. Both proposals include significant upfront funding for the county, which could eventually be used to prevent or reduce borrowing. Some good news is that we had good weather on the weekends this past season and as a result attendance was up which offset some of our operating costs.

We have done a very good job at cutting the size of county government and along with that we have cut the operational costs but the real cost drivers in residents' tax bills come from costs that are passed on to us by the State. Our pension bills have skyrocketed year after year as have healthcare costs. The State recognizes that and as a solution has offered a financing option for pension costs that

allow us to defer a small portion of the bill. Borrowing of any kind is something we want to avoid but in this budget, the alternatives were layoffs of between 150-200 county employees, which would have seriously diminished the county's ability to provide services or a major tax increase, and eliminating essential programs that help our most vulnerable residents.

Another item that we authorized the County Executive to finance was for the payment of tax certioraris. These are the refunds that the county must make to homeowners who challenge their property tax assessments. In the last budget (2014) we also authorized bonding to pay for the certioraris. Fortunately the county was able to find operational savings throughout the year to avoid borrowing and we are hopeful that we will be able to avoid borrowing again this year.

Passing a budget is a fiscally necessary action that must take place in a fiscally prudent, balanced and timely manner. That is what we did. We were not, however, willing to accomplish this by raising taxes as was recommended by those who voted against the budget. We were also not willing to consider layoffs of county workers or decimating the county's safety net. In the end we were able to work closely with County Executive Astorino and continue the bipartisan coalition with a few of our colleagues from across the aisle to put politics aside and successfully move the County of Westchester forward in a positive direction.

## Five Hurt in Double DWI Crash in Yorktown

**By Rick Pezzullo**

Five people were seriously injured in a two-car crash Thursday night in Yorktown where both drivers were charged with driving while intoxicated.

According to Yorktown Police, Adam Kaczor, 19, of Saw Mill River Road, York-

town, made an improper left turn and failed to yield one-half of the roadway at the intersection of Route 35 and Broad Street at approximately 11:51 p.m.

Further investigation revealed Kaczor and the driver of the other vehicle, Dennis Marralheiro, 35, of Locksley Road, York-

town, were driving while in an intoxicated condition. The charge against Marralheiro was upgraded to a felony because of a prior DWI conviction within the last 10 years.

Kaczor, Marralheiro and three unidentified 19-year-old passengers in Kaczor's vehicle were transported to Westchester

County Medical Center in Valhalla with serious, but non-life threatening injuries. Both vehicles were totaled.

Kaczor and Marralheiro were both arrested at the medical center and issued appearance tickets for January 22 in Yorktown Justice Court.

## Obituaries

*continued from page 7*

### Susan Bingell

Susan Louise Bingell, a longtime resident of Ossining, died on December 16 in Bristol CT. She was 65,

She was born in North Tarrytown on May 23, 1949 to Alfred Lee and Doris (Johnson) Bingell. She was a retired bookkeeper at the Stop & Shop in Ossining where she worked for 27 years.

She is survived by her son Todd (Erika) of Bristol; three grandchildren William,

Brady and Lindsey of Bristol; her partner Jan Janicki of Ossining; her siblings Steve, Ossining and Kathy Huey, Pine Bluff, Arkansas; many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son Scott.

### Patricia Farrell

Pat (Brophy) Farrell, a resident of Croton-on-Hudson, formerly of Ossining, died on December 15 with her family by her side. She was 75.

She was born November 29, 1939 in Tarrytown to John and Frances (Buchner) Brophy. She was President of Nor-Court Seniors of Cortlandt, an honorary member of the Westchester County Volunteers Fireman's Association, member of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association Ladies Auxiliary, and a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fireman's Association of the State of NY. She worked as a Data Entry Supervisor for PepsiCo.

She was predeceased by her parents, brothers Robert, John and Richard and

two infant children, John and Debra. She is survived by her husband of 56 years James, sons James Jr. of Ossining, Donald (Shelly) of Ossining, daughters Denise (Jonathan) Samuels of Pine Bush, Donna (Brian) Puff of Tarrytown, Debra of Virginia Beach, grandchildren Amanda, Mackenzie & Daniel Farrell, Kristin, Scott (Stephanie) & Ryan Samuels, Brian Puff, one great-granddaughter Chloe Grace Wright and sisters Debra (Stephen) Frondelli and Dejay (Brian) Cohen and many nieces and nephews.



# Cuomo Applauded for Decision to Prohibit Fracking

By Martin Wilbur and David Propper

After years of debate, demonstrations and questions, New York State will take action to ban hydraulic fracturing, it was announced last week.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he will move forward in banning all large-scale fracking in five upstate counties that were considered as hosts after a report prepared by the state's Department of Health cited concerns over possible health hazards caused by the release of natural gas from underground shale formations.

With the news, New York becomes the first state with major shale reserves to place a formal prohibition on fracking. Environmental groups and most state lawmakers in the area praised the governor's decision.

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), who had long supported a fracking moratorium, commended the state Department of Health for its study of the health effects the last two years.

"The potential health risks associated with hydraulic fracturing have been found to outweigh the benefits," Buchwald said. "Risking the health of our families is not an option, and that is



MARTIN WILBER PHOTO

Opponents of fracking, such as the and the groups of citizens who attended a rally in White Plains in October, were pleased last week with Gov. Cuomo's decision to ban the practice in New York State.

why I support New York State's decision to ban hydraulic fracturing."

"New York got it right," said Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Pleasantville). "A few temporary jobs are not worth risking the health and safety of local communi-

ties."

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) also applauded Cuomo's decision based on statements made by acting state Health Commissioner Dr. Howard A. Zucker, who found "significant public

health risks" associated with fracking.

Nearly three years ago Galef visited Bradford County, Pa. to see firsthand the effects of fracking. During the tour, she met with residents to discuss the pros and cons of the impacts on local communities.

"I was happy and relieved to hear the Governor make this decision which aligns with my beliefs on the negative effects of hydrofracking as well as those of my constituents," said Galef. "Thank you Governor."

Putnam County Commissioner of Health Dr. Allen Beals agreed with the state health department's findings, calling the study's conclusion "straightforward." Even though he supports using the state's natural resources, it must be done in an "unequivocally" safe manner.

Hazards to the state's water supply and greenhouse gases that could be released into the atmosphere currently make fracking unsafe, Beals noted. Anti-fracking advocates in the region were pleased with the decision.

Thomas Maxson of Highlands Hudson Preservation described the victory

*continued on page 19*

## Peekskill Farmers' Market Expands Winter Season

By Rick Pezzullo

The City of Peekskill has announced that beginning January 10, 2015, the Peekskill Farmers' Market, sponsored by the Peekskill Business Improvement District (BID), will have an expanded winter season. "The summer and winter farmers' markets are important Peekskill family events," said Jason Angell, Executive Director of the BID. He added, "The market introduces a wider audience to all that downtown Peekskill has to offer."

Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina said,

"There has been a great deal of enthusiasm for the market to become a year-round Saturday event. Thanks to the efforts of Corinna Makris, Program Director, the Peekskill Farmers' Market tripled in size this year, in both the number of vendors and shoppers. We're very happy we found an indoor space that works."

Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided by Kathleen's Tea Room on Winter Market Opening Day Saturday, January 10.

Come shop with your favorite vendors such as 8 Mile Creek Farm, Cooperstown

Cheese, Edenesque, Arch River meats, along with some new specialty grocery items. Expect rotating artisan and hand-craft vendors such as local clothing designer Jeorjia Shea. A complete list of vendors will be updated on the Market website [www.PeekskillFarmersMarket.com](http://www.PeekskillFarmersMarket.com) and on [www.facebook.com/peekskillfarmersmarket](http://www.facebook.com/peekskillfarmersmarket).

