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Sports

December 20 - December 26, 2016

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 366

Mohegan Church Praying for a Christmas Miracle

By Rick Pezzullo

Rector Claire Woodley and parishioners of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Mohegan Lake have just one thing on their Christmas wish list this year: funding to complete a new building that houses the only food pantry in the area and other community needs.

"It would be a great gift to the community. That's who benefits from this," Woodley said. "We're a small church but we have a big mission. If they want to see the biggest bang for their buck, this is the place."

Ten years ago, St. Mary's, which has approximately 250 parishioners, kicked

off a fundraising campaign to construct a new Outreach Center to replace a dilapidated building that was built during the Great Depression. Woodley said two-thirds of the money needed was pledged, but then several people ran into financial difficulties and were unable to deliver, delaying the planned 2010 ground breaking.

A new campaign was launched and the church, located on Route 6, applied for several grants. The outside shell of the building was finished in October but the church found itself short about \$200,000 to complete the required inside work,

Continued on page 2



St. Mary's needs about \$200,000 to complete interior work of its new Outreach Center.



Merry Christmas

Santa Claus paid an early visit recently to Once Upon A Time Preschool & Daycare in Putnam Valley to have breakfast with children and listen to their Christmas wishes.

Walter Panas High Grad to Join Broadway Cast of *Hamilton*

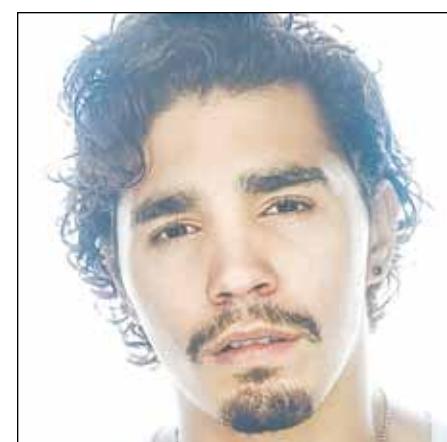
By Rick Pezzullo

During his high school years at Walter Panas, Anthony Lee Medina was a featured performer in most of the productions of Panas Players.

After graduating in 2007, Medina, 27, continued to pursue his acting passion and landed some roles on stage and on the small screen. However, about a month ago, Medina learned he had earned a coveted spot in the hottest show currently on Broadway.

Starting in early March, Medina will play a dual role in *Hamilton*. He said last week he expects to be part of the cast during his initial run as John Laurens/Philip Hamilton (Alexander Hamilton's son) for at least six months, but more likely a year.

"It's been a nice Christmas so far. I'm very happy," Medina said during an ex-



Anthony Lee Medina

clusive interview. "*Hamilton* was kind of the end all, be all. It's crazy."

Medina said he actually had three au-

Continued on page 3

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Mohegan Church Praying for a Christmas Miracle

Continued from page 1

such as sheetrock, tiles, lighting, handicapped bathroom fixtures, etc. As a result, Woodley said St. Mary's is unable to utilize most of the space without being able to get insurance or a certificate of occupancy.

"To say it has been a strain on our capacity to do our mission is really an understatement," Woodley said. "We've spent every penny we have to get as far as we are. St. Mary's is a working man's parish. There are no deep pockets. There's a lot of money in Westchester. It just doesn't circulate where we are. I want to get this done so people can get back to doing their work."

The signature, completely volunteer-



Only a portion of new building is available for community use.

run program offered at St. Mary's is the food pantry, which has been operating

for the last 40 years. Open 52 weeks a year, including Christmas Eve, the pantry serves about 150 needy families weekly. During the holiday season, that number jumps to about 250 families.

The pantry survives on regular donations from ACME and DeCicco's supermarkets, other houses of worship, scouts, lions clubs and other organizations.

"It's the biggest social service in our area, but we're not government funded because it's run out of a church," Woodley explained. "It's really a community food pantry. We're small potatoes, but we do really good work."

In addition to the food pantry, where currently clients are forced to line up outside in the cold, St. Mary's makes

bag lunches for the homeless during the Midnight Run, and houses Alcoholic Anonymous meetings and the Sunshine Club---a facility for mentally and emotionally handicapped adults.

Besides volunteers, Woodley said St. Mary's is grateful for the assistance of J.P. McHale, Mohegan Motors ("Barry Rost is just an angel"), and MBIA Insurance, and is hopeful others will find it in their hearts this holiday season and beyond to lend a hand.

"We are leaning into the grace of God," Woodley said. "I think God wants better for this part of northern Westchester."

Anyone interested in helping St. Mary's in any way can call (914) 528-3972 or visit www.stmarysmoheganlake.org.

Walter Panas High Grad to Join Broadway Cast of *Hamilton*

Continued from page 1

ditions for a production of *Hamilton* on the west coast that he wasn't chosen for, but instead was notified he had made the cut for the Broadway show.

"I dropped my phone and cracked it," Medina recalled of his reaction to hearing the good news. "I auditioned a lot for everything, but that would be the best job I could get. It's nice icing on the cake."

Medina started acting professionally at the age of 19, appearing for two years in the first national tour of *Spring Awakening*. He later appeared in *In the Heights* at Theater Under the Stars and in The Public Theater's *The Capeman* at The Delacorte.

His television credits include The CW's "Carrie Diaries," CBS' "Blue Bloods," HBO's "High Maintenance," and the Golden Globe nominated "Flesh and

Bone" on STARZ.

"I've had a lot of theater in my life," said Medina, who during his time at Panas he also appeared in productions at the Westchester Broadway Theatre and Random Farm Theater. "My experience in film and television have been incredible. The process is totally different."

Despite his success, Medina, who lives in Washington Heights, said he has also

experienced the ups and downs of being a struggling actor.

"There was a lot of doubt, a lot of rejections," he said. "You have to have thick skin. You have to fight to the end. It's really believing in yourself and your abilities. I work my butt off and I'm really lucky. I have had a really good support system. Suddenly there are a lot of avenues opening up that could change what I do."



Ask the Doctor

Evan H. Karas, MD, FAAOS

Co-Chief, Orthopedic Surgery
Co-Director, Orthopedic & Spine Institute
Northern Westchester Hospital

Watch Dr. Karas discuss Advanced Shoulder Surgery at www.nwhorthoandspine.org/DrKaras

Taking Care of Shoulder Pain

What you should know about symptoms and treatment options...

Q: I've been experiencing discomfort when I lift my arm over my head, most often brushing my hair and putting dishes in the cupboard. What could be wrong?

A: Shoulder pain is often because of tendon inflammation or tear, dislocation, arthritis or a broken bone. If you feel pain when you put on your coat or reach into the back seat of the car from the front, you may have a rotator cuff injury. The rotator cuff is a cradle of muscles and tendons that lets you rotate your arm in a full arc. This intricate structure makes it possible for you to do everyday activities like reaching and lifting; you also rely on your rotator cuff while swinging a tennis racquet or golf club or throwing a ball. Injury can result from a fall or lifting something heavy—or it might just be overuse. I often see rotator cuff problems in patients older than 35, as tendons lose elasticity with age.

Q: What should I do?

A: If you're experiencing pain, it's important to see a doctor. A thorough examination is needed to determine the cause of your pain. An orthopedist will check for symptoms such as swelling, weakness, tenderness and any deformities. Additionally, imaging with MRI and X-ray will assist in a diagnosis. Treatment options will

vary. Most often rest, modified activities, and physical therapy will be needed. To reduce inflammation and pain, medication or injections, such as cortisone shots, may be used. Surgery will be required to resolve some shoulder problems.

Q: What can I expect if I need surgery?

A: If there is a tear, I'll recommend surgery to repair it. Using a minimally invasive arthroscopic technique, I'm able to repair a rotator cuff as an outpatient procedure and patients can expect to be home within a few hours. For more serious problems such as severe arthritis, degenerative joint disease, or chronic rotator cuff deficiency, shoulder replacement surgery is often necessary. Patients can expect to leave the hospital after one or two days. Arm movement is limited for about six weeks while the tissue around the new joint heals. Most patients return to normal activities after three months, and shoulder replacements typically last a lifetime.

Did you know?

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Community Pledges Over \$53,000 to Help Stricken Officer

By Rick Pezzullo

In a true display of community spirit during the holiday season, more than \$53,000 has been pledged so far to help a Yorktown police officer deal with extensive medical bills.

Since a GoFundMe account was created by Anthony James about six weeks ago, 391 well-wishers have reached into their pockets for five-year Yorktown Police Officer Lauren Raczynsky, donating

\$53,351.

"I have had the pleasure and good fortune of knowing Lauren and her parents for many years. They are exceptional human beings who deserve our support in their time of need," Anthony Enea, who donated \$1,000, posted on the fundraising site.

Raczynsky, known for being community-oriented and personable, worked as a domestic violence investigator in Yorktown. Married in 2012, she struggled for

a few years with infertility and then was scheduled to have a hysterectomy. During that surgery, doctors discovered Raczynsky had Adenomyosis, cysts and widespread endometriosis. A second surgery was required to remove her appendix and perform emergency ileostomy.

Following those surgeries, Raczynsky was still having pains and developed some neurological issues. She was later diagnosed with Stage 4 endometriosis,

which spread throughout her pelvis, and after multiple testing, was also diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and Fibromyalgia. She now takes injections three times a week to try and keep the Multiple Sclerosis, which affects the central nervous system, from progressing.

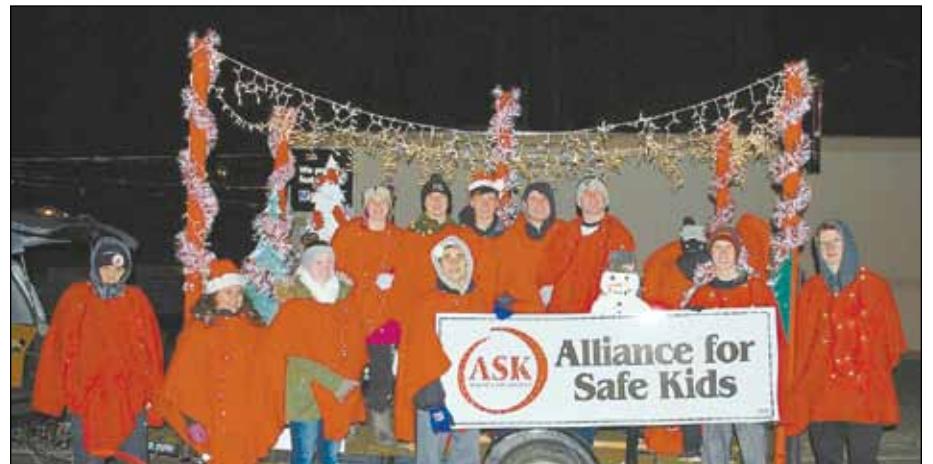
The majority of Raczynsky's endometriosis was removed from her body in a

Continued on page 5

ASK Honored with Yorktown Service Award

On December 3 at the Holiday Electric Lights Parade in Yorktown, the Alliance for Safe Kids (ASK) was the recipient of the fifth annual Randy Zapakin Yorktown Community Service Award. This community service award honors outstanding individuals and community groups who provide volunteer services to Yorktown. It has been established in memory of Yorktown's Randy Zapakin, who was killed near his home on Farm Walk Road while he was walking his dog on Nov. 8, 2012. "Zapakin is remembered as a compassionate and generous member of the Yorktown community," said Erica Stanzione, Director of Communications and Partnerships at ASK. "He represented

and embodied the Yorktown spirit and in his memory and recognition of his commitment to our community, we are honored to receive such a meaningful award." "While the community members and students that volunteer with ASK don't do so for any sort of recognition, it is incredibly humbling and heartwarming to be recognized in such a thoughtful way," said Liz Talbert, Coalition Coordinator at ASK. "Although this award comes to us based on past community service, we look forward to continuing to donate our time and talents to promote awareness and prevention of substance use, abuse and other destructive behaviors damaging to our youth."



