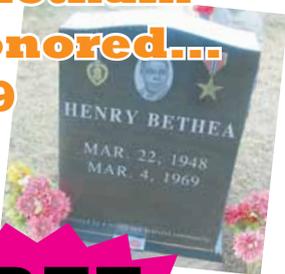


Late Vietnam
Vet Honored...
page 9



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Preview Edition...



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Sports

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

December 6 - December 12, 2016

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 364

Protestors Decry 'No Justice in Cortlandt' after Ruling

By Rick Pezzullo

Cortlandt Town Justice Daniel McCarthy issued a ruling Friday finding the so-called "Montrose 9" protestors who were arrested last November for blocking access to Spectra Energy's construction yard on Route 9A guilty of disorderly conduct.

Following the brief announcement of McCarthy's decision, which was delivered in writing, defiant protestors and their supporters chanted "Shame on You" and "No Justice in Cortlandt" as they paraded through the halls of Cortlandt Town Court and outside into the courtyard, where they continued to rail against the outcome and vowed to keep fighting against the contro-

versial natural gas pipeline project.

"It is absolutely staggering. This decision is disrespectful," remarked Susan Rutman, one of the nine protestors who could face 15 days in jail and/or a \$500 fine when they are scheduled to be sentenced on January 6.

"But we will persevere. We cannot be thwarted by the limited scope of the legal system," Rutman added. "He (McCarthy) wouldn't even make a declaratory statement."

"This furthers my belief that we are run by a Corp-ocracy," said Andrew Ryan, another member of the "Montrose 9." "They

Continued on page 2



PHOTO BY SCOTT MCGREGOR

Protestors continued to express their opposition to pipeline project outside Cortlandt Town Hall Friday.

Historic Littering Law has its First Violator in Yorktown

By Rick Pezzullo

Yorktown officials boasted last week of capturing on camera the driver of a vehicle on Wood Street throwing a bag of garbage out the window.

The incident took place on October 9 at about 2 p.m. and the owner of the 2008 Volkswagen Jetta that was recorded, Eylene Hille of Mahopac, was informed on November 18 she was facing a \$500 fine for violating a law enacted in Town Code last June designed to combat littering.

Town Attorney Michael McDermott stated Hille's grandson, Kevin Bruen, was driving the car caught on video in October.

The legislation unanimously passed by the Town Board on June 26 is considered

Continued on page 2



Car captured on video littering on Wood Street.

the first in the nation involving the use of cameras to document littering violations.

"We are very proud of this legislation and it is hoped that continued enforcement will produce positive results for our community," Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace said.

Under the new law, violators can be

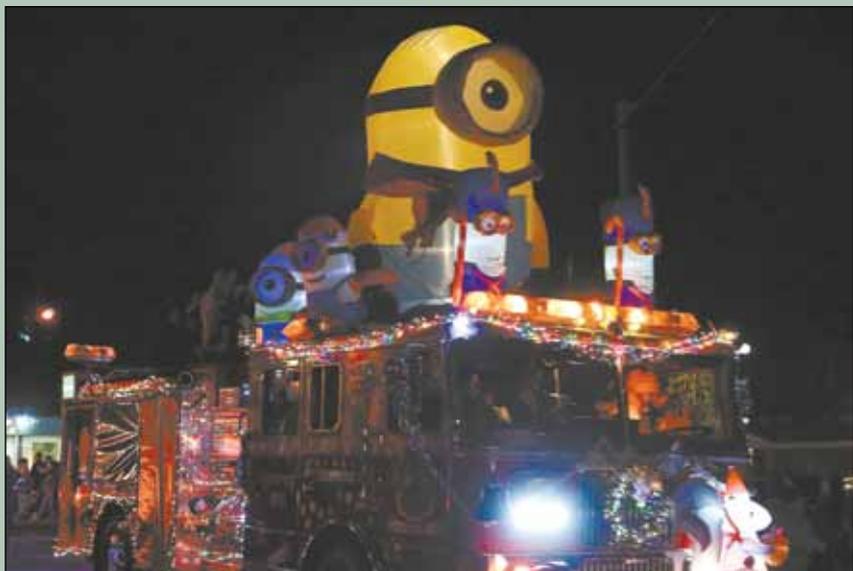


PHOTO BY MICHAEL GIULIANO

An Electric Evening

The Fifth Annual Holiday Electric Lights Parade was held Saturday in downtown Yorktown, followed by the lighting of a Christmas tree at Jack Gazebo Veterans Park. For more photos, see page 13.