Makris said, "We are immensely thankful for the support we received from Mayor Catalina, City Manager Ruggiero, the City Council, the Field

Library, and especially the Senior Nutrition Program for the use of their beautiful room. We are excited to continue providing farm fresh produce, dairy, and meat as well as handmade items by local artists and craftspeople." Stay tuned for a schedule of live entertainment.

The Peekskill Farmers' Market winter season will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday from January 10 through April 25, on the main floor at the Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave, Peekskill, near the corner of Main Street (Route 6).

## Ossining Winter Farmers Market to Move Indoors in January

The Ossining Winter Farmers Market will move indoors to Claremont Elementary School on Van Cortlandt Avenue (off Route 9), starting on Saturday, January 10.

The market will run on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through March. In April, it will return to its longtime home at the corner of Spring and Main streets.

"Vendors and shoppers alike endured some cold days over the past couple of winters. We really appreciated the community support," said Frankie Rowland, director of community relations for Westchester and Rockland counties at Down to Earth Markets. "Yet, as you can imagine, we were eager to find an indoor market venue. We're thrilled to collabo-

rate with Ray Sanchez, school superintendent, the Ossining Union Free School Board, and Claremont Elementary this year."

The Ossining winter roster, to date, includes: Amazing Real Live Food Company, Bread Alone, Gajeski Produce, Kiernan Farm, Mead Orchards, Meredith's Bread, Pickle Licious, Pura Vida Fisheries, and Yellow Bell Farm.

In addition to the weekly lineup, the market will expand with rotating vendors, such as Bombay Emerald Chutney Company, Hudson River Apiaries, Kontoulis Family Olive Oil, OM Champagne Tea, Sisters Wicked Good Soap, Taiim Falafel Shack, and Wave Hill Breads.



PHOTO BY CORINNE STANTON

Outgoing Yorktown Chamber of Commerce President Joseph Visconti (left) poses with newly elected President Eric DiBartolo at the chamber's annual holiday party December 15 at Savannah's Southern House in Yorktown.



## Businesses of the Week

By Rick Pezzullo

Danny Alo always wanted to name a business after the southern region of Italy where his parents are from, and 18 months ago he achieved that dream when he opened Calabria Pizza & Pasta on Old Yorktown Road in Shrub Oak.

"I feel like I've been here a long time. I like Yorktown. So far, so good," Alo said inside the restaurant that he remodeled after he took over. "I don't look at it as a job. It's something I take pride in. This is easy for me. I love doing this."

Having attended nearby Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School as a kid and graduating from Walter Panas High School in 1996, Alo, 36, is very familiar with the area. He's also very familiar with the restaurant industry, following in the footsteps of his father, who resides in Cortlandt, and other family members. Ironically, the landlord of the building where Calabria is located cooked with his father about 30 years ago.

Alo studied criminal justice in college and worked in the produce business before opening Two Brothers in Montrose with his brother, Fabio, in 2001.

"I just went in for a slice of pizza one day and the guy said he wanted to sell it," said Alo, who noted his sister had moved to

# Calabria Pizza & Pasta Shrub Oak



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Danny Alo, owner of Calabria Pizza & Pasta, holds a signature Grandma pizza.

Montrose at the time.

He said it was also "a fluke" that he found out about the availability of the storefront at 3861 Old Yorktown Road, near Lakeland Liquors, and when he did he couldn't pass up the opportunity.

"I said it would be nice to come back to the area," recalled Alo, who lives in Dutchess County with his wife of eight years and three young sons. "I used to hang out a lot in this area. A lot of people know me."

Calabria Pizza & Pasta takes pride in "product and consistency," according to Alo, who works 14 to 15-hour days, six days a week.

"That's what I'm about. We keep it all about product. That's the name of the game," he said. "We're a small place. We try to keep it simple."

Calabria offers a full menu of pasta dishes, entrees, salads, wedges and, of course, pizza, including a popular

round Grandma pizza. Each week they add a sandwich inspired by customers with names such as The Godfather, The Soprano, and The Frankenstein Wedge. Wednesday night features "Pasta Craze" specials for \$9.95.

"We're all about customer service. If you don't see it, ask. If we have it we'll make it. We don't say no to people," Alo said.

In October, Calabria won first place honors in the Yorktown Small Business Association's fall pizza contest. Alo said he was reluctant to enter but was encouraged by his brother who had battled thyroid cancer.

"I was nervous, but it worked out," he said. "It felt good. It's helped me a lot. It's gotten the name out."

Alo, who recently lost 35 pounds, is considering expanding Calabria in the next year or so. In the meantime, he's enjoying the fruits of his labor.

"Life is good," he said. "This business is like Lotto. If you want to win, you have to be in it."

Calabria Pizza & Pasta is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 9:30 p.m. Free local delivery. (914) 556-6410 or (914) 556-6411.

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# Popular Thunder Ridge Resort Opens in Patterson

By Neal Rentz

The Thunder Ridge Ski Area in Patterson, which had a chance of closing earlier this fall, reopened for the new ski season on December 19.

The fate of the popular resort, which has over 300 employees, was up in the air after former Putnam County Legislator Mary Conklin and her husband Robert, who operated Thunder Ridge for 19 years, decided not to do so this winter. Brothers Wayne and Dean Ryder, the owners of the resort, have decided to operate it.

Dean Ryder said last week running the resort, which has been part of the lives of him and his family, is a labor of love.

Ryder, a 68-year-old Carmel resident and Putnam banker, said he has been a skier since he was five and his three daughters are ski racers who also have used Thunder Ridge since childhood. "That is a life skill," Ryder said.

About 100,000 visits are typically made by skiers to the resort every winter, Ryder said, adding Thunder Ridge is generally open for skiing through March 15. Closing Thunder Ridge would have been devastating to local skiers, Ryder said.

"I can't tell you the number of calls that I got" when it appeared the facility might not open for the new ski season, he said, adding he was told by callers that their children were crying over the possibility



Thunder Ridge has been getting ready for the 2014-15 season, hard at work every day. The weather needs to cooperate in order for the ski resort to open on time, which hopefully is this Friday.



DAVID PROPPER PHOTOS

One of the operators of Thunder Ridge, Dean Ryder, speaks with longtime employees of the ski resort. This is Ryder's first year running the mountain.

of no longer having Thunder Ridge open.

Ryder said the top reason he and his brother wanted to keep Thunder Ridge open was its employees. "The main reason is they are such a great group of people," he noted.

A series of renovations have been completed at Thunder Ridge, including painting and upgrading the "magic carpets," which allow young skiers to be lifted up hills without the need to sit in ski lift seats, Ryder said.

Aside from skiing, Thunder Ridge can cater events, such as parties, and has a portion of the property available for paintball.

Patterson Supervisor Michael Griffin said Thunder Ridge is an important part

of the local economy. Not only does the facility employ over 300 people, it also provides customers to local businesses including restaurants.

"It's great to have this facility in town," Griffin said.

The resort has some site plan issues the new operators still need to address, including parking, Griffin said. But the town has provided the Ryder brothers additional time to deal with the issues and did not want to prevent the facility from reopening for the season, Griffin noted.

The Thunder Ridge Ski Area is located at 137 Birch Hill Rd. in Patterson. For more information, call (845) 878-4100 or visit [thunderridgeski.com](http://thunderridgeski.com).



Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina brought some holiday cheer to residents at a celebration at Riverfront Green Sunday afternoon dressing up as Santa Claus. Councilwoman Vivian McKenzie also warmed up those in attendance with hot chocolate.

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# Oh, the Pressure! Relief from Sinusitis

**By John Scott, MD**  
**Chief of the Division of Otolaryngology**  
**Northern Westchester Hospital**

A runny nose may seem par for the course in winter. The dry air, colds and flu all add up to sinus troubles. But occasionally nose problems veer into more serious territory. The term "sinusitis" refers generally to inflammation in the nasal passages that persists. The glands in the nose become irritated and produce excess mucus. The cause can be a cold virus, infection from bacteria that reside in the nasal passages, irritants in the air or a combination of these factors. Whatever the source, about 37 million Americans suffer from at least one episode of sinusitis yearly, according to the Mayo Clinic.

