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All Yorktown in Battle of Titans

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vs. Somers...

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

See Sports

April 21 - April 27, 2015

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 7, Issue 279

Pipeline Expansion Projects to Cause Destruction in Yorktown

By Rick Pezzullo

Two natural gas pipeline expansion projects would run through backyards of homeowners and near schools and playgrounds in the Town of Yorktown, while also destroying hundreds of trees and potentially damaging roadways.

Representatives of Spectra Energy laid out specific details of its plans for the Algonquin and Atlantic Bridge pipelines during an appearance before the Yorktown Town Board and interested residents last week.

After receiving approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) last month of its controversial Algonquin project, which would run from Stony Point, under the Hudson River, through

Peekskill, Cortlandt, portions of Yorktown and into Southeast, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, Spectra is hoping to start clearing land on its right-of-way on Stony Street at Granite Knolls in October.

Regional Project Director James Luskay said the major construction work to remove an existing 26-inch gas pipeline that has existed since 1954 without incident and replace it with a 42-inch one would take place in the summer of 2016 and last for two to three months. The gas pressure would also increase by 25%.

"There is a large demand for lower cost energy and that's what's driving this,"

continued on page 12



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Town Board reacts to Spectra Regional Project Director James Luskay.

Hundreds of Local Students Opt Out of Taking State Exams

By Rick Pezzullo

Hundreds of students in local school districts joined a concerted statewide movement by opting out of taking Common Core English Language Arts (ELA) exams last week.

With groups, parents and elected officials, such as Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, publicly bashing the tests as being "developmentally inappropriate and disruptive to wider learning," districts experienced a large spike in students in grades 3 through 8 refusing to take the exams.

In the Lakeland School District, 850 students in the five elementary schools and Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School, representing 30% districtwide, turned their backs on the exams on the

first day they were given. Last year, only 88 students (3%) didn't take the ELA exams.

In the Yorktown School District, 30% of students in grades 3 to 5 and 27% in the middle school refused to put their name on the ELA tests, compared to only 3% in 2014.

Officials in both districts expressed concern there could be consequences from such a large percentage of the student population opting out.

"There appear to be different outcomes for districts who fall below 95% test participation and fail to meet guidelines for Adequate Yearly Progress, but at this time we are unaware of what those consequences might be," said Lakeland

continued on page 9



Extraordinary Achievement in Dance

Yorktown resident Dr. Nalini Rau Ph. D. was honored on April 16 by the ArtsWestchester 50/50 celebration for extraordinary contribution to Bharatnatyam Indian classical dance as a choreographer, dancer, and teacher (Guru). State Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins and Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel presented Dr. Rau with a certificate of Extraordinary Achievement. More than 500 people attended the ceremony.



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Peekskill Police Arrest One While Probing Two Shootings

By Rick Pezzullo

Peekskill Police arrested a 19-year-old male resident in connection with one of two unrelated shootings on Main Street last Wednesday.

The first shooting, which occurred on the 1000 block of Main Street just before noon on April 15, resulted in a vehicle and building being struck. A vehicle was also struck in the second shooting on the 900 block of Main Street around 8:30

p.m.

While police continue to investigate the first incident, detectives were able to charge Alonzo Heckstall, of Highland Avenue, with criminal possession of a weapon and reckless endangerment in the second shooting after learning he fired one shot at an individual whom he was



Alonzo Heckstall

involved in a dispute with. Heckstall was arrested after police spotted him in a vehicle and stopped him on Bank Street.

Chief Eric Johnansen thanked members of the public who helped police identify parties involved.

"This community will not tolerate this type of behavior

and let me be clear, those who engage in violent crimes will be identified, quickly arrested, and aggressively prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," Johnansen said. "If you commit these heinous acts of violence, expect to spend significant time in jail."

Heckstall was arraigned in Peekskill City Court and remanded to Westchester County Jail after bail was set at \$100,000 cash or \$250,000 bond.

Police Blotter

State Police

April 11 - Nicholas Milton, 25, of Cortlandt, was charged with criminal possession of marijuana after being stopped on Route 202 for a license plate violation. An investigation revealed Milton was in possession of more than seven ounces of marijuana.

April 13 - Police from the Cortlandt barracks arrested Robert Davis III, 40, of Mahopac, for assault in the third degree after being dispatched to Peekskill Hollow Road in Putnam Valley. The victim alleged Davis arrived at his home and punched him in the face following a verbal altercation. The victim contacted

911 for assistance and Davis fled prior to police arriving on the scene. Davis was located a short time later and charged. The victim was transported to New York Presbyterian-Hudson Valley Hospital with a facial injury.

April 14 - Morgan Friend, 32, of Cortlandt, was charged with criminal possession of stolen property after a victim reported his cell phone had been stolen. The victim reported that he received a phone call from an unidentified subject who stated he was in possession of the victim's missing cell phone. The male subject, later identified as Friend, indicated he would return the cell phone in exchange for \$100. Friend is due in Cort-

landt Town Court on April 24.

Yorktown Police

April 15 - 1:05 a.m. - Joshua Klaus, 22, and Michael Martelli, 21, both of Yorktown, were charged with unlawful possession of marijuana after Police Officer Matthew Racioppo saw a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of the Triangle Shopping Center.

8:33 a.m. - Two unidentified males, ages 17 and 16, from Yorktown were charged with unlawful possession of marijuana. Yorktown High School Resource Officer Robert Doerr responded to the commuter parking lot adjacent to

Yorktown High School on a report of a student who allegedly left school grounds without permission. An investigation by Doerr revealed the two males each possessed a quantity of marijuana in the vehicle they occupied. They are both due in Yorktown Town Court on May 19.

April 16 - 4 p.m. - Steven Tarrats, 21, of Brooklyn, was arrested on a warrant for harassment issued in September 2012 for allegedly striking another resident at the Phoenix Academy in Shrub Oak on August 24, 2012. Tarrats was taken into custody at Rikers Correctional Facility. He was released on \$100 cash bail and is due in Yorktown Town Court on May 21.

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OVERCOMING PAINFUL GYNECOLOGIC CONDITIONS...

What you need to know about symptoms and treatment options



Ask the Doctor

Navid Mootabar, MD

Chief, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Director, Institute for Robotic & Minimally Invasive Surgery
Northern Westchester Hospital

nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrMootabar

Q: What gynecologic conditions do you see most frequently in your practice?

A: Endometriosis, uterine fibroids and ovarian cysts are the big three. With endometriosis, cells from the lining of the uterus are found in the pelvic area. This can cause pelvic or abdominal pain, painful periods and painful intercourse. Uterine fibroids are benign tumors (most remain benign) growing from the uterus wall. They can cause pain, especially if large and pushing against other organs, heavy and painful periods, urinary symptoms, infertility or miscarriage. An ovarian cyst is a fluid-filled or solid growth in an ovary that can be benign, pre-cancerous or malignant, and can cause pain.

Q: What should I do if I have one or some of these symptoms?

A: Do not delay in seeing your gynecologist. I stress this because women are so busy that they often unnecessarily put up with pain. These conditions are diagnosed through a complete medical history and physical exam, sometimes aided by ultrasound and, in the case of endometriosis, a laparoscopy, in which a camera detects uterine cells in the pelvic area.

Q: What are my treatment options?

A: Since these conditions are stimulated (not created) by female hormones, medical treatments include hormonal medications, such as birth control pills, coupled with pain medication. Surgical options at Northern Westchester Hospital for all three conditions include advanced minimally invasive approaches, specifically leading-edge robot-assisted single-incision laparoscopic surgery (SILS), which can be performed through a single incision in the belly-button.

I am one of only a few physicians in the Hudson Valley trained in single-incision laparoscopic GYN surgery, which offers women a faster recovery than even traditional robot-assisted surgery and a near-invisible scar.

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Did You Know?

Every year, **fibroids** lead to more than **200,000 hysterectomies**. Not including the number of myomectomies, an option for women who wish to have children.*



Yorktown Siblings Take Top Prize in Smart Mobil App Bowl

By Janine Bowen

A pair of siblings from Yorktown took home the grand prize in the Westchester Smart Mobil App Development Bowl, while other local teams won big.

Lindsay and Mark Aldrich, students at Yorktown High School and Soundview Prep School respectively, won the top prize of \$1,000 and the opportunity to pitch their app to a panel of industry experts at the "Face Time for Entrepreneurs" session at the Health Tech 2015 Conference in May, for a smart phone app that allow caregivers of patients with Alzheimer's to work together to lessen their burden.

Each of the 50 teams that initially entered into the competition were tasked with creating an app for a smartphone or tablet that would help improve the lives of those affected by Alzheimer's and Dementia. The Aldrich's, whose two person team was the smallest in the competition, created that app that was deemed to be the most creative, functional, and usable by a panel of expert judges.

"We're happy to just be able to participate in helping the community in any way," said Lindsay Aldrich.

The pair said they never expected to win, but joined the competition because of an interest in the medical community. But they were pleased that the app, which took a lot of time and effort to create, was



JANINE BOWEN PHOTO

Mark and Lindsay Aldrich pose with grand prize trophy with County Executive Rob Astorino and judges

able to emerge victorious.

Of the 30 finalist teams from Westchester, New York City and Long Island who presented their apps on Friday afternoon, several local teams won awards in four separate categories. One of the most successful teams was The Koding Kidz from Fox Lane High School in Bedford. They developed a virtual scrapbook app that allows caregivers to set up a compilation of photos that can be organized into albums and accompanied by descriptions, so that patients can look at moments from their life to help their memory.

"We're really happy with the finished product and it really showed a lot of perseverance, and a lot of hard work and a lot of time spent," said team member, Sean Sacks.

The team, which consisted of six students from across grade levels, placed second in two categories; the Caregiver Award, which is given to the app that best serves the well-being of the caregiver to support the emotional, physical, and psychological needs of the patient; and the Creativity Award, which is given to the app that had the highest score in content design, innovation, and uniqueness. The team also took home the first place prize for Content Usability, which awarded apps that are easy to use, appropriate to the task, and provide easy navigation for the users.

"We wanted to make it very user friendly to get to the audience; older people who really aren't in the technological age," said team member, Benjamin Coleman.

Team members explained that they developed their application by looking at other similar apps to see what was missing. One of the most important things, said team member Danny Delannes-Molka, was that they made sure the app never specifically mentions Alzheimer's or Dementia, so as to not upset the patients, who are already frustrated by their memory deficiencies. Going forward, the team would like to be able to introduce audio into the app because they have learned from caregivers that even though Alzheimer's patients may still be able to read, their reading comprehension declines as the disease progresses.

Although only seven teams were awarded prizes, County Executive Rob Astorino, who launched the Westchester Smart Mobil App Bowl in February, commended each of the teams, who all submitted app ideas that exceeded his expectations. He noted that it is the compassion and brainpower of today's youth that will help to solve the world's problems going forward.

"How wonderful is it to see members of the younger generation burning the midnight oil to help ease the burdens of men and women at their twilight," he said. "It gives us hope in an age when we really need it."

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Youth Drug Trends Discussed at Croton Forum

By Neal Rentz

A discussion about drug trends among youths was the focus of a community meeting last week in Croton.

On April 16 at the Croton Municipal Building about 30 residents attended the one-hour Croton Community Coalition program, "Drug Trends from the Front Lines."

Last week's program was led by Croton Police Officer Thomas Leonard, whose responsibilities include serving as the D.A.R.E. officer in Croton schools.

The dangers of drug use were personally experienced by Leonard earlier in the day when for the second time in his career he needed to use a Naloxone kit to prevent a person from dying as a result of a drug overdose.

Leonard said there were several warning signs parents should look out for in their children for potential alcohol use including mood changes and depression. Depression was also a warning sign for marijuana use, as well as some other symptoms as increased appetite and "talking in code with friends," he said.