Alliance for Safe Kids members at Yorktown Holiday Lights Parade.

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Hearings Scheduled in Yorktown for Two Shrub Oak Projects

By Rick Pezzullo

The Yorktown Town Board is scheduled to hold public hearings Tuesday night (December 20) for what are being viewed as two "beautification projects" in Shrub Oak.

Hearings have been set for improvements to the former Mohegan Auto and Tire Center, located at 1581 East Main Street, where a rezoning application is being considered, as well as the Getty Station at 3700 Barger Street, where improvements include new tanks, enhanced landscaping, new signage and the

removal of unsightly trailers.

"These proposals could bring about some aesthetically pleasing changes to the Shrub Oak hamlet of Yorktown," Supervisor Michael Grace said. "Both proposals have been advanced through the approval process with proper input from our internal departments. We now want to hear from the public."

"I have spent my life in Shrub Oak," said Councilman Tom Diana. "These proposals would enhance both ends of the hamlet by eliminating what many have deemed eyesores of our commu-

nity. This is just more proof that we are continuing our mission to move Yorktown forward."

The Getty Station improvements come as the owner has approached the town for permission to install new tanks. The town board discussed the project at a work session in September and made several suggestions to enhance the property.

"This could be a win for the town and a win for the local business," said Councilman Greg Bernard. "I felt it was a great opportunity to make some improve-

ments to a site located at a key intersection in town while the operator enhances his equipment. I applaud the employees of the town for taking swift action and not letting the application be tripped by any red tape."

The meeting at Town Hall on Underhill Avenue is slated to begin at 7:30 p.m.

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS - 914-864-0878

Community Pledges Over \$53,000 to Help Stricken Officer

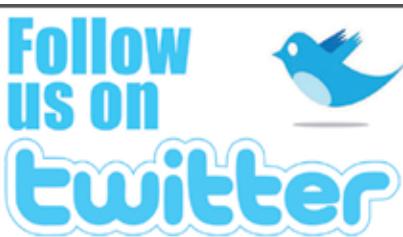
Continued from page 4

subsequent surgery, but a large portion of her colon had to be removed. Another surgery is anticipated in the near future.

This year, Raczyński and her husband have spent more than \$20,000 out of pocket for medical expenses and she will be unable to return to work as a police officer. Ineligible for a pension, her next option will be applying for disability services.

According to the site, Raczyński has a strong faith in God and "believe He has a plan." Her hope for the new year is to "live her life to the fullest, stay as healthy as possible, and be thankful for each day."

Donations can still be made for Raczyński on the GoFundMe site at www.gofundme.com.



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Hen Hud Library Receives Award

The Hendrick Hudson Free Library in Montrose was recently honored by the New York State Regents Advisory Council with the 2016 Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award. The annual prestigious award recognizes the achievement of libraries in New York State that have taken significant steps within the past two years to improve the quality of library services to the community. The Hendrick Hudson Library received the honor for being the first library in Westchester to achieve its official Green Business Certification. "We are so honored to receive this distinction for our leadership and advancement in the environmentally friendly practices we instituted at the library," said Jill Davis, Library Director for Hendrick Hudson.

YORKTOWN RESIDENTS CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S DAY SOLID WASTE SCHEDULE

No Collections Monday, December 26 & Monday, January 2

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
26 Christmas (observed) * No Collections	27 Sections 1 & 7 RECYCLING "Monday's" KITCHEN REFUSE	28 Section 6 RECYCLING "Tuesday's" KITCHEN REFUSE	29 Sections 2 & 3 RECYCLING Thursday's KITCHEN REFUSE	30 Sections 4 & 5 RECYCLING Friday's KITCHEN REFUSE
2 2017 New Year's Day (observed) * No Collections	3 Sections 1 & 7 RECYCLING "Monday's" KITCHEN REFUSE	4 Section 6 RECYCLING "Tuesday's" KITCHEN REFUSE	5 Sections 2 & 3 RECYCLING Thursday's KITCHEN REFUSE	6 Sections 4 & 5 RECYCLING Friday's KITCHEN REFUSE



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Obituaries

Winifred Gonda

Winifred M. Gonda, 93, died peacefully December 13 in the comfort of her Montrose home, surrounded by her family.

She was born on November 17, 1923 in Peekskill, to Thomas and Claire Wilson, sharing a loving childhood with her siblings: Claire, Charlie, Beverly, Patricia, and Regina. She married the love of her life, John L. Gonda (1925- 1969), and poured her heart into raising their eight children.

Her spirit lives on through her eight children: Diana (Frank) Scarfo, Kathleen (John) Peccorino, Susan Gonda, Eileen (Alfred) Cardona, Jeanne Gonda, John (Janet) Gonda, George (Jane) Gonda, and William (Lisa) Gonda; her seven grandchildren: Stacy, Bill, Dana, Nicholas, Derek, Kyle, and Matthew; her four great-grandchildren: Michael, Joe, Julia, and Alexandra; one great-great-grandchild: Aiden; and her many other beloved relatives.

She lived with patience, wit, and grace and she shared her beauty and kindness with everyone she met. She will be deeply missed by all who were blessed to know her. Her gentle soul has joined ranks with the angels she so adored.

Janet Kerchman

Janet Kerchman, a resident of Peekskill, died December 10 after an extended illness. She was 63.

She was born in the Bronx, grew up in White Plains and lived in Yonkers before moving to Peekskill in 2012. She was the daughter of the late Raymond and Miriam Kerchman, and is survived by her devoted friend Denise Kimberg of Peekskill, her brother Marc (Lisa) of Poughkeepsie, her Aunt, Millicent Kurnentz of Florida, a niece, nephew, cousins and many wonderful friends.

She attended Monmouth College and had a career in advertising as a media planner and later had a job in real estate management before health issues forced her to an early retirement.

Mia Fienemann

Mia C. Fienemann, a resident of Ossining, died November 21 in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. She was 82. A Celebration of Life was held at her home on December 10.

She was born in Riga, Latvia, October 15, 1934. She fled during World War II

to Johannesburg, South Africa and then immigrated to New York City in 1952 where she attended City College of New York and Columbia University Graduate School.

She worked in environmental advocacy and consumer relations before directing Project Transition, a program helping women re-enter the workforce after divorce through Westchester Community College.

She started the first recycling center and ran for Town Supervisor in the Village of Chappaqua and was active with the Democratic Party in Ossining.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband, Bill Fienemann. She is survived by her children, Keith and Janet Fienemann, her son-in-law, Brian Beenan, and her grandson, Henry Beenan.

had four sons together: Michael, Anthony, William and the Late Christopher.

She is also survived by her seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, her sister Roberta Marallo, her brother William, her sister-in-laws Rose Berndt and Patricia Martin, many nieces and nephews and her four legged friends Cypress, Birch and Timber.

She worked for many years at the International Pre-School as a teacher's aide. She was also active at the Buchanan Firehouse Ladies Auxiliary where she was Past President. She was very proud of being an aide to the Grand Marshall in the Buchanan Saint Patrick's Day Parade. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital would be greatly appreciated.



Catherine Berndt

Catherine "Honey" Berndt, a resident of Buchanan, died December 14. She was 92.

She was born on August 17, 1924 in Buchanan to William and Mary Grey Martin. She graduated from Hendrick High School in 1941. She married Michael Berndt on May 25, 1941. They

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Op-Ed

Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of *The Sun*:

Dear Editor—

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

Virginia O'Hanlon

115 West Ninety Fifth Street

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.

We should have no enjoyment, except

in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

*"Is There a Santa Claus?" reprinted from the September 21, 1897, issue of *The New York Sun*.*



Children enjoy a wonderful menorah making workshop, graciously hosted and sponsored by the Cortlandt Home Depot and coordinated by Chabad of Yorktown on Sunday, December 11.



The Northern Westchester Examiner

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Guest Commentary

No Opposition to Lowe's in Yorktown: Here's Why

By Bob Giordano

Costco- \$93 Billion in Sales, 600 Stores (Huge negative impact on Local Small Businesses) vs Lowe's- \$59 Billion in Sales, 1,800 Stores (Minor impact on Local Small Businesses)

Now that Costco has withdrawn its application and Lowe's has been announced by Breslin as the new anchor tenant for the site, people are asking many questions. First why Costco backed out, and second why no one showed up to oppose Lowe's. As an observer and participant in the Costco application over the past six years here is how I see it.

Why did Costco withdraw? It would appear after many years (6) and numerous concerns expressed with major opposition by area residents and organizations, the retail environment evolved more quickly than Costco anticipated. Their expansion plans that would have been put in place years before showing up in Yorktown, no longer matched the reality of the retail business they were currently operating in, or what they are expecting it to become. The retail industry is dynamic, not static, and all competitors need to constantly evaluate and reevaluate their short term and long term strategies.

When Costco came to town in 2008 and expressed an interest in the site, the initial response by many was anything would be better than the buildings in disrepair and abandoned on the four parcels that would make up the 19-acre development and it would help stimulate the economy, bring in new taxes (\$600K to the Yorktown School District, (with no additional students) and improve infrastructure in the Crompton Business district along the 202/Taconic Triangle area, including roads, storm water and sewers. As the applicant moved forward two sides appeared. One side

pro-Costco, looking for better shopping opportunities, improving the tax base and infrastructure. The other side anti-Costco, concerned for the environmental impacts, traffic and the impacts such an operation would have on our local small business community. The DEIS (draft environmental impact statement) submitted by Costco identified 92 "relevant retailers" (largely local small businesses) who would suffer significant negative economic impact on their businesses bottom lines if Costco were approved.

