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July 1 - July 7, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 238

# ZBA Decision Likely to Be Favorable for Sober Home

By Rick Pezzullo

It appears the Yorktown Zoning Board of Appeals is leaning towards upholding an interpretation of the town code that could pave the way for a sober living residence on Underhill Avenue.

During a lengthy discussion at a meeting last week, three of the four sitting ZBA members made remarks supporting a written

opinion by Building Inspector John Winter that the proposed facility for recovering alcohol and substance abuse addicts falls under the definition of a "convalescent home."

In May, the ZBA closed a public hearing on an appeal from neighbors Linda Girolonda and Al French that the sober home proposed by Compass Westchester does not fit the criteria of either a convalescent

home or a nursing home, which are treated the same in the town's Zoning Code and, therefore, it should not be allowed to be considered for a three-year special permit by the Town Board.

By closing the hearing, the ZBA started a 62-day clock to make a decision. Since the ZBA doesn't meet again until July 24, the applicants had to agree to give the ZBA an additional day to issue a determination.

Attorneys for Compass Westchester have maintained Winter was correct in identifying the sober home residence with a convalescent home since it meets the criteria of having three or more people who suffer from any disease, infirmity or ailment and are habitually kept or bordered.

The terms convalescent and nursing home were added to Yorktown's Zoning Code in 1969 and special permits for such uses were issued by the ZBA. That was amended in 1997 and the special permit authority was transferred to the Town Board.

Tom McCrossan and partner Mark McGoldrick of Compass Westchester closed on the home at 482 Underhill Avenue on April 4. Reportedly, the home sold for \$1.2 million. The listing price was just below \$1.5 million.

# Foul Play Ruled Out in Death of Man Found in Car in Yorktown

By Rick Pezzullo

Yorktown police have ruled out foul play in the death of a 26-year-old Massachusetts man found in a vehicle Friday morning on Old Croton Lake Road near the Croton watershed.

The unidentified man was first discovered by an employee with the New York Department of Environmental Protection shortly before 11 a.m. in the driver's seat of a sport utility vehicle with Massachusetts license plates.

Police considered the death suspicious at the time but on Monday concluded after a preliminary investigation that no foul play was involved. Police were assisted in their investigation by the DEP and Westchester County Medical Examiner's Office.

The man's next of kin have been notified and an investigation is continuing, according to Yorktown Police Lieutenant Kevin Soravilla.

# Man Killed by Train near Peekskill Station

An unidentified man was struck and killed by a Metro-North train about 3:10 a.m. Monday near the Peekskill train station.

Metropolitan Transit Authority officials said the man, who did not have any

identification on him, was trespassing in an area on the tracks off limits to pedestrians.

The track was cleared in time for the morning commute. An investigation is continuing.



EVAN LEFKOWITZ PHOTO

## Graduation 2014

Seniors throughout northern Westchester celebrated their graduations last week and over the weekend. For names and photos of students from area high schools, see special 16-page graduation section inside.

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# Jockeying for Open Seat in Yorktown Begins for Diana, Siegel

By Rick Pezzullo

The special election for the open seat on the Yorktown Town Board may not be until November, but the two candidates vying for the pivotal position have already begun campaigning and receiving endorsements.

Citizens for a Progressive Yorktown, a small, two-year-old group of residents that support "intelligent and responsible business development," jumped into the race early by officially backing Tom Diana, who is running on the Republican line.

Diana, a retired police officer and owner of a local oil delivery and service company, ran last year as a Democrat in an unsuccessful bid for highway superintendent against Dave Paganelli. Now, Diana is in the process of switching his political allegiance in hopes of filling the seat left vacant by Paganelli.

In announcing the group's support for Diana, Bill Primavera, communications director for Democrats for Diana, said most of the group was registered Democrats who were crossing party lines to endorse Diana over former Supervisor Susan Siegel, who has secured the Democratic, Conservative and Independence lines.

"We never endorsed political candidates, but stuck to the issues at hand. However, in the past year, the political environment in Yorktown has changed radically and, we believe, in a very un-



Tom Diana and Democrats for Diana spokesman Bill Primavera

healthy way," Primavera stated. "At this juncture, our Town Board is deadlocked with four board members, two of whom are progressive and two of whom are, in our opinion, detrimental to the future of Yorktown as a robust community."

"A special election for a vitally needed fifth board member beckons us to action to seek public support for a progressive candidate to move Yorktown forward. That candidate is Tom Diana," Primavera continued. "To us, it's the right person for the job, not the party, that is important. We feel that it is critical that he be elected in November to turn the tide

of ennui and negativity that now holds Yorktown captive."

Siegel, who served one term as supervisor before being ousted by Michael Grace in 2011, questioned the endorsement of Citizens for a Progressive Yorktown, saying the group failed to outline Diana's qualifications or credentials to serve on the Town Board or his knowledge about town government.

"The announcement made it very clear that the only reason to vote for Mr. Diana was that he would vote with Supervisor Grace and Councilman Murphy, regardless of the merits of the issue," Siegel con-

tended. "The last thing the Town Board needs is another automatic rubber stamp, one that would give the supervisor unfettered control over the board's decisions."

Meanwhile, the Democratic Town Committee in Yorktown extended an open invitation to the Republican Committee to work together to arrange a series of informal forums on town issues leading up to the November 4 election.

"The Republicans seem obsessed with growth and development, but these are not the only issues that a councilperson needs to deal with," said Lisa Mackay, executive director of the Democratic Committee. "The main job of a councilperson is to oversee and facilitate the smooth operation and delivery of town services, find ways to hold the line on expenses and plan for the town's long term infrastructure needs. Most of the town's key development related decisions have already been made and most development plans are handled by the Planning Board, not the Town Board."

The November 4 election could produce another vacancy on the Town Board as Murphy is running for the state Senate seat being vacated by Greg Ball. To date, the Town Board has been unable to reach consensus on drafting legislation that would allow a special election when an open seat occurs.

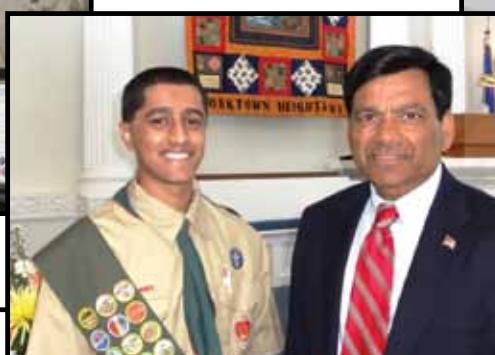
## Five Eagle Scout Ceremonies in a week. Eleven Eagle Scouts. Councilman Vishnu Patel Congratulates All!



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Tanay Bhandarkar  
Troop 165



Parker Baltazar, Michael Brazeau, Timothy Connelly and Robert Gonfiantini, Newest Eagle Scouts in Troop 173



Victor Monge, Troop 165

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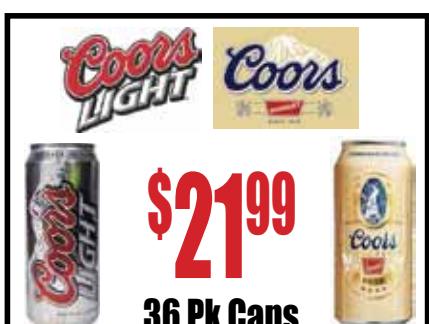
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# Strauss Retires After 14 Years as Principal at Walter Panas High



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO  
Susan Strauss

By Rick Pezzullo

Walter Panas High School Principal Susan Strauss bid farewell to students, administrators and parents Saturday in predictable fashion with her trademark phrase, "The choices you make today shape your world tomorrow."

For 14 years at Panas, Strauss would conclude her Monday message to students over the school's PA system with those words of wisdom, a quote that became engrained in student's minds, as evidenced by the graduating seniors

finishing Strauss' quote before she did at the conclusion of the ceremony at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

"I want you all to know how much of a privilege I feel my 14 years at Panas have been and how wonderful it has been to build so many school-family partnerships with the parents/guardians of our students. We have a truly remarkable school community, and everyone's contributions of time and energy have made it so," Strauss stated in her final newsletter to the Panas community.