A new trend is the use of powdered alcohol which can be added to a liquid

Marijuana is five times more potent than it was decades ago, Leonard said. A new product is mari-



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO
Croton police officer Thomas Leonard led a discussion.

juana in a wax form that is melted so the user can inhale it, he said. One of the dangers of the wax form of marijuana is it could explode while being melted.

There are many edible forms of marijuana that look like common candy and other foods, Leonard said. "You can't tell the difference," he said.

Also commonly abused by youths are prescription drugs, which are commonly found in the users' homes or the residents of other family members of friends, Leonard said.

Leonard noted that the Croton Police Department has a drop box residents can use at any time to dispose their prescription drugs.

Leonard provided advice to parents so they could discourage their children from using alcohol and drugs. Some of his suggestions included talking to your children, locking up pills, knowing your children's friends, knowing where your children are when they are not at home and "be a parent and not a friend,"

Laurie Dean, the Coalition's chairwoman and coordinator, said her program is funded through an annual \$125,000 federal Drug-Free Communities grant. The Coalition is made up of volunteers from various parts of the village community.

Murphy Pushes for School Nurses to Use Narcan to Combat Overdoses

By Martin Wilbur

State Sen. Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) appealed last week to the state Department of Health to allow school nurses to be able to administer Narcan, a life-saving treatment often used to counter a heroin overdose.

Murphy, co-chairman of the New York State Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Abuse, said that the recently approved

2015-16 state budget includes \$272,000 for school districts statewide to obtain Narcan kits.

Participation in the program is voluntary to avoid tacking on another unfunded mandate, he said.

"We're not going to wait until our kids drop dead," Murphy said last Thursday while accompanied by school officials from throughout his

district and representatives of anti-drug organizations at the Valhalla Ambulance Corps headquarters. "This has been a simple-to-work, common sense piece of legislation and a funded piece of legislation that we have gotten through on this budget. It's extremely important to realize and control the epidemic that's going on here in the Hudson Valley."

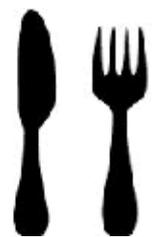
Murphy said the task force is going to meet with state health officials in the coming weeks to revise the parameters of who may administer Narcan, an antidote that is placed in the nose. He is optimistic that school nurses trained and certified in administering the treatment will be added to that group at least in time for the start of the new school year in Sep-

continued on page 7

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Yorktown GOP Committee Endorses Slate for Nov Election

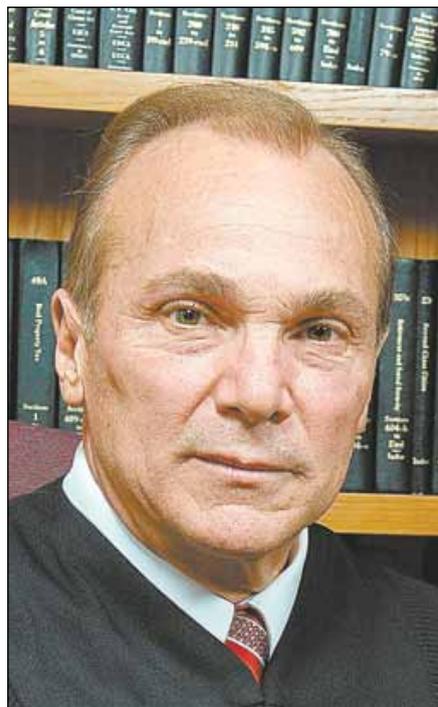
By Rick Pezzullo

With no fanfare, the Yorktown Republican Committee unanimously endorsed a slate of candidates for the November election two weeks ago.

Heading the Republican ticket is Supervisor Michael Grace, who will be seeking a third two-year term. Newly elected Councilman Tom Diana, who is finishing out the last nine months of former Councilman Nick Bianco's unexpired term, was endorsed for a full four-year term, along with Ed Lachterman, who is president of the Yorktown Lions Club. Town Justice Gary Raniolo was also endorsed for a second four-term, as was Westchester County Legislator John Testa, who is vying for a fourth two-year term.

"Our slate represents the best Yorktown has to offer and the spirit of Yorktown, which is giving back to neighbors and strangers alike through community service," said Serafina Mastro, chairwoman of the Yorktown GOP Committee. "The Yorktown GOP slate is committed to moving Yorktown forward by providing tax relief, high quality services and ethical, open government. That is why our candidates will again be successful in November."

Grace, who was elected in 2011 with 38% of the votes in a three-way race,



Gary Raniolo

unseating Susan Siegel, is a land use attorney who has continued to practice full-time while also being a full-time supervisor. He trounced Bianco in 2013 to earn a second term.

"The Republican Party in Yorktown is successful because they recognize the

need to nominate principled candidates who will stand up for the people of the town on the issues that matter," Grace said. "We are a big tent, but there are basic things we can all agree on, like sound fiscal stewardship, the need to lower taxes, preserve open space, and get our town open for business. Our slate is committed to moving Yorktown forward."

Diana, a retired police officer who owns a fuel oil delivery company, lost to Dave Paganelli as a Democrat for highway superintendent in 2013 and to Siegel as a Republican in 2014 to fill Paganelli's empty seat before prevailing in March in a special election.

"It was an honor and a privilege when the voters of Yorktown put their confidence in me to serve on the town board," Diana said. "Now I look forward to serving a full term as the voice of the people. Let's get common sense back on the board and start addressing the quality of life issues that the Republican party is best equipped to address, like making the town more business-friendly, working with our state representatives to fix our roads, bridges and potholes, as well as combating the heroin crisis."

Lachterman, a longtime hospitality executive, has never run for elected office but has been involved in community

causes, including fundraising for pancreatic cancer research.

"The voters of Yorktown have consistently elected Republican candidates because they represent a fresh face and new ideas, and I am honored to be able to continue that tradition," Lachterman said. "Public service is about putting your community first, which is something I am committed to from my many years of involvement in local organizations. I will bring that spirit to the board, along with my business experience."

Raniolo said he and fellow Town Justice Sal Lagonia have eliminated the backlog of cases that resulted in long delays.

"Maintaining a timely disposition of all cases before the court gives our constituents the access to the legal system that they want, and deserve," Raniolo said. "I am personally aware of the grave dangers that confront many of our young people, sadly some with deadly consequences. We are committed to helping reverse the trend of behavioral issues that have impacted the lives of too many families in our community."

The Democratic Committee hasn't met yet to endorse candidates. Siegel said last week she is still weighing her options since her seat is up for grabs.

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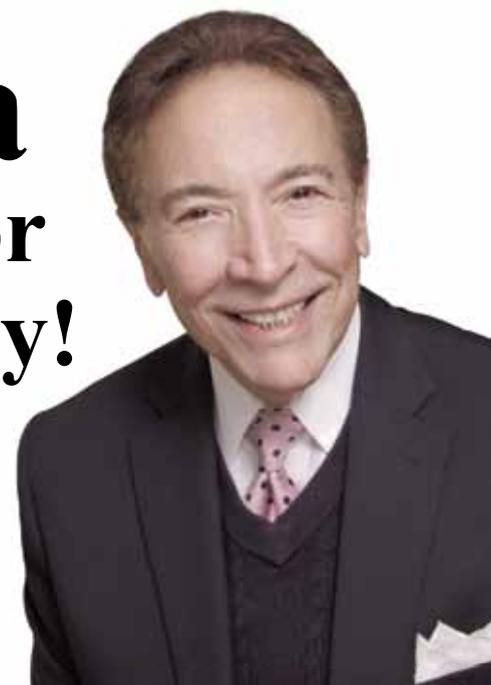
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Levenberg Announces Run for Ossining Town Board

Dana Levenberg, 18-year resident of Ossining, announced her candidacy for one of the two open seats in this year's Ossining Town Board election in November. Levenberg currently serves as trustee on the Ossining School Board and has been an active member of the Ossining and Briarcliff communities.



Dana Levenberg

Levenberg first moved to the Village of Ossining in 1997. After an extensive search of Westchester communities, she and her husband Stephen purposefully chose to relocate from Manhattan to their home in the heart of downtown. Ossining offered everything they were looking for: a safe community to raise their family, including her two sons, one an Ossining High School graduate now at Brown University, and the other a junior at OHS in the science research program; a community that embraced all different types of people; a community that would come together to help neighbors and friends; and, a community with wonderful natural resources with easy access to hiking, biking, and unique retail establishments along the banks of the beautiful Hudson River.

After moving to Ossining, Levenberg quickly became involved in Ossining and

Briarcliff. She joined the Briarcliff Nursery School Board and held many leadership positions in the Ossining School's PTAs because she knew how critical parent involvement in her children's education was to their success.

Levenberg also co-founded the Ossining Micro Fund with Westchester County Majority Leader Catherine Borgia. Together, they started a program to help local residents by offering interest-free loans to qualified individuals and families with one time obstacles to overcome.

In the past 10 years, the Micro Fund has helped over 70 local community members with over \$70,000 in small loans. Levenberg still actively serves as president.

In 2008, Levenberg began her work in NYS Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's District office in Ossining. She has spent the past seven years working hard for the people of Ossining and Briarcliff, as well as the surrounding communities represented by Galef. Through these experiences, she has gained insight into how to advocate for the residents of Ossining and Briarcliff by working closely with officials from the Town and Villages and state agencies to help resolve issues both large and small.

Levenberg believes it is critical to protect the environment and the town's physical and cultural assets and infrastructure, work to keep taxes in check and within the tax cap, work closely with schools so all students may reach their potential, and help promote job growth and attract appealing businesses to the town. She also understands the necessity of working closely with those with divergent opinions, and hopes to encourage more participation in government so all feel well represented. Levenberg has worked with former opponents on the Ossining School Board, shar-

ing her ideas and listening closely to theirs. She would bring the same approach to the Ossining Town Board because every opinion is valuable in contributing viable solutions to challenges.

"I am humbled by the support I have received from friends and communities members," said Levenberg following her campaign kick-off fundraiser on April 10. "I look forward to meeting with residents of the Town as well as the villages to hear their concerns and share my ideas to make good things happen in the Town of Ossining and be a positive force for a positive future."

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Obituaries

Henrietta Axelrod

Henrietta C. Axelrod, a resident of Somers, formerly of Scarsdale, died April 16 at home. She was 92.

She was born in New York on June 2, 1922 to the late Rose and George Chooluck. She was a graduate of Hunter College and taught many years at the Grace Dodge Vocational High School in the Bronx, retiring in 1984. Henrietta was a very active member of the Heritage Hills community and served as the president of the Heritage Hills Concert Society for several years, helping to bring world class concert performances by numerous outstanding performers to the Heritage concert hall. She was also an avid bridge

player, playing her last game with dear friends on the Sunday before her passing.

She was the wife of the late Albert Axelrod who preceded her in death on February 24, 2004. She leaves her children Michael (Patricia) of Westbrook, CT, and Stephanie (Andrew) Keegan of Somers. She was the loving grandmother of Daniel Keegan of Fayetteville, NC, Brian Keegan of the Bronx, and Peter Keegan of Somers.

Caterina Polletta

Caterina Polletta, a resident of Ossining, died April 11. She was 90.

She was born on November 25, 1924 in Sassinoro, Italy. Beloved wife of the late

Saverio. She is survived by her three sons and their wives, Joseph and Fabiola, Vincent and Deborah, Fernando and his beloved wife the late Eileen M. (Radigan). Adored grandmother of Valerie, Angela, Kathryn, Matthew and Christopher. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Ann's Church in Ossining.

Lorraine Gustin

Lorraine Gustin, a lifelong Ossining resident, died April 1 at her daughter, Joy's, home in Conyers, Georgia. She was 90.

