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November 22 - November 28, 2016

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 362



A Lesson in Giving Thanks

On November 20, in honor of Thanksgiving, teens from the Chabad of Yorktown Teen Program learned about the importance of giving thanks, baked cookies and delivered them to the local volunteer firefighters to show their support appreciation.

First Female Judge Appointed in Peekskill in Partisan Vote

By Rick Pezzullo

The Democratic majority on the Peekskill Common Council made history last week by appointing the first female city court judge.

Melissa Loehr, a Legal Aid Society attorney who once worked in Peekskill City Court and has actively campaigned for Democratic candidates in the city, was selected to the part-time associate judge position for a six-year term at an annual salary of \$87,000.

The position became vacant in August when Thomas Langan was forced to retire at the age of 70. Approximately 20 people expressed interest in the job and

the council was unable to reach a consensus throughout the interview process, which was conducted entirely behind closed doors despite Mayor Frank Catalina's suggestion that it be done in public.

"Melissa will make an excellent city court judge," said Deputy Mayor Drew Claxton. "She will bring a sensitivity to the bench that is needed in this city. She will be ethical and fair. She has dedicated her career to ensuring the legal rights of low-income and minority people."

"Regardless of what else you might hear from those who supported several other candidates over the past month or

Continued on page 2

97-Year-Old WWII Veteran Honored in Montrose

By Rick Pezzullo

A 97-year-old WWII veteran was honored November 17 by town officials and members of the Montrose Business Association.

Grace M. Bleier (Rinzivillo), who served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, is the second local veteran to receive a plaque at Montrose Veterans Park, which is located next to the Cortlandt Volunteer Ambulance Corps on Kings Ferry Road.

"My mom is humble. She doesn't like to accept things like this," said Rinzivillo's son, Jed. "As a family we appreciate it very much. It's a beautiful thing for us."

Rinzivillo, who has lived in the same house in Montrose for the last 65 years, was born in Arkansas and served in the U.S. military from November 1, 1943 to January 4, 1946. Her military occupation included Supervisor and Ward Nurse—General, one year as Neuropsychiatric Nursing Supervisor and four months in Obstetrical Nursing. She was ranked Second Lieutenant, stationed at Ft. Benning, GA and then was promoted to First Lieutenant on July 18, 1945.

She was decorated with an American Theatre Ribbon and Victory Medal WWII, and was dedicated into the WWII

Continued on page 2



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTO

Grace Rinzivillo enjoys her dedication day with family.



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First Female Judge Appointed in Peekskill in Partisan Vote

Continued from page 1

so, Ms. Loehr will make a fine city judge," said Councilwoman Kathy Talbot. "And, as the first woman judge appointed in Peekskill, her appointment is historic. And she knows our community well as a long-time resident with kids in our schools."

Catalina and his Republican colleagues, Vincent Vesce and Joe Torres, were advocating for the appointment of Lissette Fernandez, who has a law office in Peekskill and is a former assistant district attorney and deputy attorney

general. With 46% of registered voters in Peekskill being Hispanic, Catalina argued Fernandez, who is bilingual, would have been a perfect fit.

The mayor called the appointment of Loehr "a mistake" and "a disgusting display of party politics."

Torres agreed, remarking, "It's a political favor. I'm not voting for a candidate that's not qualified. Ms. Fernandez was no doubt the best candidate for this job, hands down."

The three Republicans supported Fernandez in an official resolution, but

the four Democrats all abstained, a move that led Vesce to utter, "No guts." After Councilman Andre Rainey expressed his support for Peekskill Board of Education member Colin Smith, who initially submitted his resume but later withdrew it and was never interviewed, Catalina made a motion to insert Smith's name instead of Fernandez.

Smith received the support of Catalina, Vesce and Torres, but the four Democrats, including Rainey, voted no, prompting Catalina to lambast Rainey.

"That's being called out on it. Live

and learn," Catalina asserted to Rainey. "This councilman is full of talk. The vote trumps the rhetoric. Be careful what you say."

"The appointment has been unnecessarily acrimonious," said Rainey, who contended the process was filled with "lies and manipulation." "Public online Facebook pages and newspapers were used by the mayor to lobby public opinion for another candidate who subsequently withdrew. That is not the way city business should be conducted."

97-Year-Old WWII Veteran Honored in Montrose

Continued from page 1

memorial database in Washington D.C. on May 29, 2004.

"This is such a lovely memorial," Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi said before she and fellow Town Board members Debbie Costello and Frank Farrell presented Rinziwillo with a framed proclamation. "Every day of the year we should thank our veterans."

Dennis Malles, president of the Montrose Business Association, said the

Montrose Veterans Park was one way the 25-member organization was "trying to put this Montrose community on the map."

"I think the younger generation has a lot to learn from the older generation. They (older generation) were proud to be Americans. They didn't complain about it," Malles said. "They (younger generation) need to follow Mrs. Rinziwillo in suit."



An interfaith service was recently held in Yorktown (L-R): Rev. Chip Low, First Presbyterian Church; Rev. Fr. Robert Quarto, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish; Rev. Karen Brammer, Fourth Unitarian Church; Rev. Claire Woodley, St. Mary's Episcopal Church; Rev. Hal Roark, Church of the Good Shepard; Rabbi Robert Weiner, Temple Beth Am; Rev. Arden Strasser, Saint Andrews Lutheran Church; Sheikh Saad Gewida, Hudson Valley Islamic Community Center; Rev. Paul Tesshin Silverman, Abbot of Tetsugyuji Zen Temple in Japan; Paula Desrochers-Yakout, Hudson Valley Islamic Community Center; Cantor Jamie Tortorello-Allen, Temple Beth Am; Rev. Tami Seidel, First Presbyterian Church; Zead Ramadan, Hudson Valley Islamic Community Center.



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If You Smoke or Used to Smoke Advanced screening could save your life...

Q: Could I benefit from lung cancer screening?

A: The Low-Dose CT screen for lung cancer is a new form of traditional CT (computed tomography) scan. It uses a very low dose of radiation to provide unique 3-D information about the lungs, detecting ever-smaller lung cancers called nodules. Catching lung cancer early, when it's smallest, has the most impact on prognosis and survival. Proof is that the LDCT Scan is reducing lung cancer deaths by 20 percent.*

If you meet each of these criteria, the screening, which is conducted at Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH), could potentially save your life:

- You are between 55 and 74 years old;
- You have a smoking history of 30 pack years – meaning, you smoke (or smoked) one pack daily for 30 years, two packs daily for 15 years, or three packs daily for 10 years;
- You currently smoke or quit within the past 15 years;
- You have no symptoms of lung cancer.

Q: Should I be screened if I feel fine?

A: If you meet the criteria, absolutely. Early-stage lung cancer usually presents no symptoms. Here's why: The lung is a relatively large organ. Now picture a marble (the nodule) floating within a big balloon. For the marble

to have a noticeable impact, it must get bigger. Only when that marble becomes the size of an acorn or an orange, do symptoms develop. That's why screening is vitally important. Remember that most screening results are negative. Only a fractional number of people will need a biopsy, and a tiny percentage of those will have lung cancer. Also keep in mind that a biopsy performed at NWH is done using the most up-to-date, minimally invasive method possible. If lung cancer is diagnosed, NWH offers comprehensive treatment second to none.

Q: Can I afford the advanced LDCT screening?

A: The screening is covered by Medicare and most commercial insurers. If you meet the criteria, and don't have commercial insurance or Medicare, NWH can help – with many payment options and below-average pricing. If you can benefit from the screening, we make sure you get it.

Q: What steps should I take?

A: If you think you meet the criteria, ask your primary care physician about ordering an LDCT. If you don't have a referring doctor, NWH's nurse practitioner will determine your eligibility and possibly order an LDCT. NWH is going the extra mile to make this potentially life-saving screening 100 percent accessible to everyone who needs it.

Residents Urged to Denounce Plan to Anchor Barges

By Rick Pezzullo

Residents of Philipstown, Garrison and the surrounding area were urged last week to voice their concerns about a proposal by the United States Coast Guard to create 10 new anchorage sites with up to 43 commercial barges along the Hudson River from Yonkers to Kingston.

During an informational meeting hosted by the Philipstown Democrats at St. Philips Church in Garrison, two representatives from Riverkeeper and a member from Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano's office brought approximately 50 audience members up to speed on the efforts being taken to try to block the proposal which the Coast Guard has stated was initiated by the Maritime Association of the Port of NY/NJ Tug and Barge Committee, the Hudson River Port Pilot's Association, and the American Waterways Operators.

"I think it's important that we don't strike fear, but it's important that we do strike concerns," said Jason Baker of Spano's office. "Do we want to turn our river into an industrialized waterfront? Are we going to turn this into a major highway for crude oil? We don't want this to happen. This is a regional problem. It's important that we really stand up for this."

In August, a new organization of mu-

nicipal officials called the Hudson River Waterfront Alliance was announced in Yonkers. An online petition on www.change.org was also launched by the alliance and more than 1,600 signatures have been obtained to date.

Meanwhile, more than 3,400 comments have been submitted to the Coast Guard, which has extended the public comment period on the project to December 6.

"This is just the beginning. This is a big deal," said Erin Doran, staff attorney for Riverkeeper. "It's coming at a time when the river is starting to recover. It's starting to rebound and we can't go back."

If approved, the plan would encompass more than 2,400 acres of the river. Sixteen communities in the Hudson Valley have passed formal resolutions opposing the project. There is currently only one anchorage ground for vessels along a 100-mile stretch in the Hudson River from New York City to Albany.

The largest anchorage site of the 10 proposed would accommodate up to 16 vessels, stretching about 715 acres from the Greenwood Station in Yonkers to the Dobbs Ferry Train Station. Two sites are located in the Town of Cortlandt.

During a hearing in Croton last month, Edward Kelly, executive director

of the Maritime Association of the Port of New York and New Jersey, maintained the anchorages would "enhance the safety, security and environmental stewardship of the vessels and the waterways in which they operate."

However, Riverkeeper insists the anchorage sites will present a significant

environmental threat to the river, specifically if an oil spill were to occur, and is calling for a full environmental review.

"We know crude oil transport is pushing some of this, if not all of it," Doran said. "This request is coming from industry. We're in this for the long haul, fighting the good fight for residents."