"When I first started here, Panas had a sad, long-standing reputation as a 'step-sister' school to Lakeland High School. My mission was to make sure that this erroneous impression in the greater community was dispelled," she said. "I am so proud that today, thanks to many efforts, our school conveys an image of confident success in every aspect---our course offerings, student scores, student college acceptances to top tier and Ivy League schools, impressive athletic accomplishments, our outstanding teachers and staff, and, of course, the appearance of our school and campus."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. George Stone announced that Strauss will be replaced on an interim basis by Direc-

tor of Guidance Philip Kavanagh until January when Keith Yi will take over. Yi served as assistant principal of Panas in the past before becoming principal at Dobbs Ferry High School. Most recently, Ki has served as head of a South Korean school.

Other longtime educators retiring from Panas this year included popular special education teacher Linda Davis, English teacher Sue Erickson and modern language teacher Julia Dengler.

## Yorktown Resident Graduates from Oakwood Friends School

Maximilian Meere-Weigel of Yorktown graduated from the Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie on June 13. Meere-Weigel has been at Oakwood Friends since eighth grade and was among a graduating class of 31.

Oakwood Friends School, founded in 1796, is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory day and boarding school serving grades 6-12 and is guided by Quaker values.



Graduate Joey Bassmann and his family were all smiles following the Pines Bridge School graduation in Yorktown where 10 students with multiple

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## Breaking into the New York City Market, William Raveis Announces 100th Office

*Together with Paul Purcell and Kathy Braddock, Raveis plans to open East 56th Street office*

William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage & Insurance recently announced their latest venture: William Raveis New York City. Together with New York veterans Paul Purcell and Kathy Braddock, William Raveis plans to open its first office in New York City on July 1, 2014.

"We've been waiting to enter New York City for a long time," said Bill Raveis, chairman and chief executive officer of William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage & Insurance. "Our business model offers a stark contrast from how things are typically done in New York. We believe that our brokers are our customers, and we are constantly innovating our own business so we can empower them to innovate their own."

William Raveis was founded in 1974 in Connecticut, but has since expanded to be the largest family-owned real estate company in the Northeast, with offices in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Vermont.

The company prides itself on its unique approach to the real estate industry, giving brokers the opportunity to form teams and brand themselves, providing the chance to build their own business within the company. William Raveis also offers a real estate concierge service, a live call center that passes leads on to individual brokers.

"New York City is undoubtedly a different market," said Raveis. "That's why we're excited to bring a new business model to the brokers working here. We're also thrilled to be working closely

with Paul and Kathy as we start this new chapter. They know the New York City real estate market better than anyone."



William Raveis  
Chairman and CEO



Kathy Braddock  
Managing Director



Paul Purcell  
Managing Director

Paul Purcell and Kathy Braddock have more than 50 years of combined experience in residential real estate. Most recently, they were the co-founders of Rutenberg Realty, and worked to turn the firm into the sixth-largest in New York City. Additionally, Paul and Kathy worked as president and general sales manager, respectively, for Douglas Elliman Real Estate. They also have a successful consulting firm, braddock + purcell.

"I have known Bill for almost 30 years," said Paul Purcell, managing director of William Raveis New York City. "We worked together when William Raveis purchased Douglas Elliman's Greenwich and Darien branches. Kathy and I were both impressed by how prepared the company was for the hand-off. From the day we made the announcement it was a seamless transition."

"We've had an overwhelmingly positive response to the prospect of bringing William Raveis to the city," said Kathy Braddock, managing director of William Raveis New York City. "Bill truly has an entrepreneurial spirit, and his philosophy of 'the agent is our customer' is something that will be unique here. I think people are ready for a change, and the concept of a family-owned business is intriguing to a lot of people."

*The William Raveis New York City office is scheduled to open on July 1, 2014 and is located in Tower 56 at East 56th Street between Park and Lexington avenues.*

For more information, please contact us

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# Legislators Seek Law to Modernize Sign for People with Disabilities

By Rick Pezzullo

State Assemblywoman Sandra Galef (D/Ossining) and Senator David Carlucci (D/Rockland) joined advocates for people with disabilities in Ossining last week to urge Governor Andrew Cuomo to sign legislation to modernize the Universal Symbol of Access.

The legislation, which passed in both the Assembly and the Senate, would make New York the first state in the nation to eliminate the word "handicapped" and change the 46-year-old icon symbol

on signs to represent a wheelchair-bound individual in motion.

"A picture is worth a thousand words," Galef said. "These new signs and this new language call for businesses, schools, governments and organizations to help change negative to positive, static to mobile, and help to further incorporate our differently abled community into the mainstream."

"We are again leading the way by being the first state in the nation to pass legislation to update our outdated 'handicap'



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Assemblywoman Galef and Senator Carlucci with advocates for people with disabilities in Ossining.

signs with a more active, engaging accessibility symbol," Carlucci said. "This is something that's being talked about internationally."

Mel Tanzman, executive director of Westchester Disabled on the Move, said he hoped Cuomo signed the legislation before the 24th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26.

"Language and stereotypical images have limited and marginalized people with disabilities for too long," he said. "It's time for government to lead through its actions."

The bill would not require replacing old signs currently around the state, but would mandate when any new signs are

created they must feature the new symbol and/or new language.

Dan Harris, a longtime advocate for the Accessible Icon Project who is wheelchair-bound, said for too long the word handicapped as identified such individuals as being "helpless victims."

"Words and images really do shape the way we see ourselves as people with disabilities," he said. "Just like the disabilities rights movement has always been about getting people with disabilities out into the community, the Accessible Icon is now the next step in this movement to show that we are actively engaged community members."



Local officials enjoyed the festivities at Peekskill's recent Juneteenth Parade.

[yorktownlions.org](http://yorktownlions.org)

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# 96 days to 20th Annual Support-A-Walk Support Connection Second to None for Cancer Survivor/Volunteer

By Rick Pezzullo

When Ilene Cohen was diagnosed at age 49 with ovarian cancer and underwent surgery on July 1, 1994, she didn't have the services of Support Connection to lean on since the non-profit organization had not been established yet.

"It would have been nice to have Support Connection," Cohen said. "I had a very supportive family, but with Support Connection I would have had someone comfortable to call and they would have been able to give me answers to questions I had."

Cohen, a 42-year resident of Yorktown, had no history of cancer in her family when she received the news from her gynecologist during a routine exam. She had no pain and attributed her tighter clothes to middle age.

"I couldn't believe it. It was just out of the blue," she recalled. "I was very shocked and very scared. I thought maybe my midlife was coming on. I didn't think anything serious was going on, certainly not anything to see the doctor about."

Knowing little about ovarian cancer, Cohen said she went to the library to read books about the disease. She had to endure six rounds of chemotherapy after



Ilene Cohen

surgery to ensure her body was cancer-free.

Two years later, she received a postcard about the second annual Support-A-Walk at FDR State Park and Support

Connection opening its first office in Yorktown. She stopped in and met Executive Director Kathy Quinn and attended the walk, which forever hooked her on the organization.

"You think this is going to be so depressing seeing all these people with cancer but it was so uplifting. Everyone was very joyful," Cohen said. "There was just a feeling of support and love all around. It was a good feeling."

Since that time, Cohen has attended the walk as part of Friends of Ilene and has volunteered two to four days a week, with her main responsibility maintain a mailing list that now exceeds 17,000 people.

"It's just a unique experience. I don't know of any other organization like it," she said. "You can call any time. They're very compassionate, they're knowledgeable. They have been there. They know what you're going through. They will take you through the entire process, from the very beginning of diagnosis through treatment and surgery, and what to expect after."

Cohen said she no longer worries about cancer returning as she did for the first few years when she was on "pins and needles" waiting for the results of medi-

cal tests. She said she is grateful to be able to be part of Support Connection and lend a hand to others in need.

"After being through something like this and you don't know if you're going to live or die, you're so relieved and I wanted to give back and help anyone else who was in the same position," she said.

**SUPPORT CONNECTION, INC.** is a 501 (C) (3) not-for-profit organization that provides free, confidential support services and programs to people affected by breast and ovarian cancer. Founded in 1996, Support Connection is based in Yorktown Heights, but through a toll-free hotline and website they serve people throughout the country. Services include: One-on-one peer counseling and support groups, offering women the opportunity to connect with other cancer survivors; Ongoing wellness classes; Holistic health workshops; Public educational programs; Information and referral services; A toll-free cancer information and support hotline (1-800-532-4290.) To learn more, visit [www.supportconnection.org](http://www.supportconnection.org) or call (914) 962-6402.

The 20th annual Support-A-Walk will be held Sunday, October 5 at FDR State Park in Yorktown.