Mrs. Gustin worked as a secretary in the Guidance Department of Ossining High School for many years. She was pre-

deceased by her husband, Robert, brother, Frederick Crisfield, and sisters, Edith Anderson, Carol MacMenamin, Elizabeth Eberlein and Vivienne Rauschkolb.

She is survived by her daughters Donna Lee (John) Aery, Joy Carol Eade, and sons Eric (Catherine) and Karl (Christy); her grandchildren Alison (Brian) Gallant, Jessica Aery, Robert Aery, Clifford Eade, Andy (Christal) Eade and great-grandchildren Conner Eade and Hayden Eade. Also, her sister Gladys Sinning and brothers Richard (Catherine) Crisfield and Robert Crisfield and brothers-in-law John MacMenamin, Paul Eberlein and Joseph Rauschkolb, as well as many nieces and nephews.

A private memorial celebrating Lorraine's life will be held in late summer.

Murphy Pushes for School Nurses to Use Narcan to Combat Overdoses

continued from page 4
tember.

Judy Mezey, of Student Assistance Services, said while no student in Westchester has died from an overdose while in school, having a kit available could mean the difference between life and death.

During the Apr. 16 press conference, Mezey pointed to a photo of Justin Veatch, the Yorktown teenager who died

from an overdose in 2008 at 17 years old, and said if there had been an episode in school, personnel would have been ill-equipped to handle the situation.

"It could have happened in school and if it did Narcan could have saved his life," Mezey said.

The likelihood of an overdose occurring in school is increasing because heroin use appears to be on the upswing, Murphy said. Last year, there were more

deaths from heroin in New York City than murders and two weeks ago Erie County reported 13 overdoses in one week, he said.

Also, the five lower Hudson Valley counties of Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess and Orange are considered high intensity drug trafficking areas, Murphy said.

Carol Bumbalow, a nurse at Walter Panas High School in Cortlandt, agreed

with Murphy's plan, saying it makes sense for her and her colleagues to have the chance to save lives.

Murphy said while this program isn't the long-term solution to the area's drug problems, it at least provides a way to prevent needless deaths.

"Is this the answer to the solution? No. This is a band-aid to save lives until we can get to the root of the problem," Murphy said.

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Editorial

Bad Message Being Sent with Students Opting Out of State Exams

There is something alarmingly wrong with the campaign to boycott the Common Core state assessment exams given to students over the last two weeks.

Reportedly, more than 175,000 students statewide in grades 3 through 8 opted out of taking the English Language Arts (ELA) test last week. Local districts were not immune from the misguided protest as they all reported large increases from a year ago.

The students are not to be blamed. Fingers should be pointed at parents who encouraged their children not to participate, and elected officials, namely Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, who thrust himself into an area where he doesn't belong just to continue his barrage of criticism on Governor Andrew Cuomo, who just a few months ago showed Astorino he

was way over his head trying to unseat him.

Astorino and his wife, a special education teacher, made it known that they withheld their children from taking the Common Core exams for the second year in a row as if they deserve a medal. What exactly are Astorino and other parents fearful of?

If anything, children are being given a potentially damaging message that it's okay to avoid things that may be difficult and challenging. Isn't a big part of life overcoming obstacles and always trying your best?

The objective of the Common Core was to set standards for students and teachers to achieve. Sure, the implementation was sloppy, but that's often the case with anything when it's first introduced. (see Obama Care). The data received from the tests

will just be used as a barometer to show districts and educators where students are excelling and struggling. The results do not become part of a student's permanent record.

Students have always been given some kind of standardized tests. Several decades ago students took the Iowa tests, and they weren't scarred for life. Of course, there's the SATs and ACTs that play a role in determining where students continue to further their education.

Instead of misdirecting some sort of bottled up anger with the school system, parents should rally to try to fix any problems that might exist and make improvements; turn a negative into a positive, because nothing good will come from this anti-Common Core effort. It's a lost cause.

Letters

The Truth About Yorktown's Economic Development

To the Editor:

Exactly how much economic development has taken place in Yorktown over the past three years? The answer depends on who you ask and what you count.

According to the Republicans, the answer is between \$250 - \$300 million. But if one takes the time to look behind the claim, the numbers simply don't add up.

The numbers don't add up because they're based on PROPOSED projects — and the "proposed" projects cited by the Republicans haven't materialized. It's one thing to hype planned, proposed and "in the pipeline" projects. But true economic development means shovels in the ground and completed projects that put rateables on the tax roll. And that hasn't happened in Yorktown.

In a January, 2013 article in the Westchester Business Journal headlined "Yorktown open for business," Supervisor Michael Grace and former Town Councilman now state Senator Terrence Murphy claim the following development projects:

Costco: \$60 million. FACT: Costco

came to Yorktown in 2009, before either Grace or Murphy were on the Town Board. The project still hasn't been approved — and the delays have been primarily due to Costco.

Fieldhome: \$90 million. FACT: This proposed senior independent living project, initially proposed in 2011 before Mr. Grace was supervisor, was approved by the Planning Board in April, 2012 and is still — still — waiting for NYC DEP approval. Nothing has been built.

Stateland: No dollar figure was given for this potential 140,000 sq. ft. big box store. FACT: The Town Board rezoned the parcel in 2013 but to date NO SITE PLAN has even been submitted.

Jefferson Valley Mall: \$45 million upgrade. FACT: This project started in 2011, before Mr. Grace became supervisor, and was approved by the Town Board in October, 2013. To date no work has been done on the upgrade.

FACT: Since January, 2012 when Mr. Grace took office, there have been three new major commercial structures built in Yorktown: Mohegan Lake Motors, Best

Plumbing at Crompond Crossing, and the Mt. Kisco Medical Building in Jefferson Valley. All three entered the pipeline BEFORE Supervisor Grace took office.

As for the dozen or more "new businesses" that have opened in Yorktown in recent years, all they did was fill up vacant storefronts; they didn't add a penny to the tax rolls.

But there's good news on the horizon; there's been an increase in economic activity in Yorktown, especially over the past year with two potential commercial projects involving the Bear Mountain Triangle, upgrades to the Staples Shopping Center and other activity along Route 202.

But let's be honest: this new activity is primarily a function of an improving economy, something the town, and politicians, have little control over.

RON STOKES

Co-chairman, Yorktown
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Museum to Memorialize 150th Anniversary of President's Death

With a "you are there" intensity, two days of ceremonies, honors and tributes taking place on the exact 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's death and the location his funeral train passed is taking place on Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26 at The Lincoln Depot Museum at 10 South Water Street in Peekskill. Adding to the event's intensity will be an historically exact replica of the martyred president's coffin made by Batesville Cas-ket Company.

The coffin will be on display at the Lincoln Depot Museum from 1-4 pm each day. There will be a nominal \$5 attendance fee. Museum members will get in free. Specific highlights will include speeches each day at 2:30 pm:

- On April 25th, Jamie Malanowski will give a talk on Lincoln as Hero and Myth. Malanowski is author of *And the War Came, Six Months That Tore America Apart*, and Abraham Lin-

coln, *Outlaw Hero*. He has written for *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Washington Monthly*.

- On April 26, John Muranelli will give a talk on *The Murder Plot To Kill Lincoln*. Muranelli is a leading expert and researcher on Ford's Theater, the conspirators who assassinated Lincoln, and John Wilkes Booth.

- The Lincoln Museum Exhibit, *Lincoln and New York: The Indispensable Relationship*, will be on display.

- Visitors will get to see the coffin that is an exact reproduction of the one that carried Abraham Lincoln to his final grave at a site his funeral train actually passed.

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln made his only stop in Westchester at The Lincoln Depot. The trip was part of Lincoln's little known-but momentous whistle stop train trip to his inauguration. Over the course of the 1,600 mile trip, Lincoln

stopped at scores of places and gave many brief speeches. It is estimated that on that trip, Lincoln was seen by more people than had ever witnessed an American president in history, and that the voyage itself played an important role in mobilizing public opinion for the trials to come. In April, 1865, the funeral train carrying his remains followed the same 1,600-mile route home, and had a huge impact as well.

The Lincoln Depot Museum is one of the only intact sites of the scores where Lincoln stopped and spoke on his way to and back from Washington. A multi-million-dollar facility, the 160-year-old building features an abundance of exhibits, including period Lincoln photographs, letters signed by Lincoln and Civil War era artifacts and ephemera. The event is being held by the Lincoln Depot Museum in cooperation with The Lincoln Society in Peekskill.

Plans are for the Lincoln Depot Museum to be a catalyst for heritage tourism and historic preservation for the entire region. Members of area historic groups are already thrilled about the fact that they'll soon have a new place to meet and stage events.

Founded in 1903, The Lincoln Society in Peekskill is considered the oldest Lincoln Society of its kind. Lincoln's connection to Peekskill grew out of the city's status as a center of 19th-century manufacturing and the intensive political activity of many of its leading citizens in that era. He was invited to stop in the city by local luminary William Nelson, who served in Congress with Lincoln from 1846-1848.

This event marks the official opening of the Lincoln Depot Museum for the 2015 season and will be its first full year in operation. The museum will be open Saturdays and Sundays until December 19-20, 2015.

Hundreds of Local Students Opt Out of Taking State Exams

continued from page 1

Superintendent of Schools Dr. George Stone.

"It is important that our students participate in the NYSED assessments," Yorktown Deputy Superintendent Dr. Florence O'Connor stated in a letter to district parents. "All school districts are required to have 95% student participation in state assessments. We would never desire to be penalized and labeled as a school district that failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress as measured by participation in the NYSED assessments."

In Peekskill, students refusing to take the ELA exams increased from Tuesday to Wednesday. On the first day of testing, 48 out of 737 elementary school students weren't tested. That jumped to 74 the second day. In the middle school, 68 out of 659 students opted out on day one. The next day, 118 students opted out.

In the Hendrick Hudson School District, 212 out of 1,126 students (19%)

opted out of the ELA testing.

Statewide, more than 175,000 students reportedly opted out, about 14% of the eligible population. This week, students are scheduled to take the math portion of the state assessments.

"State assessments in English and Math offer an opportunity for educators and parents to gauge the progress a child is making toward the Standards," Tom Dunn, a spokesman for the State Education Department, stated. "All students are expected to participate in state assessments as part of the core academic program. Absences from all or part of the required academic program should be managed consistent with the attendance policies of the district."

State law forbids the test results from the assessments to be included in a student's permanent record. Meanwhile, in Lakeland, only 20% of the evaluation score of teachers is related to state testing.

For the second year in a row, Astorino, who ran on repealing the Common Core during his unsuccessful run for governor last year, and his wife, Sheila, a special education teacher, withheld their children from taking the tests.

"I want the highest standards for my

children and all children, but the Common Core experiment isn't delivering them," Astorino said. "We really don't know what it's delivering, in fact, and that's the problem. The secretive nature of the whole thing has parents rightly concerned and frustrated."

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Teacher Retirements Help Hen Hud Balance Proposed Budget

By Rick Pezzullo

The retirement of 11 teachers at the end of the school year helped officials in the Hendrick Hudson School District craft a proposed \$74.4 million budget for 2015-16 that keeps property taxes in check.

If voters approve the spending plan on May 19, the average Cortlandt property owner in the district will pay \$3 more in

school taxes, while the average Peekskill property owner will pay \$1 more. Cortlandt homeowners with an average assessed value of \$7,700, pay approximately \$7,632 in school taxes, while Peekskill homeowners pay approximately \$3,611.

"I am proud that we have been able to prepare a budget which is fiscally responsible, controls expenses, and is reflective of

our area's current financial status," said Superintendent of Schools Joseph Hochreiter.