On Saturday, four people were arrested in Verplanck for occupying a construction site to stop Spectra Energy's plan to drag its 42-inch diameter, high pressure, fracked-methane gas pipeline under the Hudson River and adjacent to the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant. Spectra Energy's proposed Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) Pipeline would bring fracked gas from Pennsylvania to New England. 130 people marched to the pipeline site, singing and showing solidarity with the defenders and pledging to continue the fight. Alexandra Zevin, one of the trespassers who climbed into the pipeline site, said, "I am deeply concerned about the safety of the Hudson River and the New York area. Spectra has shown that they have a terrible safety record, and I think it's insane for this pipeline to be proposed so close to a nuclear power plant. They have already tried twice to put the pipeline under the river and failed both times, and I have no trust in them. It is not responsible to risk our health, our safety and our river for corporate profit."





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Peekskill School District Refutes Claims of Denying FOIL Request

By Rick Pezzullo

The Peekskill School District is refuting public assertions from a non-profit

organization that it failed to respond to a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request regarding expenditures.



Former NFL Star Amani Toomer Brings Healthy Message to Peekskill High School

To reward the Peekskill City School District for implementing the Breakfast After the Bell program, a strategy of the NFL and Dairy Association's Fuel Up to Play 60 program, over 100 students and school administrators recently participated in a "thank you" dinner hosted by the Cabot Farmer's Gratitude Grill, Former Giant's Wide Receiver Amani Toomer and the American Dairy Association North East. On October 27, students and administrators had the opportunity to meet and take photos with Amani Toomer and participate in fun physical fitness activity stations in the Peekskill High School cafeteria. The day included raffles, games and a live DJ

Reclaim New York held a press conference in front of the Westchester County Courthouse in White Plains last week to announce it was filing Article 78 litigation against five entities, including Peekskill, for allegedly violating the state's transparency law by refusing to disclose to residents how their tax dollars are spent.

"New York's systemic corruption shatters trust in government. Hudson Valley residents need to demand better, and that starts with seeing how their money is being spent," said Reclaim New York Executive Director Brandon Muir. "Governments that try to keep spending in the shadows, and duck the light of transparency will be held accountable. That starts with enforcement and grows stronger when citizens demand oversight."

Reclaim NY contended Peekskill school officials returned incomplete documents in a delayed response to a request, specifically not including check numbers, which it maintained was key to tracking expenses.

However, Dr. David Fine, Peekskill's Superintendent of Schools, insisted Reclaim NY's assertions were "inappropriate and incorrect," explaining the check numbers that were withheld had been used in the past for fraudulent purposes.

Fine stated the district received Reclaim NY's FOIL request for various vendor information on August 12 and responded within four days with more than 200 pages of material. He said the district withheld check numbers based upon legal advice after several school districts in the state received similar requests from a different group and that organization utilized the check numbers to commit fraud upon the vendors and the school districts.

"The District takes its responsibilities as it relates to FOIL extremely seriously," Fine stated. "The District never received an appeal to its denial of check numbers which is a legal requirement of Public Officers Law, prior to an action being commenced in court. Rather, the next communication the District received was from a local newspaper requesting a comment on a case the District had no knowledge of nor to date has ever been served with."

"Regardless of the District's belief that Reclaim NY would not be successful in its litigation against the District, the District does not want to utilize any of its limited resources on fighting this ill-advised claim," Fine continued. "Accordingly, we have reached out to Reclaim NY to resolve this matter."

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Somers Town Board Okays Easements for Stuart's Fruit Farm

By Neal Rentz

The Somers Town Board voted 4-1 to approve two conservation easements to assure that Stuart's Fruit Farm will remain a farm.

The farm, located at 62 Granite Springs Road, will stay in the farming business even if it is eventually sold. The property has been utilized for farming for about two centuries.

Westchester County and New York State is collaborating with the town to seek to preserve the farm for agriculture. The cost of the easements would be \$3.3 million with \$300,000 provided by the town as the result of last week's vote.

Councilman Thomas Garrity Jr. was the lone town board member to vote against the resolution. The town's contribution will come from the capital projects fund. "I think the money could be better spent elsewhere," Garrity said.

Town Supervisor Rick Morrissey and the rest of the town board supported the easements. Morrissey said the farm is one of the last of its kind in Westchester



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

The Somers Town Board voted 4-1 to approve a conservation easement for Stuart's Fruit Farm at its Nov. 9 meeting.

and could be a place for additional tourists to come to Somers, spend money and provide additional sales tax revenue.

Morrissey thanked Councilman Anthony Cirieco for working with the county to reduce the town's contribution by \$200,000.

Yorktown Company Chosen to Build Peekskill Fire Station

By Rick Pezzullo

A Yorktown company was selected by the Peekskill Common Council last week to construct the city's new Central Fire Station at 1141 Main Street.

In a 6-1 vote, the council awarded a bid of \$9.3 million to Rok-Built Construction, Inc., which is located on Front Street in Yorktown. Rok-Built was one of seven firms to bid on the project and was the lowest bidder.

The city recently cleared the land to make room for the Central Fire Station by bulldozing a liquor store that

had been in a long legal dispute. The 30,000-square-foot station is slated to contain eight equipment bays for emergency vehicles, kitchen facilities, sleeping quarters to support personnel for five fire companies and one fire patrol and a central meeting space.

Meanwhile, the council also entered into a mechanical construction contract for the station by awarding a bid of \$877,000 to ABM Air Conditioning and Heating, Inc. of Hawthorne. The city received three bids for the work and ABM was the lowest bidder.

Cortlandt Receives Grant

The Town of Cortlandt is the recipient of a New York State Governor's Grant for \$50,000 to increase Hudson River access and improve estuary protections.

Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi

said the funding will also assist the town in educating the community about the significance of the ecology, habitats and environment. Cortlandt is the only town in the region to receive the award in 2016.

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Local Veterans Inducted into Senator Murphy's Hall of Fame

By Neal Rentz

Veterans who served in various capacities from throughout the 40th state Senate District were honored by Senator Terrence Murphy (R-Yorktown) during a ceremony in Mount Kisco on November 17.

During the ceremony, which was held at the Moses Taylor Jr. American Legion Post 136, Murphy said why it was important to honor the veterans from his district for the 2016 Veterans Hall of Fame. The event honored 17 veterans.

"This has been a privilege to do something like this," Murphy said. "You veterans rock." On Thanksgiving "let's thank our veterans," Murphy said.

Ron Tocci of New Rochelle, director of the Westchester County Veterans Service Agency, served as master of ceremonies for the event. Tocci served in Vietnam as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. He was on the Westchester County Board of Legislators for a decade and moved on to the state Assembly, where he served for 20 years. The event was "just a show of appreciation" for the veterans, he said. "You are special."

Some of the new members inducted into the Veterans' Hall of Fame were:

Thomas Burniston of Croton was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star for Heroism, Army Commendation for Heroism, and, after being severely wounded, re-



Robert Peterson of Cortlandt was chosen for state Sen. Terrence Murphy's (left) 2016 Veterans Hall of Fame during the Nov. 17 ceremony in Mount Kisco. Also shown above is Ron Tocci, director of the Westchester County Veterans Service Agency.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

ceived the Purple Heart for his service in the U.S. Army. He left the Army in 1973, having added the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Oliver Chase, Jr. of Peekskill was honored for an act of heroism that occurred while he was an A1E pilot flying over Vietnam on June 10, 1965. On that day, 2,000 Viet Cong guerillas captured the fort at Dong Xoai, inflicting heavy casualties. Captain Chase flew over the entrenched enemy positions. His accurate attack helped friendly forces regain control of the area. For his bravery, Chase was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Sen. Murphy's late father, John Murphy of Yorktown, joined the Navy in January 1952 and was assigned to the specialized submarine division, serving on the U.S. Piper. He fought in the Korean War and was awarded the National Defense Medal, the Cold War Victor Medal, the Sea Service Medal, and the U.S. Navy Silent Service Medal, and the Navy Service Medal. Joining Con Edison as a lineman, he became a business agent for the Utility Workers Union of America Local 1-2, serving for 38 years. He died on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2004.

On Sept. 17, 1944, while fighting in Italy, Robert Peterson of Cortlandt and his fellow soldiers volunteered to carry ammunition to his battalion's assault companies. In

order to deliver some of the ammunition they had to run and crawl up a 1,500-foot hill while under heavy enemy fire. During his wartime service he received the Bronze Star Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, a Purple Heart and European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal.

Roger Thompson of Yorktown served in the Air Force from 1950 to 1952 in Newfoundland, tracking Russian submarines in the North Atlantic. Beginning in 1947, he served his community as a volunteer fireman, a duty he continues to perform. He has been a member of the American Legion for 63 years and has volunteered with the Yorktown Lions and the Yorktown Rotary Club.

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Obituaries

Donald Finger

Donald A. Finger, a resident of Cortlandt, died unexpectedly on November 11. He was 64.

Born in Queens on April 1, 1952 he was the son of Henry R. Finger and the late Shirley J. (Tvedt) Finger. He leaves behind his wife of 44 years, Susan (Nelson) Finger.

Mr. Finger spent his early years in Queens before he and his family moved to Putnam Valley in 1959. He graduated from Peekskill High School, and later attended SUNY Plattsburgh where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics. He was VP of User Experience Design for Credit Suisse in Manhattan.

Survivors, in addition to his wife Susan and his father, Henry Finger, are three brothers, Fred Finger, Robert Finger and James Finger.

Gerard Fedro

Gerard J. Fedro, a resident of Cortlandt, died November 16. He was 79.

He was born in the Bronx on March 21, 1937 to Nunzio "Daniel" and Antoinette Fedro. He married Elizabeth "Betty" on October 25, 1958. Beloved as a husband, father, pop pop, uncle and friend, Mr. Fedro will be remembered for his strong family values, shining personality and his willingness to help others, especially young adults. This was evident through his work with various youth programs in his church and his employment for many years at the sheltered workshop, Jawonio.

He is survived by his devoted wife Betty, loving children: Kathleen (Michael) Baird, Carolyn (James) Schneider, Daniel (Carol-Jo) Fedro, Thomas (Nancy) Fedro, Rebecca (Larry) Lapp, and nine cherished grandchildren: James, Jason, and Jessica Schneider, Gerard, Matthew and Lindsay Fedro, Jackson and Harrison Fedro, and Sawyer Lapp. He is also survived by his sister Rita (Sal) Pizzurro and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his sister Faye Thompson.