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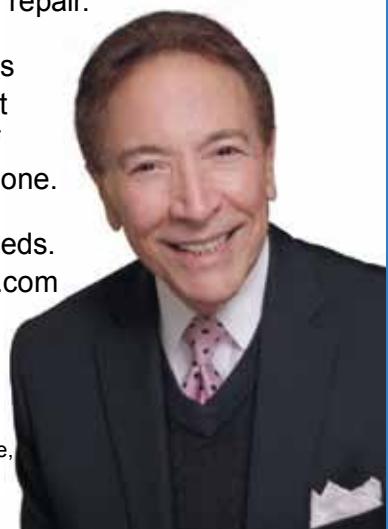
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## Letters

# Yorktown Councilmen Say "No" to Pipeline Threat!

**To the Editor:**

On June 18th, a large citizen turnout and a better understanding of a gas pipeline company's proposed use of Yorktown parkland caused Councilmen Nick Bianco and Vishnu Patel to vote against alienation of Granite Knolls West Park, much to the delight of Yorktown residents who feel they have finally been heard.

Spectra Energy's Algonquin Gas Transmission pipeline proposal called for alienation of Yorktown parkland property but lacked a health and wellness study of the process of cleaning the natural gas pipelines and possible contamination from the radioactive decay products of radon found in unconventional, or fracked, gas from the Marcellus Shale.

Given the lack of transparency, the lack of public meetings, the lack of scientific study and the haste with which the proposals were made to the Yorktown Town Council, the public grew increasingly concerned. After a meeting billed as a "continuation of a work session" where the microphones were not working and the audience could not hear the discussion, where the public

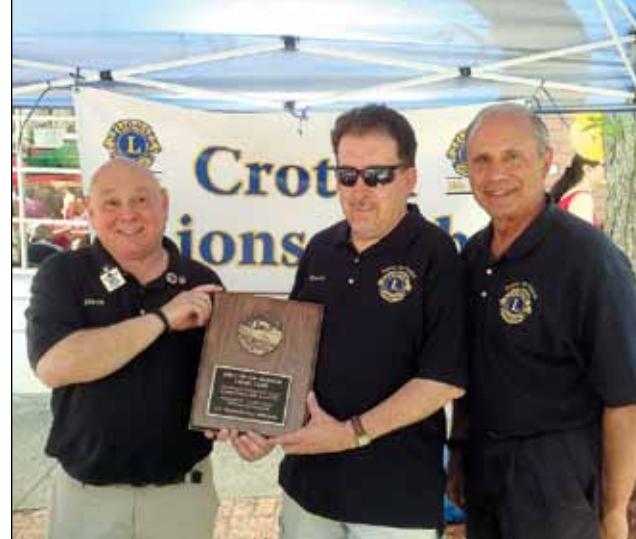
was not allowed to speak and where the representative of Spectra/Algonquin sat with his back to the audience, Councilmen Bianco and Patel indicated that "enough is enough" and voted against the alienation proposal. It did not pass.

These two legislators, Nick Bianco and Vishnu Patel, upheld the principle that government's purpose is to protect

the health and well being of the people, and they voted for that principle and against the ill-proposed change in the parkland status that could have affected the health of the community.

Sincerely,

**WILLIAM MEYER**  
Chairman, Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group



Steve DeName (left), president of the Croton Lions, accepts medallion plaque from Rocco Mastronardi (center), a member of both the Croton Lions and the all-volunteer BCC 9/11 Task Force, while Croton Lions Director and Cortlandt Town Justice Gerald Klein looks on.



FIELDHOME on Catherine Street in Cortlandt celebrated the opening of its Adult Day Care Program with a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 4 with Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace (left) and Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel.

## Letters Policy

We invite readers to share their thoughts by sending letters to the editor. Please limit comments to 250 words. We will do our best to print all letters, but are limited by space constraints. Letters are subject to editing and may be withheld from publication on the discretion of the editor. Please refrain from personal attacks. Email letters to Northern Westchester Examiner Editor-in-Chief Rick Pezzullo at [rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com](mailto:rpezzullo@theexaminernews.com).

The Northern Westchester Examiner requires that all letter writers provide their name, address and contact information.

# Obituaries

## Rhoda Svantner

Rhoda Svantner, a resident of Yorktown, died on June 25, peacefully in her home. She was 88.

She was born on February 5, 1926 in Brooklyn and worked as a medical office manager. She met and married her husband, Rudolph Svantner, in 1965. Mrs. Svantner will always be remembered as a very strong and compassionate woman. She always had a positive outlook on life and it was an inspiration to be around her. She especially enjoyed going on cruises with her family and friends. She also enjoyed spoiling her grandchildren.

She is survived by husband, Rudy, her loving son, Joseph and his wife Josephine, grandchildren Jacqueline, Nicole, Samantha, Danielle, Ben, and Amy, and great-grandchild Jesse. She is also survived by her brother Donald of Florida and many nieces and nephews behind.

## Junco Camper-Salters

Junco Camper-Salters, a Peekskill High School graduate, died on June 20. She was 62.

She was born on February 8, 1952 to Otis Camper Sr. and Susie McLeod Camper in Hattiesburg, MS. She worked at Montrose



Junco Camper-Salters

Hudson Valley V.A. until her retirement. She was currently employed at Walmart at the Cortlandt Town Center. She was a member of the St. John AME Zion Church, where she served on the usher board. Her free time was spent with family and friends.

She leaves to cherish her memories; her mother, Susie McLeod Camper and her three children, Marcus Ruff (Chaina), Karl Sean Ruff (Sharon) and Tanya Ruff-Miles (John). She is also survived by six brothers and sisters, Otis Camper, Jr. (Beatrice), Eddie Lee Camper (Diane), Arcola Camper, Nathaniel Camper (Linda), Jackie Camper, Suzette Camper and Lyvonia Boyd; 14 grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her father, Otis Camper Sr., and brothers, Lawrence Ed-

ward Camper Sr. and Terry Lee Camper.

## Carole Pinto

Carole Elayne Pinto, a longtime Peekskill resident, died on June 27. She was 68.

Born on December 26, 1945 to Edmund and Jewel Bennett, she worked as a secretary at the Peekskill Military Academy, and later worked in finance at Sears in the Beach Shopping Center. She is survived by her loving husband, Andrew "Andy" Pinto and her son, Christopher E. Pinto.

## Frank DiRenno

Frank DiRenno, a resident of Ossining, died June 23. He was 84.

Born May 19, 1930 in Ossining to Fortunato and Mary (Gallo) DiRenno, Mr. DiRenno will be remembered as a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather. Throughout his life he built a reputation for being a solid, dependable and loyal man giving selflessly to everyone he cared for. He enjoyed gardening and music; most of all his collection of Mario Lanza records. He graduated from Ossining High School and worked tirelessly throughout his life to support his family. He worked for the Ossining School District for 36 years as a driver for

special needs children. He also worked for Roosevelt Pharmacy for over 30 years.

In 1955, he married Dolores Gasparro and raised four children; Fortunato, Rosemaria, Frank and Lisa. He will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, his four children and their spouses; eight grandchildren: Frank, Vincent, Christopher, Linda, Frank, Angela, Francesca and Anthony; brother Richard; sister Louise Esposito; and many nieces, nephews and lifelong special friends. He was predeceased by his brother Anthony.

## Louise Berberich

Louise (Pellegrino) Berberich of Bushkill, PA and formerly of Ossining, died June 23. She was 84.

She was born September 26, 1929 in White Plains to Nunzio and Louise (Margotta) Pellegrino. She worked as an office manager at North East News in Ossining and later as head teller at Marine Midland Bank in Ossining.

She is survived by her husband Ronald of Bushkill, PA, sister Elizabeth Lucia of Stony Point and many nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Transfiguration Church in Tarrytown, followed by burial at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

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## Businesses of the Week

**By Neal Rentz**

Yorktown resident Rocky Cambareri has been a regular on local golf courses since he got a job at the Mohansic Golf Course at 11 years old. He translated his passion for golf into his profession.

Cambareri, a PGA member, is one of the owners of the Baldwin Golf Center, which is located in the Baldwin Place section of Somers near the Putnam County border. He is the head golf professional at the Center.

The ownership group purchased the property earlier this year and opened their new endeavor on April 6. The group renovated the property which was previously owned by National Golf Worx and had been closed for about two years.

"The facility was here. The infrastructure was here," he said. "It just required a lot of clean up and some minor renovations."