There are varying degrees of sinusitis: Acute sinusitis comes on suddenly and lasts 10 to 14 days. Subacute sinusitis refers to inflammation that lasts for four to eight weeks. Sinusitis becomes chronic when it lasts longer than two months. Along with a runny nose, patients often suffer from headaches, fatigue, and facial pain.

Often, sinusitis can be treated with mucus-thinning drugs, antibiotics, and sometimes steroids. The goal is to get the nose draining, to decrease the inflammation, and to treat any underlying infection. When the sinusitis persists and moves into the chronic category, an otolaryngologist may schedule a CT scan to check for nasal polyps. Polyps trap mucus and make a person more susceptible to infections.

If the patient has polyps, excess tissue, or trapped mucus, an otolaryngologist can use special surgical tools to access the sinus and clear up the problem. We do the procedures trans-nasally — there's no need for incisions in the face.

Only a small percentage of patients with sinusitis wind up needing surgery. In fact, many people manage their congestion with over-the-counter remedies. I suggest using saline rinses, decongestants, and acetaminophen/ibuprofen combination painkillers. However, I recommend people avoid so-called neti pots, which irrigate the sinuses. The amount of saline is too high and the pressure is too forceful. The pots can actually worsen the infection by pushing bacterial-laden mucus deeper into the sinuses. Stick to room-temperature rinses. If those fail you, your internist can prescribe stronger measures such as the antibiotics and steroids. If you're still suffering or have recurrent infections, it may be time to consider making an appointment with an otolaryngologist.

## ADVANCED SINUS CARE

Northern Westchester is on the leading-edge of nasal surgery. The use of advanced technology such as the Brainlab system allows surgeons access to narrow, incredibly sensitive areas of the nasal cavity. The

instruments are CT-scan guided, during the operation surgeons can see exactly where the instrument is in the nose. This allows them to comprehensively remove damaged tissue and work more safely. We're working incredibly close to the eyes and brain tissue, and you really want to be sure you're not encroaching on those areas. The CT-scan guidance provides new levels of precision.

Another exciting development at Northern Westchester Hospital is Bal-

loon Sinuplasty which is used to treat blocked sinuses. In this procedure, the doctor guides a balloon similar to those used for cardiac angioplasty into a blocked passage, gently inflating it and dilating the sinus opening. The balloon widens the passage, allowing mucus to drain more readily. Because there's no cutting, the procedure leaves an undisturbed lining behind. This means there's no scar tissue, and that will help keep the sinuses open.

Dr. John Scott is the Chief of the Division of Otolaryngology at Northern Westchester Hospital. He is a physician with the Mount Kisco Medical Group, and a 2013 New York Magazine Best Doctor and a Best Doctors in America recipient. In 2013 and 2014 he was recognized as a Castle Connolly and Westchester Magazine Top Doctor. Dr. Scott is board certified in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery.

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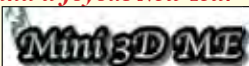
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# The Benefits and Pitfalls of Having Your Own Wine Cellar

There are a number of issues to consider when purchasing and opening a bottle of wine. Foremost is what wine to purchase that is drinkable within my timetable for consumption? There are several decision points I consider. If I'm purchasing for a friendly gathering of friends, I'll select wines that I know they will enjoy: young and full-bodied, which I refer to as quaffing wines. For dinner parties, I tend to serve wines with a bit of age. They tend to be more complex, more balanced and more adaptable to various foods.

For these aged wines, I reach my next decision point. Do I purchase wines that winemakers have aged at the winery, saving me the time and effort to age the wines myself? Or do I retreat to my wine cellar to select a wine I purchased several months/years/decades ago?

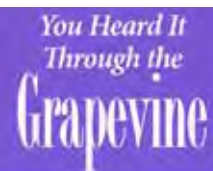
During December, as we celebrate the many occasions that the holidays bring about, I'm usually the go-to person for selecting the wine. Of course, there may be an ulterior motive for my

friends and family: I have a wine cellar that is approaching its silver anniversary. And I tend to be in a generous mood during the holidays.

If red wines are being served from my cellar, I will decant the bottles in a broad-bottomed decanter several hours before serving. This allows oxygen to penetrate the wine over a large surface area, accelerating the breathing of the wine and more quickly opening its bouquet and flavors.



By Nick Antonaccio



When pressed for time I'll revert to my well-worn Vin-turi. I discovered this handheld aeration device at Wine Enthusiast (333 N. Bedford Road, Mt. Kisco; [www.wineenthusiast.com](http://www.wineenthusiast.com)), which enables wine to breathe as it is being poured.

I also have a device that permits me to extract wine from a bottle one glass at a time. The Coravin product (also available at Wine Enthusiast) siphons wine from a bottle without introducing oxygen into the now empty space in the bottle. This is ideal for enjoying one of my decades-old wines for which I and my wife or guest will not

finish the bottle contents.

But my wine cellar can also create its own dilemmas and disappointments. A few weeks ago, as I was retrieving a 1997 California Cabernet Sauvignon (an excellent vintage that warranted aging) for a holiday dinner, I noticed several bottles in the far bottom corner of a shelf that I had overlooked. Pulling the four bottles, I realized they were a Tuscan reserve red from 1990 (one of the finest vintages of the last quarter century) I had set aside in 1995 for future consumption. To my dismay, I realized these wines, with a shelf life of approximately 10 years, were now approaching their silver anniversary.

With great trepidation, I opened the first bottle, expecting the worst: a brownish color, devoid of any vibrancy, not remotely palatable. I was correct.

Pouring this once-prized wine down the drain, I was now confronted with my next decision point. Send the remaining bottles to the same fate as the first or sample them? Annoyed at myself for allowing these wines to sit too long, I opened the bottles and began to purge their contents. Midway thru the last bottle, I hesitated. One fond farewell sip of the wine I had looked forward to enjoying but missed the

window of opportunity? Surely one can never be unequivocally certain of a wine's life span, even after sampling it a few minutes earlier?

With the certainty of the outcome firmly in my mind, I poured myself a few drops. Surprise of surprises. Wonder of wonderment. A refined, balanced wine that still embodied several of its original characteristics. Certainly past its peak, but nevertheless quite enjoyable – and unique from its earlier profile. And the last bottle I will ever own.

Wines are living, breathing organisms. As with humans, some defy expectations as they age. Hope for the best, be prepared for the worst and savor the unexpected. Enjoy the holidays; they are the perfect time to experiment and seek out your next favorite wine.

Nick Antonaccio is a 35-year Pleasantville resident. For over 15 years he has conducted numerous 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](mailto:nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com) or on Twitter @sharingwine.

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# Keeping Christmas Tree and Ornament Traditions or Bust!

Christmas has always been an important holiday to my wife Margaret and I and never did we think that, after so many years of being ensconced in the same home where year after year we decorated our tree in the same living room in the same corner with the same decorations, that we would be moving the week just before Christmas to a new location when we wanted to uphold the tradition of having a tree but hadn't even half unpacked.

However, inveterate holiday revelers that we are, we committed to having a traditional Christmas Eve family celebration with a decorated tree as always no matter what and, last week, as Phil D'Erasmus's men from Advantage Moving Systems were unloading boxes from their truck, I spotted that battered six-foot-long oblong box that I've re-taped for some years now and retrieved it before it was transported to the storage room of my new condo building. So here we are with all our linens still packed in boxes in the front hall and our pots and pans in similar straits on the kitchen floor, but the very first item to be released from the bounds of its cardboard restraints is that faker than fake greenery that some-

how springs to life every year with the help of sparkling lights and hand-made ornaments made a half century ago by eager newlyweds, obviously with a lot of time on their hands for crafts pursuits.