Patricia Salerno

Patricia Salerno, a resident of Cortlandt, died November 13. She was 68.

She was a caterer throughout the Westchester area. She was born on February 11, 1948 in the Bronx to Andrew and Rose LaFrazza Tomasi. She is survived by her loving daughter Gina Salerno-Santiago and her husband Edward of Cortlandt Manor and a son William "Billy" Salerno. Also survived by three grandchildren: William Salerno, Philip Staten, Ashley Santiago, seven great grandchildren and a brother, Salvatore

Tomasi. Predeceased by husband, William L. Salerno, a brother; Anthony Orlando and a sister; Nicolina Maffettone.

Rose Petro

Rose Petro (nee DeAstis), a resident of Peekskill, died peacefully November 15 after a long life well lived. She was 95.

Born on May 20, 1921 in Ardsley, she was the daughter of the late Paul and Angelina Lillian (Santore) DeAstis. She worked for the Philips Company in Irvington and later at the General Foods in the test kitchen of the Tarrytown Tech Center, from where she retired. She married Wallace Petro on July 22, 1945 in Dobbs Ferry where they lived for 44 years before moving to Peekskill. Wallace died in 2003.

She will be missed by her son Wallace, of Briarcliff Manor and his caring partner, Cindy Menucci, sisters Jacqueline and Lucille of White Plains, two granddaughters, Melissa (Caleb) Beckford of Greer, SC, and Alison (Logan) Romm of Chappaqua, and their mother, Julia; her great-granddaughters, Sara and Harriet Beckford; and her nieces nephews, and cousins. Her sisters, Pauline, Angelina, and Florence predeceased her. She will also be missed by her loving caretaker, Monica, and, as an active member of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Cortlandt Manor, by her fellow parishioners, Deacon Ray, Deacon Larry, and Fr. Tom, in addition to her life-long friends around the country. She will be remembered by all whose lives she touched as selfless, caring, and loving. The family asks that donations in her name be made to the Church of the Holy Spirit, 1969 Crompond Road, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567-4113.

Marianne Pagni

Marianne (nee O'Brien) Pagni, a resident of Somers, died November 17 after a quick and fierce battle with multiple cancers. She was 61.

She was born on April 25, 1955 to Sue Ann E. and Daniel J. O'Brien in Mt. Vernon, and was a proud Republican, and Westchester County resident for her entire life. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Donald J. Pagni, Jr. in 1998 and her cherished mother Sue Ann E. O'Brien in 2010. "Mar" is survived by her deeply loved father Daniel J. O'Brien of Heritage Hills, Somers, NY; sister Marita O'Brien, and her treasured brother Daniel J. O'Brien, Jr. (Teresa) of Silverthorne, CO. Also surviving are her dear nephews and nieces: Peter E. and Rebecca S. Wilhelm and their beautiful children Gavin J. and Carmen L. of New Milford, CT, Matthew C. O'Brien of

Denver, CO and Griffin J. O'Brien of Littleton, CO.

Mar was a lifelong, diehard NY Giants fan who was also very passionate in competitive yacht racing and sailing competitions traversing the Eastern Seaboard for over 40 years. Mar was a lifelong volunteer with many charitable organizations throughout the area, focusing her particular attention to assisting in the life altering planning changes required to successfully transition spinal cord patients from rehabilitation centers to the comfort of their own homes. She tirelessly ran weekly evening meetings with family members to provide additional hands-on knowledge of the necessary skills required.

Mar will be always remembered for her devotion to her family and how she so loved and treasured her true friends.

Eileen McLaughlin

Eileen M. McLaughlin, a resident of Somers, formerly of Scarsdale, died November 14 at Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel. She was 72.

She was born on May 17, 1944 in Yonkers to the late Andrew and Alice McLaughlin. She was a graduate of The Catholic University of America & The

School of the Holy Child. She dedicated her professional career to caring for animals & children. While teaching at the New York Foundling program Eileen became certified in the Maria Montessori method and went on to certify others.

She is the beloved sister to Sheila Curry (nee McLaughlin) and the late Donald McLaughlin, Mary Deighan (nee McLaughlin), Alicia McLaughlin, Andrew McLaughlin, and Denise Downing (nee McLaughlin). She is the loving aunt to Patrick Brian, Vincent, Andrew, Daniel, Kathryn, Patrick Joseph, Luke, Mary Sheila, Alice, Brice, Maureen, Amy, Kevin, Meredith, and Adam.

Eileen was the loving mother of Patrick (nee Wolfstone) as well as many, many other animals. She was a quiet & kind soul who loved people, animals, reading, music, & dessert.



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Letters to the Editor

Crossing the Line, Missing the Target in Ossining

To the Editor:

This weekend a group of protesters marched to my family's home. Before I delve into the proactive and comprehensive approach that this Village Board is taking to improve housing for Ossining, I must address the disturbing decision by this group to cross the line and violate my family space.

LoHud published one perspective of the Saturday event. The "journalist" did not reach out to me for comment, but I will share with you what I said to the CVH representatives that spoke with me at my front steps:

"By coming here today, to my home, my husband's home, my children's home, your attempts to bully, harass, and intimidate me have crossed a line. I wish you had not come. I will not discuss public policy in this forum. I wish you would leave my family alone."

Then I left and took my son to soccer practice. On the drive to the field he said, "Mom, I know one of those kids. Can I still be friends with him?" The conversation that followed was difficult. My sons are more keenly aware than most of kids of the value of taking public action

to further something you believe is important. Having the judgement to know where to draw the line, is beyond what an 8-year-old can fully grasp. But we adults who live in a close knit community, should be able to recognize that line. A family's space should not be violated as it was this weekend.

Serving as Mayor of Ossining is a great privilege that I take seriously and devote many hours of each day to performing to the best of my ability. However, when I am home with my family, I am a mother and a wife. And the home I live in belongs to my husband and sons as much as me. I make myself available to the public 24/7 by email. I hold Open Office Hours at Village Hall every Tuesday 10 a.m.-12 p.m. And the public is invited to speak at our legislative sessions on the first and third Wednesday every month. It is my fervent hope that this is the last time any politically motivated organization marches on the private home of a local Ossining official.

With regards to concerns related to affordable housing in Ossining, painting me and this Board as an obstacle to progressive housing policies is misguided. It is unfortunate that the leaders of the region-

al organization Community Voices Heard have dug in on a position regarding one narrow tool toward a goal we all share. A comprehensive approach to safe, fair and affordable housing in Ossining is a high priority for this Board. We have included money in the 2017 budget that is intended to be put toward a housing needs assessment--a critical tool in making informed decisions about housing, comp plan updates, and zoning code changes.

The Village is excited to have tenant advocate Geoff Smith on board as special legal counsel to help us craft local programs to expand affordable housing and tenant protections. We began discussions with Geoff weeks ago, and it took some back and forth to finalize his contract. We formally engaged him as special counsel late last week. Geoff is reaching out to stakeholders as he explores the potential for a creative approach to expanding the accessibility of affordable housing for the people of our community who need it most.

He is also working with the BOT subcommittee (Rika Levin and Quantel Bazemore) to assist them with their task of strengthening the Village's Landlord

Tenant Relations Council. This includes bringing forward legislative opportunities to provide greater tenant protections that can be enacted at a local level. Improvements we make on this front will benefit all tenants in the Village, regardless of whether they live in an ETPA eligible building.

This Village Board has dedicated significant time and resources toward improving affordable housing opportunities in Ossining. This multi-faceted approach to implement targeted programs at a local level is nuanced. CVH is a regional organization that has chosen the blunt political approach of staking out a position on ETPA, a NYS rent stabilization program that CVH organizers are familiar with.

Unfortunately, the bullying tactics of CVH serve only to undermine the hard work that is already underway by the Village. I certainly hope this is the last time a group of protesters crosses the line into family space. Serving in elected office is an honor, but there must be some boundaries respected for the families of public officials.

VICTORIA GEARITY

An Open Letter to the Village of Croton Board of Trustees

At the heart of the American experiment is the belief in the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Along with these, foundational to them, is the equality of all people. And we know that from the very writing of these values, our nation has struggled to live up their fullness. For centuries we have fallen short, but we have always continued to move toward more completely embodying the ideals on which this nation, a nation predominantly of immigrants, was founded.

We find ourselves, in this moment, in a country more openly divided than it has been for a long time. We find our-

selves, in this moment, in a country in which people now feel comfortable not simply speaking their prejudice, racism, xenophobia and misogyny behind closed doors, but from the highest mountaintops in the land. In this moment, our nation's commitment to the ideals on which it was founded is in question. And yet, at the same time, we continue to honor the American experiment and dream by opening our country to immigrants and refugees. In the months and years that come, many, though not enough, refugees from war-torn countries will find their way to our shores and some may be resettled here

among us, in Westchester County. They will arrive with little, with traumatic memories, with needs physical, economic and emotional. Many of them will be Muslim.

Our country has been and will continue to be a nation of immigrants: Seeking a better life, wanting only to live freely and safely, as we all do. But that freedom of safety and the pursuit of a better life is threatened in this country for people who are different. And no lines are drawn between those who were born here and those who immigrate. Anyone who looks "different," "foreign," who appears to be Muslim, is under constant threat of prejudice and violence both verbal and physical.

The current climate has opened the door for all manner of hate to be spoken with impunity. Worse still, acts of hate are all too common. We have the chance to be very clear in making a public statement about our village's solidarity against these acts of hate.

Although all of you have sworn oaths of office that include upholding the equality, rights and freedoms of all people, we firmly believe an affirmative additional statement is needed to convey our town's continued and unwavering commitment to being open, welcoming, and supportive of our current Muslim neighbors and any who might become part of our community in the future. We want it

to be known, here among us, in the wider community, and in the world, that in our town prejudice and hate will find no welcome home. We want those who seek to join us here – be they American or Syrian or from anywhere else – to know they will be welcomed, kept safe, encouraged to live their lives fully and with full knowledge of our individual and collective commitment to their flourishing. In that spirit, we urge members of the Village Board to consider and adopt a resolution against Islamophobia.

Respectfully,

REV. BRIAN C. BRENNAN,
Pastor, Holy Name of Mary
Catholic Church

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Rector, St. Augustine's
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Businesses of the Week

By Neal Rentz

Cortlandt resident Claudia Villeda and Peekskill resident Mike Guerra have given local residents a new place to sample Latin cuisine.