After years of hearings before the planning board and town board, and delays caused by just about all parties involved (DEP, DEC, State DOT, Westchester County, Yorktown Town Board, Yorktown Planning Board, Breslin, Costco, etc.) the straw that broke the camel's back was the approval of the special permits by the Yorktown Town Board to allow the gas operations at Costco and BJs (me too!). This resulted in many of the 14 gasoline station operators getting together and filing an article 78 in opposition to the towns approval for the special permits granted which would allow the gasoline operations.

In addition, during this span of six years or more many things were developing that likely were not anticipated. The saturation of markets by Big Box, National and Regional chains slowed their expansion and in some cases stopped it. Others tried stores with smaller footprints, some were successful, others not. As online sales and internet sales (Amazon, EBay, etc.) continue to increase many of the Big Box, National and Regional chains are rebalancing their habitat (selling spaces). All of them are trying to find the right mix of instore sales and online sales to survive. A recent example of this is our Staples Store in Crompton. They not only remodeled

the store recently, they reduced the size. This is a trend that will continue for years to come. The jury will be out for a while, but one thing is sure, there will be winners, and yes, losers too!

Costco's corporate expansion plans are clearly being looked at very carefully and will change many times going forward because they have too. To stay competitive in the business world you must observe what is going on around you and adjust your plans and strategies.

Prior to the formation of the Yorktown Small Business Association this writer was involved with many aspects of the proposed development. Upon establishing the YSBA in 2014 and meeting with many local small businesses in our five business hamlets, one thing was clear, fear of the impact of Big Box, National and Regional chains was motivating them to actively pursue survival strategies. When the 14 gas operators in town realized the volume of gas that the combination of Costco and BJs would be selling and the impact it would have on their businesses (three to five out of business in 12 to 18 months) it became a matter of survival. In speaking with our numerous local small business owners many

who were on Costco's list of "relevant retailers" such as Jewelers (8), Bakers (7), Food Marts (18), Pharmacies (3), and Florist/Nurseries (9) owners to name a few, it became very clear that the impact of Costco on their businesses would be devastating too.

So, it looks like Lowe's will be the anchor tenant of the 19-acre development on a smaller footprint than Costco. If the developer gets his approvals, we may gain another bank and two restaurants at the site. There will be an additional \$300k in property taxes with same or better infrastructure improvements. Lowe's is by far a better fit for the residents of Yorktown and the many local small businesses, who would have been irreparably harmed if Costco came in. Many of the businesses that would likely be on the Lowe's list of "relevant retailers" have been gone, are going or will be gone such as Midway Hardware, Mitchell Hardware, Zino's Nurseries, Labriola Nurseries, 202 Lumber, Lloyds, etc. to name a few.

Bob Giordano is Founder/President of the Yorktown Small Business Association 914-874-4347; yorktownsba@optonline.com; www.yorktownsba.com

Letters

Littering Camera in Yorktown Could be a Good Deterrent

To the Editor:

I was glad to see that someone was finally caught littering in Yorktown. Although I'm sorry for the owner of the vehicle that was caught on camera tossing litter onto the road. She was not driving the car, her grandson was.

However, this could be a good de-

terrent for others who toss trash from car windows. I'm constantly picking up trash on Amazon Road, Dale Street and Winona every week. Why Can't people just keep a trash bag in their car?

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Football players Steven Veteri, Brandon Meyreles, Justin Cavallo, and Dom Cioffi, Coach Mike Rescigno and Support Connection Executive Director Katherine Quinn. Not shown is Liz Makar, a parent of player Tyler Makar, who helped coordinate the project with the team.

Yorktown Football Team Makes Donation to Support Connection

Players from the Yorktown High School football team visited the Triangle Center offices of Support Connection recently to give the organization a \$2,500 check, which is money the team donated from its ticket and T-shirt sales at a fall game.

The team annually organizes a fundraiser to help a local charity. This year the selection was Support Connection, a breast and ovarian cancer support services nonprofit organization that provides emotional, social and education support to women, their families and friends affected by this cancer.

"We are proud of our players and how they actively participated in this fundraiser for such a worthy, local cause,"

said Head Varsity Football Coach Mike Rescigno, whose team finished in the Section 1 Final with a 9-1 record.

Support Connection said it was a particularly large check from a school group and that beyond the money the fundraiser also helps spread the word of the group's work.

"Every year we have more than 500 people reach out for help from us. We couldn't do what we do without your help," Barbara Cervoni, Director of Services and Communication for the organization, told the team representatives.

Executive Director of Support Connection Katherine Quinn accepted the donation and thanked the team.



Eagle Scout Ankush Bhakta of BSA Troop 174 recently celebrated his accomplishment with parents Sanjay and Triveni Bhakta, sister Aisha, Yorktown Highway Superintendent Dave Paganelli and Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel. Bhakta did his Eagle Scout project at John C. Hart Library in Shrub Oak.

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Police Blotter

Yorktown Police

December 3 - 7:10 p.m. – Four unidentified male teenagers were charged with criminal trespassing in a home on Cooper Street. When police arrived on the scene two males resisted arrest by hiding in the attic but later were apprehended. Two other males were apprehended after they exited the residence. They are all due in Yorktown Town Court on January 3.

December 4 - 10:25 p.m. – Alexis Speckman, 22, of Putnam Valley, was charged with petit larceny after allegedly stealing a Craftsman shirt, valued at \$26, from Sears at the Jefferson Valley Mall. She was released on \$300 cash bail.

December 6 - 8:50 a.m. – An unidentified 16-year-old male from Yorktown was charged with assault in the third degree after allegedly punching a female victim in the head numerous times caus-

ing physical injury on a school bus returning to Lakeland High School.

December 8 - 6:10 p.m. – An unidentified 18-year-old Peekskill male was arrested on a bench warrant after failing to appear in Yorktown Town Court on charges of criminal possession of stolen property and false personation.

6:30 p.m. – Dylan Quinn, 24, of Garrison, was arrested on a bench warrant after failing to appear in Yorktown Town Court on a prior aggravated unlicensed

operation arrest.

6:35 p.m. – Elliot Ozols, 31, of Yorktown, was arrested on a bench warrant for failing to appear in Yorktown Town Court on a prior criminal possession of a controlled substance arrest.

December 13 - 10 p.m. – Three unidentified teenagers from Mahopac, two females and one male, were charged with juvenile delinquency after allegedly stealing merchandise totaling \$430 from Sears at the Jefferson Valley Mall.



Yorktown Police Chief Robert Noble and students enjoyed his recent visit to Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School.

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Ossining Resident Doesn't Brush Off Success with Painting Co.

By Martin Wilbur

In 1990, Jody Finglas planned to pass through New York, a temporary stop between his native Ireland and Australia.

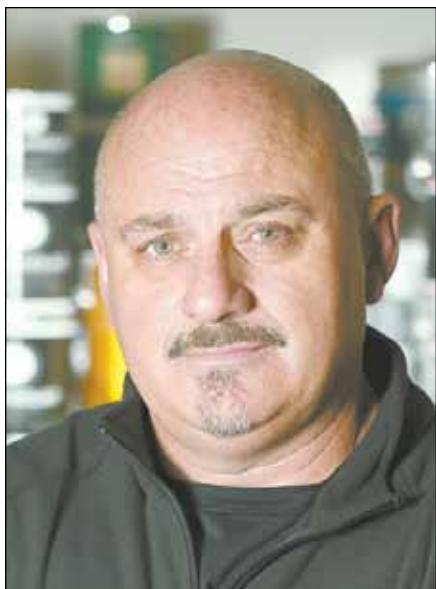
More than 25 years later he is still here and has no intention of leaving.

Finglas is the owner of Finglas Painting, Inc., a business he bought from his former boss in 1999 and renamed when he took it over.

He first learned the trade from a pair of brothers, Michael and James Duff, who also hailed from Ireland. They hired Finglas shortly after he came to the United States. There was so much work in New York in the early '90s, it turned out there was no reason to leave.

"I got a job with this small, small company, Irish guys, painters and was just working as a helper," recalled Finglas, who arrived with his girlfriend at the time from his former home outside of Dublin. "I wound up staying with them for six years and then moved on to another company in Westchester, and eventually when my boss decided to retire, I bought the business from him."

The nearly decade-long apprenticeship helped Finglas, an Ossining resident, learn how to paint and become a strong businessman. Today, he maintains six full-time employees, which helps keep operations manageable.



Jody Finglas

He said he finds that one of the most important qualities in his business is working closely with clients to arrange a schedule and cater to their needs.

"I come from a military background. In a lot of ways, it helps me," said Finglas, who spent nine years in the Irish army. "There are a lot of good painters out there but the problem we have found is that there are not a lot of great organizations. So, what ends up happen-

ing is it's one thing to have great painters for the work but if they can't organize themselves, schedule the projects, then ultimately at the end of the day it doesn't matter what you finish."

What Finglas says sets him apart from other companies is that he can do the high-end project or a small job. Regardless of the size, he remains personally accessible to his customers, often visiting the sites. He attracts clients in all types of residences throughout the tristate area, including old Victorian houses.

"If you would pigeonhole yourself for the high-end work, you're going to be waiting for a long time to get your second job," Finglas said. "We cater to everybody."

The main part of Finglas's business, of course, is painting. While the use of latex paint is most popular, it often doesn't provide the quality or durability that oil paint offers. Today, Finglas uses Fine Paints of Europe, where he enjoys mixing and matching colors.

"We're one of the few companies left that uses oil paint," he said. "Everybody has been forced over to the latex. Why latex? It's quicker. You can get two coats on in the same day, and so it's quicker and you can make a little more money. It just doesn't suit me."

Finglas Painting also hangs high-quality wallpaper and works with interior designers that can remake the inside of a home. In the warm weather, his company works with contractors to do exterior work. In fact, Finglas estimates that as much as 40 percent of his

Leading up to the holidays, homeowners are scrambling to get their houses looking their best, which will keep him busy through the end of the year.

While Finglas could easily expand his operations and hire at least another 10 painters, he prefers to train his staff in the same type of apprenticeship style that made him successful, and most of all, keeps his customers satisfied.

"It's very simple and the lessons I learned in the military seem to translate to business, especially blue collar jobs, very well," Finglas said. "I'm very fair. I'm very accessible. I don't micromanage, but I do expect a lot. I do expect a lot from people who work for me."

Having been able to buy a house and raise his family in Westchester, Finglas said his decision to stay in New York a quarter-century ago was a fortuitous one.

"I was very happy to have been here at that time," Finglas said. "We were kind of the last big push of Irish immigrants who came here in the '90s."

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Synagogue in Putnam Valley Continues Revitalization

By David Propper

The first time Andy Milkis walked into Temple Israel of Putnam Valley, he immediately felt like he was part of a big family. Since then, he and his family have never looked back.

Milkis, his wife, and two children had been part of other synagogues in the area for several years, but those other places of worship never clicked the way it does at Temple Israel.