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Protestors Decry 'No Justice in Cortlandt' after Ruling

Continued from page 1

are people who care only about profits. They create and they interpret the law.”

Rutman, Ryan, Linda Snider, Michael Bucci, Kim Fraczek, Melissa Freedman, Monica Hunken, George Packard, and Kathleen Thomas all had pled not guilty to the charges as their attorney, Martin Stolar, contended their actions were justified since they were trying to stop a greater harm in the expansion of the natural gas pipeline on November 9 at 6:30 a.m. and were left with no other recourse after all legal and regulatory options had been exhausted.

Stolar said he was “very disappointed” with McCarthy’s 13-page ruling and his dismissal of the defendants’ necessity defense.

“We will take it up on appeal,” said Stolar, who requested McCarthy postpone the sentencing until January. “They are heroes, not criminals.”

It took McCarthy four months to issue his decision following the conclusion of a trial which Stolar and the “Montrose 9” were hopeful would become a landmark case using their defense in environmental litigation.

“The judge rejects the justification as being speculative and the harm is not imminent or about to occur,” Stolar said. “The justification defense which he rejects, we

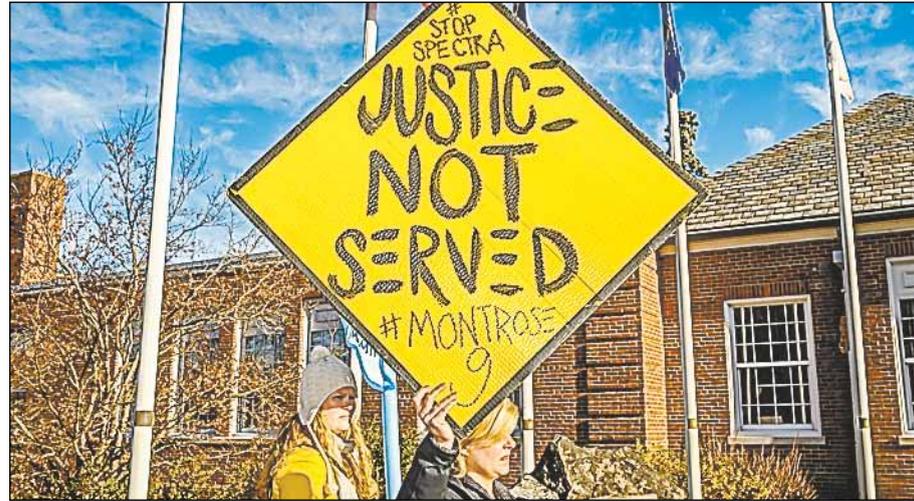


PHOTO BY SCOTT MCGREGOR

A ‘Montrose 9’ member holds sign opposing Judge McCarthy’s ruling.

all know and you all know, the actions were justified, the harm is imminent, and the pipeline is extraordinarily dangerous, and constitutes a present harm and a present threat to every resident in this town, in this county and of the areas surrounding Indian Point.”

Meanwhile, at the same time protestors were being informed of the ruling in Cortlandt, members of several community activist groups were in Washington D.C. testifying at a People’s Hearing regarding the

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) alleged unfriendly history against the environment.

Representing the Hudson Valley in regards to FERC’s approval of Spectra’s Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) expansion project were Courtney Williams, Paul Blanch and Nancy Vann of Safe Energy Rights Group (SEnRG) and Suzannah Glidden, Amy Rosmarin and Susan Van Dolsen of Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE).

“I hope that this will bring these issues the national attention they deserve,” Vann said. “The AIM project, for one, could have catastrophic national impacts.”

“FERC’s conflict of interest policies are vague and contradictory and the Commission has demonstrated an egregious lack of transparency regarding the contractors hired to conduct the assessments on which the projects’ approvals depend,” Van Dolsen said. “The Commission has not complied with its legal obligations under NEPA to conduct an independent environmental review, yet Spectra continues to move ahead with projects that put millions of people at grave risk.”

Yorktown Charges First Violator of Historic Littering Law

Continued from page 1

charged when caught on camera littering. The town installed signs informing the public of its Do Not Litter campaign, along with indicating the area was under surveillance.

Photographs taken by residents can also be used as evidence against violators. Town officials are hoping the law acts as a deterrent.



Killer Cramps Aren't Normal

What you need to know about Endometriosis...

Ask the doctor

F. Michael Shaw, MD

Director, Division of Gynecology
Institute for Robotic & Minimally
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robot-assisted surgery and
gynecologic surgery at
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Q: What can cause excessive pain before, during, and after my period?