By Bill Primavera

I dragged the box to the Palladian-like window at the end of our fifth-story high great room and plopped it down and, hardly able to wait until the movers left, like a 10-year-old child eager to open his first gift, I ripped open the box and pulled out the stand with its spindly legs which I'm always convinced will never hold the tree steadily enough. Then came the bottom bulkier section of greenery, then the diminished third section, followed by the slimmer second, and finally the top that brings the tree to a point.

I fluffed out the branches, plugged in the lights and, naturally, another string of them has died during the long hot months of summer. Margaret has supplied another three sets of 100 each to fill in the dead spaces but even one of those doesn't work. Another day later and another exchange and the tree is fully bright once again as I tangle the new lights with the old, then together we start the yearly ritual of unwrapping the hand-made ornaments made from Styrofoam

balls covered with fancy ribbons, beads, pearls, rhinestones, feathers, buttons and all kinds of ingenious materials we gathered from the hat district (when women still wore hats) in Manhattan, located on 38th Street, West of 5th Avenue, long before there was A. C. Moore and Michaels, not to mention Martha Stewart.

Our original plan was to make one elaborate tree ornament each year throughout our marriage, but we got so much into our new hobby when we first married that it became an obsession the very first year. The balls became more and more elaborate as we practiced our skills, with many themed with their own names.

One ball, completely covered in pink ribbon, was named our Baby Girl ball, even though we didn't have a baby yet. There was the Grace Kelly ball with pale blue and yellow ribbons and pearls; the Swan Lake ball with white ribbons, white feathers and crystals; the Can-Can Girl ball with black and red ribbons, beads and a black feather plume on top; and our real piece de resistance, a large Faberge ball with semi-precious gems all over it, taken from old pieces of jewelry.

The tips of our thumbs had developed calluses from pushing in the pins until we got smart and used thimbles to aid our obsession.

We decided it would be safer to buy a large artificial tree so that there would be

no threat of sap staining the balls, and we kept producing our little gems until we ran out of space on the tree. We had become Christmas ball addicted.

The bottom line, however, is that we must have OD'd on our first year's attempt because we haven't made a single ball since then. I guess that's the kind of stuff newly-married couples do together, projects that can be appreciated later in life when there's time to do so. And, come what may, including living out of boxes during a downsizing move, we've never celebrated a holiday without both appreciating and showing off our collection from that first year of our half century of connubial bliss.

And for my Jewish friends, I just found out about a couple who has collected hundreds of dreidels for Hanukkah, so I know my wife and I are not alone in this passion for collections associated with the holidays.

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](http://www.PrimaveraPR.com)), specializing in lifestyles, real estate and development. His real estate site is: [www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com](http://www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com) and his blog is: [www.TheHomeGuru.com](http://www.TheHomeGuru.com). To engage the services of Bill Primavera and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.

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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Soul brother  
4 Unfriendly dog  
7 Special effects maker, abbr.  
10 "A Beautiful Mind" director  
11 Undivided  
12 Coffee \_\_\_\_  
13 Under the weather  
14 Compact weapon  
15 Whistle-blower  
16 Newly renovated Mahopac eatery favorite  
18 Peg  
19 Paving substances  
21 Milky-white gem  
24 Dermatologist's concern  
25 Impudence  
29 Exceed  
30 Belonging to actor Levy, or Yorktown hair salon  
34 Court group, abbr.  
35 Bikini component  
36 Mt. Blanc (e.g.)  
37 A King Henry  
38 King's title: abbr.

- 39 Good score for a duffer  
40 Crew member  
41 It may follow you  
42 In the least

DOWN

- 1 Vivacity  
2 Throw, as dice  
3 "\_\_\_\_ the lonely"  
4 Brilliant feats  
5 Open, as a jacket  
6 German empire  
7 In a brusque manner  
8 Waves at, perhaps  
9 Overrun, as with bugs  
17 Icecream shop order  
20 Throb  
21 Book size  
22 Fear  
23 Nanny, from abroad  
26 Lion prey  
27 More refined  
28 Plant used to make tequila  
31 Grape-filled valley  
32 Bubbliness  
33 Agile

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
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37				38				39		
40				41				42		

See solution on page 22

You Thought You Could Make Gifts?

Time after time, clients confuse the gift giving rules promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") with the gift giving rules applicable to Medicaid eligibility. Thus, it is worth writing about...again.

In 2014, an individual is allowed to gift \$5,340,000 ("lifetime exclusion") to any person other than that person's spouse. An individual is allowed to make unlimited gifts to a spouse. In addition to the lifetime exclusion, an individual is allowed



By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

to make annual gifts to any person other than a spouse in the amount of \$14,000.00 per person. If your estate is not valued at more than \$5,340,000, then the annual gift giving exclusion may be irrelevant to you. There is no gift tax in New York State. Thus, and often to the surprise of clients, if your estate is valued at less than \$5,340,000, you can gift away your entire estate during your lifetime and pay no gift taxes. In addition, your heirs will not have to pay any taxes either.

However, the IRS rules have nothing to do with Medicaid eligibility. If an individual is applying for nursing home Medicaid, ANY AMOUNT gifted by the individual during the last five years is subject to scrutiny and may create a penalty for Medicaid eligibility purposes. The annual gift tax exclusion IS NOT an annual exclusion for Medicaid purposes. Often, people make gifts each year equal to the annual exclusion amount under the theory that they are reducing their assets in case nursing home care is required in the future; this is wrong!

It is important to note that in home

care cases, there is no five year look-back period. Thus, prior gift giving will not impact Medicaid eligibility. The dichotomy in gift giving rules only applies to nursing home cases.

Salvatore M. Di Costanzo is a partner with the firm of McMillan, Constabile, Maker & Perone, LLP located in Larchmont, & Yorktown Heights, NY. Mr. Di Costanzo is an attorney & accountant whose main area of practice is elder law. He can be reached at (914) 834-3500 or via e-mail at [smd@mc-mplaw.com](mailto:smd@mc-mplaw.com). Visit his website at [www.plantodayfortomorrow.com](http://www.plantodayfortomorrow.com)

Cuomo Applauded for Decision to Prohibit Fracking

*continued from page 10*

as "David vs. Goliath," praising the grassroots movement that ultimately won out.

"It's so widespread as far as the people who are opposed to fracking in the state and it's a wide variety, (from) business people to environmentalists, who realize in the long run that that was not good business for New York State," Maxson said.

Suzannah Glidden, the Westchester contact for the Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition (CWCWC), said last week's announcement was "a good first step" but the state must also address the

runoff from fracking on the Pennsylvania side of the Marcellus Shale. She also warned that energy companies are still knocking at the state's door looking to gain a foothold.

Despite the chorus of applause, there were critics of Cuomo's action. Two Republicans, Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino and Assemblyman Dr. Steve Katz (R-Yorktown), criticized the decision.

Astorino, who lost his gubernatorial bid to Cuomo last month, said New York's future became "bleaker," and accused the governor of playing politics

with the economic outlook of the state.

"Natural gas exploration is being done safely in 35 other states under both Democrat and Republican governors," Astorino said. "It's supported by President Obama and senators Schumer and Gillibrand through guidelines already outlined by the EPA and other regulatory agencies. This 'study' is nothing more than a political document."

Katz said the state is content with "50 (out of 50) on every level economically and business wise." Fracking in the state would open up the possibility of thou-

sands of good paying jobs and would be a much needed shot in the arm for regions that are desperate for revenue, he said.

"This is a man who is absolutely driven to take this state down," Katz said of Cuomo, adding he's doing this as a favor to his former brother-in-law, environmentalist Robert Kennedy.