"Someone suggested we come here," Milkis said. "And we just fell in love with the place."

And not only has Milkis, a Cortlandt resident, fallen in love with it, but he's had a large part in helping the temple work toward revitalization. Currently, there are 30 families that are part of the temple. But the temple's leadership is always looking for more members, explaining the small numbers allows everyone to get involved.

The synagogue was established in the 1940s and was only for summer time services because of poor insulation. Over the next few decades, many Jewish families who had summer homes in members that live in the area also helped Putnam Valley would use the temple as an epicenter for social and religious activity.

"It was a very big Jewish community here," Milkis said. "The original members of the temple either moved away or died



Andy Milkis inside Temple Israel of Putnam Valley

away."

As the years moved on, the building was neglected. But in the last two years, members have done a lot to bring the temple back to a more respectable form.

It started with the steps outside. One day, with his son's bar mitzvah approaching, Milkis decided the steps needed a fresh paint job. One of the other and another member offered to pay for the costs.

In the past 12 months, Milkis said the

roof, basement, bathrooms and other structural needs have been improved. Additionally, the sign outside has been worked on, the vestibule was renovated, and all the light fixtures and carpeting in the sanctuary are new.

In the future, the front wall is going to be rebuilt and the patio is going to be worked on. The temple will also become more handicap friendly and the pews in the sanctuary will either be refinished or

replaced.

Along with the structural improvements, the synagogue continues to offer more programs like a special Learning Shabbat service on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month (first one is Dec. 10). Temple Israel has also partnered with the Yorktown Jewish Center so members are allowed to go there and members from Yorktown can come to the Putnam Valley temple to bring the Jewish community together.

On Feb. 26, the temple will be presenting a concert by Alicia Svigals, the world's leading klezmer fiddler, a founder of the Grammy-winning Klezmatics who she co-led for 17 years.

And although the temple doesn't have a traditional Hebrew school, there are members that volunteer to tutor children going through the temple in preparation for their bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah. Those members are willing to even come to the person's house of the child or children they are helping.

While the work has been arduous, it's been rewarding. There is no paid staff and each week, the services are community run, which Milkis calls one of the temple's charms.

"It wasn't dead, it wasn't dying," Milkis said. "It just needed some love."

Continued on page 22

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Cookeaze Mohegan Lake

By Neal Rentz

A new Mohegan Lake business opened in July to show how easy it is to cook. Cookeaze provides cooking lessons to individuals of all ages.

Owner Sonia Gonzalez, who resides in Mohegan Lake, explained recently the name of her new business is a play on the word cookies and states her philosophy that "cooking is fun and easy."

Cookeaze provides children's cooking lessons, which is nothing new for Gonzalez. For years she has been cooking with her daughters Arianna and Ashley at home.

Customers have the option of taking a single class or purchasing multi-class packages. Private lessons are also provided by Gonzalez at her new business or at homes. Girl Scout troops have also taken classes at a discounted rate.

Cookeaze provides children's classes that provide instruction for children as young as age five who can be dropped off by parents, Gonzalez said, adding her facility has video surveillance cameras. A recent entrée created by the young children was chicken and waffles, using waffle irons.



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

A portion of the interior of Cookeaze, which opened in Mohegan Lake in July.

One of the classes is called "tween chef" for pre-teens. "That group seems to be very, very enthusiastic," Gonzalez said. A recent tween class made chicken and cheese stuffed calzones.

There are also classes scheduled for adults, typically in groups of eight. "It's a very social, casual night out," Gonzalez

said.

Gonzalez said she has two decades of experience as a caterer and she continues to cater. The Gonzalez family moved from the Bronx eight years ago. Gonzalez said he had a desire to own her own restaurant but being a mother of four is "very demanding" and owning an eatery

would take away too much family time.

"You basically have to be married to the business," she said. So instead of a restaurant, Gonzalez opened Cookeaze.

Gonzalez said she chose Mohegan Lake to open her new business because there are family-oriented establishments in the area, including dance and gymnastics studios and schools. "There seemed to be an influx of a lot of kids in the area," she said. The family drove by the shopping center one day and discovered a restaurant that had occupied part of the now-Cookeaze property was vacant, Gonzalez recalled. The renovations took a month to complete, she said.

Gonzalez said in an era of microwave ovens, cooking is still popular. "I think the way to go in this day and age is healthy," she said. "There's nothing fried here."

Gonzalez said she wants to teach her clients, particularly children, that healthy cooking, which can take only a few minutes, "is really a way of life."

Cookeaze is located at 1885 E. Main St. in Mohegan Lake. For more information, call 914-743-1311 or send an e-mail to time2cook@cookeaze.com.

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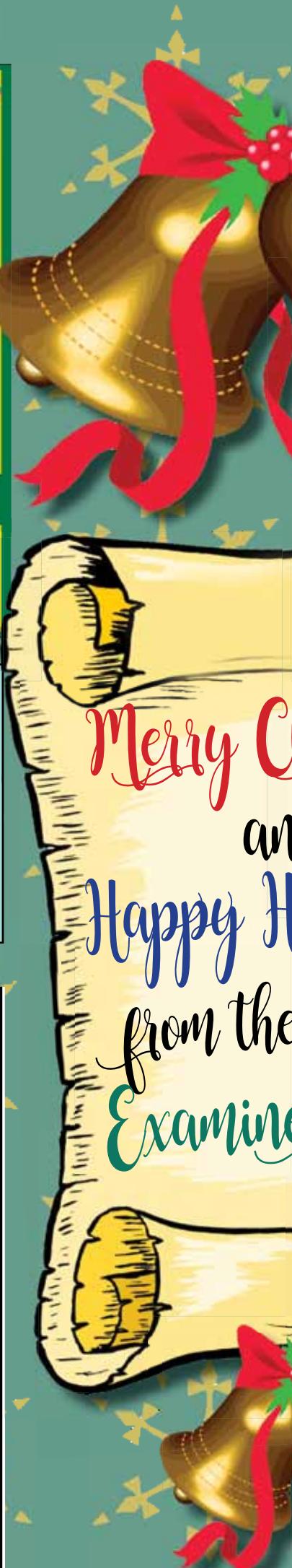
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Happenings

Tuesday, Dec. 20

Yorktown Museum Exhibit: The Yorktown Museum, 1974 Commerce St., is presenting through March an exhibit about BELIVING –What do you believe in? Or rather what did you believe in when you were young? The renowned miniaturists' Carol and Neal Pruzan with the staff at the Yorktown Museum have assembled wonderful scenes showing examples of Magic, the Tooth fairy, Dragons, Fairy Tales, & Love ~ to name a few. They also show the darker side of what we believe in such as Ghosts and Witches. Special notice should be taken of the Margaret Hamilton doll representing the Wicked Witch of the West from the movie "The Wizard of Oz" made by Sheila Kwartler. The museum is open on Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info: 914-962-2970 or Yorktown-Museum.org.

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 pm. 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/>.

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.

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.

Community Events: Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd., has announced a series of events coming in the next few days. Menorahs and Martinis Ladies Night Out will be held tonight at Chabad. It is a most enjoyable Chanukah party for all women. Sip a Martini while crafting a granite and tile Menorah. All are invited; no affiliation is necessary. RSVP at www.ChabadYorktown.com, or call 914-962-1111. The Yorktown public Menorah lighting ceremony will be held on Dec. 24 at 6:30 p.m. on Veterans Road, next to the Yorktown Stage. Free light-up Menorah and Dreidel necklace s will be provided to for all participants. There is no charge. Come and bring a friend. For more information, call 914-962-1111, or visit www.ChabadYorktown.com. The Somers public Menorah lighting ceremony will be held at 6 pm, outside the Elephant Hotel, on Routes 100 and 202. Traditional latkes, doughnuts, chocolate gelt and dreidels for all. No charge. For more information, call 914-962-1111, or visit www.ChabadYorktown.com.

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, Dec. 21

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.

POUND Program: POUNDTM 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. Ka-

tonah. 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 of 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.

First Presbyterian Programs: A series of programs are scheduled for the next few days at First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, 2880 Crompond Rd. On Dec.21, the Longest Night Service will be held at 7:30 p.m. Join us for the Longest Night Service in preparation for the Light coming into the world on Christmas morning. Join us for this peaceful and comforting worship which provides solace and hope for the light which is coming. Info: www.fpcyorktown.org. On Dec. 24, Christmas Eve services will be held. Family service will be held at 4 p.m. A candlelight service will begin at 7 p.m. with a prelude of carols followed by the service at 7:30 p.m. Another candlelight service will begin at 10:30 p.m. with a prelude of carols followed by the service at 11 p.m. Info: www.fpcyorktown.org. The Christmas service will be held at 10:45 a.m. Info: www.fpcyorktown.org.

Thursday, Dec. 22

Religion Classes: A class on Talmud and the Ethics of our Sages are being held at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Feel free to come – and to bring a friend – even if you cannot commit to coming to class weekly. We always welcome new participants. We meet (al-

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.

most) every Thursday in the social hall on Thursday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to noon. No knowledge of Hebrew is expected, and no particular depth of Jewish knowledge is assumed. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Wine With Weiner: Wine with Weiner will be held at 7:45 p.m. at Temple Beth Am, 203 Church Pl., Yorktown. 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. For information, please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or e-mail him at rabbwi@optonline.net

Friday, Dec. 23

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.

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.

Temple Beth Am Shabbat: Temple Beth Am will "opens 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 our friendly sacred space. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown. For more information, please call our Rabbi at 914-962-7500 or e-mail him at rabbwi@optonline.net

Jewish Center Services: At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Friday night Sabbath services at 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.

Happenings

Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Saturday, Dec. 24

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 9:30 a.m. 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.

ChabadYorktown.com.

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.

Christmas Among Friends: Silent worship, caroling and the serving of refreshments will be held at 4:30 p.m. during the Amawalk Friends meeting at 2467 Quaker Church Rd., off Route 35, in Yorktown. Bring family and friends to gather around the wood stoves in candlelight for a half-hour of silence, followed by caroling and refreshments. Parking will be in the driveway of the Amawalk Cemetery. Bring a flashlight. For more information, send an e-mail to amawalk-meeting@gmial.com or call 914-523-2134.

Hanukkah Party: Celebrate the first night of Hanukkah with Chinese food and latkes at First Hebrew. We light the outdoor menorah at 6 p.m. and then go indoors for a fun evening of Hanukkah

songs, games and chocolate "gelt" coins. The cost is \$25 per person. A \$70 family maximum applies to immediate family members. First Hebrew is located at 1821 Main St., just west of Beach Shopping Center in Peekskill. For more information, call 914-739-0500, e-mail fhc@firstthebrew.org. or visit www.firstthebrew.org.