A: A potential cause is endometriosis. Endometrial cells released by the endometrium – the tissue that lines a woman’s uterus – latch onto the ovaries, bowel, or elsewhere in the pelvis. The new tissue behaves the same as it does in the uterus: It thickens, breaks down, and bleeds with each menstrual cycle. This can irritate the surrounding tissue, leading to pain and excessive bleeding.

Q: How can I tell if I have endometriosis?

A: Symptoms can include painful periods; pain during intercourse; pain during bowel movements or urination, especially during your period; excessive bleeding and infertility. In fact, endometriosis is often first diagnosed when a woman is seeking infertility treatment. It can also be mistaken for other conditions that cause pelvic pain which is why it is important to tell your OB/GYN if you experience any of these symptoms.

You may get a pelvic exam to check for possible cysts or scarring. Ultrasound can also reveal the presence of cysts or scarring, but the only way to accurately diagnose endometriosis is with a procedure called

laparoscopy. A surgeon makes a tiny incision near the naval and inserts a small camera called a laparoscope to look for endometrial growths.

Q: Can endometriosis be treated?

A: Yes. Treatment starts with over-the-counter pain medications such as ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) or naproxen (Aleve). If that doesn’t ease the pain, many women benefit from hormone treatment, such as birth control pills or other hormone-blocking drugs that help shrink the endometrial growths. If symptoms persist, surgery may offer a solution. A hysterectomy can give relief for women who are not planning to have children; for women hoping to preserve fertility, a more conservative surgical procedure called resection can target and remove endometrial growths. Don’t assume that agonizing, lengthy periods are normal. Get yearly exams and be sure to discuss any symptoms you find bothersome.

Did you know?

Women who have a mother or sister with endometriosis are six times more likely to develop the condition.*

*National Institutes of Health

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In celebration of their grand opening DAS Auto will be making a donation on behalf of their Yorktown, Yonkers and White Plains stores to Support Connection, Inc. A 501 (c) not-for-profit organization that provides free support services to those affected by breast and ovarian cancer.

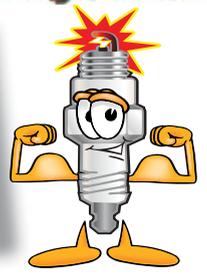


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KEYS MADE HERE

Siegel Files Lawsuit Challenging Yorktown's New Tree Law

By Rick Pezzullo

Former Yorktown Supervisor Susan Siegel filed a lawsuit Thursday challenging the new tree ordinance adopted by the Yorktown Town Board in September.

In a 39-page Article 78 filed in Westchester County Supreme Court, Siegel, who was ousted as a councilwoman last year, charged the board committed multiple violations of four laws and acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner when it closed the public hearing on September 20 and immediately voted to approve the amended local law.

"Basically, the four members of the

board (Supervisor Michael Grace and councilmen Greg Bernard, Tom Diana and Ed Lachterman) who voted for the law were in such a hurry to enact the law that they arrogantly violated long established and fundamental procedural requirements of the law," Siegel said. "I'm not happy with the new law, especially the provision that exempts the town from needing a permit to cut down trees on town-owned land, but I accept the fact that the four Republicans can pass whatever laws they want. But they need to pass them properly and legally."

One of the criticisms levied throughout the lengthy hearing in September was the law adopted in 2010 protected trees and forests on both private and town-owned property but the new law exempts the approximately 4,000 acres of town-owned property located in neighborhoods throughout the town.

"I think the law does what it is intended to do," Grace said before making a motion to adopt the new law. "This law as written simplifies the old law."

In the lawsuit, Siegel challenges the legality of a provision in the new ordi-

nance that would allow the Town Board the authority to review any Planning Board decision regarding tree removal. She maintained that Grace "misspoke" when he said the 2010 Tree Law gave the Town Board the power to review Planning Board tree permit decisions. Instead, she said the 2010 law adhered to state law that required parties wishing to challenge a Planning Board tree permit ruling to file an Article 78 lawsuit.

Grace did not return an email asking if he had any comments regarding the legal action taken by his predecessor.

Croton Auto Park Partners with New York Cares for Annual Coat Drive

Croton Auto Park has partnered with New York Cares for their 28th Annual Coat Drive to be held until December 31, where New Yorkers can drop off new or gently used winter coat donations directly to Croton Auto Park, conveniently located at 1 Municipal Place, Croton-On-Hudson.