The co-owners opened Yuka's Latin Fusion in Croton. Villeda said last week the restaurant was named after yucca, which is a root vegetable that tastes like a potato. The restaurant was named by Guerra. "We use it (yucca) all over Latin America," Guerra said. "We are a fusion of all of those countries."

The eatery was opened about 10 weeks ago on Albany Post Road (Route 9A). While Yuka's is the first business Guerra has owned, Villeda has owned a series of restaurants. However, Guerra has been in the industry in many capacities for about 13 years. "It's in my blood," he said.

Villeda said she had a practical reason for owning restaurants. "My dad used to say if you want to make money? You want to succeed? You've got to be involved in the food business. Everybody eats every day," she recalled being told.

Yuka's offers both tapas small plates and full meals. Among the new restaurant's specialties is skirt steak which is a popular staple in Latin restaurants,



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Cortlandt resident Claudia Villeda and Peekskill resident Mike Guerra recently opened Yuka's Latin Fusion restaurant in Croton.

Villeda explained. Paella and tacos, chicken and beef stuffed empanadas and stuffed avocados are also among the eatery's popular dishes, Guerra said.

"I think our most popular items are the tacos," he said.

Guerra said business has been good so far for the new establishment. "Everybody in the area has had a pretty good response to this restaurant. We're pretty happy so far," he said.

Villeda said her customers have generally come from Croton, Cortlandt, Peekskill and Mount Kisco, adding many patrons have also come from Ossining and White Plains.

Yuka's is located in the site of a former restaurant. The renovations took the new owners about five months to complete, Villeda said. Guerra said the co-owners wanted "a little rustic, modern look, something different in the area."

Guerra said he believes success for his restaurant would be "to be here for a long, long time" and eventually expand to other locations and eventually become a chain.

Yuka's Latin Fusion is located at 2011 Albany Post Rd. in Croton. For more information, call 914-862-4449, visit YukasLatinFusion.com or send an e-mail to YukasLatinFusion@gmail.com. The restaurant also has a Facebook page.

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Elizabeth Jessup is determined to put you on the road to success, whether you are buying or selling a home. From consultation to closing, you can count on her to treat you like family, protect your best interests, and to always go the extra mile. She is a learning based agent and continues to participate in advanced Real Estate courses in order to remain at the forefront of the industry. On a personal note, Elizabeth is actively involved in the Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Cold Spring, NY. The facility helps people of all ages with all types of disabilities connect with horses through therapeutic instruction. Call/Text Elizabeth at (845) 746-6788

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Guest Commentary

Holiday Eating Survival Strategy

By **Connie Cramer**

The holidays are here. And, we all know what that means.

Parties. Sweets. Office kitchens full of food and there goes the waist line.

It's no surprise most of us will gain five to 10 pounds over the next couple of months. With all of the family gatherings, office and other parties, plus those decadent desserts and homemade goodies, weight gain is pretty much inevitable... right?

Not so fast.

I've come up with a survival strategy that's realistic and very simple to follow, to keep holiday pounds from making a permanent home on your hips.

Here's a tip to avoid gaining holiday pounds: spend the next 4 weeks eating CLEAN, with only one to two exceptions a week. Here's why: holiday pounds are

caused by eating too many foods that are high in carbohydrates and simple sugars.

Stick with an eating plan that's high in protein and vegetables, while still keeping things fun by allowing for one to two small weekly exceptions or "treat".

Here are my healthy, eating CLEAN suggestions:

Fill up on as many fresh and fiber-rich vegetables as you want.

- Load up on salads, but pass on fatty dressings,
- Enjoy vegetable side dishes, especially

grilled!

- Pass by those starchy vegetables, like potatoes or corn.
- Enjoy lean meats, fish and eggs. Still hungry? Eat more protein.
- Stick with meat that has been roasted, broiled, or baked.
- Avoid all fried foods.



Connie Cramer

- Nibble on fruits, nuts and seeds in moderation.
- Choose fresh fruit for dessert.
- Don't eat sugar-added fruits, nuts that are usually in those holiday gift baskets.

You can enjoy one or two small exceptions weekly or at a holiday gathering...

- Bread or grain product, like brown rice: No larger than the size of your hand.
- Starchy vegetable: half of a cup.
- Baked goods: Should fit into the palm of your hand. No stacking!
- Holiday drink: eight ounces.

This plan can work because it allows you to indulge in 2 exceptions a week. This encourages you to pick and choose the holiday cheat food that you really want, as opposed to feeling denied or worse, obligated to eat everything in sight.

When you navigate the buffet line at your next holiday party, feel confident knowing that you have a game plan. Stick with salad, vegetables and meats first, then pick out your 1 small exception as your reward for being disciplined and choosing healthy.

Be determined. Think healthy. Choose

wisely. You will look and feel so much better and your little black dress and holiday wardrobe will thank you.

Remember, I'm here to help you meet your fitness, wellness and weight loss goals.

Call or email me today to get started on a fitness program that will turn your holiday weight gain into a healthy slim down.

Connie Cramer is a Personal Trainer from Mahopac. She can be reached at (914) 772-1395 or www.conniecramer.com and [facebook.com/ConnieCramer-PersonalTrainer](https://www.facebook.com/ConnieCramer-PersonalTrainer).



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I hope you "gobble" up as much turkey as your heart desires and that your love for for this Great Country never tires.

- George Ondek

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Hygeia Programs: Two ongoing programs are being held on Tuesdays at Hygeia Integrated Health LLC, 3505 Hill Blvd., Suite K, Yorktown. Community Acupuncture is being held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$30. Come experience the beneficial effects of acupuncture in a group setting. Register: hyinhealth@gmail.com. On the last Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Eating Disorder Support Group, led by LCSW and clinical nutritionist will be held. Discuss and resolve issues around relationships with food. Info/register: hyinhealth@gmail.com or www.hyinhealth.com.

Wednesday, Nov. 23

Seniors' Fitness Classes: Free fitness

classes are being offered to seniors who reside in Peekskill. The schedule is: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday – The WorkOut – 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday – Fall Prevention Class – 10 to 11 a.m. Friday – Zumba Gold – 11 a.m. to noon. Call Terri Dean at 914-734-4250 Ext.1 for more information. Classes are conducted at 4 Nelson Ave., downstairs from the library.

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.

Torah Studies: Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd., is proud to announce Season one (11 classes) of the Torah studies course. The program brings you a series of stimulating text and discussion based classes that take place on a weekly basis. Our lessons will engage you in a multidimensional way by challenging you intellectually, spiritually and

emotionally. They explore contemporary issues through a Torah perspective as well as tackling timeless questions in the Jewish tradition. The classes are open to all, whatever your level of learning may be. The fee for the full season is \$36, which includes textbook. Each class is independent. For more information, to view the topics of the classes, or to register call 914-962-1111

Thursday, Nov. 24

Wine With Weiner: Come to Beth Am for an informal conversation with the Jewish community on the issues that affect our lives at 7:45 p.m. 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. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown. For information, please call our Rabbi at 914-962-7500 or e-mail him at rabbiiw@optonline.net.

Friday, Nov. 25

Coloring For Adults: It's not just for

kids, and it's the latest craze. Join our adult coloring book club at the Somers Library Meetings will be held in the conference room every Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Relax, color, and socialize for free. Materials are provided or you may bring your own color pencils and coloring books. Registration is not required. Info: 914 232 5717.

Wizard Of Oz: "The Wizard of Oz," produced by Barry Liebman, president and producing director of Yorktown Stage, will be presented at the Yorktown Stage at the Yorktown Community and Cultural Center, 1974 Commerce St. Performances are slated for Nov. 25, at 1 p.m., Nov. 26 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 27 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices: children (11 and under) \$19; seniors (62 and over) and students (under 22) \$21; Adults \$26. Group discounts are available. Tickets may be purchased at yorktownstage.org or by calling the box office 914-962-0606.

Temple Beth Am Shabbat: Temple Beth Am will "open its doors to all who enter" for Shabbat on Fridays at 8 p.m. Our modern Sabbath service has a spiritually engaging and warm feeling while following traditional modes. All are welcome to

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Jewish Center Services: At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Friday night Sabbath services at 8 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 yorktownjewish-center.org.

Saturday, Nov. 26

Putnam Valley Shabbat Service: Looking for a modern Shabbat service steeped in Jewish tradition? Come to Temple Israel of Putnam Valley, a Conservative Egalitarian Synagogue situated on beautiful Lake Peekskill. Our inclusive, community-lead services start at 9:30am on Saturdays and are held in Hebrew and English. Enjoy a comfortable atmosphere where participation is appreciated, and afterwards stay for our delicious Kiddush lunch. Services are free; Family Memberships are \$250 per year and include High Holiday Services. 140 Lake Drive in Lake Peekskill. For more information, visit or call (845) 528-2305.

Yorktown Shabbat Morning Services: Chabad of Yorktown, 2926 Old Yorktown Rd., holds services on Saturday mornings. They are easy-to-follow services with Hebrew/English prayer books, a friendly environment and no affiliation is necessary. Kiddush luncheon follows the services. Services begin at 10 a.m. For more information visit www.ChabadYorktown.com or call 914-962-1111.

Ossining Farmers Market: The Ossining Down to Earth Farmers Market is being held outdoors every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the corner of Spring and Main Streets. Customers old and new will find delicious produce, pasture-raised meat, poultry, and eggs, breads, baked goods, and much more. For a full list of our markets and vendors, visit DowntoEarthMarkets.com.

Yoga Program: Support Connection announces a free weekly program Yoga: A Path toward Wellness will be held every Saturday in November from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Club Fit in Jefferson Valley. The program is open to people living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Sunday, Nov. 27

Healing Yoga: Yoga classes for women

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

Monday, Nov. 28

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.

Art Program: Water Soluble Oil Pastels & Water Colored Pencil will be held on Nov., 28 and Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26 at the Somers Library Join we for an artistic adventure with water colored pencils and pastels. Beginners through experts are welcome. There is a \$25 fee to be paid to the instructor at the first class. Register online at www.somerslibrary.org or call 914-232-5717.