Katz added he does not believe there is validity to the state health department's study because it runs counter to reports from other states and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



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## LEGAL NOTICE

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF NASSAU, Index No.: 2014-202317:** GAETANA GAZZARA, Plaintiff, against MANUEL MARTINEZ, Defendant, in an ACTION FOR A DIVORCE. To the above named Defendant: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to file an Answer in writing to the attached Verified Complaint with the clerk of the above entitled Court, at 240 Old Country Road, Mineola, New York, 11501, and to serve upon

or mail C. William Gaylor, III, attorney for Plaintiff, 7 Atlantic Avenue, Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563, a copy of said Answer within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you; If you fail so to do, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in said VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE, which has been filed with the Clerk of said Court and a copy of which has been mailed to your last known address. The nature of this action is to dissolve the marriage between the parties, on the grounds: DRL § 170 (2) – Abandonment and/or DRL § 170 (7) - the relationship between the parties has broken down irretrievably for a period of at least six months. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Nassau, dated 11/25/14, and filed in the office of the clerk of the County of Nassau at 240 Old Country Road, Mineola, New York. The object of this action is to obtain judgment against the Defendant MANUEL MARTINEZ, last known address 100 Diplomat Drive, Mount Kisco, NY 10549, for an absolute divorce, that the bonds of matrimony between the Plaintiff, GAETANA GAZZARA and the Defendant, MANUEL MARTINEZ be forever dissolved and such other, further and different relief as may be just and proper. **Dated, 12/8/14, /s/ C. William Gaylor, III, attorney for Plaintiff, 7 Atlantic Avenue, Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563.**

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# 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, Dec. 23

**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, Dec. 24

**Fourth Unitarian Christmas Eve:** Celebrate Christmas Eve with the Rev. Karen Brammer and Hannah Civita at 6 p.m. at the Fourth Unitarian Society, 1698 Strawberry Rd., Mohegan Lake. Join us for caroling, contemplation and joy, and, of course, candles. Info: [fourthuu.org](http://fourthuu.org).

First Presbyterian Christmas Eve: A series of Christmas Eve programs have been scheduled for the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown. 2880 Crompond Rd. A Family Service, featuring a children's pageant, will be held at 4 p.m. Candlelight services, with a musical prelude beginning 30 minutes before each service, will be held at 7:30 and 11 p.m.

**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](http://www.firsthebrew.org).

## Thursday, Dec. 25

**December Somers Exhibit:** Cara Gilroy will be featured at the Somers Library Art Exhibit all through the month of December with an opening reception scheduled for Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. For library visiting hours during the month of December please call 914 232-5717. Gilroy is a local artist primarily involved in acrylic paintings and digital artwork. To see her artwork, please visit the website [www.caragilroystudios.com](http://www.caragilroystudios.com), or contact [cara@caragilroystudios.com](mailto:cara@caragilroystudios.com).

## Friday, Dec. 26

**Local Color:** A Field Gallery Retrospective, featuring works by 15 artists, is being held through Feb. 8 at the gallery, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill. Info: 914-737-1212 or [peekskill.org](http://peekskill.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](mailto:Jennifer@rosenthaljcc.org).

**Jewish Center Services:** Sabbath services now begin at 6:15 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](http://www.info@yorktownjewishcenter.org).

**Temple Beth Am Shabbat:** Temple Beth Am welcomes all for Shabbat every Friday evening at 8 p.m. Our modern Sabbath service has a spiritual and engaging feel while following traditional modes. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown. For information, please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or e-mail him at [rabbiiw@optonline.net](mailto:rabbiiw@optonline.net).

**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, Dec. 27

**Battle Commemoration:** The 70th anniversary of The Battle of the Bulge is being commemorated at the Westchester Veterans Museum at the Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial, located on Route 35 in Katonah. The exhibit will continue from 2 to 7 p.m. weekends, Dec. 27 and 28, and from 4 to 7 p.m. weekdays, Dec. 29 and 30. The exhibit features dozens of photographs of the intense battle during which the outcome of the war was in the balance. The array of images captures the essence of the period, from soldiers' day-to-day routines to their experiences on the front lines, and includes images of the allies, aggressors and civilians as well. The exhibit is running concurrently with the month-long Lasdon Holiday on the Hill event. For more information, go to [parks.westchestergov.com](http://parks.westchestergov.com) or call 914-864-7268.

**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 Anonymous:** Worried about the way you eat? If food rules your life, Overeaters Anonymous 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.

## Sunday, Dec. 28

**Winter Broadway Cabaret:** M & M Productions will present Vicki & Clif Act II in A Winter Broadway Cabaret at 2 p.m. at the Somers Library. The event, which is being sponsored by the Friends of the Somers Library, will feature classic and contemporary Broadway and an American Songbook. Registration is not required but seating is limited and will be on a first-come, first-seated basis. Call the library at 914 232-5717 for any questions.

**De-Stressing:** De-Stressing and Re-Newing for the New Year: Opening the Creative Avenue in Your Heart will be presented by Susan Schefflein at 10:30 a.m. at the Fourth Unitarian Society, 1698 Strawberry Rd., Mohegan Lake. Optional exercises may involve drawing, using colors, and relaxing into the New Year. Info: [fourthuu.org](http://fourthuu.org).

**Healing Yoga:** Yoga classes for women with breast cancer are held at 5 p.m. on Sundays at Hudson Yoga, 5 Old Post Rd. South, Croton-on-Hudson. Weekly classes are being conducted by rotating instructors. The suggestion is \$15. Info: Ellisha Simpson at 914-319-4010 or send

an e-mail to [info@laughingheartsyoga.com](mailto:info@laughingheartsyoga.com).

## Monday, Dec. 29

**Musical Munchkins:** The Yorktown Musical Munchkins meet on Mondays from

9:30 to 10:15 a.m. at the Yorktown Stage Theater in room 12. The program is for older babies up to the 1's. Free trial classes are offered. Info: 914-771-7000 or [www.musicalmunchkins.com](http://www.musicalmunchkins.com).

**Free Jazz Sessions:** Free Jazz Jam Sessions are being held every Monday at The Winery at St. George, 1715 E. Main St., Mohegan Lake. Info: 914-455-4272.

Tuesday, Dec. 30

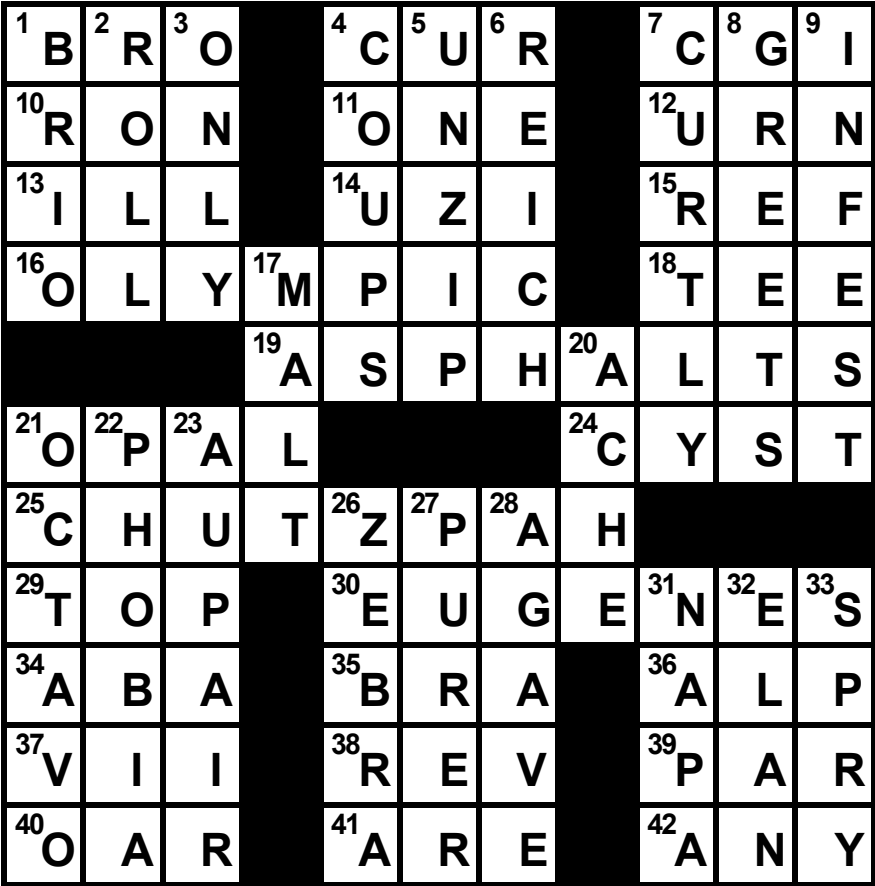
**Blood Drive:** The Church of the Holy Spirit, 1969 Crompond Road, Cortlandt, will hold its winter blood drive from 3 to 9 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center. Walk-ins are welcome. For additional information, please call 914-737-2316.