Although there are no layoffs in the budget, the number of Elementary Math Coaches is reduced from three to one. The budget also reduces expenditures for public relations, field trips and other areas still to be determined to close a \$200,000 gap, along with the level of in-

struction in arts and music.

Spending is up 1.4% (\$1.04 million) from this year and \$450,000 is utilized from un-appropriated fund balance, which is 63% less than what was designated this year. The district is projecting receiving \$5.1 million in state aid, an 8.7% increase, along with an additional \$200,000 owed from a prior year.



BJ's Wholesale Club in Yorktown has joined the Yorktown Lions in supporting the reuse and recycling of eyeglasses and hearing aides, and has placed an eyeglass recycling box in its Optical Department. BJ's is committed to being a green company. Partnering with Lions Clubs to collect no longer needed but still usable eyeglasses and hearing aides is a great way to embrace that goal, according to Optical Manager Babs Liebler. The Lions collect, refurbish and distribute eyeglasses and hearing aides at their NJ facility, located at the Katzenbach School for the Deaf in West Trenton.

Special Olympics Walk Set for Sunday at FDR Park in Yorktown

The 10th Annual Special Olympics NY Miles for Medals Walk will take place Sunday, April 26 at FDR State Park in Yorktown.

The walk raises funds to provide year-round sports training and athletic competitions for children and adults living with intellectual disabilities. Currently, New York State has the largest Special Olympics program in

the country, serving more than 64,000 athletes.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the walk kicks off at 10. Participants are asked to raise a minimum of \$100 and they will receive a commemorative t-shirt for their efforts. Other incentive prizes are also offered.

For further information, visit www.2015.kintera.org/MilesforMedals.

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West Side Story Takes the Stage at WBT

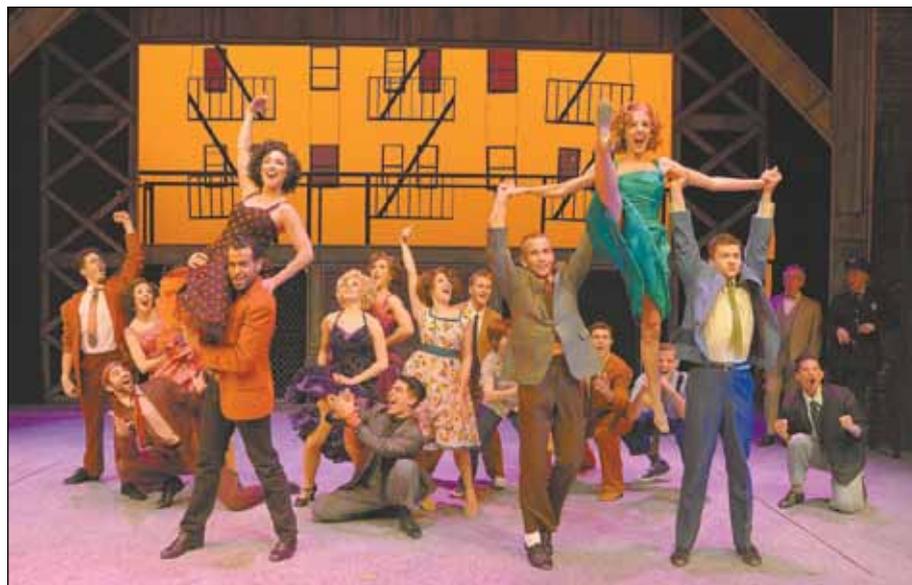
By Evelyn J. Mocbeichel

There have been a handful of musicals that have impacted our American culture but none are more famous as West Side Story. Back in the 1960s the movie version hit the screen in a phenomenal fashion and the musical score became, to this day, of the most beloved soundtracks of our time. Now theatre goers can enjoy this production at the Westchester Broadway Theatre (WBT) in Elmsford. It opened on April 9 and runs through July 5.

The story is based on a concept by Jerome Robbins and a book by Arthur Laurents, with music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. With these musical geniuses collaborating, it was bound to be an overwhelming hit and award winner.

West Side Story, possibly the greatest musical ever created, was inspired by Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. The musical is set on the mean streets of Manhattan, in the upper west side neighborhood of San Juan Hill, during the turbulent 1950s. West Side Story tells the tale of two star-crossed lovers from different worlds. When Tony, a Jet, falls for Maria, a Shark, all hell breaks loose. Caught between two warring street gangs, the Jets and the Sharks, Tony and Maria, attempt to create a life together. The dark theme, sophisticated music, extended dance scenes, and focus on social problems marked a turning point in American musical theater.

Bernstein's score for the musical includes "Something's Coming", "Maria", "America", "Somewhere", "Tonight", "Jet Song", "I Feel Pretty", "A Boy Like That", "One Hand, One Heart", "Gee, Officer Krupke", and "Cool". Premiering in 1957, starring Mickey Calin as Riff, Larry Kent as Tony, Carol Lawrence as Maria and Chita Rivera as Anita, the musical went on to critical acclaim worldwide. It was



PHOTOS BY JOHN VECCHIOLLA

The cast of West Side Story

nominated for six Tony Awards including Best Musical, but the award went to Meredith Willson's The Music Man. The 1961 film version picked up ten Oscars, plus a special choreography award for Robbins. The soundtrack, by Bernstein and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, spent 54 weeks at number one in the Billboard chart.

I remember seeing this movie as a teen. At first sight seeing street gangs dancing to the music, I thought this was an unusual concept for such a serious topic. The storyline was so absorbing, I was quickly transported to the mood of the conflict, and the intensity of the dancing easily brought the audience to the passion of each scene. The same happens in a live theatre performance. This production is by director Barry McNabb, who directed and choreographed WBT's 1998 production, so he returns to take the helm. The assistant Director/Choreographer is Warren Curtis. The fight Director is James Jelkin. The production stars are Carly Evans as Maria, Zach Trimmer as

Tony, Adam Soniak as Riff, Allison Thomas Lee as Anita, Brandon Contreras as Bernardo, Mike Boland as Doc and Officer Krupke, Xavier Reyes as Chino, Ed Romanoff as Lt. Shrank and Gladhand, and Maggie McGrath as Anybody's.

Featured are Sara Brophy, Victoria Casillo, Alexander Gil Cruz, Warren Curtis, Sarah Gawron, Michael Gracetta, Anthony Johnson, Tyler John Logan, Erik Magnus, Kelsey Orem, Emilio

Ramos, Arianna Rosario, Kevin Santos, Scott Shedenhelm and Melanie Wildman. Set Design is by Steve Loftus, Lighting Design is by Andrew Gmoser, Sound Design is by Jonathan Hatton and Mark Zuckerman, Costume Design is by Derek Lockwood. Wig/Hair Design by Gerard Kelly, The Production Stage Manager is Victor Lukas, Assistant Stage Manager is Duane McDevitt. As with all WBT productions, Lisa Tiso is the Associate Producer.

With so many special events coming up in the next few months, Mother's and Father's Day, graduations and anniversaries, this production at the WBT is the perfect place to celebrate or give a gift certificate for any of the fine upcoming productions! There are both matinee/lunch and evening/dinner performances to pick from. Ticket Prices: Dinner & Show range between \$56 and \$84 plus tax depending on the performances chosen. Beverage Service & Gratuities are not included in the ticket price. Group discounts and luxury boxes are available for private parties. Discounts are available for children, students, and senior citizens at selected performances. There is no charge for parking. Reservations: Call (914)-592-2222. Also at: www.BroadwayTheatre.com.



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Pipeline Expansion Projects to Cause Destruction in Yorktown

continued from page 1

stressed Christian DiPalermo, government affairs specialist for Spectra. "Spectra builds on demand for natural gas, not speculation."

Luskay said a launcher and receiver "pigging station," used to clean the pipelines, would not be utilized on the Stony Street site until 2017.

"These lines are in really good shape. We know what we have in the ground," Luskay said. "It is heavy construction work we will be performing. The biggest threat is third party damage. That's what we're on the lookout for all the time. It's rare that we have any incident with any pipe."

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, there were 119 incidents in gas transmission pipelines in 2014.

Luskay said the lifeline of a natural gas pipeline is "indefinite" and noted the current demand does not call for the expansion of a 30-inch pipeline that has been located about 20 feet from the 26-inch line for the last 50 years.

Meanwhile, Spectra is proposing

to run another pipeline, four miles in length, from Stony Street to the Town of Somers. The Atlantic Bridge pipeline, which Spectra is looking to start constructing in 2017, would cross through some residential developments, Legacy Field and near Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin elementary schools and a playground on Curry Street.

"The line is designed to operate in congested areas," Luskay said.

As a tradeoff for disturbance of a right-

of-way near the Indian Point nuclear power plants in Buchanan with its Algonquin expansion, Spectra will be restoring Junior Lake in Yorktown by planting 700 new trees and shrubs.

"It's an enhancement to our park," Supervisor Michael Grace said.

Councilman Vishnu Patel questioned Spectra officials throughout their presentation, expressing concern about the safety of the operation.

"There is no guarantee that this is safe,"

Patel said. "It's very expensive to monitor. It's very dangerous material. I want to make sure you don't put cancer causing materials in the environment."

FERC is scheduled to host a scoping informational session about the Atlantic Bridge project on May 11 at the Yorktown Community and Cultural Center.

A coalition of municipalities, grassroots organizations and elected officials has filed a Request for Rehearing with FERC on the Algonquin pipeline expansion.

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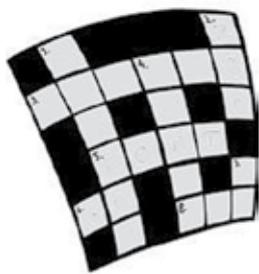
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New Playland Management Deal Under Scrutiny by County Board

By Pat Casey

County Executive Rob Astorino last week endorsed a proposal by Standard Amusements LLC to invest \$25 million in private money to restore Playland.

The plan, which was submitted in response to a request for proposals by Astorino, is based on the vision of Nicholas Singer, a native of Westchester County, who attended Harrison public schools and whose family frequently visited Playland's amusement park during his youth.

Now under review by the Board of Legislators, the proposal suggests that the county pay \$2,250,000 up front; invest \$22,750,000 million of its money within five years into refurbishing the park; and make annual payments to the county starting at \$300,000 and escalating 2 percent a year. The county would also receive 7.5 percent of profits once Standard Amusements recouped its initial investment.

Currently the county loses about \$4 million annually through its Playland operations.

For its \$25 million investment, Standard Amusements would receive the right to operate the park for 15 years with an option to renew for an additional 15 years under what is being called the Playland Management Agreement (PMA).

Singer is a financial executive who has founded and operated several successful

investment firms. He is currently the Managing Member of Purchase Capital, which among other projects has invested in United Parks.

Singer formed United Parks in 2014 with CEO Jack Falfas, said to be one of the country's foremost amusement park operators. Standard Amusements has entered into an operating arrangement with United Parks.

The structure of the PMA allows the county to retain full control of the property, as well as any material benefits from the capital improvements made by Standard Amusements.

The rejuvenation of the park would be handled by Falfas, who would personally oversee Playland's operations and would take up residence in Rye during the first full year of the agreement.

The PMA follows a recommendation in a report commissioned by the county from Biederman Redevelopment Ventures, whose principal is Dan Biederman. The report recommends that the "daily operation of the amusement park and parking lot sections of Playland should be transferred to Standard Amusements" and reached its conclusion after extensive outreach and conversations with virtually every operator who could potentially run the park, according to comments from the County Executive's office.

"Without this kind of cash infusion and

private management, hopes of rejuvenating and reinvigorating the park are not realistic," Biederman concluded in the report.

At a press briefing following the proposal announcement, members of the BOL Parks Planning and Housing Committee said the ability for the public to be involved had been lost and that they would have liked more transparency while the Biederman report was being compiled.