United Methodist Church Services: Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be held at United Methodist Church at Shrub Oak, 1176 E. Main St., Shrub Oak. A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held on Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. All are invited. Christmas Day services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Info: 914-245-4682 or www.umcsco.com.

Monday, Dec. 26

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.

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

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.

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

Tuesday, Dec. 27

Holiday Break Coloring: Holiday Break Teen Coloring will be held at the Somers Library from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Library. Relax, color, and socialize. Materials are provided, or you may bring your own. No registration is necessary. Info: 914 232 5717.

Blood Drive: The Church of the Holy Spirit, 1969 Crompond Rd., Cortlandt, will hold its winter blood drive from 3 to 9 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center. To schedule an appointment, please call the church at 914-737-2316. Walk-ins are also welcome.

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Holiday Decorations, from Labored to Instant

Oh, how the years of repeated ritual can produce a strong desire to create a shorthand to achieving final results. That certainly has been the case for me after almost a half century of assisting my wife in creating a festive atmosphere in our home around the holiday season.

Our first year of marriage, we spent weeks and weeks in preparation for the wintry holidays. This year, we decorated in little more than an hour.

We married in the dark ages at the end of September and almost immediately upon returning from our honeymoon, we engaged in our first crafts project, more like a marathon, to create all of our own ornaments for our inaugural tree. I guess that's what a young couple with not much money and a lot of time on their hands can do.

In the days before A.C. Moore and Michael's, the place to get the wildest stuff for ornamental projects was in the hat district of Manhattan, west of Fifth Avenue on 38th Street. On my way home from work each day, I'd pass through and buy interesting hat decorations from the time when women still wore hats.

Then, immediately following dinner, my wife and I would sit in the living

room, spread out my finds on our large coffee table and get to work decorating various sizes of Styrofoam balls.

We came up with the idea of each making one elaborate tree ornament every year throughout our marriage, but we got so much into our new hobby that it became an obsession the very first year. The balls became more and more elaborate as we practiced our skills, and many were themed with their own names.

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

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

We decided it would be safer to buy a

large artificial tree so that there would be no threat of sap staining the balls, and we kept producing our little gems until we ran out of space on the tree. We had become tree ornament addicts.

The bottom line, however, is that we must have OD'd on our first year's attempt because we haven't made a single ball since then. We did, however, add antique and specialty ornaments over the years, as presents to each other.

As we have gotten older, our tree has become smaller, and our daughter, who was predated by that pink ribbon ball in her honor, is now the recipient, one by one, of our early Christmas ornament binge.

Today, it's just a matter of unwrapping each ornament from its tissue and hanging it on our artificial tree, already strung with lights from the manufacturer. While the whole decorating process took less than an hour this year, I have known speed demons who beat our record. There are those who simply place their tree stand on wheels and when the holiday is over, drape it with a sheet, fully decorated, and roll it into storage until it's show time next year.

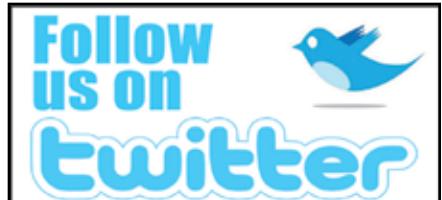
As for outside decoration, whenever I see a home with its lawn highly decked out for the holidays, I get the urge to pull up, knock on the door and meet the

owner. I'm sure that he or she would be great person who loves kids and probably is still wondrous as a child.

For many years, we were specialists in lighting Christmas wreaths and hanging them at strategic points along our outside fence, connected with garlands of lighted pine garlands looping from one wreath to the next. If I were to attempt any kind of outside display today, I would simply invest in that highly advertised Star Shower Lazer Light projector where you just plug in the device and let it do its thing.

Have I grown lazy about holiday decorating over the years? As I see it, it's more a matter of efficiency to be enjoyed.

Bill Primavera is a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (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 to market your home for sale, call (914) 522-2076.



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Historic Hudson River Towns Awarded \$500,000 Grant for Sing Sing Museum

Historic Hudson River Towns, the lead agency on the Sing Sing Prison Museum, has been awarded a \$500,000 Empire State Development grant for continued work on developing a museum at Ossining Correctional Facility. The announcement was made by Governor Andrew Cuomo at a meeting here of the Regional Economic Development Councils of New York State.

Jerry Faiella, executive director of the River Towns group, said, "This grant is further evidence of New York State's belief in the importance of creating the Sing Sing Prison Museum that will draw visitors from all over the world to the Hudson Valley."

In 2014, the project was awarded a \$250,000 ESD grant which has been used to hire museum consultants to advise on

the project and to work on developing the visitor experience, a business plan and partnership arrangements. NYS Senator David Carlucci arranged for a \$100,000 DASNY grant which is being used to prepare plans and specifications for preservation of the 1936 Power House and the 1825 Cell Block. State Assemblywoman Sandy Galef made possible a DASNY grant under the NYSCAP program in the amount of \$1 million for

preservation work on the Power House.

"We expect to move forward on the preservation of these two important prison structures at Sing Sing in the spring of 2017," said Faiella. "The 1936 Power House will be used as the main museum building with the expectation of connecting it to the 1825 Cell Block so that visitors can get a real feel for what it must have been like to be imprisoned there over the years."

Historic Hudson River Towns, Inc., is a consortium of municipalities located on the banks of New York's Hudson River, organized under an Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) with 501(c) 3 not-for-profit, tax-exempt status. Organized in 1994 and expanded in 2008, HHRT's mission is to stimulate economic development through tourism for its member communities. An independent museum board is currently in formation.

Synagogue in Putnam Valley Continues Revitalization

Continued from page 14

Stephen Axinn, who serves as the temple's rabbi, said he joined the temple in 1985 when membership began to decline and the building itself wasn't well kept. (Axinn was actually an attorney for 55 years and is now a student in rabbinical school.)

Axinn originally came to this temple because of its warmth. He's now decided to be a rabbinical student because he's always wanted to be a better student of Judaism and more spiritual person.

The temple tries to be as inclusive as possible, with dues only \$250 per year to be a temple member, Axinn said. As someone who is in his 70s, Axinn is pleased to see a younger generation taking charge, like Milkis.

"We make it clear to people you're joining a family," Axinn said. "You get to celebrate with them, you get to cry with them, go to services with them and everybody pitches in to run this place."

Milkis calls Temple Israel unique, offering an environment where new members can come in and make the synagogue into whatever they want it to be. Milkis admits he walked into the temple not interested in his Jewish heritage, but the more he got involved, the more he found who he was.

"The core of Judaism is community," Milkis said. "If you're interested at all in finding that spark again or sharing the true essence of what it means to be Jewish, this is the perfect place."

For more information on Temple Israel of Putnam Valley, please go to tipv.org.



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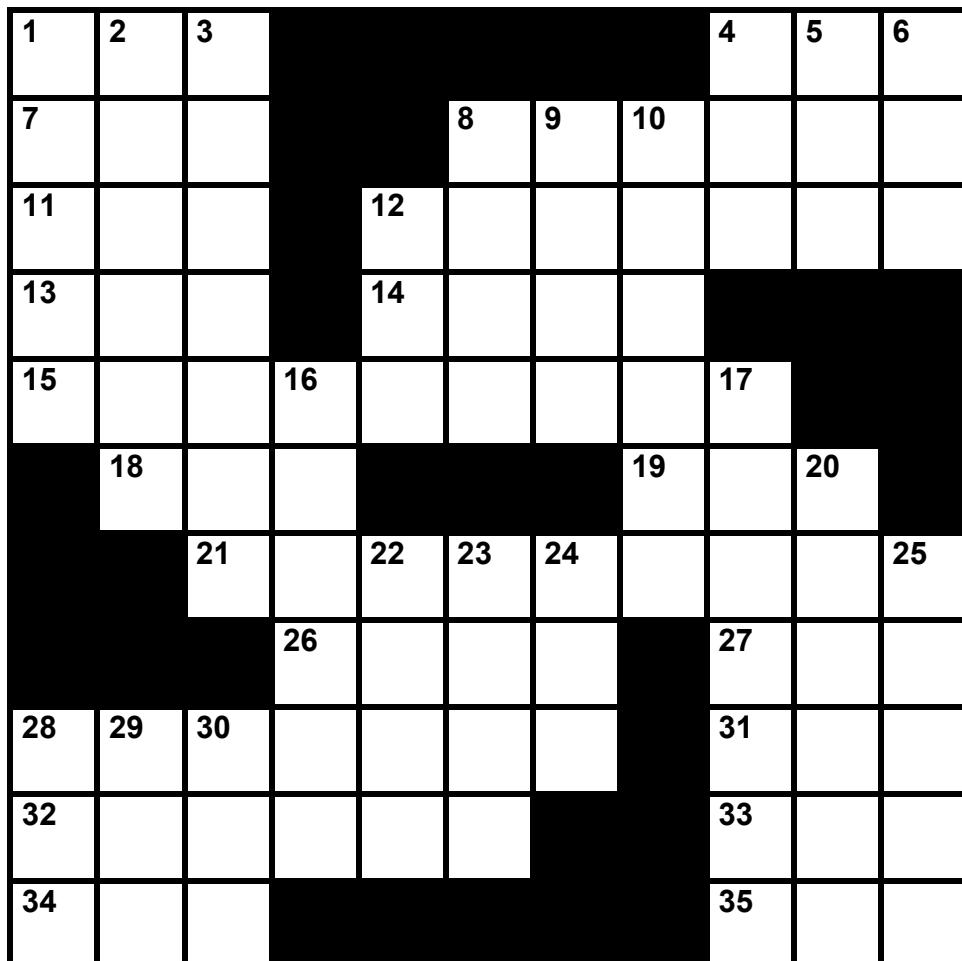
Crossword

ACROSS

1. New Cortlandt car dealer, Taconic
4. Lunched
7. Traveler's sleepover spot
8. Unskilled painter
11. Chef's phrase
12. Vine-woven trelliswork
13. Badger
14. Seaweed plant
15. Whirling movements
18. 'Erie Canal' mule
19. Coin stamp
21. Aggressiveness
26. Comic Roseanne or Somers orthodontist, Bridgeham
27. Gotcha!
28. Fastidious
31. Wrecker's job
32. Crops up
33. Kind of theater
34. ___ canto (operatic style)
35. Bottom's other form in "A Midsummer's Night Dream"

DOWN

1. Donkey's Asian cousin
2. Sets inside
3. Seaweeds, to seesawed, e.g.
4. ___ system (blood classification)
5. Abbr. before a number
6. Part of B.C.E.
8. Sandwich maker
9. Mythical ship of Jason
10. Land on Lake Victoria
12. Butter portion
16. Suspects' stories
17. "Blue Moon" singer
20. Identical responses
22. Tie up
23. Irritates
24. Give it a go
25. Cries
28. The ___ Four
29. Fury
30. Zip



See solution on page 24

Sharing Nuggets of Wine Truths, Tasting Axioms and Useful Corollaries

In pondering a theme for this week's column, I concluded this would be a good juncture to offer choice tidbits to help navigate the wide world of wine.