**Helping Homeless Veterans:** The Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 21 and My Brother Vinny need your help in assisting homeless veterans. Once a homeless veteran is approved by the government for apartment living, the veteran needs all the furnishings, linens, towels, cooking, eating utensils to set up his new apartment. One item that is desperately needed is window air conditioners. Anyone who wishes to donate an air conditioner, bed linens or towels may drop them off at St. Luke's Church's basement, Route 100, Somers NY. Hours of drop-off are Monday and Wednesday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and from 2 to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please leave your name and address so we may thank you. Info: 914-277-4822.

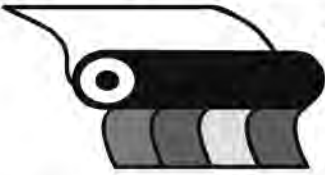
## Wednesday, Dec. 31

**Paramount New Year's Eve:** New Year's Eve Dance the Night Away will be presented at the Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. The night will kick off at 9 p.m. with Peekskill's Best of the Valley Battle of the Bands Winners: Phineas and the Lonely Leaves. There will be performances by Sponge Worthy and headlining musician Ali Isabella. Come dance the night away on stage at our special after-hours party hosted by SG Sounds. All-access tickets are \$65 (+tax/fees) and include a wristband and unlimited beer & wine pass. Ring in the New Year at a midnight champagne toast and watch the ball drop on South Street. Tickets can be purchased in-person at the box office, over the phone at 914-738-0039, or on-line at [boxoffice@paramounthudsonvalley.com](mailto:boxoffice@paramounthudsonvalley.com)





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The Northern Westchester

Examiner

Sports

Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

December 23 -December 29, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

Slaughter

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Section 1

Champ Peekskill

Busts Up

Mahopac, 64-42



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Peekskill sophomore Kayla Slaughter attacks rack against Mahopac defender Amanda Geyer in the Red Devils' 64-42 win over the Indians last Thursday, which was much closer than the score (and the play-on-words headline) would indicate as the resolute but foul-plagued Indians were within six points with 3:00 to go before the two-time reigning Section 1 Class A champs poured it on down the stretch... see Girls' Hoops Notebook



# Sports

## Boys Hoops Notebook

# Somers Establishing Something Special, Win DePaoli Tourney

## Grossman Tabbed MVP, Tuskers Take Mahopac in Finale

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor

During his spirited time on earth, longtime Somers High educator and former Tusker basketball boss Michael DePaoli was a man's man, a firm believer in going all out and believing in one's convictions. DePaoli, who passed away in 199xx would have been awfully proud of the rough-and-tumble effort his former basketball team put forth in the 19th annual Michael DePaoli Memorial Holiday Basketball Tournament where the host Tuskers knocked off a physical Mahopac team by a 54-46 count last Saturday. Tournament MVP Ryan Grossman was one of a handful of Tuskers doing work at both ends of the floor, as the deep, balanced Tuskers improved to 5-0 on a night when testosterone flowed freely among both sides.

In the Tuskers' 64-34 opening-round rout of previously undefeated Irvington on Friday, senior forward and All-Tourney choice Anthony Maestri led Somers with 24 points, all coming in the game's first three quarters.

Mahopac junior G Christian Donahoe scored 15 points, and the Indians won their opening-round game, defeating reigning Section 1 Class A champion Walter Panas, 68-46, last Thursday.

Truth be told, though, this weekend was Somers' coming-out party, as the Tuskers seemingly identified themselves as legitimate Class A title contenders. If the Tuskers weren't already on the Class A radar, they are now, as Coach Chris DiCintio's has assembled a cast of characters as good as any Somers has seen in quite some time, including the John Decker-led Tuskers of 2012-13. Decker

led Somers to its first playoff win since the championship days of Willy Dietrich and Derek Hyra in 1992, and Grossman will be the first to tell you that the 2015 Tuskers have eyes for the big prize as they hope to win Somers' second gold ball ever.

"Our goal is to get to the County Center and see what happens," the sweet-stroking Grossman said.

Certainly, the road to the fabled Mecca of Section 1 hoops goes through state-ranked (No. 2) Spring Valley this season, and it will take a mighty tall task for

league slate tips off after the break and it appears to be loaded with talent as Somers, Greeley, John Jay CR, Yorktown, Fox Lane and Brewster were a combined 28-8 as of Sunday.

"The team is long, strong, athletic and deep," DiCintio, now in his third year at Somers, said. "It's a good group of kids to coach. They really like each other. Their biggest challenge will be being able to stay grounded, focused and hungry all season. I'm hoping the fact that we have nine seniors will help keep us focused. If they continue to work hard, stay hungry and handle adversity when it hits, they'll be a tough group all season."

And as DiCintio continues about changing the culture at Somers; turning a town of former stiffes into ballers, big Mike DePaoli is looking down on them with prideful eyes.

Here's a look at the last Feb 5 Poll (#hashtag edition).

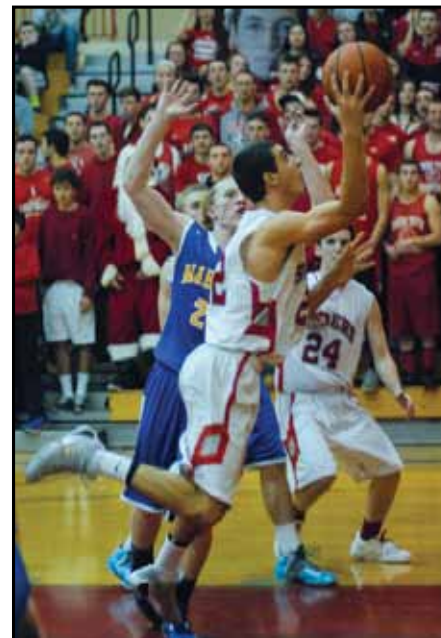
### Putnam/NWE Feb Five Hoops Poll

**No.1 SOMERS** – Coach DiCintio's Class A Tuskers didn't even play real well and still handled a Mahopac team that doesn't



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Mahopac's Christian Donahoe skips the lane for two in loss to Somers.