Baldwin Golf Center provides a driving range, club repair, lesson, and sales of golf supplies. A sand trap was recently created on the site and a renovated putting green is set to open in a few days, Cambareri said. The facility will be open this year "as long as the weather will permit," he said.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Yorktown resident Rocky Cambareri, a PGA member, teed off last week at the driving range at the Baldwin Golf Center in Baldwin Place.

Much effort is required to become a PGA member, Cambareri said. "There's a couple hundred hours worth of course study. There's a Players Ability Test. There's an apprentice program. Like many other professions, you have to pay

your dues," he said. "I grew up under the tutelage of John Paonessa, the head pro at the Mohansic Golf Course."

Cambareri jokingly recalled that he wanted to work at Mohansic as a youth because "it got me out of my mother's

restaurant." For about 30 years his mother, Erminia Cambareri, owned Erminia's Restaurant in Yorktown.

He has competed in several golf tournaments in the local area "and up and down the East Coast." He worked as a golf pro at several local clubs in Westchester and Putnam counties prior to coming to the Baldwin Golf Center.

Cambareri said one of the pleasures of his job is training new golfers, which he has been doing for two decades.

"We see new golfers every year and we develop programs to teach the game and promote the game," he said. "As a PGA member, one of my priorities is the development of the game, developing new golfers."

Cambareri said he has great satisfaction from training junior golfers who played in high school and some who have earned college scholarships and even become PGA member "similar to the way I got started in the business."

*Baldwin Golf Center is located at 57 Route 6 in the Baldwin Place portion of Somers, near the Putnam County border. For more information call 914-628-GOLF or send an e-mail to Rockypga@aol.com.*

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## HAVING GYNECOLOGIC SURGERY?

*What you should know about da Vinci® robot-assisted surgery*



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**Elisa E. Burns, MD, FACOG**

Director, Quality & Outcomes  
Institute for Robotic & Minimally Invasive Surgery  
Northern Westchester Hospital  
[nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrBurns](http://nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrBurns)

#### Q: What are the benefits of robot-assisted surgery for a gynecologic condition?

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At Northern Westchester Hospital, we are using this method to treat an expanding range of gynecologic conditions. Hysterectomies, fibroids, cystectomies, and even malignancies like cervical cancer, endometrial, or early ovarian cancer can be addressed with this technique.

#### Did You Know?

*It's possible to have major gynecologic surgery and go home the same day, or the next morning.*

#### Q: The idea of a robot performing gynecologic surgery on me is scary. What exactly does the robot do?

**A:** A big misconception about this technology is that the robot is in charge. The gynecologic surgeon is 100 percent in control at all times. Think of it as a surgical tool that enables the use of specialized instruments that can cut, clamp, and suture through tiny incisions.

#### Q: When can I return to my normal routine?

**A:** With robot-assisted surgery, women often return to their busy lives, faster. And the psychological benefit of getting back to their life sooner - whether that involves kids, aging parents, a job or volunteering in the community can be significant. It's possible to go home within a day and return to regular activities in about 2 weeks.

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# *Cool Car Show Enjoyed on Grange Fairgrounds*



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE BOONEY



Yorktown Grange in Yorktown Heights hosted its 3rd Annual Car Show on Sunday, June 22. Over 100 exhibitors and 500+ spectators enjoyed a sunny fun filled day on the Fairgrounds viewing all types of classic cars, trucks, and motorcycles, with lots entertainment, food, and other local vendors. The Richard Russo Award was given to Mike Dobransky (center) for his Pro Street Rod. Pictured with Dobransky are Lou Russo (Richard's son) and Ricci Fonzo (proprietor of Hair Liberation). Trophies were sponsored by local businesses: Hair Liberation, A & S Pork Store & Fine Foods, Jefferson Valley Pharmacy, and Frankie & Augie'Z Restaurant.

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PHOTOS BY RICK PEZZULLO

Hundreds of residents lined the streets of Yorktown to enjoy parade before opening of annual carnival.



# Yorktown Natives Brew Up Loyal Following With Craft Beer

By Sue Guzman

What started as a high school friendship has morphed into a tasty labor of love for Harris Decker and Greg Cristallo, both of whom graduated Yorktown High School in 2006. In 2012, the two, along with brewmaster and managing partner Barry Hansen Jr., founded #Freedom Craft Brewery, a microbrewery, located in Buchanan.

"It all started with Barry," said Decker, "who went to Australia to study abroad, and while he was in Australia, he started making very small batches of beer in his kitchen. When he returned home, he knew that the recipes he created would sell, because everyone there wanted to buy some from him."

"Westchester was a perfect market for craft beers, with Captain Lawrence already in Westchester, with its Elmsford location, and it came at a time craft beers were starting to take off in popularity," Decker added.

#Freedom Craft Brewery launched in 2012 with its signature beer, "The Berry Amendment," an amber ale that's infused with real blended fruit. The brewery also produces a crisp pale ale called "Unalienable Rights," a brown ale that's made in limited batches from late November through March called "A Toast," as well as "Obsession Ale," also a limited edition that's brewed for the warmer months.

Decker said the company's partners had a distinct mission. "We looked at the competition and said we're going to be the different guy out there. We're going to take the chances and bring new people into the craft beer world who normally didn't drink craft beers. We wanted a product that almost anyone could enjoy."

The sentiment was echoed by Cristallo. "We find the appeal of our beer comes from our decision to naturally carbonate it. This gives our brews a certain flavor that cannot be achieved otherwise. Our brewmaster, Barry, has spent countless hours designing our brews and I believe that we have a product that stands alone within the craft brew world."



SUE GUZMAN PHOTO

Harris Decker and Greg Cristallo

All the ingredients are sourced in the United States, according to Decker. Bottling is done at the facility in Buchanan and is open to the public on Wednesday nights. Customers can sign up to participate in the hands-on bottling event on the company's website.

The bottling nights, he said, are one of the many ways the company looks to build 'real relationships' with its customers. #Freedom Craft does all of its own product distribution and is sold in various bars and establishments throughout the Hudson Valley, including DeCicco's food markets, and beer retailer, Half Time, Decker noted.

The three men bring different areas of expertise to the table in the company. Hansen has a background in biochemistry, Cristallo has a financial background and Decker handles the marketing for the company.

#Freedom Craft Brewery owes its

growing success to its grassroots efforts to make its products known. In addition to being sold at bars and gourmet markets, many of their products are sold at various farmers' markets throughout the Hudson Valley, including Tarrytown, Croton-on-Hudson, Piermont and Port Chester where customers can meet the brewers directly as well as sample the company's offerings. #Freedom Craft also plans to be a vendor at the Hudson River Craft Beer Festival in Beacon in September.

"The public's response has been largely positive. The craft beer community is very adventurous in their desire to try new beers," said Cristallo. "I'm very excited with what the next few years have in store for #Freedom. Our goal is to grow the perception of craft beer, and to drive home the experience one has while drinking it."

"#Freedom Craft Brewery is located at

3199 Albany Post Road in Buchanan. To find out more, and to sign up for bottling night events, visit their website, [www.freedombrew.us](http://www.freedombrew.us).

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# A Myth-Busting Primer About Mold Around the House

When she visited at Christmas, my daughter Emma alerted me that there must be mold in our living room. She could sense it as soon as she walked into the room, which is used only for special occasions nowadays.

I looked into each corner of the room along the baseboard and found no evidence of mold. But a thought popped into my head and it was a correct assumption.

In one far corner is an early 19th century chest with a glass door-enclosed bookcase on top displaying my collection of antique books about old New York. Sure enough, on the top shelf, a whole section of them, neglected for some time, was covered with a powdery film of bluish, dusty mold.

I closed the doors and thought, oh well, might as well ignore it for a bit longer, as we moved the holiday celebration to the library.

But soon after Mark Jones, president of Certified Inspections, Inc., a home inspection and environmental testing company, came to the William Raveis office to present some important information about mold identification and removal.

After the meeting I met with him privately to learn more. He identified some common myths about mold.

**Myth:** You can identify mold by looking at it.

**Truth:** The only way mold can be identified is by having a sample analyzed

under a microscope in a lab. In a Today Show exposé, reporters rubbed mascara on a hallway wall and called in a dozen mold companies to look at it. All of them said it was definitely mold and quoted

prices to remove it. What else could it be? Discoloration can be caused by carbon, concentrated dust, dirt and other unidentifiable matter.