"We paid \$100,000 for the Biederman report," said Legislator Catherine Parker (D-Rye). "At this stage a selection has been made. The public should have been more involved. It is our job to make sure we have a good deal."

Noting that the current deal is not the same one proposed by Standard Amusements in 2013, Legislator Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) said it was the responsibility of the BOL to do the vetting and dig down into the specifics on the financials. "We are happy to be a more formal part of the process," she said.

The BOL has 60 days to go over the proposal, a schedule that members say they have every intention of meeting.

If the Board approves the plan, Standard Amusements would co-manage the park with the county for the remainder of the 2015 season, beginning the transition to its role of sole operator on Nov. 1, 2015.

Under the agreement, Standard Amusements would manage the amusement park, parking lot, beach, pool area and boardwalk. Outside the agreement are the Children's Museum, Pier Restaurant & Tiki Bar, Edith Read Sanctuary and the Ice Casino, which is run by American Skating Centers Entertainment through a separate asset management agreement with the county.

Standard Amusements would continue the park's current admission policies. Entry into the amusement park would be on a fee basis. Access to the boardwalk and property that surround the amusement park would be free of charge and open to the public.

The investment by Standard Amusements would be used to upgrade the park's overall appearance (painting, landscaping, façade replacements, pavement work, signage, bathhouse, picnic area and fountain renovations), improve the dining experience (more variety and new venues), restore historic rides, add new attractions (coasters, slides and water elements) and increase marketing. The agreement also gives Standard Amusements the option to have temporary athletic fields installed in the parking lots to accommodate spring and fall sports.

Playland will open for the 2015 season on May 9 under current county management.

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**Businesses
of the Week**

Parker Advertising Specialists Yorktown

By Neal Rentz

Yorktown resident Jennifer Park said promotional advertising by distribution of various items "is extremely helpful"

Some promotional items provided to the public include refrigerator magnets. "You're going to see that every single time you open up that refrigerator door," Parker said last week. "Tee shirts - you see them everywhere. Hats, people just remember."

Parker Advertising Specialists focuses on promotional advertising. Any enterprise with a logo or saying they want to put on an item. Parker owns the company and runs it out of her home. Parker said she is a middleman who distributes the items.

"I can do anything from a quantity of a dozen to thousands," Parker said.

Parker has both small and large businesses as her clients. Other clients include local schools and the Westchester County Police Department for its programs, including their golf outings and annual picnics, Parker said, adding her husband, John, is a retired county police officer. Her clients come from several areas including Manhattan,



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Yorktown resident Jennifer Parker is the owner of Parker Advertising Specialists.

Queens, Westchester and Connecticut.

Parker opened Parker Advertising Specialists in her Yorktown home in 2002. "It's just more convenient because I had two young children (Penelope and Abigail). So it's easier to work from home and still tend to them," she said.

Working from home has many advantages, including lower overhead costs, Parker said. "So I can definitely reflect some of those savings that I have on to my clients," she emphasized.

Originally, Parker Advertising promoted itself through word of mouth. She recently joined the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce "to try to get my name out there a little bit more," Parker said. "I'd like to expand it." Parker Advertising also has its own Web site and Facebook page.

Parker said her original work background was not in the advertising field "I originally had a background in human resources and payroll," she said.

"Parker Advertising was a business that was run originally by my husband's uncle (Mike Parker) and he wanted to retire it and my husband said, no, no, I'll keep it going. But my husband had a full-time job so I ended up keeping it going and it just became mine. My husband doesn't do anything with it."

By the time she took over Parker Advertising Parker had left her job in New York City to care for her children and was ready for a new profession. She recalled it was not a difficult transition for her to move into a new field. "It kept me busy," Parker quipped.

Parker said she enjoys working with her clients, many of whom have worked with her for years. "It's just fun. You get to know them. They become friends and family almost."

Promotional advertising is very effective, Parker said. "It's a great way to advertise, to get your name out there and to keep people remembering you."

For more information about Parker Advertising Specialists call 914-962-4562, send an e-mail to parkeradv@verizon.net or visit parkeradv.com. It also has a Facebook page.

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What to Know Before You Replace Your Home's Siding

Whether you're building a home from scratch or contemplating an upgrade, when choosing siding, there's a lot more to consider beyond color. The type of material you use can impact durability, beauty and even energy efficiency.

Since siding is a long-term investment, you'll want to make a decision from an informed place, especially with more options now available in the marketplace. With that in mind, here are some things to consider about different siding materials.

Weather

Extreme weather events, including high winds and hot and cold temperatures, can damage or destroy siding. Look for a product that is certified to withstand these conditions. No matter where you live, this should be an important consideration, as weather patterns have become more unpredictable across the country.

Rot

Fiber-based materials (such as fiber cement planks) absorb water, which over time can make siding more prone to rot, decay and even disintegration. At the

store, ask to see siding options made of polymer-based materials, which are impervious to moisture.

Maintenance

A certain amount of upkeep will be required to keep your siding looking great. However, vinyl siding requires only occasional soap and water, whereas fiber cement requires re-caulking and repainting to maintain color and help prevent moisture absorption.

First introduced in the 1960s, vinyl siding is the most popular home siding material today, due to its overall low cost, easy installation, durability and minimal maintenance. New products are particularly versatile, and easy to install and maintain, such as Heartland Siding by ProVia. Their super polymer vinyl siding comes in a number of styles, colors and price points. Additionally, the energy efficiency of the company's CedarMAX line can help you save money down the line. Visit www.proviaproducts.com/vs for more information.

Whenever making a major home upgrade, learn more about your purchase for smarter, sounder investments.

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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.

Tuesday, April 21

Blood Drive: An American Red Cross blood drive will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. at Field Home—Holy Comforter, 2300 Catherine St., Cortlandt. The need for blood is constant and your contribution is important for a healthy and reliable blood supply. You can help save more than one life with just one donation. Walk-ins are welcome but we recommend scheduling an appointment to avoid a wait. Please contact Lynn Tecchio at 914-739-2244 Ext. 5613. Info: www.FIELDHOME.com.

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.

Swimming Lessons: American Red Cross Swim Lessons are offered in our indoor warm water pool by certified instructors in Peekskill. All levels are offered and private lessons are also available. Classes are conducted on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Call Terri, manager of the Society Hill 2 Recreation Center, at 914-737-4909 for more information.

Healthy Happy Hour: Healthy Happy Hours are held on Tuesday nights in Mahopac

and another location may be added. Take a 10 day vacation from processed foods. Are sugary, fatty, easy-to-prepare, addictive junk foods making you feel sick and tired? Then reset your metabolism and break your addictions to unhealthy foods. For more information contact Diane at 914-843-8745.

Wednesday, April 22

Adult Writer's Workshop: A writer's workshop series for adults is continuing on April 22, 29, May 13, 20, and 27 and June 10, 17 and 24 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the Somers Library. The program is being presented by Linda Spear and people of all writing skill levels are welcome. Space is limited, so register early. Call the library at 914-232-5717 to register or register online at www.SomersLibrary.org

[SomersLibrary.org](http://www.SomersLibrary.org)

Fitness Program The POUND™ Fitness Program, a 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics isometric movements and poses is offered at Theatre and Dance Arts 131 Bedford Rd. Katonah.

continued on page 21

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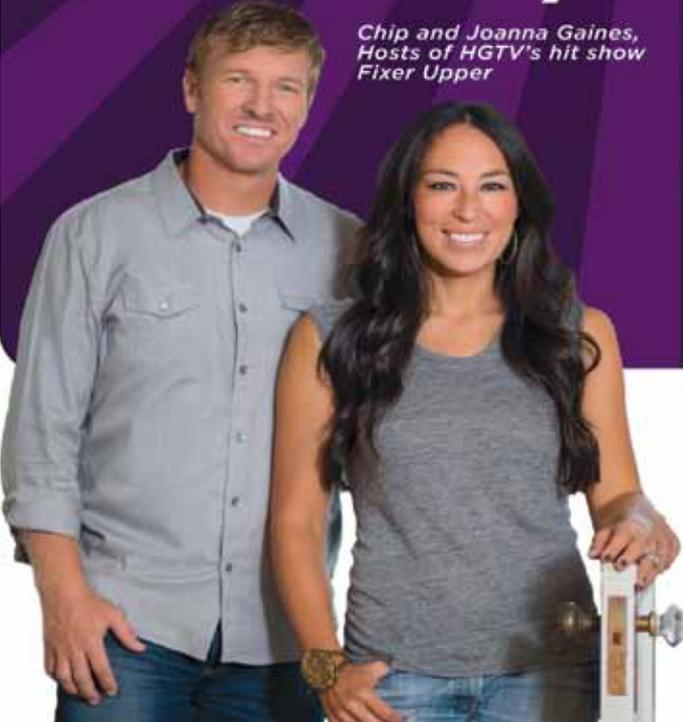
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Reflections on a Day of Cleaning Up the Neighborhood of Litter

A few years ago, I wrote a piece about litter and how it relates to the real estate industry. I was inspired because I had just been asked to cancel a showing appointment when a couple had done an advance drive-by of the house and found that it was in a neighborhood where they felt there was an excessive amount of litter left on the streets.

"We wouldn't want to live in a place where our neighbors could just leave litter in front of their own homes without picking it up," they told me. They even added for emphasis, "We just wouldn't want to live among people who could stand to live like that."

I must confess, I have similar feelings when I'm driving down a road. I don't know if I'm obsessive, okay. Maybe I am, but any foreign object of litter on the road catches my eye like a magnet and sets up that feeling of guilt that I can't stop my car, get out and pick it up.

If I happen to be on my own street, even if it's not in front of my house, I do it. Otherwise it's just impractical. After all, don't we all get honked at if we linger just a second too long when the light turns green?

Litter does affect the value of our neighborhoods and, unfortunately, at least in my case, it tends to affect our feelings about those among us who are not as conscientious as we are, just as my client expressed when canceling her appointment. Indeed, what kind of people would throw trash from their car on to the road and just not give a damn about it?

Last Saturday, I had six hours to ponder that question as I personally cleaned up a half-mile of one of the three roads, the busiest one, that borders my property. It was the day Yorktown designated as "The Battle of Yorktown," our annual litter clean up wonderfully sponsored by our town and directed by Kim Angliss-

Gage.

I adopted that road some years ago in exchange for a sign promoting my real estate practice, and at first, I would hire people to do the job for me. But for the last two years I've done the job myself as mental therapy, in part to vent my anger against those who litter and in part, of course, to maintain the appearance of my neighborhood.

First, I am unhappy to report that despite all the campaigns to discourage littering, we seem to have more of it on our roads. My collected volume was probably at least 25 percent more this year than last year. But the type of litter seems to be shifting a bit. The number of empty cigarette packs has diminished (besides the health factor, who can afford them anymore?), but

alarmingly, the number of empty liquor bottles has greatly increased, as has beer cans.

As I worked, I would quell my anger by visualizing the litterbugs as mostly unhealthy people, judging from the predominance of fast food packaging and plastic containers of those sugary jumbo drinks. Indeed, since litterbugs offend only when no one is looking, all we know about them is the scant information Keep America Beautiful tells us: they tend to be men between the ages of 18 and 34 who drive more than 50 miles a day and eat in fast food restaurants at least twice a week.

While I mumbled and grumbled during the course of those hours I spent keeping a watchful eye on how close the cars were driving to me (most drivers were very considerate), I totally enjoyed the experience of cleaning up. In fact, these were among the most gratifying hours of my year. While doing something good for myself and the neighborhood, I helped restore a patch of Mother Earth to some semblance of how she should be.