Fitness Classes: Mainstream, The Institute for Mature Adults at Westchester Community College is hold Stay Strong and Fir (fall prevention) will hold Chair

Yoga classes on Mondays through Aug. 29 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Peekskill Senior Center, 4 Nelson Ave

Tuesday, Nov. 29

Knitting And Kaballah: The Women's Circle at Chabad of Yorktown will be hosting a two part course on knitting on Nov. 29 and Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. A professional instructor will teach the skills of using knitting tools properly, techniques to knit, purl, cast on, & bind off. No experience is necessary. Knit for a loved one or donate to a good cause. The \$25 fee includes materials and needles. RSVP: www.ChabadYorktown.com or call 914-962-1111.

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The Chair Rail Isn't for Chairs Anymore

If you're staring at a blank plasterboard wall that is begging for a little dressing up, consider adding a dado rail, also known as a chair rail, fixed horizontally to the perimeter of the room.

I seriously doubt that the back of any chair has touched a chair rail as a way to prevent damage to the wall in a long, long time. Rather, the molding device is now mainly aesthetic as a way to help define space and create interest within the envelope of a room. Particularly in the past few years the chair rail, along with other types of trim such as wainscot, tall baseboards and crown molding, have sallied forth for denoting upgrades and creating luxury.

In architectural terms, the dado rail is traditionally part of the dado or wainscot and, while its purpose may be mainly decorative, there are probably cases where it, along with the baseboard, does in fact provide protection from furniture and human contact. For instance, in the condo building where I now live, the hallways feature generously-sized chair rails and baseboards, and I note that the maintenance staff is frequently touching up the scuffs that occur from passersby.

To plan the addition of a chair rail, there is some discussion about its proper height

from the floor. Traditionally, the height of the dado rail is derived from the height of the pedestal of a column of classical order, typically 24 inches from the floor or about one-fifth the height of the room. But, modern trends have opted more toward 30 to 36 inches, based on the assumed notion that its actual purpose is to protect the wall from chair backs. If the ceiling is 8 feet high, it's best to stay lower with the chair rail. But, even in colonial rooms with 10-ft. ceilings, I've seen the chair rail set at 30 inches from the floor. Let your own sense of aesthetics be your guide.

For the do-it-yourselfers, the next step is to select the molding at the lumber yard to be used. It should not be too heavy in proportion to the size of the room and the height of its ceiling. When I lived in an 18th century house with 9 foot ceilings, the original chair rail molding was 4-1/2 inches deep, which seemed appropriate. The next step is to take careful measurements of each wall and to get busy with the miter saw and miter box for the interior and exterior corners.

The best sequence is to paint or paper the wall behind where the chair rail will be prior to its installation and, further, to paint the rail itself. The following steps

are to locate the studs and mark them with pencil, then measure up from the floor or use a leveler to mark the height at the end of each piece.

Attach the molding with finishing nails recessed into the molding with a nail set, and the nail heads are covered over with putty. The final steps are to caulk the joints where the segments meet and to touch up the paint wherever there is putty or caulk.

Here are some other tips:

When painting or papering the wall behind the chair rail, consider using different, coordinating colors or designs above and below the rail. It is an inexpensive way to add definition.

A good lesson I learned by experience: measure twice, cut once. If in doubt, cut a bit too long. It is easier to trim a little extra than to replace missing material.

Molding for chair rails may not always be sold as such. If you think molding of a particular shape would look good as a chair rail, use it, even if it is labeled for use as a baseboard.

A chair rail offers homeowners the opportunity to create a two-toned wall. To ensure aesthetically pleasing two-toned walls, note the following:

First, consider neutrals. Although this may seem somewhat boring, neutral shades open up the door for a whole host of options and allow you to add more

wall decor without cluttering the space. Neutrals add dimension to the room without dominating the design.

Or, experiment with different shades of the same color. For example, a navy blue on the bottom half of the wall could look dramatic when contrasted with a light blue on top. Additionally, a chocolate brown below the rail paired with a medium taupe above can give any room a warm feel.

Another option is to utilize a paint/wallpaper combination, with the wallpaper applied either above or below the chair rail. I have used this effect in several of the rooms I've decorated. Each time, I've matched one of the dominant colors from the wallpaper to select the color paint for the rest of the wall.

A chair rail addition can be an excellent weekend project to add warmth and interest to your home. But, for those of you who have decided that do-it-yourself projects are best graduated to let-someone-else-do-it projects, I have several good carpenters I can recommend.

Bill Primavera is a licensed Realtor® affiliated with Coldwell Banker and a lifestyles journalist who writes regularly as The Home Guru. Visit his website at: www.PrimaveraRealEstate.com and, if you would like to consult with him about buying or selling a home, contact him directly at 914-522-2076.

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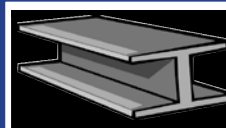
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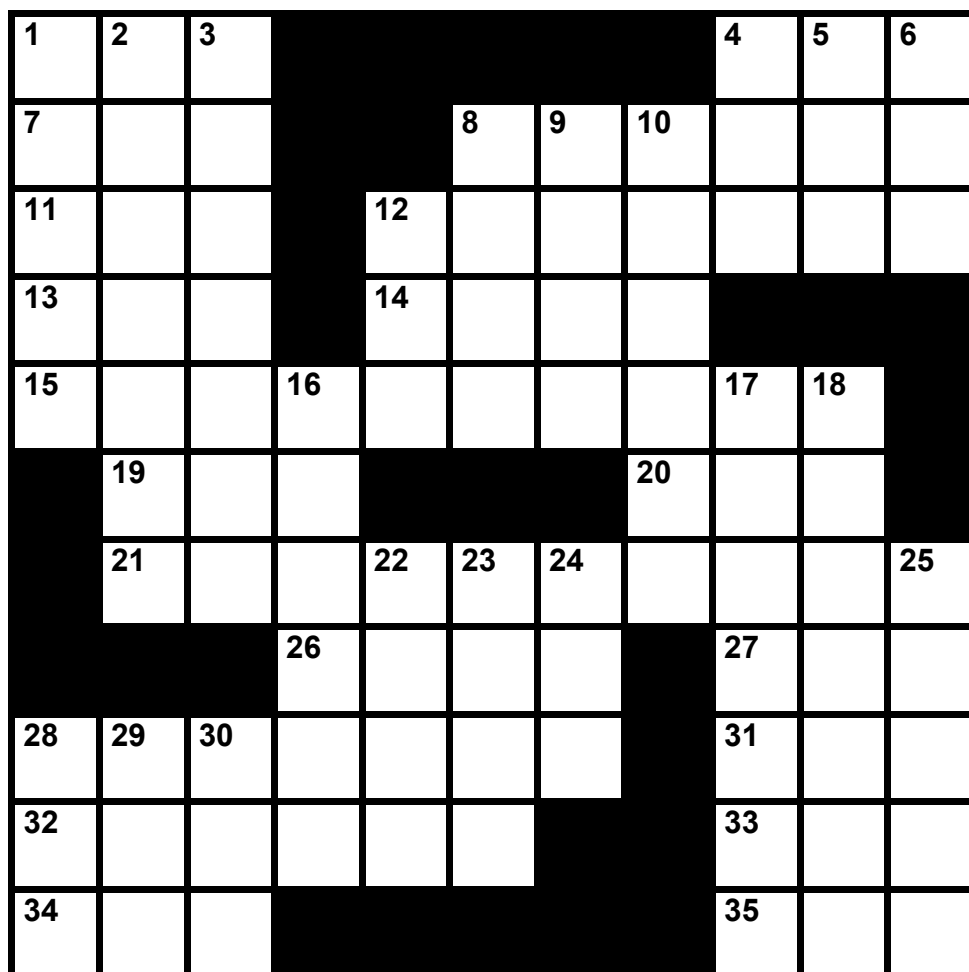
Crossword

ACROSS

1. Prefix with "duct"
4. Wool coat wearer
7. Resting place
8. "Mad Money" host or Mahopac personal trainer
11. Chickadee cousin
12. Overture
13. Chomped on
14. Paper amount
15. Natural ingredient in printer's ink
19. "Baptist" intro
20. A swill place
21. Brewster Mexican restaurant
26. Franc's replacement
27. Glass component
28. Toward that place, to Shakespeare
31. ___ in the hole
32. Nymph pursuers
33. Buff
34. High degree
35. Antiquity, to a poet

DOWN

1. Animated
2. First
3. Wave conductor
4. Flight challenged bird
5. Made one
6. Before, in poetry
8. Native American
9. Part of ROM
10. Nearly
12. Beginning for "fix"
16. OSHA concern
17. Echo
18. Expressing feeling
22. Rhine tributary
23. Valuable deposits
24. ___'easter
25. Revise
28. Kitchen meas.
29. The sound of laughter
30. "... if I thought ___ help"



Solution on page 24

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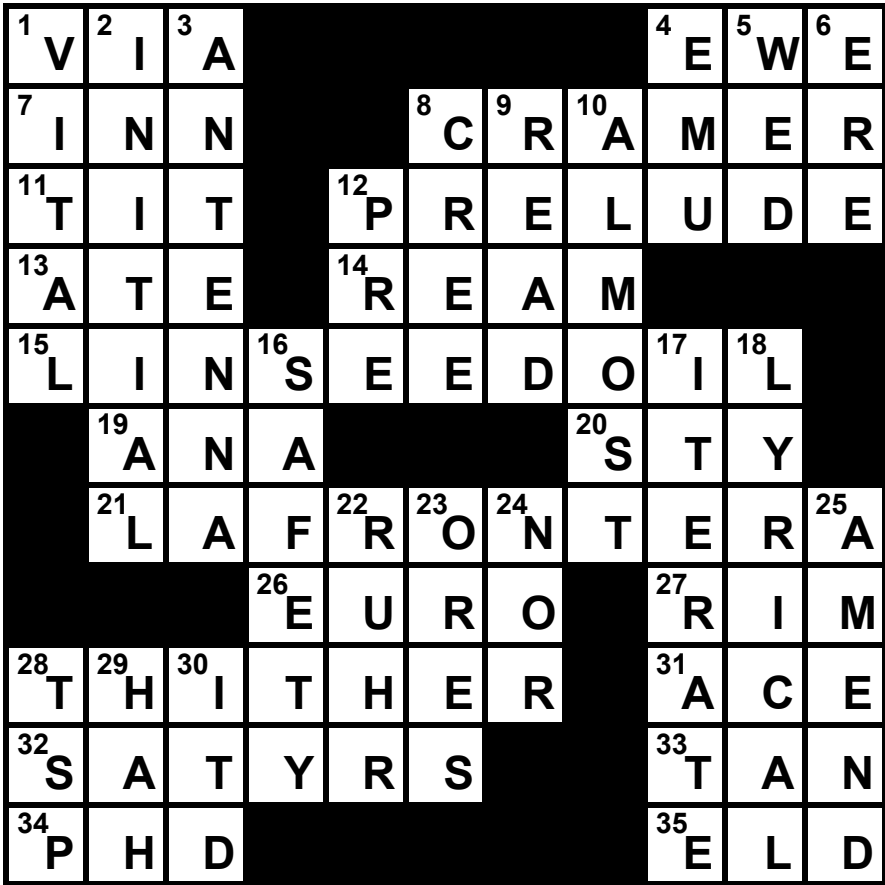
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SMOOSHYTECH, LLC Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on September 27, 2016. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MELODY REALTY GROUP LLC, a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC). Articles of Organization filed with the NY State Secretary of State on 08/10/2016. NY office location: Westchester County. The Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any such process against the LLC to **315 7th Ave., Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Real Estate Rental and Management.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION of VAULTED GOLD SERVICES LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY)