No travelogue, no tasting notes, no recounting of the latest wine fraud. No post-truth revelations or fake wine news headlines. Just the facts to help you make better wine choices and to better understand the underlying logic behind the art and science of wine.

So here are 10 random factoids, choice nuggets to elevate your game or to supplement your memory banks. Some of you will consider these to be revelatory; others may have a tell-me-something-I-don't-already-know reaction.

1. Always clear your palate before you taste a wine. Previous foods in your mouth will influence your experience with a wine. You will not enjoy a Cabernet Sauvignon if you just finished off a bag of salty chips.

2. Wine is best experienced when paired with food. Together in your mouth, a "new" flavor is created. Remember that regional wines evolved over the centuries as accompaniments to regional foods, not as stand-alone expressions of

a grape. I have changed my opinion of a wine once it interplayed with the flavors and aromas of a food dish.

3. How many times has sparkling wine foamed out of the glass as you are pouring? Tricks: tilt the glass and pour down the side or pour a small amount first and let it settle, then fill the glass.

4. Aromas dominate your appreciation of a wine. Our physiology has five elements of taste and over 10,000 elements of aroma.

5. Corollary to number 4 above: swirling the wine in your glass releases the aromas and bouquet more quickly. Always swirl; it's functional, not snobbery.

6. Sub corollary to number 4: Don't fill your glass more than a third of the way. It allows the aromas to concentrate in the other two-thirds. Swirl a glass that has curved sides and rim. It funnels and therefore concentrates the aromas toward your nose as you sip the wine.

7. Don't swallow too soon. Hold the wine in your mouth for a few seconds and "chew" it. This will allow the wine to coat the sensory areas of your tongue and mouth, enhancing your ability to appre-

ciate the many nuances of the wine.

8. Red wine is healthier than white wine. The red grape skins that ferment with the juice contain compounds that are powerful antioxidants. One of these, resveratrol, has been proven to be a key to our overall health.

9. All grape juice is white (with one or two minor exceptions). Red wines derive their color from the grape skins, which are fermented with the juice and thereby impart the familiar color to the wine. Corollary: Red grapes can produce a white wine; just remove the skins before fermentation begins. A classic example is sparkling wine, which invariably is produced from some or all red grapes. Brut Champagne is part Chardonnay and part Pinot Noir and/or Pinot Meunier; Blanc de Noir (White from Black) on the label signifies only red grapes were vinified in the production of the wine; Blanc de Blanc – you've got it – only Chardonnay was vinified. Rosé Champagne signifies that the skins of the red grapes used in production were allowed to sit with the fermenting juice for a very short period, just long enough to infuse a light red/pink color to the wine.

10. Need to chill a bottle of wine quickly? Don't put it in the fridge or the freezer. Rather, place it in an ice bucket

filled one-quarter with water and the remainder with ice. Fill as high as possible in order to surround the neck of the bottle. Add a hearty pinch of kosher salt, wait 10 minutes, open and pour.

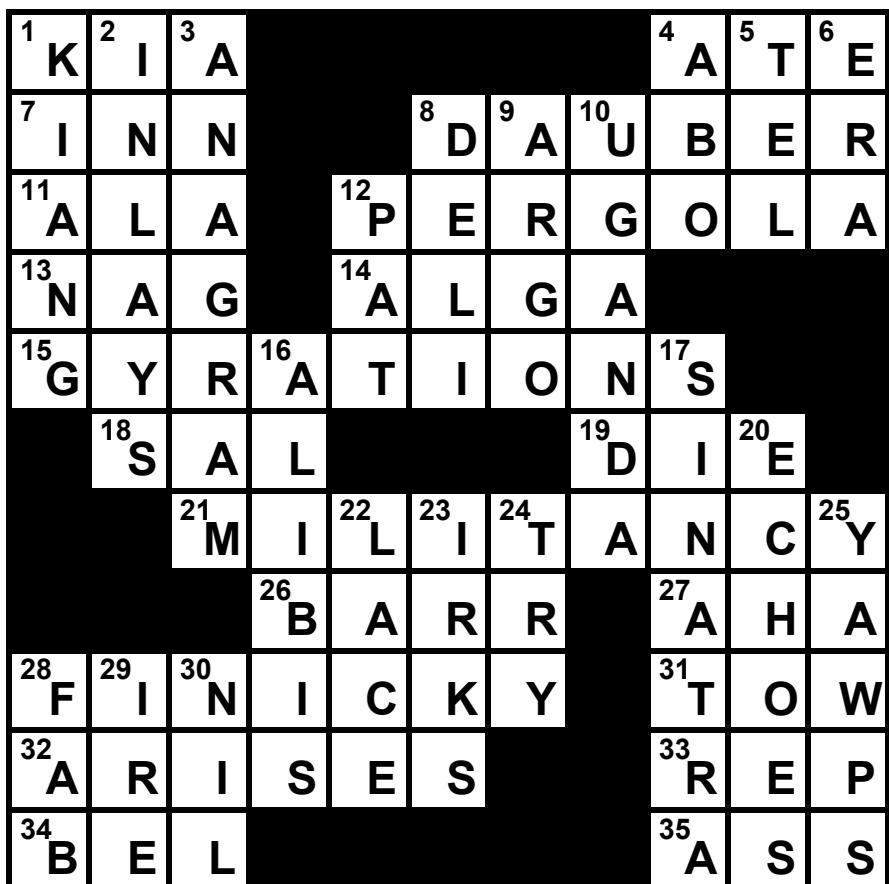
Feel free to refer to these facts whenever you wish to impress friends with your wine knowledge, but most importantly to better understand the fundamental precepts and practical wisdom of wine appreciation.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 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





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10	R	11	O	12	E	13	N	14	E	15	W	I	R	A	16	N	O	M
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19	A	20	U	21	T	22	O	23	T	24	A	25	N	P	26	I	T	33
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M	O	36	O	37	K	38	M	39	A	40	W	41	U	42	43	E	R	R
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continued on next page

Neighbors Link Among Three Nonprofits to Receive Award

By Neal Rentz

Neighbors Link, the Mount Kisco organization that helps integrate immigrants into the local community, was one of three nonprofit organizations to receive a special award by the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee (NPCC) of New York on Dec. 2.

Neighbors Link was recognized with the 2016 New York Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Award, receiving \$20,000 for general operating support and a scholarship for Columbia Business School executive education programs in social enterprise. Winners were announced earlier this month at a presentation at the New York Academy of Medicine.

The competition was open to any nonprofit organization in New York City and Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties.

"We are so grateful to be recognized for our management practices that support the mission of Neighbors Link," said Neighbors Link Executive Director Carola Bracco. "It is a privilege to be a part of this team and we are humbled by this award. We also congratulate our co-winners."

The organization is a model for the National Council of Workforce Educators, as one of only eight pairs of



The Mount Kisco-based Neighbors Link recently received a New York Community Trust Nonprofit Excellence Award by the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York. Shown above, from left, are Lorie A. Slutsky, president of New York Community Trust, Neighbors Link Executive Director Carola Bracco and Cynthia Brill, board chair at Neighbors Link.

organizations in the United States to bring workforce development to the immigrant community of Westchester. Neighbors Link, which has expanded its programming to Ossining, partners with Westchester Community College.

The Nonprofit Excellence Awards program is guided by Eight Key Areas of Nonprofit Excellence, nationally recognized management areas critical to an organization's success. Winners are typically from organizations with excel-

lent management practices in a majority of these eight areas.

Awards are designed to identify and promote excellent management practices that provide useful examples of best practices for other nonprofits, according to the NPCC.

The other two winning organizations were the Jewish Board for Family and Children's Service in Manhattan, which strengthens families and communities throughout New York City by helping individuals of all backgrounds to live as independently as possible, and the Brooklyn-based Per Scholas, which provides technology access and education in poor communities.

"These organizations exemplify innovative nonprofit management practices with great results," NPCC President Sharon Stapel said. "We are pleased to recognize their hard work, especially during this milestone year of the program and to share their strategies with the sector."

NPCC created the Nonprofit Excellence Awards in 2007, attracting 750 applications. The program is produced in collaboration with The New York Community Trust and Philanthropy New York. WNYC Radio and JPMorgan Chase sponsor the program.

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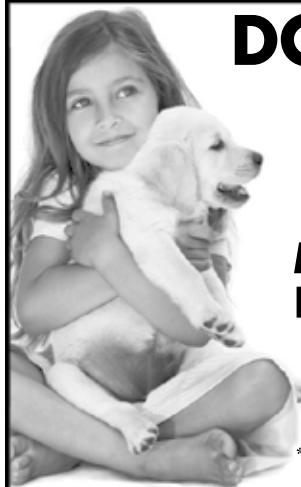
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Sports

Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

December 20 - December 26, 2016

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

Spin City!

Yorktown Turns
Tide, Beats Somers
for Tourney Title

BOB CASTNER PHOTO (PLEASE VISIT WWW.CASTNERPHOTOS.NET FOR MORE)

Yorktown junior G Marc Spinelli (3) lets out a yell that could curl your hair after the visiting Huskers defeated Somers, 48-38, to remain undefeated (6-0) and win the 21st annual Michael DePaoli Memorial Tournament title last Saturday night, much to the chagrin of Justin Lancaster (12) and the Tuskers, who knocked off neighboring Yorktown in early November for the Section 1 Class A football title... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Boys Hoops Notebook

Yorktown King of Hill at Somers; Sailors Crowned, Too

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

I'll tell you who would have been proud of the combatants in the 21st annual Michael DePaoli Memorial Basketball Tournament at Somers High over the weekend; Mike DePaoli, that's who. A classy coach cut from old-school cloth, DePaoli got the most out of his Tusker teams back when this scribe was cutting his teeth in the wee-90s as a cub reporter with the now-defunct North County News (and, yes, I do take great joy in the defunct part).

DePaoli, who also taught P.E. for nearly 30 years and served as Somers High AD, liked to roll up his sleeves and battle Yorktown High, just as much as current Somers Coach Chris DiCintio did last Saturday when the Tuskers and the Huskers traded punches like the two prized districts they are until Yorktown seized control in the fourth quarter of a 48-38 win to improve to 6-0.

Somers, still finding its hoops mojo after winning the NYS football and soccer championships, fell to 2-1; having worked a 67-59 victory over Mahopac in the opening round. Yorktown knocked off a young and feisty Putnam Valley team, 40-35, in its opening round win of the tournament.

Yorktown captain Solomon Barer made the win over Somers his mission. Playing



Yorktown senior MVP Sol Barer drives lane against defense from PV's Brandon Guerra in Huskers win over Tigers last Thursday.