The
Home
Guru



By Bill Primavera



The Home Guru with his stash of trash from his hometown's litter clean up day, "The Battle of Yorktown."

There was only one negative factor involved in the experience. From so much bending and stooping, I found that my muscles were aching the next morning, more so than I remember in the past. Oh, yes, I forgot. I'm another year older. That's all right. Doing good at least makes me feel younger.

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). His real estate site is: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and his blog is: www.TheHomeGuru.com. To engage the services of The Home Guru and his team to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.



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The Surprising Similarities of Wine and Coffee Production

There are numerous parallels to winemaking in the natural world, as man has endeavored to extend winemaking techniques to other agricultural harvests. The end results bear the imprint of the winemaking process but are distinct unto themselves.

Cheese, bread, yogurt, chocolate and beer production share certain critical steps of winemaking (fermentation and yeast addition).

So does coffee production. This week, I'll focus on a comparison of the chain of ingredients and processes that result in your morning cup of coffee.

The baseline agricultural environment: Select varieties of wine grapes will only thrive under a very specific balance of soil, climate, elevation and exposure to the sun (in the aggregate, referred to as terroir).

So, too, with coffee beans. The unique terroirs of select regions of South America and Asia are conducive to the best expressions of certain coffee bean varieties.

The core ingredients: The horticultural species that produces the finest wine grapes is *Vitis Vinifera*. From this spe-

cies, hybrids have been developed that thrive in specific regions. An example: Burgundy wines produced from the Pinot Noir grape in the Burgundy region.

For coffee beans, two species account for the greatest production of beans. The

Arabica species is highly flavorful and relatively low in caffeine and acidity. Its production accounts for nearly 70 percent of coffee sold and brewed around the world. The Robusta species tends to be more bitter, less flavorful and contains double the caffeine of the Arabica.

Coffee bean hybrids are also named after their unique region of origin. Java and Sumatra beans are expressive of the terroir of those Indonesian islands, as Kona beans are of that Hawaiian island.

Each region produces coffee beans with unique aromas, bouquet, taste and finish as well as structural elements, including acidic, earthy, tannic, robust and nutty.

The transformation process: Similar to wine grapes, coffee beans--the seed of the coffee berry--are harvested at their peak. They are then extracted from the berry, typically through a fermentation

process, dried to 11 percent moisture, bagged and shipped (as "green coffee") to roasting houses.

The final influence: Here wine and coffee productions differ. Once wine leaves the winery, its human intervention is complete. However, green coffee beans undergo the additional steps of roasting and brewing. Professional roasters coax the internal heat of beans to 400 degrees, until the internal oils begin to emerge. Light, medium or dark roasts refer to the duration of the roasting process. It is through this process, in the hands of a talented, experienced roaster, that the distinctive aromas and flavors of each batch of (now brown) beans are created.

The brewing is a science unto itself; consult your local brew master for guidance.

Cult status: Select wines are highly sought after for their scarcity or the reputation of a particular vineyard; aficionados pay dearly – up to \$5,000 per bottle – to indulge their passion.

Select coffee beans share a similar status. A rare bean discovered in limited quantity in Guatemala was sold at a wholesale auction a few years ago for \$500.50 per pound. A cup of coffee processed from these beans sells for \$50 to \$70, if you can find it.

Recently, another new bean has been

marketed. The excrement of the Indonesian Palm Civet mammal contains undigested beans of prized local berries. When roasted and brewed they are unusually distinctive and flavorful. Sound enticing? Amazon will ship a bag to you – for \$400 per pound.

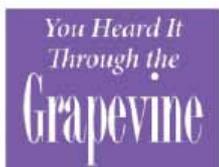
Need a satisfying fix to energize you in the morning or lower your stress in the evening? A wine bar and coffee café across the railroad tracks from each other in Pleasantville will satisfy both cravings. Batonnage Wine Bar Café offers a diverse menu of wines selected by David and Paul Paljevic. Black Cow Coffee Company offers a deep and broad international selection of fresh-roasted beans and brewed coffee. (For an education in all things coffee related, chat with owner/roaster Michael Grant or his daughters Bailey and Zoe.)

As the popularity of fine wine and coffee grows, the relationship between these siblings assures continued quality of their respective offerings.

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



Breathe Easy: Facts About COPD and the Benefits of Pulmonary Rehabilitation

By Harlan R. Weinberg, Medical Director, Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Northern Westchester Hospital

Pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) is increasingly recognized as a significant part of treatment for people with chronic respiratory illnesses and other lung conditions. Even for those with very impaired lung function, this specialized rehab can improve quality of life and the ability to live independently.

This program of specialized exercise and patient education helps improve activity endurance, while lessening a person's sensation of shortness of breath. The goal is to improve quality of life and a person's ability to function independently at home and outside. PR benefits those with COPD, smoking-related lung disease, asthma, and other lung disorders that progressively limit breathing, as well as people recovering from an acute exacerbation of COPD, those who are pre- or post-lung transplant, and lung cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

Here, I replace popular myths about chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) with empowering truths about the positive impact of PR for people with

this illness. I think you'll breathe easier after getting this encouraging information.

Myth: Only smokers get COPD.

Truth: A substantial number of people with the condition have never smoked. 42 percent of COPD sufferers are former smokers, 34 percent currently smoke, and the remaining 24 percent never took a single puff.

Myth: There is no treatment for COPD.

Truth: There is a range of treatment approaches for COPD that can help a person live better with the disease. These include medication, supplemental oxygen, transplant evaluation, enzyme replacement and/or pulmonary rehab. Your diagnosis determines which treatments will most benefit you.

Myth: If you have COPD, it's too late to quit smoking.

Truth: It is never too late to quit. Doing so will help slow the progression of the disease.

Myth: Exercise is too hard if you have



Harlan R. Weinberg

COPD.

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Harlan Weinberg, MD, is Medical Director of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Northern Westchester Hospital in Mt. Kisco, NY. Dr. Weinberg offers expertly curated medical information on his website: www.knowledgeofmedicine.com

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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Picture problem
- 5. FedEx rival
- 9. Peacock network
- 12. Real spooky
- 13. Close, as an envelope
- 14. 1969 Peace Prize grp.
- 15. Make smooth
- 16. Ruin
- 17. Shipwreck signal
- 18. Belonging to actor Brenden or Mahopac hardware store
- 20. Choice word
- 22. Intensely
- 24. Desk item
- 28. Bit of a recluse
- 32. Meat cut
- 33. Curse
- 34. Sinatra wear
- 37. Avid
- 39. People fond of alliteration will go to this Yorktown car cleaner (goes with 41 down)
- 41. Defeat
- 44. Rattle
- 49. Org. that sets law school standards
- 50. Support
- 52. Wedding cake layer
- 53. Young fellow
- 54. Farfetched
- 55. 'Do from "The Butler"
- 56. "___ do anything for me"
- 57. Scotch-Irish
- 58. Simon who wrote "The Death of Napoleon"

DOWN

- 1. Muscular strength
- 2. Big name in private jets
- 3. Can be Major or Minor
- 4. Deli breads
- 5. Loan shark
- 6. Realize
- 7. Shock absorber
- 8. At a snail's pace
- 9. Not yet final, in law
- 10. Allied nations, collectively
- 11. Truncheon
- 19. Barely maintain, with "out"
- 21. Twisted leaf tea
- 23. 007's doctor foe
- 24. Christmas worker
- 25. ___ vs. Wade
- 26. Financial assistance
- 27. Plays false
- 29. Price ___
- 30. Bible verb ending
- 31. P in the Parthenon
- 35. Spin
- 36. Indefinite article
- 37. Washer setting
- 38. Ashes holder
- 40. Hamilton vs. Burr and others
- 41. See 39 across
- 42. Bassoon's cousin
- 43. "We the Living" author
- 45. Abbr. after a list of names
- 46. Abundant
- 47. Extremely
- 48. Like cupid
- 51. Good thing to raise

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Solution on page 20

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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.

continued from page 16

Drop in or weekly discount rates available. The program is being provided on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 11:45 a. m. Call Peggy for more information at 914 960-4097.

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.firsthebrew.org.

Thursday, April 23

Somers Library Exhibit: Dana Rosenberg is exhibiting "Wool and Wings and Sunlit Things" at the Somers Library during the month of April. There will be an artist's reception at the library on April 18 at 2 p.m. Dana studied art education at CUNY Queens College and holds Master's degrees in fine arts, administration, and special education. She is an art teacher and expresses herself through the visual arts of drawing, painting, etching, woodcut, photography, weaving, and clay sculpture. Please call the library for viewing times in the program room at 914-232-5717, or visit us online at www.somerlibrary.org.

Temple Beth Am Programs: Two programs are scheduled for this week at Temple Beth Am, 203 Church Pl., Yorktown. Wine With Weiner will be held on April 23 at 7:45 p.m. Come to Beth Am for an informal conversation with the Jewish community on the issues that affect our lives with welcoming wine (or other beverages people bring). Rabbi Weiner facilitates a fascinating "laid-back" discussion while bringing us closer as a Jewish community. Congregants and non-congregants alike are invited to take this journey with our Rabbi. No previous knowledge is required, and all backgrounds are welcome. A Shabbat service for all will be held on April 24 at 8 p.m. Our modern Sabbath service has a spiritual and engaging feel while following traditional modes. For more information please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or email him at RabbiW@optonline.net.

Friday, April 24

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.

Free Play Dates: A free play date program

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

Jewish Center Services: At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Friday night Sabbath services in the spring will begin at 8 p.m. (not 6:15 p.m.) and Sabbath services on Saturdays will be held at 9:15 a.m. On most Saturdays, after the services Rabbi Sternstein conducts a learning session based on the Torah portion of the week. Light refreshments are served and everyone is invited to join us as we share in the warmth, knowledge and friendship within our congregation. Info: 914-245-2324 or www.info@yorktownjewishcenter.com.

Saturday, April 25

Deck Fence Show: N Dain's Sons Co.'s Annual Deck-Fence Show and Sale will be held on April 25 and 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the store, 2 N. Water St., Peekskill. Info: 914-737-2000 or dainslumber.com.

Chicken Experiences: To all interested in chickens: experience firsthand what types to raise, where to keep them safe, what to feed them and many other useful care giving tips. This seminar is provided by experts in backyard chicken flocks and we are sure all will walk away with useful information. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Yorktown Grange, 99 Moseman Rd. Visit Yorktowngrange.org for more information.

Skating Fund Raiser: Put cancer on ice. Support the YCT MESMS (Mildred E Strang Middle School) "Getting MESSy for a Cure" Relay for Life Team. It will be cool fun for all ages. The event will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Brewster Ice Arena. The \$10 per person donation covers skate rental and skating. Info: brewstericearena.com.

Lincoln Depot Museum: The Lincoln Depot Museum, 10 S. Water St., Peekskill, will memorialize the 150th anniversary of the president's death on April 25 and 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. Adding to the event's intensity will be an historically exact replica of the martyred president's coffin made by Batesville Casket Company. There will be a \$5 attendance fee. Museum members will get in for free. Specific highlights will include speeches each day at 2:30 p.m.: On April 25 Jamie Malanowski will give a talk on Lincoln as Hero and Myth. Malanowski is author of "And the War Came, Six Months That Tore America Apart" and "Abraham Lincoln, Outlaw Hero." On April 26, John Muranelli will give a talk on The Murder

Plot to Kill Lincoln/.Muranelli is a leading expert and researcher on Ford's Theater, the conspirators who assassinated Lincoln, and John Wilkes Booth. For more information, contact John Testa at 914-760-9773 or go to the organization's Web site at www.lincolndepotmuseum.org.