**Myth:** Mold is dangerous.

**Truth:** Mold is dangerous if it is present in substantial enough quantities. When samples are analyzed, the report not only tells you what kinds of spores were present, but how many of each were present. A low enough level presents no more danger than what you encounter outside your house. If the levels are high inside, then you run a serious health

risk.

**Myth:** Mold is not dangerous because it is all around the environment.

**Truth:** The mold levels outside are always changing and some people are affected by the outside mold in the same way some are affected by pollen or pollution. If mold levels are significantly higher inside one's house, mold can cause severe respiratory damage, headaches, flu-like symptoms, and in severe cases, memory loss and cancer.

**Myth:** Mold should be cleaned with bleach.

**Truth:** Bleach should NOT be used.

Bleach only kills surface mold and evaporates leaving behind a residue of nitrogen, which is an element of fertilizer. In effect, you are feeding the mold spores that are under the surface or in the air and it can grow back even worse.

**Myth:** I can test my air for mold with a Home Depot kit.

**Truth:** Growing a culture on your own tells you nothing about whether you have a mold problem because you are not comparing it to a control sample outside or gauging its growth time via any regulated methodology. The best way to determine if you have a mold problem is to hire a professional company that only does testing and have them take air samples with spore traps and swabs or tape lifts. Knowing how to collect data and how to interpret it is just as important as what equipment one uses to collect it. That's why professionals are trained in their craft.

**Myth:** Mold can make you sick if it is inside your walls.

**Truth:** Mold can only make you sick if you breathe it. If it is concealed inside your walls but not in the air of your house, it cannot affect you. That is why having air testing performed by a professional testing company that does not also do remediation is the only way to find

out if the air is safe.

**Myth:** It is better to have one company do mold testing and mold clean up.

**Truth:** You should NEVER have the same company do both. If a company does clean up, also known as remediation or abatement, they have a reason to find a problem so they can make more money. An independent testing company with no conflict of interest should first test. If there's a problem, they should write up an action plan outlining the scope of work for the mold abatement firm. The testing company should then re-test the completed work to make sure it was safely completed.

More information about Certified Home Inspections can be found at [www.certifiedinspections.com](http://www.certifiedinspections.com)

*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 The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.*



By Bill Primavera

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# Enjoying One of the World's Best Sparkling Wine Regions

Champagne, Prosecco, Cava, Crémant, Asti Spumante, Sekt, Brachetto, Lambrusco and Franciacorta.

All are highly regarded sparkling wines, some familiar, some flying well under the American wine consumer's radar. But not all sparkling wines are equal.

The majority are made from three traditional grapes (Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier), but several are made from grapes indigenous to the region or country where they are produced.

The majority are made in one of the three common methods of adding sparklers (bubbles) to a still wine. The Méthode Champenois is utilized throughout the wine world and became famous in the Champagne region of France in the eighteenth century.

I have sampled many representative sparkling wines from wine regions round the globe and have formed varying impressions of each. As much as I enjoy Champagne, there are other sparkling wines that are as pleasing, and at a significantly lesser cost. A number of my favorites are made

in the United States (notably California) by American producers (Schramsberg, Iron Horse, Laetitia) and French producers (Moët et Chandon, Taittinger, Roederer, Gloria Ferrer).

Several foreign-based regions and producers have had little exposure in the United States. One that I am particularly

enamored with is Franciacorta (produced in Italy) and its premier winery, Berlucchi.

I had enjoyed a Franciacorta at a restaurant in the late 20th century. It was very distinctive and I searched the retail market for other examples; none could be found. Fast forward to last month and an offer comes via email to sample a bottle of Berlucchi Franciacorta. I typically accept such offers only if the proffered wine is in some way unique or invokes memories of long-forgotten interests. I eagerly accepted the offer.

Franciacorta's reputation is not widely known or acknowledged. In my opinion this unheralded wine region produces a number of fine sparkling wines that rival the finest Champagnes. Within Italy the better known, and more widely

consumed, sparkling wine is Prosecco. By comparison the less refined Prosecco is straightforward and lacks the finesse and complexity of Franciacorta. However, at a price typically under \$20, Prosecco is more appealing than its neighbor to the west, which typically starts at \$30.

Franciacorta is both a geographical subregion and a style of wine.

The subregion is in north central Italy, within the province of Lombardy (whose capital is Milan).

The wine is primarily composed of Chardonnay and may be blended with small amounts of Pinot Noir or Pinot Blanc. It is produced using the Méthode Champenois. The unique climate and terrain of this area contribute to the complexity and finesse of the end product. With the Swiss Alps to the north and the low, rolling hills, the sun's warmth adds vigor to ripening grapes in Franciacorta. The cool nights balance the fruit and acid development so critical to fine sparkling wine.

Berlucchi is the First Family of Franciacorta. They produced the first sparkling wine in the region and one of the first sparklers in Italy using the Méthode Champenois. But unlike Champagne, with its five centuries of sparkling wine

history, Guido Berlucchi and his partner, Franco Ziliani, began making their fabled wine in 1961.

My tasting notes: The sophistication and complexity of this Brut were attributable to the perfect balance of fruit and acid. Aromas of apple and pear wafted from my glass. These aromas were followed by a clean, vibrant sensation on my palate, coupled with a velvety mouthfeel. The loving care and skilled craftsmanship the Berlucchi family is very evident.

Finding Franciacorta sparkling wine is still a daunting task in our area. My palate and my wallet say it is worth the effort.

*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 or on Twitter @sharingwine*



By Nick Antonaccio

You Heard It Through the  
Grapevine

## The Pleasantville Music Festival July 12, 2014

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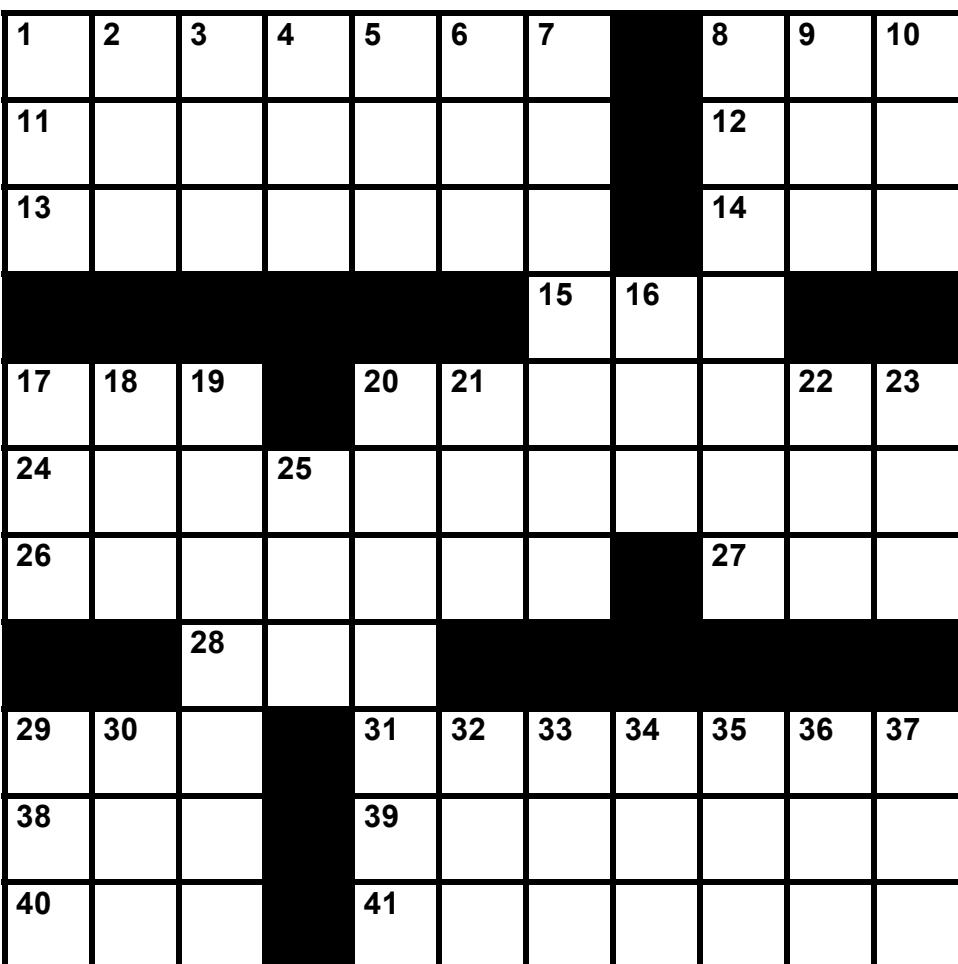
### ACROSS