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF EX-ECUCARE SOLUTIONS, LLC. Arts of Org filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/14/2016. Office loc: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC to: **LEGALINC CORPORATE SERVICES INC., 1967 Wehrle Drive, Suite1-086, Buffalo, NY 14221. Purpose: Any lawful act.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PETER SONNENBERG, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 08/08/16. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail



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on 10/26/2016. Location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: **VAULTED GOLD SERVICES LLC, PO BOX 8542, PELHAM, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WANDERER NEWS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 9/30/2016. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated agent upon whom process may be served against LLC to: **7014 13th Avenue, Ste. 202, in Brooklyn, NY, 11228. Principal business address: 255 Huguenot St., Apt. 202, in New Rochelle, NY, 10801. Purpose: any lawful act.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MO-BIGRAM LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on August 17, 2016. Office in Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **29 Faith Lane, Ardsley, New York 10502. Purpose: any lawful acts.**

process to **Peter Sonnenberg 1133 Pleasantville Road Briarcliff Manor NY 10510. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: **THERAQUEST LLC.** Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/25/2016. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to: **The LLC, 444 E Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, New York 10543, principle business location of the LLC. Purpose: any lawful business activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF DIABETIC SWEETS OR SYDELLES SWEETS. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 24, 2016. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to: **16 Scenic Drive, South Salem, NY 10590. Purpose: Any lawful acts.**

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF BUSINESS CONCIERGE UNLIMITED, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 21, 2016. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 600 Mamaroneck Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MOST AND CO PRODUCTIONS LLC. Arts of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/17/16. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be

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The Ins and Outs of a Medicaid Trust

By Salvatore DiConstanzo

In my practice, repetition inspires action. Sometimes, people need to hear the same advice over and over again before they act. Since one of the most important planning techniques implemented by an elder law attorney is the Medicaid Trust, it is prudent to repeat this writing every now and again. Perhaps this will be the impetus you need to act.

The Purpose of the Trust

It is irrefutable that there is a possibility that you may require nursing home care someday. The next logical question would be "How am I to pay for my care?". There are only four options to pay for your care at a nursing home which are (i) private payment, (ii) long-term care insurance, (iii) Medicare and (iv) Medicaid.

For many, privately paying is cost prohibitive, as the average monthly cost of a nursing home exceeds \$12,000/month.

Long-term care insurance is often not an option because many people cannot afford the premiums or cannot qualify due to age or health.

Medicare only pays, at a maximum, for the first 100 days in a nursing home.

That leaves Medicaid as your only viable alternative.

For 2016 Medicaid eligibility purposes, your house is an exempt resource. However, Medicaid can still place a lien on your house.

Those who intend on relying on Medicaid as the payor of their nursing home are forced to contemplate these issues and in doing so are regularly introduced to the Medicaid Trust as a mechanism to obtain Medicaid eligibility without losing their assets.

Mechanics of the Trust

You are the creator of the trust. Usually, one or more of the children are the trustees.

The children are usually the beneficiaries of the trust after your death; however, you can name anyone as the beneficiary.

The trust is irrevocable. However, there are provisions under New York State law that allow for the revocation or amendment of an irrevocable trust and our trusts are drafted in such a manner to allow for changed circumstances.

You are entitled to receive the income of the trust, if any. This means that you are entitled to receive the interest, divi-

dends, etc. generated from that any trust assets. You are not entitled to take the principal out of the trust.

After five years from the date the assets are transferred to the Trust, the assets of the Trust can no longer be considered by Medicaid when applying for Medicaid.

Provisions Pertaining to the House

The Medicaid Trust is largely drafted with the intent to transfer your house and/or other assets to the Trust. The Trust provides that you have the right to live in the property of the

trust. This means that you cannot be kicked out of your house.

You are still considered the owner of the house for purposes of maintaining the house, payment of real estate taxes, the STAR exemption, the Veteran's Exemption and any other tax benefits attached to the house.

The house can be sold at any time, but only with your consent. A new house can be purchased with the proceeds of the sale from the first house.



Salvatore DiConstanzo

Special Powers Retained by the Creator

Many clients are concerned about losing control. However, a properly prepared trust affords the creator a great deal of control as permissible by Medicaid rules, regulations and case law. For instance, you have the power to change the trustees of the Trust. Consider for a moment a child named as a trustee that becomes a hooligan. You can remove and replace the trustee with someone else. Another scenario might be where you want to sell the house but the trustee will not sign the contract. All you need to do is remove and replace the trustee.

You also have the power to change the beneficiaries of the trust. Assume for a moment that your three children are the beneficiaries of the trust and one child gets divorced. You can change the beneficiaries to your remaining children to avoid having your assets become subjected to the divorce proceeding.

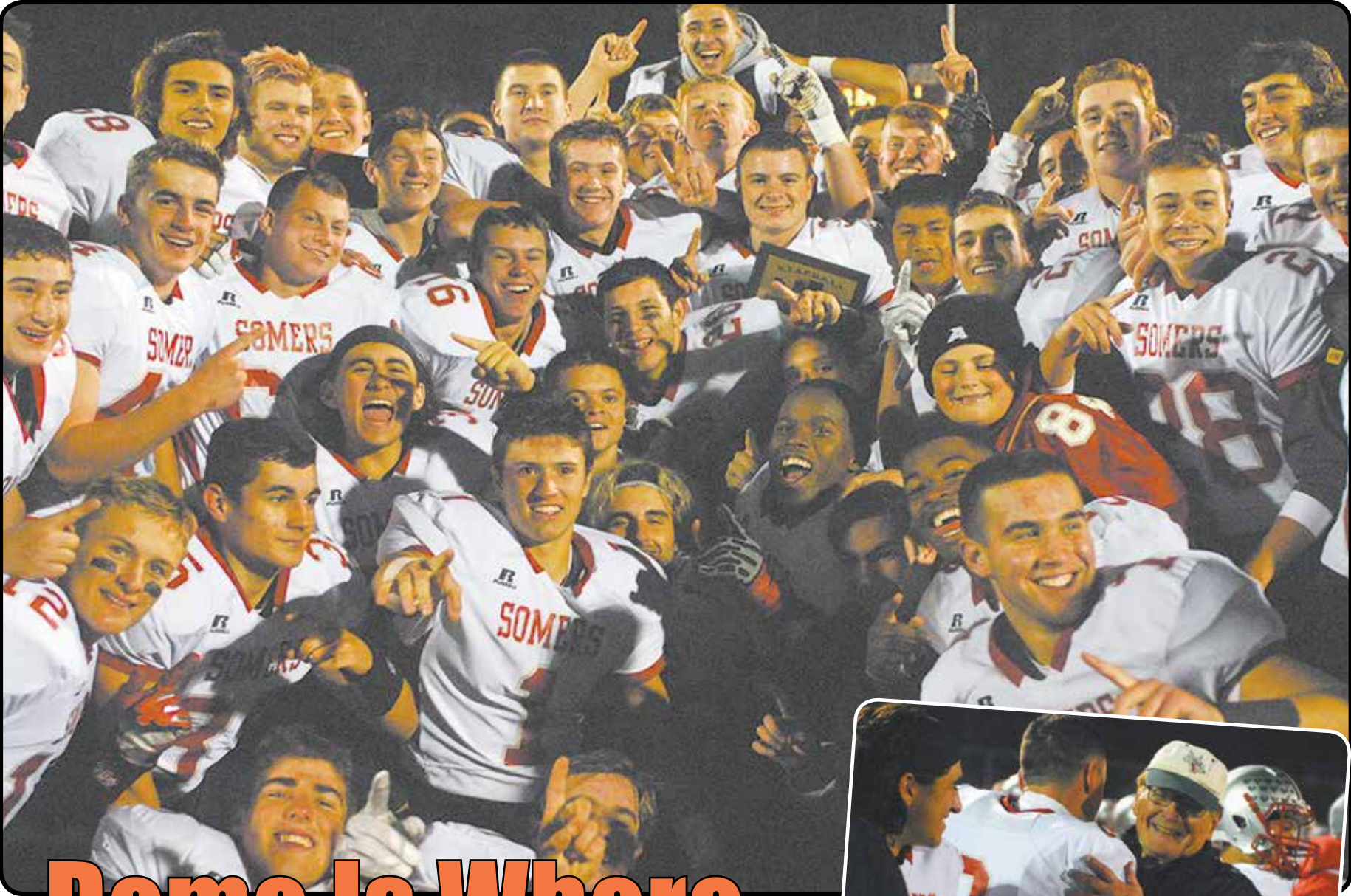
This is a summary of the salient provision of a Medicaid Trust. It should not be dismissed for lack of understanding. Please contact us as this planning technique is one of the few techniques that can be implemented before you need care. I can be reached at 914-245-2440 or by e-mail at smd@mfd-law.com. Our website is www.plantodayfortomorrow.com.