New York Cares Annual Coat Drive is a city-wide effort run by New York Cares with a goal to collect and distribute 125,000 coats each year to New Yorkers who need them the most during the colder months. Over the past 28 years, more than 1.7 million winter coats have been collected and dis-

tributed to help keep New Yorkers warm, healthy, and safe during the winter months. New York Cares is a volunteer organization founded in 1987, that runs programs for 1,350 nonprofits, public schools, and city agencies to help those in need. In the past year, volunteers have served 400,000 New Yorkers in need and have devoted their time and talents towards improving education, meeting immediate needs, and revitalizing public spaces. For more information about New York Cares and their Annual Coat Drive efforts, please visit their website at www.newyorkcares.org.



Cars on top of rocks at Croton Auto Park.

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Police Blotter

Yorktown Police

November 20 - 8:08 p.m. – Jonathan Ferrante, 19, of Croton-on-Hudson, was charged with two counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance after being spotted occupying a vehicle in the

parking lot of John Hand Park on Blinn Road. An investigation revealed Ferrante was allegedly in possession of a quantity of cocaine, a quantity of LSD and a quantity of marijuana. Bail was posted by a family member.

Peekskill Man Sentenced to 15 years for 2015 Park Street Killing

By Rick Pezzullo

A Peekskill man was sentenced to 15 years behind bars last week for the shooting death last year of Stephen Agosto in front of 1431 Park Street in Peekskill.

Janiel Myke, 25, of Rolling Valley Way, pled guilty in October to one count of manslaughter in the first degree and could have faced 25 years in prison.

On December 20, 2015 at approximately 10:20 p.m., Myke shot Agosto three times with a stolen 9mm handgun. Peekskill Police arrested Myke two days later following an investigation that revealed Myke and Agosto had a long standing dispute.

Agosto, who suffered a fatal bullet wound to the head and a bullet wound to each of his legs, was pronounced dead at a local hospital.



Janiel Myke

November 24 - 5:35 a.m. – Alyssa Rodriguez, 25, of Croton-on-Hudson, was charged with bail jumping for failing to appear in court on a previous petit larceny charge.

November 25 - 9:12 p.m. – Jamil Bristow-Dolman, 22, of Wappinger Falls, was charged with driving while intoxicated following an accident in the area of Route 6 and Sunnyside. He was also charged with following too closely and having an open container of alcohol in a vehicle.

November 26

11:01 p.m. – Aaron Seide, 25, of Yorktown, was charged with driving with a suspended license and possession of a quantity of marijuana after being pulled over for driving with inadequate head lamps on East Main Street.

November 27

2:49 a.m. – Shannon Slater, 25, of Yorktown, was charged with driving while intoxicated after a police officer observed her allegedly failing to use a turn signal and failing to keep right on East Mohansic Avenue.



Eddie McPartland, owner of Cortlandt-based Wacky Inflatables, delivered a truckload of toys last week that he collected from generous donors to Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley for needy youngsters.

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Board Instructs Engineer to Design Roundabout for Downtown

After more than a year of public discussion, the Ossining Village Board last week voted 3-2 in favor of instructing the village engineer to move forward with the design of a roundabout project in the downtown business district.

The choices presented to trustees were an updated conventional signal, or a modern roundabout. The most recent public meeting on this topic included a presentation by NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) roundabout expert, Howard

McCulloch. Peter Russillo of Maser Consulting was on hand to address questions specific to the design of the Ossining intersection. The presentation was followed by questions and comments from the public, and a discussion among the Board of Trustees and staff. Many business owners and other village stake-holders spoke about the project.

Attention to this busy downtown intersection and main thoroughfare to the Ossining train station, waterfront residences,



Village officials are studying roundabout for downtown Ossining.

commercial spaces and parks, was initially raised more than two years ago due to aging infrastructure. It became clear that this intersection was long overdue for a complete overhaul. This includes optimal accommodation for the 2014 change in the traffic pattern, which made Spring Street two-way, upgrading existing lights and underground wiring as well as sidewalks becoming compliant with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

More than a year ago, and as part of their commitment to think outside the box when considering infrastructure changes, members of the Board of Trustees and vil-

lage management began exploring both traditional and non-traditional options. Beyond simply moving cars and pedestrians through the intersection, officials indicated they wanted to select a design that reflected the larger goal of fostering an environment conducive to a thriving mixed use downtown area. Last year Trustee Manuel Quezada, an architect by trade, suggested that the engineers investigate whether a roundabout was a viable alternative to a traditional traffic light intersection in this location. The two options for the intersection upgrade were explored over