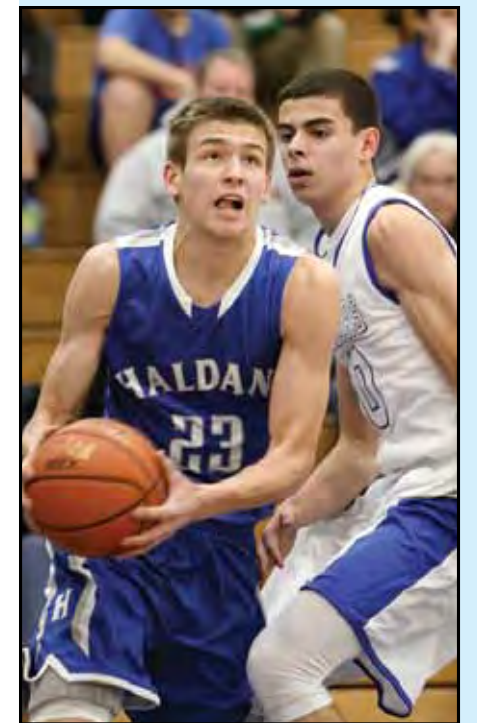


Somers G Nick Lombardo gets past Mahopac G Aiden Hynes in Tusker win.

anyone to bump the Tigers off, but who's to say Somers couldn't put the fear of God in them? Why not us? #TuskerNation. The



Tusker Pat Melly looks for a crease in Mahopac defense.



Haldane's Peter Hoffmann (33) is guarded by Hen Hud's Jesse Breeding in Blue Devils' win over Sailors.

know the word quit. Grossman, Tommy Gargiulo, Matt Maloney, Anthony Maestri, Nick Lombardo and ox-like Pat Melly are on a mission to visit County Center Final 4 for first time since 1992. I'm not one to bet against them #Final4Mission.

**No.2 YORKTOWN** – Nick DeGennaro had 13 points, three rebounds, three assists, and four steals while Mason



# Sports

## Boys Hoops Notebook

Dyslin had 10 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks in 43-34 win over Lakeland. Don't look now but the Class A Huskers are 4-1 to start the Downes era in fancy fashion. Quite anxious to see the Huskers



Somers F Anthony Maestri attacks rack in win over Lakeland.

vs. Tuskers when we come out of the break on Jan.7 when @THE\_CROP hosts @Tusker\_Nation #GetYourPopcornReady #BestCrowdWins.

"I thought with the exception of the Peekskill game we have been decent on the defensive end," Downes said. "We are still a work in progress but improving. We will have to step it up as we move into league play. Being 4-1 is good but we have a lot of work to do."

**No.3 MAHOPAC** – Coach Harter Class AA Indians (3-3) have absolutely no quit in them; they just lack a true go-to scorer for the first time since before Ryan Wagner (2009-ish). They will make up for that as much as they can with brawn and attitude but it's going to lead to nip-and-tuck affairs from start to finish, just like we saw in 54-46 loss to Somers. Chris Esernio led the way with 14 points, Christian Donahoe had 10, but I'd really like to know how this unit finished dead-last at Panas tourney #StillStumpedByThat.

**No.4 HALDANE** – Coach Virgadamo's defending Section 1 Class C champion Blue Devils are the truth and threat to repeat this March, but we'll be very interested to see how they match up with North Salem in 8th annual Putnam Hoops Challenge at Carmel High on Jan.3

(6:00 pm) and Putnam Valley for league bragging rights. Senior F Peter Hoffman is oftentimes the best player on the court and that edge has been key during 3-1 start #BestPlayerInThisPoll.

**No.5 PANAS** – Coach Sully's reigning Section 1 Class A champion Panthers (3-4) are averaging well under 50 PPG and have not found any consistency in their sets, but do have W's over Irvington, Mahopac and Brewster. With Ossining and Hen Hud up after the break, we suspect they'll work that out in time for Peekskill tilt on Jan. 13, but we're expecting more from a former champion #DefendWithPride.

**HM CROTON** – Not quite sure what to make of the Mayclim tourney final loss to struggling Carmel, but Coach Thom's Class B Tigers (4-1) were looking the part of a title contender until then. Hoping to get a better gauge on them on Jan.3 (4:00 pm) at Putnam Hoops Challenge against a vastly improved John Jay CR club. Up next, though is a challenge game against Harrison on Dec. 27 at 3 p.m. in the 16th annual Slam Dunk Challenge. Coach Thom's beard is sick #NoPlayForMrGray.

**HM PUTNAM VALLEY** – Coach McDonnell's Class B Tigers (3-4) have been in every game this season they've lost, even their first-round tourney loss to Class AA heavyweight Arlington (who set that up?). Aren't you supposed to set up a layup in the first-round #EveryoneElseDoes, maybe Sacred Heart or Spackenkill first,



Somers G Matt Maloney gets a step on Mahopac G Christian Donahoe in Tuskers' win over Indians.



Mahopac's Chris Esernio tries to take Ryan Grossman off dribble.

Arlington next? Tigers will get a chance to prove they are a top 5 club when they face Peekskill on Jan.3 (2:00 pm) in Putnam Hoops Challenge at Carmel High. We think the Ryan Basso-led Valley has enough to surprise in this setting. Basso earned All-Tourney after dropping 22 on Sacred Heart be he needs a consistent #RightHandMan as 2nd scorer.

**HM PEEKSKILL** – I do believe Coach Turner's Class A Red Devils (1-5) are better than their record would indicate and a quality win over P.V. on Jan. 3 would prove that, but to date we haven't seen enough to warrant a Fab 5 ranking. The 4 losses have come against some tough clubs, including perennial powers Poughkeepsie and White Plains, plus unbeaten Greeley and AA Mahopac, so don't believe the negative jive that Peekskill is #WashedUp just yet.

**HM LAKELAND** – Since beating Putnam Valley and Mahopac (there was so much hope for my alma mater after those two W's), Coach Weltman's Class A Hornets (3-5) have failed to crack more than 42 points in successive losses to Irvington, Somers, Yorktown and Cornwall, totaling a paltry 140 points #PlayLikeIts4thQvsPV.

**HM CARMEL** – Might the Mayclim



Lakeland's Nick Fazio drops jump hook in loss to Somers last Tuesday.

Tournament title at Croton be the turning point for Coach Venditto's underachieving Class AA Rams (2-4)? Let's not get too crazy about a pair of wins over two Class B clubs – Croton & Dobbs – but it's at least a step in the right direction for a team that has thoroughly underwhelmed to date. Ram G Ryan Train had 16 points 5 rebounds 6 assists as they defeated Croton-Harmon, 56-51, while center John Alexander added 15 points and 5 rebounds with Quinn Willman adding 8 points and 5 steals. #Big3 getting it done. Carmel vs. Brewster in Putnam Hoops Challenge on Jan.3 should tell us more, as will Jan.7 playdate with Mahopac, whom they haven't beaten twice in the last 14 tries and not since 2012 #EndTheTomfoolery.

**HM HEN HUD** – Was all set to put Coach Hirsch's Class A Sailors (4-1) into the Fab 5 until they were whooped pretty soundly by Haldane #BounceBackOrBeDoomed.

**HM BREWSTER** – Coach Nelly's Class A Bears (2-4) gave a good Fox Lane club fits in a 67-64 loss, which is an indication the Bears are much better than 2-4 says they are but #YouAreWhatYourRecordSaysYouAre.



Carmel Rams pose with hardware after winning Croton's Mayclim Tournament.



## Sports

## Girls Hoops Notebook

# Red Hot Red Devils Picking up Loscher's System

## Peekskill out of Gate at 6-0; Ossining Preps for Slam Dunk Tourney

By Tony Pinciario

Through its first six games, the two-time defending Section 1 Class A champion PEEKSKILL girls' varsity basketball team has been perfect.

Peekskill is 6-0 and the transition style to first-year coach Steve Loscher has been a quick study. The Lady Red Devils doubled their win total from the previous week with victories over Fox Lane (67-51), Somers (65-43) and Mahopac (64-42).

"Everything was totally new to the girls," said Loscher, who was the SUNY-Purchase women's basketball coach for eight years. "After our first two games, in the Tappan Zee tournament, that's where the girls saw what we were teaching them worked and they started to believe. It also helped with the rapport between the girls and myself."