- Novelist James would have played here: \_\_\_ Golf Center
- Dried fruit
- Pain reliever
- 1973 Supreme Court decision name
- Little gloves
- Six-legged soldier
- Kind of team
- Tux followers
- "A Horse with no name" singers
- Office equipment
- Personifying
- Bother, with "at"
- With it, once
- Legume
- You don't have to be named Rosie to eat at this new Yorktown restaurant
- Coffee maker
- Craft
- \_\_\_, Bath and Beyond
- Compassion

### DOWN

- Outburst from Emeril

- "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
- Parcel
- Banned spray
- Track arrangement
- Lodge
- Rainy day fund
- Delicate
- + molecule, e.g.
- "\_\_\_ Ready"
- Parenthesis, graphically
- Subside
- Batman and Robin, e.g.
- Veteran
- Fatty
- Back-to-sch. time
- Intelligence gathering org.
- Liable
- Oven cleaner component
- Dartboard setting
- "\_\_\_ the bat hath flown / His cloister'd flight ...": Macbeth
- Diamond, for one
- Sound at the door
- Atty's assn.
- Specklike mark
- Exclamation of impatience
- Pig's home



See solution on page 18

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Scotto Family (Fresco)  
Dan Amatuzzi  
& Nick Coleman (Eataly)

JJ Johnson (The Cecil)  
Kamal Grant (Sublime Doughnuts)  
Rafael Palomino (Palomino Restaurant)  
Dave DiBari (The Cookery)  
Sam Talbot (The Surf Lodge)  
Franklin Becker (Brasserie)

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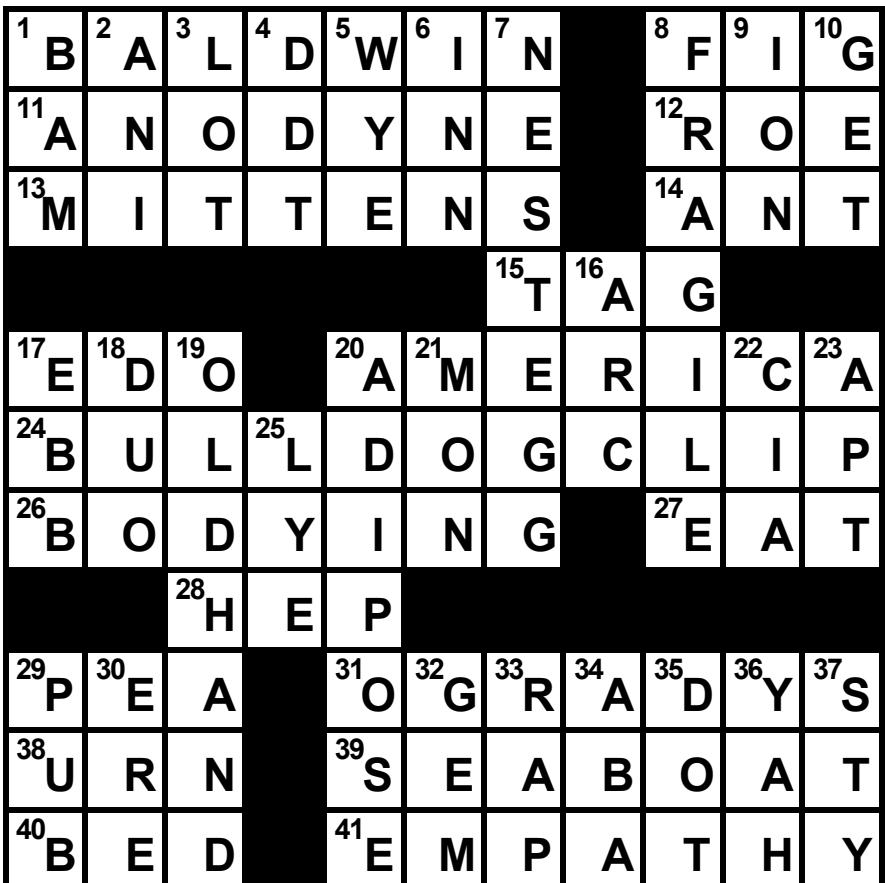
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MEDIA

# Happenings

## Tuesday, July 1

**Introduction To Hebrew:** Learn to begin to read and speak Hebrew at this free adult education class at First Hebrew on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. through mid-July. RSVP: at 914-739-0500 or fhc@firstthebrew.org. First Hebrew is located at 1821 Main St., Peekskill, just west of Beach Shopping Center. Visit [www.firstthebrew.org](http://www.firstthebrew.org).

**Somers Library Exhibit:** The July exhibit at the Somers Library, located in Reis Park, off Route 139, is 'Captivated by Color' - original art work by Yorktown Artist Rose Stock. This exhibit includes charcoal sketches and oil paintings of landscapes and still life subjects. An opening reception for the artist will be held in the Somers Library art gallery on July 12 at 1 p.m. All are welcome. For viewing hours and more information, call 914-232-5717.

**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, July 2

**Torah Studies Course:** Chabad of

Yorktown has announced that season three (12 classes) of the Torah Studies course will be held every Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. from April 30 to July 16 at the Yorktown Community Nursery School, 247 Veterans Rd. The lessons probe the depth of contemporary Torah thought. The fee for the full season is \$36 and includes the cost of the textbook. Each class is independent. For more information or to register visit: [www.ChabadYorktown.com](http://www.ChabadYorktown.com), call 914-962-6600, or email [info@ChabadYorktown.com](mailto:info@ChabadYorktown.com).

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

## Thursday, July 3

**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.

## Friday, July 4

**Ossining Independence Day:** Kick-off your Fourth of July holiday with live music and fireworks at 7:30 p.m. at Louis Engel Waterfront Park, 160 Westerly Rd., Ossining Pop/rock/R&B group Jigsaw, known for their dynamic vocals and rich musical grooves, starts the show. After the fireworks, Ossining's own Silver or Lead will keep the celebration going with an eclectic mix of rock, funk, and soul. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring seating. Picnics are welcome and admission is free. Info: 914-941-3189 or [www.villageofossining.org](http://www.villageofossining.org).

**Free Play Dates:** A free play date program is being held every Friday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Rosenthal JCC Early Childhood Center at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The program is intended for children between the ages of 16 and 36 months and their parents

or caregivers. Children can play, do art and socialize all under the direction of an experienced early childhood teacher. Pre-registration is suggested. Contact Jennifer at 914-962-8430 or e-mail her at [Jennifer@rosenthaljcc.org](mailto:Jennifer@rosenthaljcc.org).

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

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

## Saturday, July 5

**Lunch & Learn:** A Shabbat service/Lunch & Learn, a lively discussion of the weekly Torah portion led by Rabbi Fred Schwalb, will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Hebrew Congregation of Somers, located at Cypress Lane and Mervin Drive. Info: 914-248-9532.

**Tag Sale:** St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church will hold its annual huge Tag Sale in

the school auditorium on July 5 and 6. Saturday's times are from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday's times are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The church and school are located at 1377 E. Main St., Shrub Oak. Visit [www.seton-parish.org](http://www.seton-parish.org) for more information and directions.

**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.

**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](mailto:nrentz@theexaminernews.com.com).

## Sunday, July 6

**Muscoot Farm Events:** A series of events have been scheduled for this week at Muscoot Farm, located on Route 100 in Somers. A farmers market will be held every Sunday through the end of October. Fresh produce and food products from more than 25 local farmers will be sold. A Mushroom and Slime Walk will be held on July 6 at 10 a.m. An introduction to the world of slime molds and fungi with naturalist Taro Ietaka. A Mondays at Muscoot Bird Walk will be held on July 7 at 7:30 a.m. Join Ann Swaim from Saw Mill River Audubon for a walk through fields and woods. Meet in the parking lot. Info: [westchestergov.com/parks](http://westchestergov.com/parks) or 914-864-7282.

**Open House/Service:** The Van Cortlandtville Historical Society will hold its Annual Memorial Service honoring the eight French soldiers who died in Van Cortlandtville during the Revolutionary War. The 20-minute service will begin at 3 p.m. in Old Saint Peter's Church at Oregon Road and Locust Avenue, Cortlandt Manor. It will be part of a joint open house from 2 to 4 p.m. at the church and The Little Red Schoolhouse at 297 Locust Avenue, next to Old Saint Peter's. Both events are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served at the Schoolhouse. For more information: visit [www.vancort.net](http://www.vancort.net); or, call (914) 736-7868.