Learning Center Open House: The Early Learning Center at Fieldhome is having an open house from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Early Learning Center is a not-for-profit, intergenerational childcare program that is open year-round for children from six weeks to five-years-old. Come meet our awesome teachers, visit our classrooms, play on the playground and enjoy brunch on the patio. Fieldhome is located at 2300 Catherine St., Cortlandt. We are located off Route 202, between the Taconic and Bear Mountain Parkways. For more information call Carol Milillo, director, at 914-739-2244 or visit our website: www.fieldhome.com.

Love: "Love," an exhibit about varying aspects of love in the 20th and 21st Centuries in paint, installation, video, and sculpture is being held through Dec. 6 at the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, 1701 Main St., Peekskill. Artists include Alzamora, Barney, Bercea, Brenner, Brickley, Edmier, Feuerman, Gutheil, Hacker, Indiana, LeDray, Majic, Mapplethorpe, Neshat, Newsom, Otterson, Ozbolt, Pretzer, Ritterpusch, Ruckhäberle, Sadler, Tomasula, and Wathen. Info: 914-788-0100 or www.hvcca.org. HVCCA is also on Facebook.

Art Of The Vine: Come show your creative side at our Art of the Vine event from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Society Hill Recreation Center, 2 Campus Rd., Peekskill. Bring your own bottle. Call Terri at 914-737-4909 for more information.

Bean Runner Event: The Thunderhead Organ Trio, Joe Gil (trombone), Neil Alexander (keyboards) and Jason Furman (drums), will perform at 8 p.m. at the Bean Runner Café, 201 S. Division St., Peekskill. Admission is \$10. Info: 914-737-1701 or <http://beanrunnercafe.com>

Hebrew Congregation Programs: Two programs are scheduled for this weekend at the Hebrew Congregation of Somers, located at Cypress Lane and Mervin Drive. A Shabbat service will be held on April 25 at 9:30 a.m. Adult education will be offered on April 26 at 10:30 a.m. Info: 914-248-9532.

Yoga Program: Support Connection, which provides free programs and services for people affected by breast and ovarian cancer, announces a free program: "Yoga-A Path toward Wellness." It is offered every Saturday from noon to 1:30 p.m., at Club Fit, 600 Bank Rd., Jefferson Valley. The program is open to women with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancer. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-

4290.

Ossining Farmers Market: Down to Earth Markets is holding the Ossining Farmers Market outside at the corner of Spring and Main Streets. The market runs every Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit DowntoEarthMarkets.com for vendor details, events, and other updates at Ossining's Down to Earth Winter Farmers Market.

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 a.m. at the fourth floor conference at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center, 1350 Route 9, Garrison. Info: call/text Lisa at 917-716-2488.

Sunday, April 26

Word & Music Concert: Jeff Slate and his all-star band will take the stage at the Budarz Theater as part of the Words & Music Concert Series presented by TD Bank. The Ossining Public Library is located at 53 Croton Ave. Singer-songwriter Annie Minogue will join the band in a special guest appearance. The Words & Music series brings well known singer-songwriters and recording artists to the library's 200-seat Budarz Theater for free Sunday afternoon concerts. All performances begin at 2 p.m.; doors open at 1:30 p.m. and seating is on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call 914-941-2416 Ext.327 or visit <http://ossininglibrary.org/>

Bingo: Bingo will be played tonight and on May 17 and 31 at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The doors will open at 5 p.m. and play begins at 6:30 p.m. There will be \$3,000 in prizes awarded during each Sunday session. Food will be available. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.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: Elisha Simpson at 914-319-4010 or send an e-mail to info@laughingheartsyoga.com.

Monday, April 27

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.

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.

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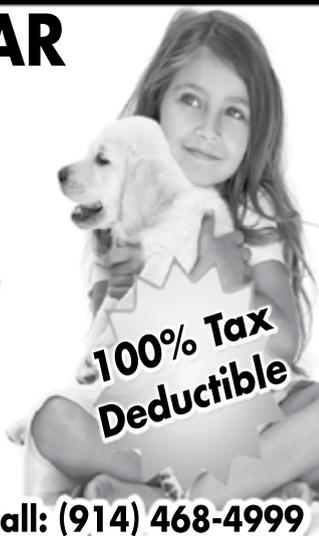
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 John Jay Pay for It**



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS (PLEASE VISIT HVSPHOTOS FOR MORE ACTION)

Yorktown's Emily "Conch" Concialdi (4) and the undefeated Huskers (6-0) had a mighty big week of action, defeating both reigning Section 1 Class B champion Somers, 13-3, last Tuesday before knocking off 2013 Class B champion John Jay, 7-5, last Friday. The USC-bound Concialdi scored the game's first two goals but injured her knee against Jay and hopes to return to action after seeing the results of a critical MRI this week... see Girls Lax Notebook

Sports

Girls LAX Notebook

Yorktown Establishing Itself as Team to Beat in Section 1

Harker Nets 200th Career Goal; Ossining Program Taking Shape

By Tony Pinciario & Ray Gallagher

SOMERS suffered its first loss of the season, 13-3 to YORKTOWN, but rebounded with a solid second half to overcome Fox Lane, 12-11. Meanwhile, the Huskers have established themselves as the team to beat after knocking off John Jay, 7-5, on Friday.

“Playing major competitors like Ward Melville, Somers, and John Jay all in one week was very exciting and we knew we had to have a winning mentality to carry us through,” said Husker Jenna Gammer, who put two between the pipes against Jay. “What sets our team apart from others is the close family-like bond we share. It actually is family for me, as I get the chance to play on the same team with my twin sisters, Natalie and Lauren, every day. Our team’s close bond translates into the teamwork we have all over the field. To have such a successful week is awesome as we were able to prove to ourselves, our coaches and the rest of Section 1 that we are ready for any challenge that is presented to us. My teammates and I have been playing together for years, and with our camaraderie both on and off the field, motivation, and work ethic, I think we will have a much happier outcome at the end of this season.”

In a feisty affair with Jay, Husker Casey Duff bagged the last two goals to secure the win, furthering ticking off an angry Jay crowd. Yorktown’s USC-bound All-American Emily Concialdi scored the game’s first two goal before injuring her knee and sitting out much of the game. An MRI would reveal the extent of the injury sometime this week.

Against Somers, the reigning Class B champion Tuskers simply lacked the



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Yorktown's Katie Comerford shows off her innate nose for the net against Somers Diana Bradbury (29) and Caitlyn Lucadamo in the Huskers 13-3 win over Tuskers.

firepower to stay with a driven Yorktown team, which lost in last year’s finals.

“It was definitely not our best game,” said Somers’ coach Jaime Irving of the Yorktown game. “We struggled on the draw and could not gain any momentum. Yorktown played a great game and took full advantage of our team’s turnovers. This is the kind of game we needed help us make to proper changes and use it as learning experience.”

Somers trailed Fox Lane, 8-6 at halftime, but the defense clamped down and the offense took over, fueling the Tuskers to victory.

Nicole DeMase led Somers with five goals and two assists and Livy Rosenzweig added four goals.

“It was a very competitive game with both teams going on runs,” Irving said. “We were able to make improvements from Tuesday’s loss.”

Following a grueling three-game stretch of Yorktown, Somers and John Jay-Cross River, resulting in two losses and a tie, LAKELAND/PANAS demonstrated why it’s a perennial power. The Rebels answered back with victories over Pawling (19-0), Beacon (19-0) and Brewster (19-8).

“I really think we have shown good improvement this week with possession skills, clearing and spreading out our offense and getting contributions from everyone,” Lakeland/Panas coach Sharon Sarsen said. “I think we have found a bit of a rotation and the players are starting to gel.”

Thirteen players had goals for the Lakeland/Panas against Pawling. Jackie Picard led the Rebels with a goal and four assists and Katie Bradbury chipped in with two goals and two assists. Dana Bozek, Meghan Fahey and Emily Power each had two goals and one assist.

Lakeland/Panas had scoring diversity against Beacon with 11 player scoring goals and none had more than two. Bozek led the way with two goals and three assists and Gianna Naopli and Bradbury had two goals and two assists apiece.

The Rebels finished their week with Bradbury scoring five goals and adding two assists in the victory over Brewster. Bozek finished with three goals and five assists and Valerie Perkins had a hat trick.

It took a week for the OSSINING basketball players to get their lacrosse legs and now the Pride are rolling.

Since an opening-game loss to Fox

Lane, Ossining has run off five consecutive wins, including four in a six-day stretch—Sleepy Hollow (17-1), North Salem (11-9), Briarcliff (18-6) and New Rochelle (15-7).

The basketball players, led by Abby Squirrel, Stefanie Svoboda and Jalay Knowles, were fresh off a New York State Class AA basketball title so they had to jump right into lacrosse practice. Despite missing the first two weeks because of basketball, Squirrel said the girls were ready to go.

“It definitely set us and the team back, a little, but with so many basketball players playing lacrosse we’re used to playing with each other,” said Squirrel, who will attend Marquette next fall and play lacrosse.

Meghan Hooley and Gabey Hagerman led the Pride with five and three goals, respectively, against Sleepy Hollow. Squirrel contributed two goals and two assists. Squirrel took over against North Salem with



Somers M Gabby Rosenzweig battles for faceoff with Yorktown Ashley Stilo and Katie Comerford (17) in 13-3 Husker win last Tuesday.

seven goals.

Briarcliff entered the game with one priority, stop Squirrel. Squirrel, Ossining’s defensive stopper in basketball, was more than happy to accept the determined attention Briarcliff gave her. With the defense focusing on her, Squirrel knew how to make the Bears pay – pass to open teammates.

Stefanie Svoboda responded with eight goals and Squirrel finished with eight assists and three goals. Hooley also



Jay's Hannah O'Reilly is pinched off by Yorktown's Emma Kaishian and Casey Duff (3) in Huskers' 7-5 win Friday.

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Sports

Boys LAX Notebook

Class B Yorktown Preps for Class A Heavy Fox Lane

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

When Yorktown All-American-in-waiting Mike Dedvukaj said "it just proves we're not the hot (stuff) we think we are" after the Huskers were soundly defeated in a 14-6 loss to state-ranked (No.6) Class A Long Island powerhouse Ward Melville, he wasn't spouting some hollow message to the media on behalf of the reigning NYC Class B champions. He knew his teammates would read it and take his confession to heart.

Surely, the senior middle did just that when he put six between the pipes in Coach Dave Marr's state-ranked (No.1) Huskers' 10-9 victory over CT powerhouse Wilton, while holding firm to the Turnbull Cup that honors Jim Turnbull, THE foremost coach in Yorktown and Section 1 history.

"We finally played together as a whole this season," said Dedvukaj, who has a team-high 28 goals and 34 points. "We talked about it at halftime against Somers and we haven't looked back since then. It was a great win for us, but we are not satisfied yet. We're into the heart of our schedule right now playing some very good teams. If we keep playing how we played Saturday and get better, we'll be tough to beat."

The All-American-clad Yorktown



BOB CASTNER PHOTO

Yorktown senior middies Ryan Baker (23) and Mike Dedvukaj (23) have combined for 69 points in nine games.

coaching staff has been preaching a four-quarter mantra since the slow starts began back in Week 1 and they finally got something resembling a complete game against Wilton.

"We haven't played a complete game all year but going all four quarters really showed what our team is about," said senior middle Ryan Baker, who scored seven goals and won 72% of his draws in a rout of Somers and leads the club in points

(35) and GBs (63). "When our defense wasn't playing as good as it should, our offense had their back, and the same thing when the offense wasn't playing well, the defense has their back. Our goalie Liam Donnelly had a huge game and came up with big one-on-one saves, which really helped get the win. It was just a great team effort from all over the field, but still wasn't the best we could have played."