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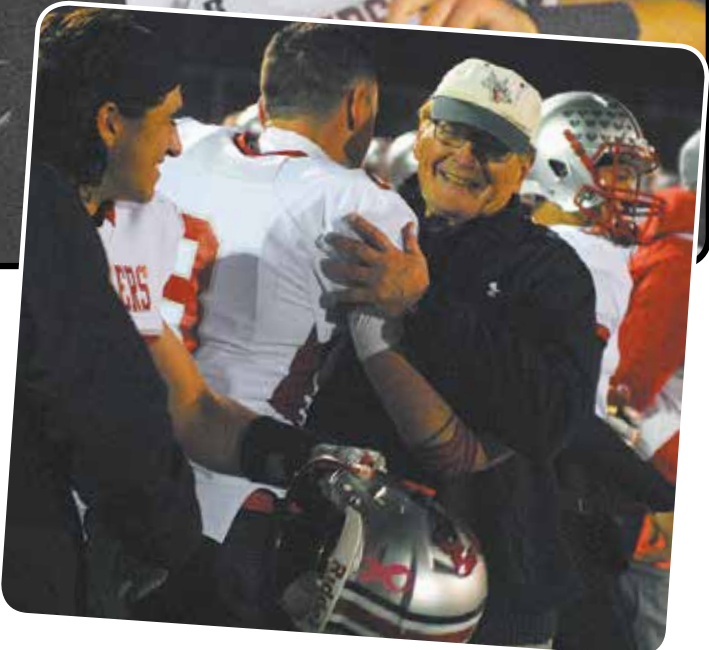
SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION



**Dome Is Where
the Heart Is!**

**Somers Scorches Burnt Hills, 48-24,
Tuskers Headed to Syracuse for NYS Finals**



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Reaching the Carrier Dome in Syracuse has been the goal at Somers High since legendary football Coach Tony DeMatteo took the program over in 2000, and the state-ranked (No.6) Tuskers (11-1) finally reached that objective in last Friday's 48-24 NYSPHSAA Class A semifinal win over Section 2 champion Burnt Hills, who surrendered four unanswered, fourth-quarter scores to the celebratory Tuskers. Somers will face Section 5 champion Greece Athena (No.4 in NYS) at 3:00 p.m. in Friday's state final... see Grid Notebook

Horne, Pires Combine for 7 TDs in Somers' Rout of Burnt Hills

State Ranked (No.6) Tuskers to Face No.4 Greece Athena in NYS Title Tilt

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

Burnt Hills blinked and, figuratively speaking, when they closed their eyes for that split second, the Spartans paid dearly. Blink-quick Somers RB Messiah Horne and fleet of foot WR Matt Pires – maybe the two fastest game-breakers on any one team in NYS Class A this season -- combined for seven touchdowns and 426 total yards of offense last Friday night at Dietz Stadium, and the Tuskers are headed to the state finals after a 48-24 NYSPHSAA triumph over Section 2's Burnt Hills in the Class A state



A man among boys, Somers DL-OL Nick Gargiulo gets a well-earned rest.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Somers players wasted little time before showing Tusker Nation their appreciation.

semifinals.

The victory clinched the Tuskers their first berth in a state final this Friday (3:00 p.m.) at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse where no Section 1 team has prevailed since 2012 (Class AA New Rochelle). Section 5 champion Greece Athena (12-0) will carry its No.4 state rank into the game and serve as the foe standing between Somers Coach Tony DeMatteo

and his second state crown (Roosevelt 1996).

Horne rushed for 221 of his 257 yards, and three of his four scores, in the mind-blowing fourth quarter, as the state-ranked (No.6) Tuskers (11-1) took a four-point third-quarter lead and simply leveled the

state-ranked (No.7) Spartans (10-2) in an awe-inspiring fourth quarter.

Somers, playing in its third state tournament since 2012, has now outscored its six playoff foes by a combined 188-86, including 76-31 in

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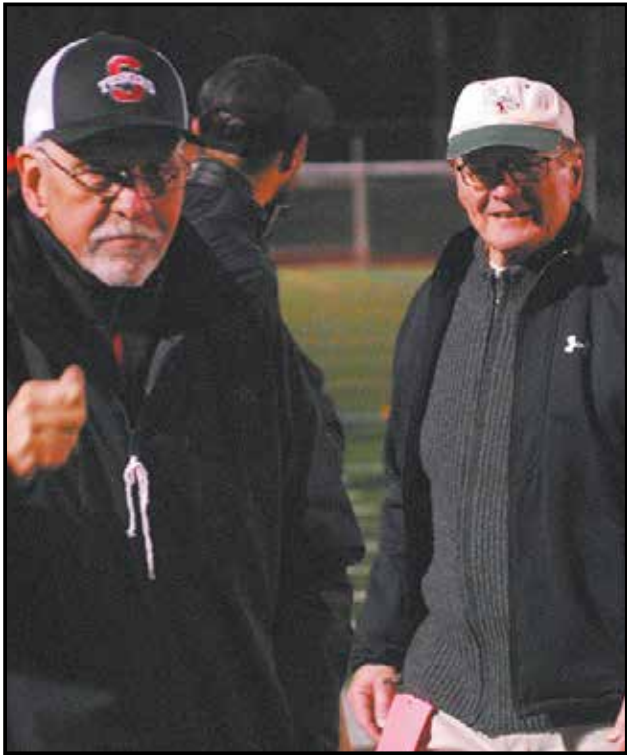
The grunts up front got it done for Somers.



Somers WR Matt Pires hauls in TD catch in 48-24 rout of Burnt Hills Saturday at Dietz Stadium.

Sports

Grid Notebook



Section 1 coaching giants, Somers Assistant Gerry Keevens, and Tusker legend Tony DeMatteo are going to Syracuse together #NoPlaceLikeDome.

two state playoff wins over perennial powers Cornwall and Burnt Hills.

Hills scored the only TD of the third quarter, cutting the deficit to 21-17, while limiting Somers to just five yards on six plays in the third quarter. But Horne,

who finished with four scores, was shot out of a cannon in the fourth, darting past Spartans for an 80-yard back-breaking touchdown and a 28-17 lead.

"Once we got those holes, I just had to hit them as hard as I could," said Horne, who has 28 TDs this season and 2,153 rushing yards (both school records). Among those totals: 1,247 yards and 16 TDs has come in just six playoff games where he has rushed 156, 200, 194, 192, 248 and 257. "I was a little gassed but I had to fight through it because my team needed me. I give all the credit to my offensive line like I always do. Going to the dome is amazing. I'm just appreciating every second of this and taking it all in."

team needed me. I give all the credit to my offensive line like I always do. Going to the dome is amazing. I'm just appreciating every second of this and taking it all in."



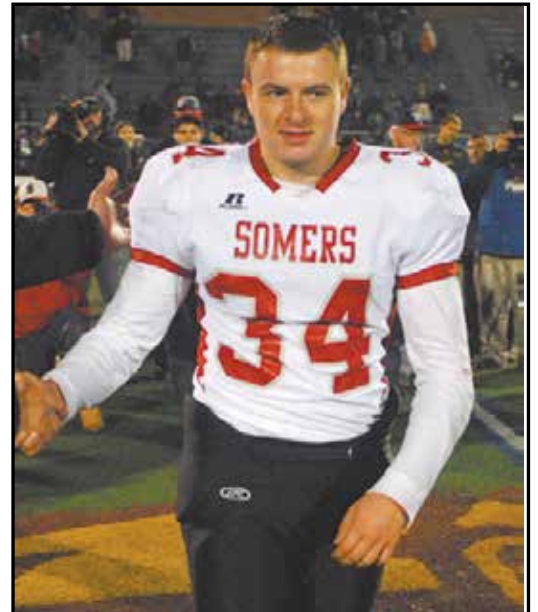
Tuskers Antonio Vieira and Andrew Cassin break up pass play as Vincent DiFilippo (22) swoops in for one of two INTs in state semis.

Horne then went on jaunts of 52, 39 and 50 yards on his final four carries, two of which went for scores.

"I have never seen anything like that in my coaching career," DeMatteo said of Horne's fourth quarter. "And you know I've seen some good ones."

Pires got the ball rolling with a 61-yard catch from QB Kevin Olifiers (4 for 7, 87 yards), who displayed deft touch on the throw. Pres added two blazing TD runs, including a 74-yarder just before the half, which provided a 21-10 lead.

"This is a dream come true for us, for every single one of us who wanted this for Coach DeMatteo so badly," said Somers QB Kevin Olifiers, who has thrown for 13 TD passes. "Our will and team unity got us this win, and have two insanely good weapons in Pires and Messiah doesn't hurt. We can ground and pound Messiah or hit the deep ball with Pires, so it's kind of an unstoppable force right



Somers DB Thomas Tooma goes up for Defensive MVP honor in NYS semifinal win over Burnt Hills.

now. Up to this point, this is the greatest feeling ever."

Pires' TD connection with Olifiers early on opened up a can of worms, as the Spartans had to honor more than just

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The dynamic duo, Tuskers Messiah Horne and Matt Pires, celebrate one of seven TDs they would score in NYS Class A semifinal rout of Burnt Hills.

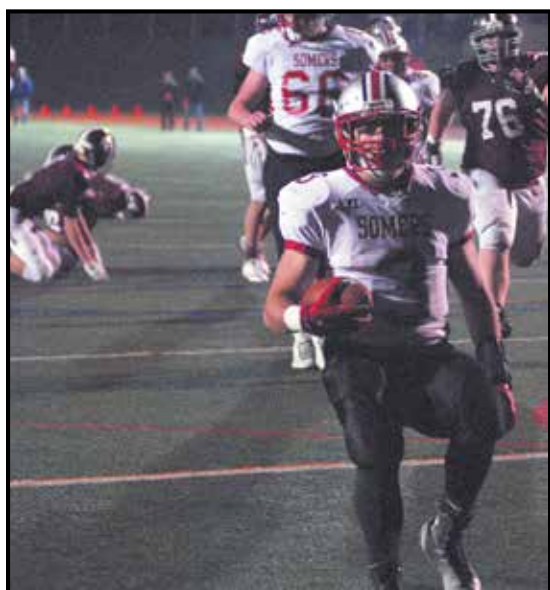


Tuskers storm Dietz Stadium field after winning NYS Class A semifinals.

Sports

Grid Notebook

continued from previous page



Leaving a wake of fallen Spartans in his path, Somers WR Matt Pires scores one of three TDs before posing off during 48-24 NYS semifinal win.

the run.