Continued on page 10

Peekskill Expands CAC

The Conservation Advisory Council of Peekskill was expanded to nine members by the Common Council on November 28. "I am thrilled and gratified by the CAC expansion," said Councilwoman Kathie Talbot (right, shown with CAC Chairwoman Kay Barthelmas). "Our CAC has been incredibly active in a variety of important environmental initiatives in the city and, with the addition of three more highly talented and accomplished members, there is so much more that can be done." Barthelmas added, "These three new CAC members reflect the dynamic population growth happening recently in Peekskill and will bring strong and diverse skills to the board." Currently, the CAC is finishing a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), which will be a comprehensive digital compilation of maps, geographic features, wetlands, steep slopes and open spaces as well as cultural aspects like Peekskill's involvement with the Underground Railroad.





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Obituaries

Catherine "Teeny" Munning

Catherine Mary "Teeny" Munning, a child of God and sister of Christ, has gone home in the loving arms of her Savior from this life to the everlasting on November 29. She was 83.

Born on April 1, 1933 in the Bronx, she was one of 12 children of Frederick and Mary Simone Hills. She proudly served our country as a bookkeeper in the U.S. Air Force and worked for many years at Somers High School. She attended Calvary Chapel and was a member of Manny Bacon Post #1758, American Legion. She loved her devotional time and doing puzzles.

Mrs. Munning was a loving wife and mother who was a best friend to her husband and to each of her children. She was a gentle heart whose love of Jesus transformed her life, her heart and her spirit.

On December 5, 1953 at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL, she married her beloved husband, Evert Munning Jr. On Monday, they would have celebrated 63 years of marriage. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her children and their spouses, Patricia and Ron Ristaino of East Fishkill, Debi

and Brian Molfese of Seymour, CT, Edward Thomas and Kathy Munning of Pawling, Karen and Kevin Raab of Kent; her daughter-in-law, Jean Treanor; her grandchildren, Jeremy Craig Hansmann and his wife Andrea, Justin Matthew and Krysta Rose Molfese, Nicholas Edward, Jason Thomas and Rachel Lillian Munning, Keith James Raab and his former wife Lillian, and Michael McTighe; her great-grandchildren, Joshua Michael and Sarah Grace Hansmann, and Haylee Nicole Raab; her sisters, Helen Morais, Barbara Kennedy and Marilyn "Cookie" Gleilmi; her brothers, Fred Hills, Jr. and Ronnie Doucette, Jr.; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son, Gary Munning, on January 4, 2012.

Mary Ann Henchy

Mary Ann Henchy, a resident of Yorktown, died November 30. She was 83.

Mary, known as Honey by her family and friends, was a devoted and beloved wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, sister, and aunt. She was born in 1933 in New York, NY to Richard and Mathilda Haas. She graduated from Walton High School in 1951. In 1957 she married John Henchy at St. Pius Church

in the Bronx.

Mrs. Henchy, also known as Red or Lefty, was an excellent softball and basketball player. She played for The New York Queens girls' softball team. Known as Mom to her daughter and granddaughter, she will be remembered for her passion for music, love of butterflies, selflessness, warm smile, and kindness. She lived for her family with joy in her heart all the days of her life. She is survived by her husband John Henchy, her daughter Terry Weisberger, and her granddaughter Jenny Weisberger who are residents of Yorktown.

Ester Gunther

Ester Gunther, a resident of Croton-on-Hudson, died November 29. She was 93.

She was born on November 12, 1923 in Harlem. She lived in Croton for 40 years before moving to Maine. After living in Maine for 20 years, she moved back to Westchester to be closer to her family. She was a member of the Croton Senior Citizens Club for many years. She had an ability to light up the room with her smile. She was a loving wife, mother, sister and friend to many. She will be greatly missed by those who knew her.

She is survived by her loving son, John J. Gunther and his wife Peggi. She was predeceased by her beloved son Kenneth Gunther in 2004.

Dr. Raymond Mutter

Dr. Raymond D. Mutter, who resided most of his life in Ossining, died November 29 at his home in Concordia, Monroe Twp, NJ. He was 85.