Even though Peekskill opened with three straight wins, Loscher said the girls did not let it affect them. The girls continue to work hard every day in practice and they are seeing the results in games.

"I am pleased with their effort and their sportsmanship," Loscher said. "It has been excellent as has their support for one another."

Loscher is not the only one who has noticed it. Opposing coaches have complimented Loscher on his team's effort.

"In games, coaches have said to me they've never seen a Peekskill team get on the floor so much, after a loose ball," Loscher said. "We're focusing on doing the little things, going after that loose ball, taking charges and the effort is contagious."



Peekskill's Lanay Rodney is chased by Mahopac's Carly Pease as Rodney drops two of her game-high 26 in Red Devil win.

Along with the aspects that don't show on the statistics sheet, Loscher pointed out that his team has executed in a few offensive areas he stressed.

"I wanted the girls to run more and take more shots and they have done this," Loscher said. "In one of our games, we took 93 shots."

Loscher is impressed with the contributions he is receiving from everyone, especially forwards Lisana Burnett and Lanay Rodney. He said the two junior forwards have stepped up and provided leadership and solid play.

The only thing that can cool off the red-hot Lady Red Devils, right now, is the Christmas break. Peekskill has two weeks off before returning to action, Jan. 7.

Loscher said the break is good because the girls have been working really hard, which they had to do to fend off Mahopac last Thursday, as the Indians proved a worth foe despite the score (the Indians cut the lead to 6 with 3:00 to play).

**OSSINING**, the two-time defending NYS Class AA champion, had a light week, playing fellow perennial power Archbishop Molloy in the annual Pauline Ricci Memorial Scholarship Game. Molloy spoiled the night with a 69-63 victory.

"The Molloy game could have went either way, as could of the last three we won against them," Ricci said. "That's the type of game that makes our players better."

Despite the loss, Ossining gained a win as Jalay Knowles was selected as the Con Ed Scholar-Athlete Award Winner.

"Jalay is an outstanding kid who started out as this awkward eighth-grader and has become the most dominant player in the section this year," Ricci said. "What is even more impressive is what a nice kid she is."

Ossining, now 3-2 this season, has the week off before resuming with the annual Slam-Dunk Tournament at the Westchester County Center, Dec. 28. Ossining will play Jamesville-DeWitt of Section 3 (Syracuse area), which is in the Pride's group along with Albany High School (Section 2) and Bishop Loughlin.

"The Slam Dunk tournament is always great for us," Ricci said. "I love



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Mahopac's Carly Ravoli looks to outlet against defense of Peekskill's Aubrey Dabbs.

playing during the break and the venue is awesome.

"(Organizers) Lou DeMello and Kevin Cook do a great job of bringing in top-level teams and this year is no exception. Our bracket is Jamesville Dewitt, Albany and Bishop Loughlin, so we are guaranteed two strong opponents. And playing strong teams makes you better."

**KENNEDY** played Class AA New Rochelle and lost, 43-37. Tara Heslin Scott led the Lady Gaels with 18 points and six rebounds while Megan Weidenhamer added eight points and eight boards.

Kennedy coach Lance DeMarzo and his girls will introduce the inaugural Jingle Bell Classic, Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 27-28. The Lady Gaels will welcome Preston, Cathedral and St. John Villa (Staten Island).

The first-round matchups are Preston vs. St. John Villa (1 p.m.) followed by Cathedral-Kennedy (3 p.m.). The consolation game is scheduled for Sunday, 1 p.m., followed by the championship game at 3 p.m.

"This is the first year for our Jingle Bell Classic tournament," DeMarzo said. "I put it together



Mahopac's Caroline Horan is hounded by Peekskill's Lisana Burnett.

over the summer. I don't know if there ever was a girls' tournament for Christmas time at Kennedy.

"I thought it would be a great tradition to start. It should be a good tournament. There's a lot of young talent on Cathedral, St. John Villa and Preston."

Kennedy opened the week with Preston, Monday.



Peekskill's Lisana Burnett splits two Mahopac defenders en route to hoop in Red Devil win over Indians last Thursday.



## Sports

## Wrestling Notebook

# Put Valley Tigers Clawing, Pawing Way to Top of D-II Ranks

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor

Defending Section 1 D-II wrestling champion Putnam Valley added one more feather to its cap last week, winning the Section 1 D2 dual meet championships behind a 42-39 win over previously No.1 ranked Pearl River in a match that went down to the wire when senior Sam Honors locked it up.

"It's one more great honor to our record books," said PV wrestling Coach Will Carano, the longest tenured coach in Put Valley history and the program's only coach since it took flight at the turn of the century. "Senior Sam Honors won by fall to seal it. He could have easily felt the pressure in that spot and not done as well, but this year is a different year for Sam. It was incredible for him and the team to finish that off. We're just building on our historic season from last year. We didn't expect to do this well in duals on account of the fact that we have some holes in our lineup, but these kids just sought out every possible bonus point."

Tigers Mikey Bruno, Kyle Sams, Satoshi Abe, Sam Honors, Willie Messenger, Erdis Canaj and Constantine George picked up big wins for the Valley, which has now established itself the lead dog in the race for the 2015 D-II title.



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Young PV wrestler Mikey Bruno's stage is set for big doings as he attempts to repeat as section champ this year.

The Tigers, who have achieved success by building its youth program, has realized a terrific three-year run that (1st in 2014, 2nd in 2013 and 3rd in 2012) should extend to a fourth year when the Tigers get to full health. They've done what they have this season minus the services of junior stud Noah Kelvis (injured), who will provide a major boost to the middle of the lineup upon his return.

Sams is not one to sleep on either. His uncles, Micah and Sharif, are considered to be among the top wrestlers in Croton-Harmon history; some, like this scribe, considered Micah among the most technically sound Croton-Harmon wrestlers ever. Like his uncles, Kyle Sams is hoping to carve out a storied career at or near 106 pounds. Micah Sams only came away with one sectional title (if I recall correctly), but he was in the finals every year in the wee-90s, and that was at a time when small schools like the Sam Occhipinti-led Croton Tigers were holding their own and slamming with major programs like Suffern and Harrison. Those were some sick days, when men were men and grapplers grappled.

"He's a young tough competitor," Carano said of Sams. "We've got a lot of those types of kids and once we fill in the holes

in the lineup, we'll shift our attention toward defending our sectional title to the best of our ability."

So far, so good...

**BREWSTER** has been tearing up the mats on the other side of Putnam County, winning the Lewis Johnson Memorial Duals in Ravena, NY last Saturday. Bears senior captain Nick McGill won Most Outstanding Wrestler honors, going undefeated and leading the Bears to a 5-0 finish. All this on the heels of Brewster having placed first at the Yorktown duals as well. Junior Mike Larm and senior Joe Petrogallo were also unbeaten at Ravena. The Bears are hitting on many cylinders and hope to put some kids on the podium later this winter...

**YORKTOWN** didn't win a ton of matches at the 38th annual Tony Carlucci Dual Meet Tournament at Purchase College over the weekend, but give the Huskers deserve mad respect for showing up in a field that includes some of the top programs in the region. This is how we improve and the Huskers will do just that.



Put Valley's Satoshi Abe was dominant as D-II duals.



PV grappler Rudy Gonzalez works a move.



Put Valley hopes to get injured star Jared Eliopoulos back from elbow injury ASAP.



Put Valley's Erdis Canaj works a pin.



# RG-33 Rips! Somers Sniper Leads Tuskers to Tourney Title



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Somers senior swingman Ryan Grossman, known now as RG-33 among @Tusker\_Nation, lifts for three of the game-high 27 points he would score en route to an MVP performance in the Tuskers' 54-46 victory over Mahopac last Saturday night in the 19th annual Michael DePaoli Holiday Basketball Tournament where Coach Chris DiCintio's Tuskers improved to 5-0 on the year... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

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