Somers junior G Lorenzo Bicknese goes up for shot against defense of Mahopac's Zack Puckhaber in Tusker win over Indians.

perhaps his finest varsity game, the senior MVP of the tourney went for 19 points, grabbed eight boards, dished four assists and added three swipes in a complete effort. Husker F Tanner Dyslin had command of the paint with eight points and 14 rebounds to secure and All-Tourney nod. Somers frosh Gio Tradito led the Tuskers with 11 points.

So, that pretty much ensures that Yorktown will enter the New Year as the lead dog on the NWE/Putnam region hoops sled, which won't amount to a hill of beans when the league slate tees off in early January. Still, the Huskers, after this vibrant start, must be thinking one thing deep down in their collective soul: (in my best chant) County Center for the first time since 2009!

Husker Coach Kevin Downes wasn't about to go there, but he does believe this Yorktown team might have enough to be among the forces to be reckoned with in Class AA, which is still Mount Vernons to lose.

"Anytime you can beat your rival you have to be happy," Downes said. "When you beat them for a tournament title, it's even better. It's always tough to win at Somers, so I'm happy for my kids. They really showed a lot of toughness

and played very well defensively. Anytime you can hold Somers to 38 points you have to be pleased with the defensive effort.

We have been very balanced this year. We've gotten contributions from many people. Tanner and Marc have been great but Sol and Severino have also come up big. The contributions from Kyle Casey have also been tremendous. James Lunberg, Tommy Weaver, Joe Sgobbo and Madison Cora have also provided great minutes.

"This team can grind out a win in a defensive battle but can also play up-tempo," Downes added. "We are still a young team and playing so many road games this early should help down the road. This could be a special group but there's still a long way to go."

In the opening round of the Somers tournament, Yorktown barely survived a 40-35 win over a game Putnam Valley club that is chock-full-of-youth. Playing four sophomores for major junctions of the game, Put Valley held the lead for three-plus quarters until the Huskers seized control in the final seven minutes.

Yorktown scored just four first-quarter points but got a big lift from sixth-man Kyle Casey, who did a lot of yeoman's work with 12 boards, fives swipes and four points. Yorktown senior F Tanner Dyslin came up big in the fourth, scoring six of his 12 points to go with 11 caroms. Junior G Marc Spinelli (10 points, four rebounds, four assists) was pretty active.

Put Valley sophomore swingman Darnel Shillingford knocked down a game-high 17 points and drew the praise of Husker Coach Kevin Downes.

"That kid is very tough," Downes said. "We were due for a stinker, and I definitely think our kids looked past Put Valley, but (Shillingford) made us pay for that."

PV Coach Mike McDonnell was pleased with the way his Tigers (1-4) competed with a unbeaten, veteran



Yorktown junior Marc Spinelli challenges Put Valley F Darnel Shillingford in Huskers' 40-35 win over Tigers in Somers tourney.

outfit like Yorktown, which was 4-0 entering the game.

"I was happy to see our young kids compete and really get after it defensively against a really good team like Yorktown tonight," said McDonnell, now in his fourth year at Put Valley, the 2016 Section 1 Class B runnerup with two



Put Valley soph Darnel Shillingford drives paint against Yorktown senior Matt Severino in Tigers loss to Huskers.

continued on next page

Sports



Putnam Valley sophomore G Ryan Soto tries to drive on Yorktown junior G Marc Spinelli in Tigers' 40-35 loss to Huskers Thursday.

championship appearances in four years. "We didn't back down, not for one second. We know we need to develop a second consistent scorer to compliment Darnel and we're working on getting better each day. I really like this group."

Neither did MAHOPAC (1-6) in the opening round against Somers, thanks in part to a 25-point game from senior G

game. Dan Maloney (7 points) won the Sportsmanship honor.

Coach Hirsch suspects this weekend will help nudge the Sailors to realize their potential this season.

"I really love working with these guys," Coach Hirsch said. "They showed so much grit in our tournament and fought so hard to honor Jack McGuire and the McGuire family. We started off against Valhalla in a hole; they shot the ball very well and went on a big run (18-0). Our guys didn't panic, they stuck to the schedule, and they stayed positive with each other. It was an emotional weekend and our message for our tournament was to play with a fiery, but controlled, passion and to show everyone how much we love playing together and how important the McGuire Tournament is to our program; win or lose, their effort and energy showed just that."

"I think this team has great potential," the coach added of the Sailors (4-2),

"and I think they are working hard to try and reach whatever the ceiling is and break through it. I don't know where we will end up: But of course, we want to go as far as we possibly can. Our focus is just to continue to get better, correct the mistakes we make, and make our strengths stronger."

The Sailors are on course to do just that...

CROTON's Charlie Goldberg was said

student, who passed away from Leukemia in 2007. Fraser seemed to have found some sort of divine intervention last Friday in the opening round of the Hendrick Hudson Varsity Club's Jack McGuire Holiday Tournament, which honors the spirit and spunk of McGuire.

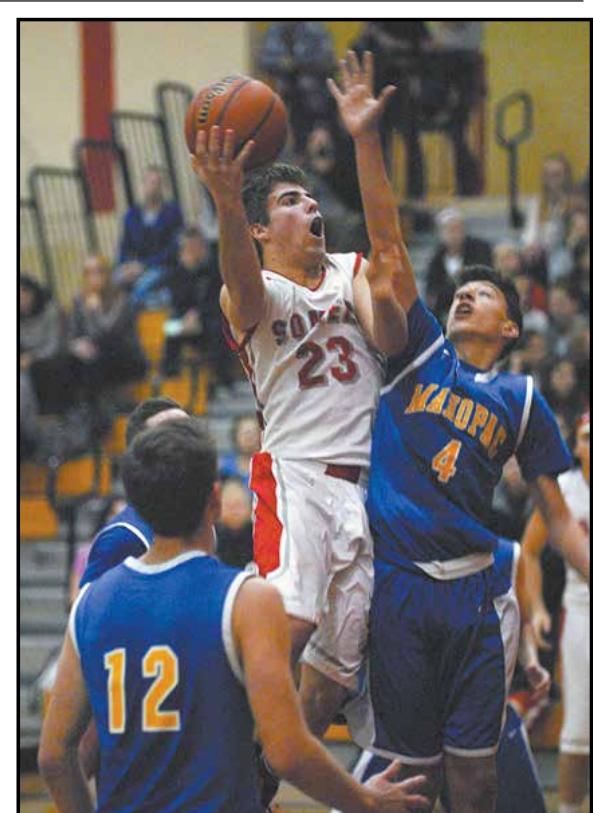
Fraser hit a school record eight 3-pointers, a mark previously held by himself, Mike Smith, Kyle Monk, JJ Hill and Seth Heaton. He finished with a game-high 28 points, including a trey to open the first and second half, to beat visiting Irvington, 54-53, and advance to the finals where the Sailors went on to defeat Valhalla, 49-47, behind an MVP performance from Fraser (15 points). All-tourney choice Jack Attinelly had 13 points and hit the winning 3-point shot at end of game, plus a key steal on following play to seal the

to be quite impressive behind career-high 35 points in the Tigers' 55-51 win at Dobbs Ferry. The senior guard is hoping to take the Tigers back to the County Center for the first time since 2012. Croton-Harmon also defeated O'Neill 59-39 in the opening round of the Mayclim Tournament, one of the longest running tourneys around. Goldberg (18 points, 5 assists), Miles Ackerman (11 points, 8 rebounds) and Rory Parker (15 points, 4 rebounds) led the way as the Tigers advanced to the finals where Croton defeated Class AA Carmel, 57-48, to win Mayclim Tournament.

Goldberg (21 points, 3 assists) secured MVP while Ackerman (8 points, 10 boards) was named All-Tournament. Sean Macarchuk dropped a career-high 16 points while Graham Webster (8 points, 8 rebounds) was a big factor. Parker added four points.

"It was a great day to be a Tiger," first-year Coach Ben Martucci said.

VALHALLA Coach Mike Auerbach came back to reign supreme against his old stomplings when the former Panas player and coach eked out a 51-50 victory in the first round of the Jack McGuire



Somers G Matt Pires takes shot against strong defense of Mahopac soph Zack Puckhaber in Tuskers' win over Indians.

B Dobbs Ferry, 54-52, behind a career-high 19 points from sophomore Shane McNerney, but fell to Class B Croton, so this is problematic...

CHSAA Notes: Kennedy Catholic beat Cathedral, 66-30, on the strength of AJ Morales' 21 points and five assists.



Every Panas hoops coach since 1981; Dave Greiner, Pistol Pete Kelly & Shawn Sullivan in attendance at Hen Hud tourney.

Andrew Ryan, who went shot for shot with Bicknese (20 points). Starting to look like it could a long year at Mahopac, where the Indians reached four consecutive Class AA Final 4's from 2011-14, if they don't find a way to stop this six-game slide...

DEEP CHUCKS

HEN HUD's Dylan Fraser and his teammates will never forget their beloved buddy, Jack McGuire, the former Hen Hud



Yorktown G Marc Spinelli leaves a wake of fallen Tuskers in his path in Huskers' tourney title win over Somers.

Holiday Tournament...

PANAS G Brandon Ramos had 18 points and five rebounds for the Panthers (3-3) in the 46-32 consy win over Irvington in the Hen Hud tourney, but we were kind of hoping Panas had what it would take to reach the finals here...

LAKELAND (2-4) suffered a worrisome 22-point loss to Nyack and dropped its fourth game in five tries...

CARMEL (3-4) squeaked past Class

Aaron Davis (14 points) and Jaz Burton (6 points, 10 boards) had big games as well. Against Sacred Heart, JFK lost a thriller, 58-56. JFK was down by 18 points with 6:30 left when Morales scored 14 of his in the second half. He hit two clutch free throws to tie the game with 56 seconds left to play, but the Gaels could not hold on. Justin Parker added 19 and four steals.

continued on page 31

Sports

Girls Hoops Notebook

Haldane Handles Put Valley for Mayclim Tourney Title

By Tony Pinciaro

HALDANE shook off a season-opening loss to mighty Irvington and rebounded with four consecutive wins, including its two most recent victories in Croton-Harmon's Mayclim Tournament where a 46-37 triumph over PUTNAM VALLEY came in the title game.

Tournament mvp Marissa Lisikatos led Haldane with 12 points and all-tournament selection Allison Chiera finished with 11 points. Haldane advanced to the final with a 47-34 win over Hastings in the first round.

"It was a close, evenly-matched game for three quarters with Putnam Valley leading by one at the half," Haldane coach Tyrone Searight said. "Our aggressive, man-to-man full-court pressure, I thought, took a toll on them. Then, our zone press broke open a tight game going into the fourth quarter. We extended the lead to as much as 12 points and just made our free throws down the stretch."