Dr. Mutter was born in Orange, NJ, grew up in Chatham, NJ, and spent summer months at Estling Lake, in Denville, NJ. He lived in Ossining, before moving to Concordia in July 2016. He graduated from Bates College in Maine, received his medical degree from the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, and began his career with a two-year tour of duty in the U.S. Army. He was a medical doctor with a private practice in Ossining, NY, and later joined a medical group affiliated with Phelps Memorial Hospital in Sleepy Hollow, NY. He served on the hospital's Board of Directors, and from 1991 to 1993 served as President of the Medical Staff. He retired from medical practice in 2001.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years,

Continued on page 10

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Guest Commentary

The Skewing of the Season

By Alison K. Begany

Pretend you're having a baby. For nine months, the preparation, the anticipation builds and builds. At long last, the baby arrives! And — BOOM! The celebration comes to an abrupt end.

Huh? How odd. Unnatural, to say the least. Aren't you supposed to experience joy and celebrate fully once the child is actually born into the world?

Yet that is exactly how we celebrate the birth of Jesus in modern-day America.

Come the stroke of midnight as Christmas day winds down, you'd be hard pressed to turn on a radio station and hear a "Fa-la-la-la-la" or be advised to don any gay apparel. No — all frivolity and merriment have ceased.

Just amble through your neighborhood in the next few days and observe how many houses — previously cascading with lights, bedecked with angels and reindeer and the occasional Bart Simpson — are so festooned on January 1.

Nay, over the next 12 days — the traditional 12 Days of Christmas — holiday decorations have, by and large, been stripped from doorways and storefronts, Christmas trees tossed ignominiously curbside in heaps of recycling.

To paraphrase wee baffled Cindy-Lou Who: "Santy Claus, why? Why are you taking [down] our Christmas tree? Why?"

'Twasn't always so. Not that long ago — in our grandparents' day — the tree

wasn't brought home and decorated until Christmas Eve. Children were told Santa Claus brought the tree as well as other gifts. Christmas Day was when the real twelve days of Christmas began — not ending then, as in modern custom — and extending till January 6, Epiphany (or more colloquially, "Little Christmas"), which commemorates the arrival of the Magi in the Holy Land after journeying from the East, still observed as the major day of nativity celebration in Eastern Orthodox churches.

We've all sung — and no doubt struggled to remember — the seemingly endless verses of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." But we've gotten mixed up as to when the deluge of gifts was actually bestowed on the happy, if overwhelmed, recipient. The full panoply was not delivered on Christmas morn. No, no, no — one had to wait twelve long days, until January 6, to be gifted with the partridge, the golden rings, the lords a-leaping, swans a-swimming, drummers drumming, geese a-laying and the whole shebang.

What happened to change the timing of the celebration of the true Christmas season? Good ole American capitalism is as guilty a culprit as any, the driving force behind this skewing of the season. Buy more and more, and why start in December when those holiday bucks can be scooped up earlier and earlier? As retail establishments break out the ever-

greens and the piped-in carols and the light displays by mid-November, ordinary households are persuaded to follow suit. Never mind that Thanksgiving — a wonderful holiday with subtle charms of its own — gets hijacked in the process.

Here's a quaint notion: Don't abandon your Thanksgiving table to line up for Black Friday sales. (Better deals can usually be had online anyway.) And don't put up your Christmas tree on Thanksgiving night. Mid-December is time enough for the trimming of the tree — thus giving it a fighting chance of retaining its splendor through Epiphany, without winding up resembling that poor little "Charlie Brown" twig.

Or get an artificial tree — better for the environment to boot! — which can then double as your wintertime plant, as does mine.

What else is there to brighten your hearth in the bleak, drear days of January? As you drag yourself homeward — slogging through the snow, the slush, the ice, and the general nastiness of a cold, colorless world — how comforting it is to hunker down in a plump cozy chair, hot toddy at the ready, and gaze on your "evergreen" tree, twinkling with strings of tiny golden lights. Talk of tidings of comfort and joy ...

... but enough of the reverie. Back to the issue at hand. What irks me most is that forcing the holidays to begin so early has the corresponding effect of

ending them much too soon. I love this season so — the magical lights softening the long dark nights, and people bearing with each other in a softer, gentler way. Who would want that to end?

For the better part of 2,000 years, the birth of Christ was celebrated from December 25 through January 6 — the fortnight when people rejoiced in the eternal promise of light returning to this darkened world, saving us.

We don't necessarily need to be hearing "Silent Night" and "Winter Wonderland" blaring from every radio and store loudspeaker or behold our streetscapes ablaze with lights in late November. We DO need to hear and see them on December 26.

So, please, do not rush this most glorious of seasons. Leave the trees and wreaths and lights undisturbed for the next twelve days. Then, on January 6, gather round your still vibrant tree, belt out "Joy to the World" and experience the Christmas season as it was meant to be.