The Huskers will need their best effort this Thursday when they take on a Fox Lane program that might be the most improved in at least a decade in Section 1. The jump the Foxes have made from last year to this year has signaled the beginning of a new era in Class A; whether it's cyclical or not

remains to be seen, but Fox Lane looks like it might be the team to beat in Class A this season and possibly next. It's been quite some time since the media professed anything like that regarding the Foxes, so maybe Mahopac would like to debate that notion should the road veer toward Bedford in late May.

"We know that they're full of D1 commits all over the field, so if we don't come out ready to play it might not go our way Thursday night," Baker admitted.

NWE/Putnam Fab Five Lax Poll

No.1 YORKTOWN – Coach Marr's nationally-ranked (No.15) Huskers (8-1) put the 20-6 hurt on Somers, doing so behind seven points apiece from Baker and Kyle Casey (4G, 3A). Billy Strassman, Nick Santavicca, Nike Del Bene (1A) and Justin Cavallo (1A) each put a pair between the pipes. Big Logan Peters went for 1G, 4A.

No.2 MAHOPAC – Coach Haddeland's Indians (5-3) are one team that, when healthy, might pose some sort of threat to Fox Lane and the rest of the Class A contenders. With recent triumphs over Hen Hud (12-9) and Somers (10-9 in OT), the Indians pushed their win streak to four games behind the vintage efforts of All-American hopeful Dan Foley, who went for 6G, 1A against Somers – including the game-tying and game-winning goals -- and 3G and 2A against Hen Hud when he got some help from Christian Donahoe (2G-2A), DJ Pearl (3G) and Johnnie Ward (2G-3A). The early panic has subsided as

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Mahopac pole Max Littleton has played solid D for the Indians during their four-game win streak, which included a W over Hen Hud and Santiago Cardona.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Mahopac's Rob Buckley takes a run at Hen Hud's Mike Smith in Indians' 12-9 win last Wednesday.

Sports

Baseball Notebook

Undefeated Mahopac Sweeps Carmel, Blanks Lakeland

Putnam Valley, Lent Shut Down John Jay EF; Croton Rolling

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor

It took some time for Mother Nature to release her hold, but once she did the Section 1 baseball circuit got live in a hurry. MAHOPAC is a sterling 6-0 after knocking off Put Valley last week, sweeping a pair from CARMEL and shutting out LAKELAND, 5-0, to conclude the week of action on Saturday.

And what a week it was for Coach Chris Miller's Indians, who will lather up in the days ahead against the powers that be in Dutchess County. The Indians have done so with brilliant pitching from starters John Reda, Cal Lawrence and Brendan White, who fired a complete-game four-hitter against Lakeland.

Lawrence threw another complete game with six whiffs and James Curtin had a career-best four RBI while Louie Nardella knocked in three as the swept Carmel, 9-4. The day before, Reda went the route in a two-hit, eight-K shutout in an 8-0 win over the Rams.

Junior Greg Cavaliere drove home two runs in support of winning pitcher White, who shut down the Lakeland last Saturday. In what was White's finest varsity hour to date, the RHP sent nine Hornets (3-2) down K-way and walked just one while scattering five hits. If White can provide the Indians with a solid No.3 behind Reda and Lawrence, the Indians could do some damage in what might be a special season. However,



Mahopac chucker John Reda has a 0.58 ERA through 12 IP for the 6-0 Indians.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Mahopac's Chris Melnik is caught in run-down by Carmel's Chris Palmiero (25) and Ryan Train in Indians' 8-0 win over Rams.

the next stretch of games are brutal, including six games with 2013 Class AA champion Arlington, Jay EF and reigning champion RCK, plus Fox Lane, losers of the last two championships. Throw in Class B power North Salem and scrappy Class A PANAS (4-1) and we'll see just how good the Indians are by May 7th.

"We have had a really great start," Mahopac skipper Chris Miller said. "We're playing well in all phases right now, but I think it is way too early to say we gave something special. We have a long season ahead of us with some tough teams coming up. Let's get into May before we use the special word."

P U T N A M VALLEY has been getting it done with pitching as well, doing so in a pair of one-run wins over Hen Hud and John Jay EF. Against East Fishkill, senior RHP Eddie Lent went the distance in a 2-1 win, which came about after junior Mike Dellabate (2 hits) beat out an error for the

winning run in the bottom of the seventh. OF Zach Girvalo knocked in the first run for the Tigers (3-2). Lent whiffed six and scattered five hits and has now had imposing showings against a pair of Class AA foes, including Mahopac, whom he held scoreless for six innings, and John Jay EF.

Against the Sailors, Hen Hud tied the game on a suicide squeeze in the top of the 7th, but Put Valley won 3-2 on a walk-off single from senior IF Nick Marro.

Dellabate also stroked home a run against Hen Hud, supporting starting pitcher Ryan Basso (5 Ks, 5 hits allowed), who went six strong but yielded to Lent, who chalked up his third win, in the seventh.

PV Coach Joe Natalie had a heart-to-heart with his boys this week and the message is simple: "It's us against the world from here on out." Coach Nats was hoping his unit would settle down and relieve some of the pressure it has put on itself to win a section title as the Tigers seemed to be pressing at the plate during the recent run-scoring dearth that has plagued the team and put mega pressure

on the pitching staff. When the Tigers start to hit to their capabilities, the unit should be able to contend with most, if not all, Class B teams.

LAKELAND improved to 3-2 after a 12-6 win over Ossining. Ace Rick Burroni secured his first win. CROTON-HARMON beat Dobbs Ferry, 10-4, behind P Scott Giordano. Izaak Cohen knocked in RBI and the Tigers improve to 7-0 for the first time anyone can recall. The Coach Eric Rosen's Tigers also shelled Pleasantville, 16-12, in a game where nobody could stop the opponent from putting crooked numbers on the board.

Christian Lando went the route with 7 K's and Dom Pintavalle went 2 for 4 with a HR in Brewster's 6-3 win over Lourdes.

YORKTOWN settled for a split with John Jay CR last week, beating the Indians 8-7 last Wednesday and losing



Mahopac 1B Greg Cavaliere pulls off a split to force Carmel's Jim Menton.



Mahopac IF James Curtin has come on strong for the undefeated Indians.

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Sports

Yorktown Establishing Itself as Team to Beat in Section 1

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added a hat trick.

"Briarcliff had their defense focused on me so that was leaving Stefanie open," Squirrell said. "I just kept passing to Stefanie."

Squirrell netted seven goals against New Rochelle to close out the four-win week. Hooley and Hagerman each scored three goals.

Squirrell noted that Ossining's bounce-back win against Ursuline, after losing to Fox Lane, gave the Pride a confidence boost. Since then, Squirrell said that the Pride are receiving contributions from everyone which has led to this winning streak.

MAHOPAC split a pair of games, opening with a 19-2 win over Wappingers before a 7-6 loss to Arlington.

Vicky Moundroukas, Gabby Light, Kelly Maxwell and Kim Harker each had hat tricks in the victory. Maxwell also

finished with eight assists, a new Mahopac single-game record, breaking the old standard of five, which stood for 12 years. In addition, Harker scored the 200th goal of her career, further padding her school record with yet another milestone.

"Kelly had a tremendous day leading the team and playing unselfish to break a record that has been held for 12 years here at Mahopac is spectacular," Mahopac coach Jim Lieto said. "I am so proud of the leader on the field that Kelly has become. It is also great to get a win in our first league game. It is a new league this year and we were very focused on getting off on the right foot."

Harker finished six of nine on draws and Tara Rivoli was four of six. Alyssa Kirby was a vacuum with nine ground balls.

Arlington had a 6-2 lead at halftime and staved off a second-half Mahopac surge.

Harker led Mahopac with four goals and Francesca Ferreira added two scores.

"Arlington came in with a great game plan and unfortunately we were not able to counter what they were doing," Lieto said. "We mounted a little bit of a comeback in the second half, but unfortunately we fell behind too far to come back from."

Rivoli went eight of 10 on draws and Kirby paced the team with six ground balls.

Brewster had a difficult week with losses to John Jay-Cross River (16-8) and Lakeland/Panas (19-8).

Mary Kate Lonagan and Lauren Craft had three goals and an assist each against John Jay. The tandem each had a hat trick



Jay's Hannah O'Rielly and Yorktown's Ashley Stilo work the draw box in Huskers' 7-5 win Friday.

against Lakeland/Panas.

PUT VALLEY defeated Briarcliff, 12-6, with Eva Rabson and Jacklyn Phillips each scoring four goals. Jaime Turner (1G 3A) and Gina Valentino (1G, 2A) were also big for the improving Tigers.

Class B Yorktown Preps for Class A Heavy Fox Lane

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the real Indians have begun to step up, showing athleticism, skill and resolve in tough spots. We were high on Indians early on and this is about where they belong when healthy, right behind Yorktown.

No.3 HEN HUD - Coach Solly's Sailors (6-3) needed junior M Mike Smith to bag four goals against Lourdes to reach 100 for his storied career, but the Sailor sniper put a six-pack on the Warriors instead during state-ranked (No.15) Hen Hud's 19-6 win. Nick Marra added 3G, 3A.

No.4 SOMERS - Coach DeGregorio's Tuskers (2-6) once again played Yorktown tough for a half (6-4) before the Huskers toyed with them in the second half. If Somers could just put together two halves, the Tuskers could figure out a way to



Mahopac M Dan Foley and Hen Hud M Mike Smith tango in the Indians' 12-9 win last Wednesday.

the Class B Final 4 or better. We hear it got pretty chippy against Yorktown, which at least tells you Somers won't take a beating lying down. Same could be said for their effort against Mahopac in which Bob Zottola and Joe Hashmall each scored twice. Somers is probably the best 2-6 team out there right now and a whole lot better than that.

No.5 PUT VALLEY - Coach Ignatz's Tigers (4-3) saw Alex Bronzo (5G-3A), Jake O'Connell (4G-1A) and Kevin Gallagher (2G-3A) do major damage in the Tigers' 14-1 win over Peekskill, but wins in this league they play

in aren't helping prepare the Tigers for a crack at P'Ville or Bronxville.

HMBREWSTER - Coach Honey's Bears (2-7) were all set to climb into the 5-spot before they were rocked by Wappingers, who we understand is improving but should not be beating Brewster by seven goals just a couple of days after the Bears pushed Hen Hud to the limit in a 1-goal loss. What gives, fellas?

HM LAKELAND/PANAS - Add Wappingers and Briarcliff to the list of teams we NEVER expected Coach Lindsay's Rebels (2-6) to lose to. This is getting both worrisome and vexing as April turns toward May and the skid hits six games. Guess we're not as high on the Rebels as we once were.

Undefeated Mahopac Sweeps Carmel, Blanks Lakeland

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Carmel 2B Jim Menton can't get tag down in time against sliding Indian Chris Melnik in Mahopac's 8-0 win.

7-6 last Friday. The Huskers (4-2) saw 3B Jack Kelly drive home two in the loss while Jan Kluk knocked in a pair in victory as the Huskers scored four runs in the bottom of the seventh. Jake Bichler was hit by a pitch with the bases load to win it. The Huskers and Hornets have been a tad streaky to start the season, and the two will see which team

is more stable this week in their annual dust-up.

ON DECK-The 34th annual Sorrentino Cup Game will be the featured game of the upcoming week when the Yorktown Huskers will welcome the Lakeland Hornets on Saturday, April 25 at 11 am. This annual event is played in memory of Joseph Sorrentino, Jr., a Yorktown High School athlete and star pitcher who passed away in 1981. This special memorial tribute game has long been a community staple and promises to be one of the better games these two rivals play this season. We're told that the bleachers should be full, so remember to bring yourself a lawn chair.



TINA MARRO PHOTO

Put Valley RHP Eddie Lent has been very ace-like for Coach Joe Natalie's Tigers this season.

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