**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, July 7

**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.

**Weekly Hebrew Classes:** Free weekly Hebrew classes for adults will be held on Mondays at 7 p.m. through mid-July at First Hebrew, 1821 Main St., Peekskill, just west of Beach Shopping Center. RSVP: at 914-739-0500 or [fhc@firstthebrew.org](mailto:fhc@firstthebrew.org). Visit [www.firstthebrew.org](http://www.firstthebrew.org).



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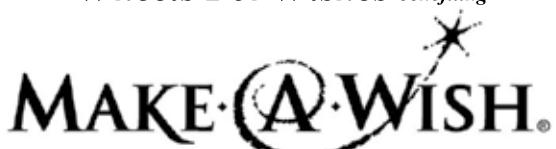
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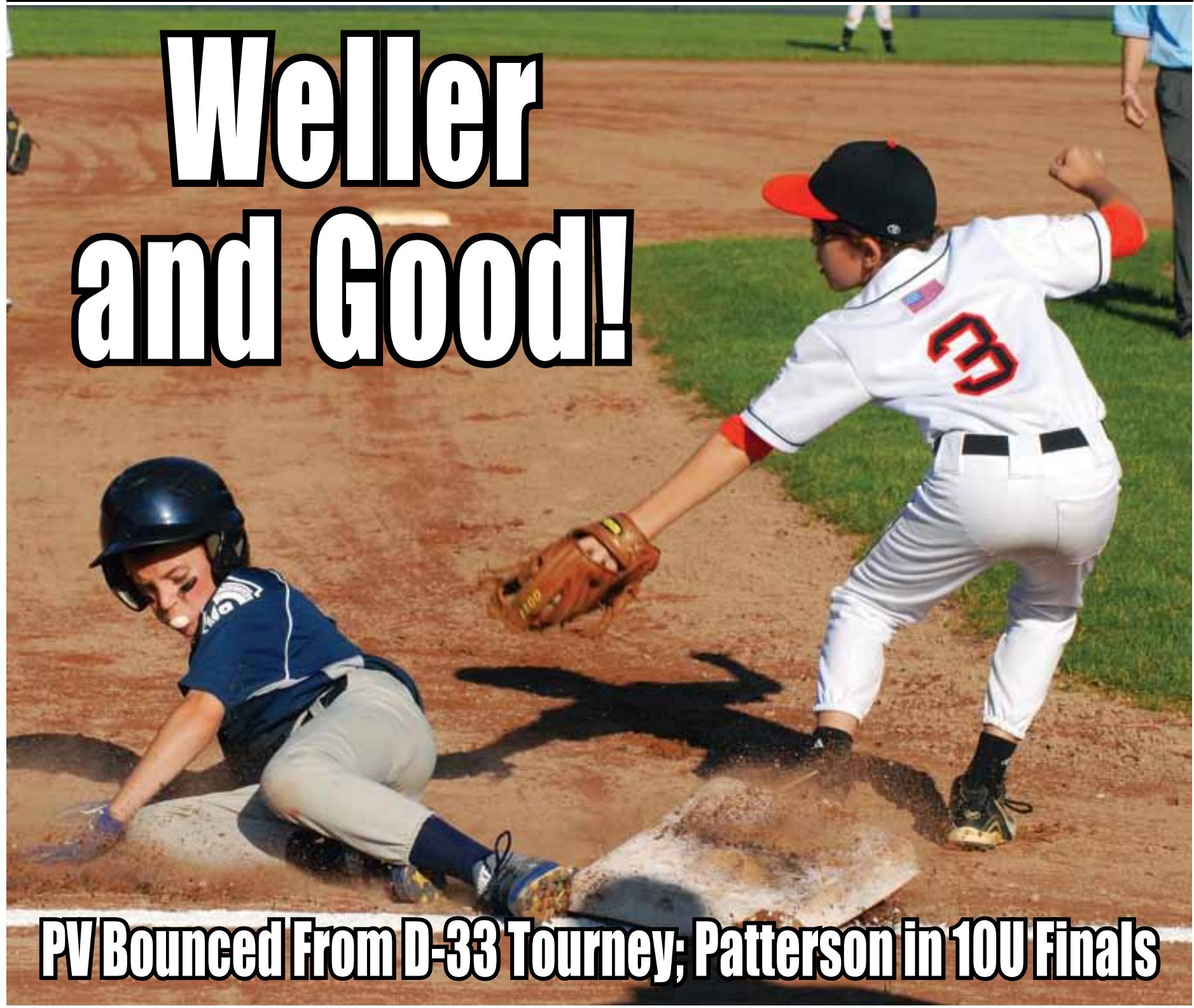
Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

July 1-July 7, 2014

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

# Weller and Good!



## PV Bounced From D-33 Tourney; Patterson in 10U Finals

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Despite the base-running antics of Putnam Valley's bubble-blowing spark-plug Alex Weller, PV fell to Croton and 3B Nate Bilgoray, who could not get this tag down in time on Weller in host PV's 8-4 loss to the Tigers in District 33 10-U Little League action last Thursday at Union Field in Putnam Valley. Croton will try to survive and advance in the days ahead, hoping to get a crack at D-33 frontrunner Patterson, which advanced to the finals after an 11-0 win over Croton on Saturday... see Little League Notebook

## Sports

# Patterson Sitting Pretty in D-33 10-U Title Tilt Pirates Await a Foe; Cortland Amer., Brewster, Croton to Fight it Out

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor

The road to the 10-U District 33 Little League championship will run through Patterson this summer. Coach Ryan Dall's Patterson Pirates have run roughshod over the rest of the six-team field, trouncing three foes by a combined 32-3 score en route to a perfect 3-0 mark and a date in the July 7th championship at Cortland American against an opponent to be determined.

"We've jumped on teams early and that has led to our pitchers settling in and pounding the strike zone," said Dall, who teaches at Carmel High and serves as the varsity baseball assistant coach.

Patterson has dominated the field, beating Cortlandt American 12-2, Brewster 9-1 and Croton 11-0.

"They're that good," C.A.L.L. Coach Jeremy Carlucci said of the Pirates. "I have a pretty darn good club and they handled us, so we would love another crack at them in the finals if we can advance."

If C.A.L.L. should be so fortunate, or anybody that faces the Pirates for that matter, they'll have to figure out a way to solve a pitching staff that has allowed just three runs over 18 innings, including Nick Oster, Kevin Dall, Brendan Murphy and Matt Demme.

Demme has also provided some explosives at the plate, including a pair



Put Valley P Matt Jacobsen fires pitch in D-33 10-U tournament action last Thursday at Put Valley Town Park.

of bases-loaded, base-clearing doubles in the last two wins.

PUTNAM VALLEY suffered a pair of losses and was eliminated from the tournament after falling 8-4 to Croton and 4-0 to Cortlandt American, who was still alive and well after the weekend. C.A.L.L. was scheduled to face Brewster Monday with the winner to face Croton at Putnam Valley on Wednesday for the

right to challenge Patterson in the championship series.

In the CALL vs. Patterson game, Patterson jumped out to a 2-0 lead after top half of second. CALL responded in the bottom of the second with two runs to tie, keyed by leadoff double by Danny Witters and an RBI single from Aidan Cohall and an RBI double by Peter Christoforatos.

Patterson then got the bats going and put up five in the third frame and another five in the fifth en route to a 13-hit effort in only four innings.

In CALL's 4-0 win over PV, slinger Sammy Stafura was the difference, firing five scoreless innings in a very efficient 60-pitch effort. He allowed just three hits and no walks to go with three whiffs. Aidan Cohall pitched a 1-2-3 6th to lock it down and eliminate PV.

PV had an early threat in the top first with two outs and nobody on Gabriel Astrologo singled and then Borchick doubled down left field line to set up second and third but Stafura ended the threat.

Offensively for CALL, Witters had a big two-out, two-run double in left



Croton SS Marty Andrews takes a rip in D-33 10-U tournament action last Thursday at Put Valley Town Park.

centerfield gap in the bottom of second to put C.A.L.L. up 3-0 at the end of two. That was all Stafura would need.

"With only four total strikeouts by our pitchers, we had to play stellar defense," Coach Carlucci said.