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year, everyone!

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Letters to the Editor

Adopt a Pet from a Shelter for the Holidays

To the Editor:

Now that the holiday season is upon us, many people think a puppy would make a good gift. What most forget is that puppies require a lot of time, energy, money, and many pet store puppies come from sick and neglected puppy mills.

Nearly 8 million companion animals enter U.S. shelters each year, half of which are sadly killed. This is a staggering number of innocent lives lost, with millions more spending many years, if not their entire lives in a small cage hoping to be adopted.

Instead of buying an expensive and high maintenance puppy as a gift, visit your local animal shelter in order to find one. These loving dogs have already been spayed/neutered, are up-to-date on vaccinations, and microchipped.

We are fortunate in Westchester and Putnam Counties to have terrific animal shelters. One of which is the Putnam Humane Society in Carmel, NY. The most intelligent, friendly, and loving dogs I have ever met were adopted. Shel-

ter pets want nothing more than to be in a loving home, where they will be a terrific new family member.

So instead of buying a puppy this holiday season, please share your love and home with a dog who desperately needs it. Visit your local shelter, volunteer to walk a dog, and always choose to adopt.

STEVE REID

Somers

Professional Dog Trainer

Lack of Tolerance and Understanding in Croton

To the Editor:

The irony is painful. Only hours after the Croton "United" Village Board majority was unwilling to support an explicit condemnation of Islamophobia in response to a direct plea from Croton's houses of worship, residents were invited to a village hosted Christmas Tree lighting. As part of an interfaith family, this is particularly saddening. I can only imagine how it makes our Muslim friends

and neighbors feel. In these uncharted waters of discrimination and hatred unleashed across our country over the past few months, it is disheartening that our locally elected officials - especially those who were elected on a platform of welcoming everyone regardless of affiliations - are unwilling to lead with tolerance and understanding.

MARIA F. SLIPPEN

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Cortlandt Honors Fallen Vietnam Hero with Bench Dedication

By Martin Wilbur

Nearly a half-century after a local hero made the ultimate sacrifice, he has finally been honored in his home community.

Cortlandt officials, veterans and friends, family and classmates of U.S. Army Pvt. Henry Bethea gathered Saturday on a cold, windswept afternoon at Steamboat Riverfront Park in Verplanck to dedicate a bench in the soldier's memory. Bethea, a 1967 Hendrick Hudson High School graduate and star athlete, was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division when he was killed in Vietnam on March 4, 1969, 18 days shy of his 21st birthday.

Bruce Fulgum, a high school classmate who called Bethea his best friend, had tried repeatedly over the years to raise money for a headstone for the soldier's grave at nearby Sunset Cemetery. Fulgum has also been a frequent visitor to the park and more recently spotted two other benches dedicated to soldiers. He thought that would be a fitting honor for Bethea.

By reaching out to friends and former classmates through social media last February, Fulgum was able to raise more than \$5,000 for the cemetery headstone and the bench, which has a small plaque affixed to it with the words, "In Memory of Henry Bethea Killed in Vietnam" and his dates of birth and death. There will also be a small scholarship established in Bethea's name at Hendrick Hudson, Fulgum said.

"We had so much fun here, I said let's do something else, and I thought that this was the most appropriate thing," Fulgum



MARTIN WILBUR PHOTO

Bruce Fulgum, right, and Rayfield Bethea, unveil the new park bench that was dedicated Saturday to Henry Bethea, Rayfield's brother, who was killed in Vietnam in 1969.

said. "People come here and sit here and have lunch at the new picnic tables and look at the stone for the veterans. They just might gander over and see this plaque in honor of this 20-year-old kid. Maybe it'll just pass in their mind: What did he do? Why did he die so young?"

The ceremony featured a color guard, Veterans of Foreign War members from Verplanck and Peekskill and Chapter 21 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

There were also those who remembered Bethea, a Purple Heart recipient, recalling the school's most popular student who took his responsibilities seriously.

Retired Hendrick Hudson High School teacher and principal Gene Booth served as Bethea's guidance counselor, helping him pursue college scholarships. Bethea

accepted an offer to Garden State College in Kansas.

That's why Bethea's decision to leave college and enlist in the Army in 1968 during the height of the Vietnam War was such a surprise to him and others in the community, Booth said.

He said that Bethea and his brother, Rayfield, who attended Saturday's ceremony, were the epitome of discipline, respect and manners. Booth recalled the time when Bethea returned to visit the school in his uniform.