"That was a sprint-out with an out-cut and Pires ran the flag, and the kid had him covered but Pires just beat him, he just beat him like he's done so many times this year," DeMateo said. "This was Olifiers best game in running the offense, his best game of the year, and we needed that. He had a big night tonight."

DEFENSE WINS

Somers DB Vincent DiFilippo had six tackles and two crucial picks. LB Antonio Vieira had a game-high 13 tackles. Dan Venditto had nine tackles and sack. Thomas Tooma had nine tackles and was named Defensive MVP. Drew Cassin had seven tackles, recovered a fumble

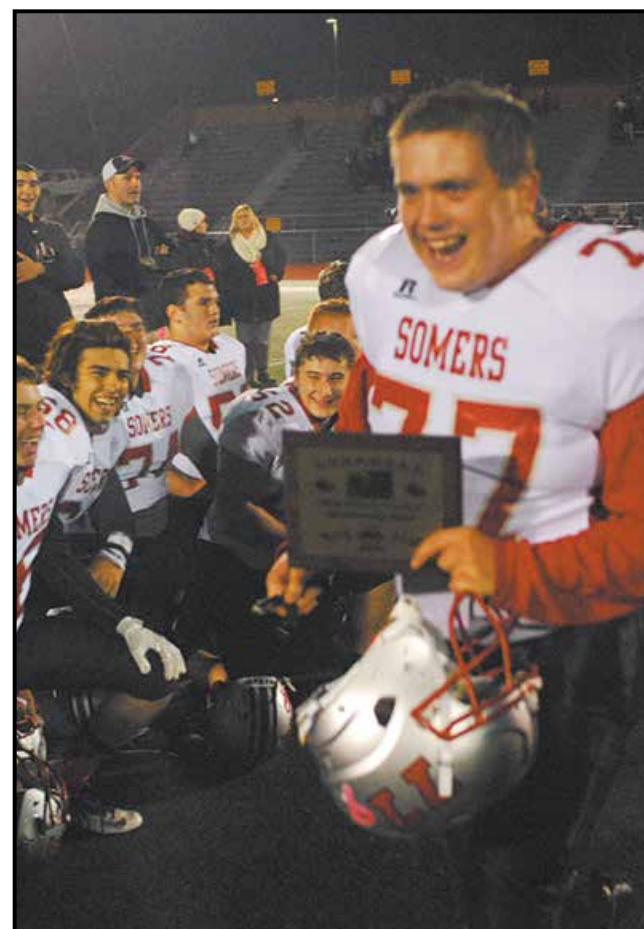
and sacked the QB. Erik Hagenah and Nick Gariuo had nine and eight tackles, respectively.

THE DEMATEO AFFECT

Since coming to Somers in 2000, DeMateo changed the culture and has how fostered an environment that enables his coaching staff and the entire Somers community thrive, per Pires.

"Coach Ant (QB/WR Coach Anthony DeMateo) wanted to make sure we had the deep ball as part of our arsenal," said Pires, who has 20 TDs on the season, a school record for a wide receiver. "Coach D trusts his players and his staff, and we wanted to get the passing game going again and

we needed to do that against this team. To be able to bring Coach D back to the state title game where he belongs for the first time in 20 years is just amazing. He's a legend. Literally, not a day goes by without him teaching me something new about life. This is more than just a football team, it's a family, and he preaches that every day. That's why this whole community is on this field right now celebrating with us. I will



Tusker teammates are thrilled for DL Mike Formisano, who won the sportsmanship award at NYS semis.

never forget this, never!"

Tusker Nation has turned out in force from Day 1 this season, and there is little doubt about the fact that DeMateo, in his 47th season overall, has turned a sub-par football program into the second best in Section 1, behind only New Rochelle.

"To be honest, deep down in my heart, I never thought this would happen at Somers," DeMateo said. "I didn't think this was a football area up here, so when I went to Somers I never envisioned this would happen, so this is truly one of my greatest moments; just to get back to the dome."

"I told these guys before the game: Win this for yourselves, win this for your community, don't do this for me. They never lay down. I really do love this team."

And he'll love spending Thanksgiving weekend in Syracuse with them; what could wouldn't?

"Well, my wife is very happy that she won't have to cook for everyone but we'll all be together for a great thanksgiving dinner at a diner," DeMateo said. "And I couldn't ask for more than to be spending time with my team on Thanksgiving weekend."

There are 58 players on the roster and a slew of family and friends who concur with that notion.



Somers MVP Messiah Horne gets some big-league love from Coach Tony DeMateo.



Somers RB Messiah Horne snaps off one of four TD runs in 48-24 NYS semifinal win over Burnt Hills.

Sports

Somers, Lakeland, Panas Leading NYS Championship Charge



By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports
Editor

You can't put a price on winning a state title in any sport, but if we could this would be a billion-dollar fall; a season rife with championships in and about the Northern Westchester/Putnam County region; with three state titles and counting (maybe).

Perhaps the greatest achievement of them all comes straight out of Lakeland High, where Coach Sharon Sarsen's Hornets 8-peated as NYS Class B champions on Nov.13th. If you don't know what that means; it's because it rarely, if ever, happens in any sport, anywhere in the world. Who 8-peats?

Sarsen's Hornets (20-0-2) weren't nearly as dominant as they were in their previous seven state title bids, which makes this one all the more impressive, if you ask me. Buoyed by a ridiculous defense, which featured All-NYS U-Mass-bound D Mia Lennon, Lakeland worked a pair of 1-0 victories in the NYS semis and finals over Iroquois and Garden City. In doing so, Lakeland continued an unprecedented winning streak, extending their run to 185 games without a loss to NYS foes, dating back to the 2008 Section 1 finals.

Think about that the next time you're talking about the finest programs and/or coaches in state history.

"This team was a team in the truest sense," Sarsen said of the current roster. "They were successful because of each other. This team does not get the respect they deserve, ever. They set goals for themselves and every day took on the opponent that was on the other side of the field. They challenged themselves and they looked forward to the opportunity. We have a lot of very good players that are skilled and disciplined and anything can happen if everyone is on board. I am so proud of the fact that this team raised

the state plaque above their heads and they went out as champions, creating their own legacy. We talked about that constantly. The past has awarded them opportunities, but they knew the past was not going to win them a state championship. They needed to get it done and they did. I am proud of their discipline, their attention to detail, their ability to carry out adjustments and game plans to a T! I am immensely proud of this team."

Usually, I could just cut and paste Sarsen's quotes from the previous season, just inserting different names into similar situations: However, despite the same outrageous outcome, this was anything but a cut-and-paste season, what with the Hornets losing as much as they did to graduation and still finding a way to reset the bar. Kudos, ladies...

Equally impressive is the insanity at Somers High. Coach Tony DeMatteo's Tusker football team trudged through uncharted waters last Friday night at Dietz Stadium in Kingston where the Tuskers (11-1) throttled Section 2 champion Burnt Hills (10-2) to advance to the NYSPHSAA Class A finals next Friday at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse. Somers turned a four-point, third-quarter lead into a 48-24 blowout and will compete for the state title for the first time ever. Having met

the vast majority of these humble, young lads over the course of the last few months, I can tell you there is a fire in their belly, which will be tough to put down.

The Somers boys' soccer team didn't even win the League II-C soccer title, coming in second behind Lakeland, so nobody outside the Somers family truly foresaw Coach Brian Lanzetta, in his first season on the Tusker sideline, taking this unit where no Somers team had gone before. I don't care what anyone says, this came out of the blue.

Direct Rays



DR. GEORGE STONE PHOTO

Prideful Panas volleyball players pose with NYSPHSAA Class A championship plaque after winning 1st state title of any kind in school history Sunday at Glens Falls.

By winning the first NYSPHSAA championship in school history in a 2-1 overtime win over Section 6 champion Grand Island, the Tuskers (20-2-2) won just the third "team sport" state title in school history, joining the 2004 cross country team and the 2014 girls' soccer team. It was an unthinkable venture that threw the NYS soccer nation for a loop and sent Tusker Nation into yet another frenzy during the finest overall sports

campaign in school history.

"I don't know what to make of it," DeMatteo said of the exploits at Somers. "It's just a great community to be a part of. I love these kids and their parents. We are witnessing stuff that's never happened at Somers before. These kids really out the time in and it shows, across the board."

It's an exemplary community now, that's for sure...

Walter Panas volleyball is also something to behold these days as the undefeated Panthers (21-0) advanced to Glens Falls last weekend and won the school's first NYS championship of any kind after the 2015 NYS finalist Panthers swept perennial Long Island champion Kings Park Sunday morning behind an MVP performance from All-American junior hitter Yvette Burcescu. Safe to say, that with a slew of underclassmen (11) returning, this is most magnificent era ever for any sport at Walter Panas. Big-league props to Coach Joe Felipe, who has built a volleyball program that rivals that of Hen Hud, which is truly saying something when you consider the history behind Coach Diane Swertfager's storied Sailor program.

All-Tournament Panthers Burcescu, Julianna Bottarini and Sabrina Patriciello,

plus teammates Stephanie DeLuca, Hannah Boyd, Taylor Kammerman, Lauren Feeley, Alexis Diaz, Alanna Mansell, Jillian Dolman, Jenn Braun, Julene Pineda, Demi Spanos, Melissa Lussier and Victoria Getting will go down in history as Walter Panas trailblazers; an inconceivably dedicated unit, which lost just one set all season (think about that!) and made good on something Felipe had



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Somers Coach Tony DeMatteo salutes Tusker Nation after winning NYS Class A semis.



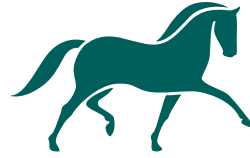
JAMES VANDELDE PHOTO

Members of the Lakeland field hockey team let out a howl after winning unprecedented 8th NYS championship.

in the works for nearly a decade. The Panthers were rewarded with a hero's welcome home when the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association graciously guided a congratulatory parade from the Annsville Circle to Walter Panas High late Sunday afternoon before the whole clan gathered at AJ's Sports Pub and Grill for one last hurrah (at least until next year).

I reckon you could say that when it comes to the ladies in the Lakeland Central School District (Lakeland & Panas), the fall of 2016 is unprecedented and about as good as it gets.

It's been one heck of a fall, gang: Let's hope we can take it through the winter and into the spring. Good luck, y'all!



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