The team finished with no errors on 11 groundball chances, including five 3B Gavin Carlucci.

## Sports

# First-Place Renegades Thump Yankees, Stay Hot at Home

By A.J. Martelli

The Staten Island Yankees shut the Hudson Valley Renegades down 9-0 last Wednesday, handing the Renegades a blowout loss on the road. When they faced each other the next night at Dutchess Stadium, it took the 'Gades just four innings to get those nine runs back.

An explosion on offense led Hudson Valley to a huge, 14-3 win over the Yankees this past Thursday night; the Renegades improving their home record to 8-2 this season.

"It was a good way to bounce back from that tough loss," said Hudson Valley skipper Tim Parenton following the win. "It's been tough going back and forth with these guys and the Brooklyn Cyclones, but our guys hit them hard, hit them soft, and did everything to work tonight – and that's baseball. Things happen all different

ways, and that's what happened tonight."

Wasting no time at all, the Renegades plated four runs in the bottom half of the first. Left fielder Hunter Lockwood, who finished the night 4-for-5 with four

RBI's and was a home run shy of the cycle, started it off with an RBI double. A few hitters later right fielder Clayton Henning took over, clearing the bases with a three-run double to give the 'Gades a quick, 4-0 lead.

In the second inning Hudson Valley picked up right where it left off, scoring four more. Center fielder Bralin Jackson started it with an RBI single, and then Lockwood struck for an RBI single of his own.



ANDY JACOBS PHOTO

HV Renegade Bralin Jackson in recent action at the old ballpark in Beacon.

## Renegades Notebook

Second baseman Coty Blanchard scored later in the frame on a wild pitch, and an RBI groundout by third baseman Daniel Miles put the 'Gades up 8-0.

"Whenever you score early it's awesome," Parenton said, "and that's the one thing that was good. Putting up an eight spot, everybody can take a deep breath and play the game the way we did. We made all the plays."

Staten Island's three runs in the fifth only meant a five-run scoring barrage by the Renegades in the bottom half. Jackson picked up an RBI infield single and then came in on a wild pitch, highlighting the inning.

"We didn't like the fact that they beat us 9-0 (Wednesday) so we were pretty excited to beat them this bad," said Jackson, who ended the big night with

*continued on page 23*

## Sports

# Brewster's Wegwerth Drafted by NHL's Florida Panthers

## *Training for Warriors Now Open in Mahopac*



**By Ray Gallagher**  
**Examiner Sports Editor**

Dream big, gang, and good things are bound to come about for you; just like it did for Brewster's own Joe Wegwerth, who saw his stock rise from the USA 18-U National team via Notre Dame University all the way to the NHL's Florida Panthers in one fell swoop last Saturday afternoon.

The rugged 6'3" 230-pound right wing was an on-ice force since the day I first laid eyes upon him back in the winter of 2010; far too good for Section 1 hockey, so off he went in the fall of 2012 to his native Michigan after a sparkling sophomore season at Brewster High. As a fresh-faced frosh, Wegwerth deposited 28 goals and

the hook for the USA U-16 and U-18 teams, the first dream of his life fulfilled. As part of the National Team Development Program, Wegwerth transitioned from a prolific scorer to more of a grinder, using his size to his advantage to work to corner boards and mixing it up with opposing players.

He signed a National Letter of Intent to play for the Fighting Irish, realizing yet another dream come true, and last Saturday was the icing on the cake when the Panthers chose Wegwerth in the fourth round with the 92nd overall selection in the 2014 NHL draft in Philadelphia.

"The past day has just been a whirlwind of excitement," Wegwerth said upon his being drafted. "I really don't know if I'll ever be able to put it into words, but I was glad to experience this with my closest friends and family. I'm gonna play in the US Hockey League again next year then play either one or two years at N.D. before trying to make the jump (to the NHL)."

Dream big, boy!

**My boy John Praino** – one of the foremost trainers in the local area -- is laying it all on the line for the good of the neighborhood and

those throughout Putnam and Northern Westchester. Praino, an early '90s graduate of Mahopac High School, has moved to Training for Warriors-Mahopac facility to

"I'm here to help you grow and expand your knowledge on health, nutrition

TFW trainers John Praino (L) and Bill Felice (R) pose with the Godfather of TFW, Martin Rooney, at a recent TFW event.

set the single season scoring record for the Bears with 55 points in just 16 games. He added 29 goals in 13 games as a sophomore.

At a host home in Michigan for his junior year in high school, Big Joe was off

### **First-Place Renegades Thump Yankees, Stay Hot at Home**

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a 2-for-3 clip, two RBIs and three runs scored. "We're settling in, getting more comfortable with ourselves, and it's nice to get a win like this. Here at Dutchess Stadium we have the crowd behind us, and we feel that energy from the crowd, and I think that's what's making us good here."

Parenton agreed the aura of "The Dutch" has positively impacted the team, explaining the Renegades' winning record at home.

"The fans have been awesome," he said. "Our guys feel comfortable here, they're used to the surroundings, and they know their nooks and their crannies here."

**EXTRA INNINGS:** Stepping away from Dutchess Stadium this weekend, the

Renegades enjoyed some road success, sweeping the Aberdeen IronBirds. On Friday night they beat the IronBirds 1-0, winning yet another game started by Baltimore Orioles top pitching prospect Dylan Bundy. The 'Gades previously handed Bundy a loss at Dutchess Stadium on June 15.

On Saturday Hudson Valley picked up a 2-0 victory before completing the sweep of Aberdeen in grand fashion Sunday evening – a 9-4 victory taken on the strength of a gland slam by Lockwood. Now at 12-5 overall, and in first place in the New York-Penn League McNamara division, the Renegades host the Cyclones tonight.



and general physical wellbeing," Praino said. "I got on the Training for Warriors system and I got serious about my life because I wanted change in my life. TFW changes everything about my life, including the way I speak

and deal with people. I'm so much better for it and so much happier with who I am."



Excitable John Praino will make sure your trip to his TFW Mahopac facility is one that opens your eyes to limitless possibilities.

Short of guaranteeing it, I can assure you that if you're truly serious about getting in shape, modifying your diet and changing your general way of life; the gregarious John Praino, who moonlights as a solo acoustic singer, is your man.

Praino's partner, Bill Felice earned his BS from Radford University in Virginia

and his MSEd from The College of New Rochelle. Since 2002 he has been a physical education teacher at the Riverside Middle School, which is now the Riverside High School, in the Yonkers City School System.

Together, their goal is to change the lives of people who aim for more and they'll be doing so at their new digs on 429 Stillwater Rd in Mahopac, with a completely revamped, hip setup that caters to your inner beast. The facility is in the same complex as Liffey Van lines, Stillwater Auto Body and Iron Horse Sports.

I'm telling you, and I only tell you what I know, Praino and Felice will make your workouts fun. They'll put you through the rigors of the script written by Martin Rooney, the founder of Training For Warriors, but you'll come back smiling and wanting more the next day... give it a try.

**We're looking for athletic events to cover** this summer and we're counting on your help to do so. Summer baseball/softball/lax tournaments... any and all ages: send us your schedules, your photos, your championship memories. Don't spare the details either. Please send everything and anything to [raygallaghersports@gmail.com](mailto:raygallaghersports@gmail.com).

### **Smoke Eaters to Skate for Burn Care Victims**



TOM BEATTY PHOTO

The Westchester/Putnam Smoke Eaters Hockey Club are a hockey team made up of emergency service personnel from throughout Westchester and Putnam counties. Started in 2013 by three co-workers, the team has had great success and has gained a loyal fan base. The Smoke Eaters are proud to announce that they will be playing a charity game for Burn Care Everywhere July 26th at 5:00 PM at Brewster Ice Arena. For more info go to: <https://www.facebook.com/Smookeateershockey>. Anyone interested in sponsoring this likeable group of volunteer should contact Chris Fanelli at 914-403-5036.

# Safe Travels



## Croton Moves on in D-33 10-U Tourney

Croton's Russell Hunter slides in safely ahead of the tag of Putnam Valley 3B Joey Maloney in Croton's 8-4 win over PV in 10-U District 33 Little League action last Thursday at Union Field in Put Valley. Croton was knocked off in the 2nd round of the tourney, falling 11-0 to Patterson, but the Tigers hope to fight their way back into contention to face Patterson again in the 10-U finals on July 7th... see Little League Notebook

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

### Ozzy's Auto Clinic and Discount Tire Center

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