Despite the loss to Irvington in the first game of the season, Searight said his team learned a few things which has resulted in the four-game winning streak.

"The Irvington game, I think, put us in a place where if we can share the ball, box out and run the floor, we should handle business," the fiery Searight said.

LAKELAND continues to sizzle in the early going as the Hornets improved to 5-0 with double-digit wins over Nanuet, 64-45, and John Jay-East Fishkill, 54-42.

In both games Lakeland coach Miranda Lustig was impressed with her team's ability to overcome slow starts.

"In the Nanuet game, Rieley Walsh brought us the spark we needed to pull ourselves out of the hole we dug in the



Haldane's Missy Lisikatos drives on PV's Cat Mazza in Blue Devils' tourney title win over Tigers Sunday at Croton.



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Haldane's Allison Chiera beats PV's Nyasia Reeves to loose ball in Blue Devils tourney championship win over Tigers Sunday.

first quarter," Lustig said. "The girls really fed off her energy."

Kelsey Walsh led the way for Lakeland with 17 points and Rieley Walsh added 15 points and 10 rebounds against Nanuet.

"We played a little sloppy against John Jay-East Fishkill, but Colleen scored 14 of her 16 points in the first half," Lustig said. "When the focus shifts to Colleen, we are lucky to have six more girls who can step up and score in double digits, as well."

"It's been a solid start and the girls have been working hard so it's definitely a nice boost of confidence to start the season 5-0. But the girls realize it's only the beginning and we have a tough schedule ahead with a lot more work to put in."

Colleen Walsh also finished with nine rebounds and five steals. Kelsey Walsh added 10 points and Jess Ascencio finished with nine points.

BREWSTER bounced back from a 41-31 loss to Nyack to open the week to overcome John Jay-Cross River, 54-49 in a first-round game of the Bears' inaugural tournament.

Brewster will play Tappan Zee in the championship game, which is still to be determined, said Brewster coach Mike Castaldo.

"It was a sloppy game on our part due to John Jay press," Castaldo said.

"We had too many turnovers and lazy passes. We took a



Haldane Blue Devils pose with Croton's Mayclim tourney title plaque after beating Put Valley Sunday.

13-point lead into the fourth quarter, but John Jay fought back and cut it to five. We were able to hit free throws down the stretch to secure the victory."

Maggie DePaoli paced the Bears with 15 points, Meagan Beal added 14 points and 10 rebounds and Julia Borsari had 11 points.

"We played great defense against Nyack, but we struggled from the line and from 3," Castaldo said. "It was a two-possession game with two minutes to go, but they buried a 3 on us."

HEN HUD ran its winning streak to three games with wins over Pelham, 50-42, and Harrison, 71-59, and is now 3-1

this season.

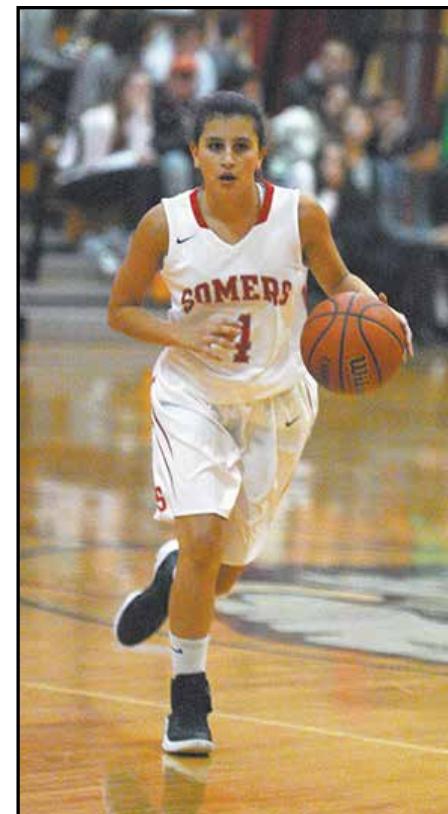
Hen Hud's defense fueled the team against Pelham as the Sailors outscored the Pelicans, 29-14 in the second half. Maria Scalf poured in a game-high 20 points and Deanna Marriott and Caitlin Weimar each had eight points. Jackie Raguso and Jaelynn Smith collected 11 rebounds apiece and Smith also had eight assists.

Hen Hud took control of the Harrison game with an overwhelming second quarter, outscoring the Huskies, 23-4 to go into halftime with a 29-13 lead.

Weimar had 14 points and 14 rebounds, as five players scored in double figures. Katy Kenny and Smith each had 13 points



Somers F Olivia Lipski sinks a 3-ball in 50-35 win over Mahopac last Friday in Tusker tourney.



Somers freshman G Danielle DiCintio pushes up court in win over Mahopac Friday.

continued on next page

Sports

Haldane Handles Put Valley for Mayclim Tourney Title

continued from previous page



Somers junior G Jacqueline Penzo attacks rack as Mahopac junior C Siobhan Hynes defends in Tuskers win over Indians.



Somers sophomore G Hannah Angelini drops two of 14 she would score in 50-35 win over Mahopac last Friday.

and Kamryn Sherman and Scalf finished with 12 points apiece. Smith also added nine assists and eight steals.

OSSINING defeated New Rochelle, 85-36, for its fifth consecutive win as UConn-bound Andra Espinoza-Hunter rang up 46 points.

Kailah Harris added 10 points and 12 rebounds and Jaida Strippoli finished eight points and 10 assists for the four-time reigning NYS champion Pride.

SOMERS opened its tournament with a 50-35 victory over Mahopac before dropping a tough 55-53 verdict to Class AA power Ursuline in the final.

"We got off to a slow start against Mahopac," Somers' coach Marc Hattem said. "Mahopac played some very strong half-court defense and we had to battle for our points."

"The Ursuline game was within our grasp, but just got away from us. The girls competed, and the team wanted the win against a very good Ursuline team. We will get better and learn from it, that I'm sure."



Haldane G Alexandra Cinquanta is pressured by Put Valley's Morgan Winagradow in Blude Devils tourney title win over Tigers.

All-Tourney choice Hannah Angelini led Somers with 16 points. Liv Lipski (13 points), Danielle DiCintio (11) and All-Tourney choice Livy Rosenzweig were big contributors as well.

One week earlier, PANAS dropped an eight-point game to **YORKTOWN** in the Panthers' Tournament consolation game. This time, Panas came away with the victory – 40-36 – as Danielle Merante led Panas with 15 points.

"After losing to Yorktown, we wanted to focus on our defensive effort," Panas coach Matt Evangelista said. "We did a much better job getting back on defensive transition, rebounding, rotating, and limiting penetration. Yorktown also did a much better job defensively. Both teams gave a great effort."

Yorktown went 1-1 for the week, opening with a 54-36 victory over Clarkstown North and finishing with a 40-36 loss to Panas.

Yorktown coach Kevin Clark pointed out his team took control of the Clarkstown North game in the first quarter, outscoring the Rams by 12.

Alyssa Francese scored a game-high 21 points. Jesse Barer contributed nine points and Emily Nigro and Anna Nuccio finished with six points apiece.

Despite the loss to Panas, Clark said his team was right there at the end.

"We struggled at the offensive end, going 1 for 10 over the final four minutes of the game, yet still managed to have two shots to tie the game in the waning seconds," Yorktown coach Kevin Clark said.

Kat Severino led Yorktown, now 2-3 this season, with 14 points.



Haldane's Olivia Monteleone splits a seam between Put Valley's Maria Tomais (L) and Dora Rippone (R).

MAHOPAC was beset by injuries last week, resulting in losses to Clarkstown South, 51-48, and Somers, 50-35.

"We are improving with each game, but we have stretches where we struggle to score," Mahopac coach Chuck Scozzafava said. "We are getting good shotS, we're just not knocking them down. Otherwise, the defense is improving, as well as the offense.

"Against Somers, we were a little snake bit with four of our five starters injured. Being as young as we were against Somers, I thought the girls played hard and the defense was good, considering."

Claire Felix led Mahopac with 17 points against Clarkstown South and she had 18 points against Somers.

Alex Barry finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds in CARMEL's 60-44 setback to Valhalla in a Harrison tournament first-round game. Carmel had to face a host team that was upset in the first round and the Huskies won. Barry was named to the all-tournament team.

Yorktown King of Hill at Somers; Sailors Crowned, Too

continued from page 29

JFK also defeated Salesian, 44-39, with Morales (18 points, 4 rebounds), Aaron Brown (9 points, 3 steals) and Burton (8 points, 12 boards) leading the charge.

JFK is now 3-3 overall and 0-1 in league play as the Gaels head south to Orlando for three games of fun in the sun.

Coaches are encouraged to send results and comments to raygallaghersports@gmail.com after every game or prior to Sunday evening for inclusion in our Boys' Hoops Notebook.

PUTNAM/NWE FAB FIVE HOOPS POLL

No.1 YORKTOWN – Well, the Huskers made us look pretty sharp with our No.1 ranking last week and seeing how they knocked off previous No.2 in this neck of the woods and remained unbeaten we're not about to budge off this stand. Coach Downes' boys might just be here all year.

No.2 HEN HUD – Gotta give the Sailor his due; Hirsch's boys are gritty and full of effort by all accounts and now own a pair of tourney titles (Panas, Hen Hud).

No.3 SOMERS – Their legacy could be a pair of sectional titles in football and soccer, plus a Final 4 venture to County Center this winter should this unit decide that hoops matters as much to them, or they could just go out a pack of fat cats that settled for fall glory. Their call!

No.4 PANAS – Very interested in today's tilt with Peekskill, but we were expecting a tad more than 3-3 at this point from a veteran club like the Panthers.

No.5 CROTON – Goldberg and Parker

are legit guards, but it remains to be seen if this Tiger (3-1) unit will be exposed by the competition that lies ahead in a very tough league that includes Briarcliff, Pleasantville and Valhalla. It'll be very interesting to see how the Tigers match up with Put Valley this Thursday. Do the Tigers have the bigs to hold off PV's Darnel Shillingford and TJ Brescia?

HM PEEKSKILL – Red Devils have won twice in five tries, which equals last year's paltry total.

Lips Sinks!

Somers Junior Paces 2nd Place Tuskers in DePaoli Tourney



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

Somers junior F Olivia Lipski (L) has been sinking varsity shots for the Tuskers since her freshman year, and the sharpshooting sniper was at it again in Somers' 21 annual Michael DePaoli Memorial Tournament last weekend where the Tuskers placed 2nd to Ursuline. Lipski sank a game-high 16 points in a 50-35 win over Samantha Colatruglio (R) and Mahopac in the opening round on Friday and added 13 more in the championship setback to the private Class AA powerhouse Koalas Saturday afternoon... see Girls' Hoops Notebook

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