"He was greeted by everyone as a hero returning to the scene of victory," Booth said. "He relished it with his smiles and his quiet demeanor. The rest is history and that's why we're here today."

Betha came to Montrose and the Hendrick Hudson School District for

eighth grade, said Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi. He and his brother were foster children, having been shuttled from home to home before adopted by Cleopatra and John Jones, and lived on Dutch Street.

A football, wrestling and track star, he graduated from Hendrick Hudson in 1967. The previous fall he was the star running back for the 8-0 Sailors, the only unbeaten, untied football team in school history, said friend and classmate Jim Bell.

When graduates of the school who went into the military were sent off to Vietnam, the entire community would pray for their safe return, Bell said. By the end of the war, there were five alums killed.

"Now it's 47 years later and remembering Henry still brings a smile to our faces, but also a tear to our eyes," Bell said.

On Bethea's fourth day in Vietnam, he volunteered for a dangerous mission, going undercover in heavily infiltrated Viet Cong territory, Puglisi said. One day into the mission he stepped on a land mine and was killed.

"He was a very young man with his whole life ahead of him, but he sacrificed his life for all of us," Puglisi said.

Betha was eventually inducted into Hendrick Hudson's Hall of Fame and had his #13 jersey retired, Fulgum said. There is also an Army photo of him at the school.

"He was the life of the party, the most popular kid in school, the best athlete," Fulgum said. "I see his classmates and teammates here. They all loved him as much as I did."

Three New Realtors Join Houlihan Lawrence, Yorktown Brokerage

Zef Camaj, Brokerage Manager for Houlihan Lawrence, recently welcomed three new Real Estate Salespersons to the team.

Teena Von Elm is dedicated to client service and satisfaction that is unsurpassed. With a professional, yet friendly approach, she helps her clients feel comfortable when buying or selling their next home. In addition to joining Houlihan Lawrence, she has extensive experience in graphic design and marketing. Teena utilizes innovative custom marketing, to create uniqueness and maximize property exposure, which is most effective in today's market. Whether buying a home, or selling a home, or both, Teena will exceed your expectations and help you achieve your goals. Customer satisfaction is her #1 priority. Call/Text Teena at 914.819.3931

Rhett Marks Born and raised in Northern Westchester, Rhett shares his local knowledge and expertise. He loves the region for its stunning beauty, healthy lifestyle and easy access to hiking trails, parks, and an abundance of outdoor activities. His strong work ethic and sharp



Teena Von Elm



Rhett Marks



Michael Torsiello

focus elevates his every transaction to meet both seller and buyer needs. Rhett also has a passion for staging and decor, helping sellers showcase their homes in the best possible light. Rhett currently resides in Cortlandt, where he was born and raised. He attended Westchester Community College with a major in Business Administration. Call/Text Rhett at 914.382.4476

Michael Torsiello is a dedicated and creative agent who is highly professional and knowledgeable with years of experi-

ence in sales, marketing and client relations. Michael comes from the Madison Square Garden Company where he worked in the New York Rangers front office as the Hockey Operations Associate. Michael later moved on to work with the New York Knicks and their minor league affiliate the Westchester Knicks where he was a top producing sales associate for the team's inaugural season. Michael is well versed in the latest technology and communication tools. He excels in his ability to market via social media with

a Twitter following of over 5,000 followers and an Instagram following just shy of 2,000 followers. His infatuation with architecture and ability to get a deal done in the utmost professional manner led him to the real estate industry. Call/Text Michael at 845.598.1196

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Built upon 125 years of family tradition, Houlihan Lawrence, the leading brokerage in New York City's northern suburbs, is committed to exceeding expectations in every aspect of the real estate process. The firm today serves over 90 communities with 30 offices and 1,300+ agents, leveraging global partners on six continents and in 56 countries. The company ranks in the top 20 of all brokerages nationally and achieved a total sales volume of \$5.4 billion in 2015. For more information visit: <http://www.houlihanlawrence.com>.

Houlihan Lawrence's Yorktown Brokerage serves the towns of Yorktown, Cortlandt, Peekskill, Putnam Valley, Mahopac and Carmel.

Candy Cane Run in Yorktown

Santa will be making his rounds handing out candy canes with the Yorktown Heights Engine Company #1 on Sunday December 11th (rain date Dec. 18) Visit the departments web page at www.yorktownfire.com for the schedule of Santa's stops.

ROUTE 1

TIME	STREET	CROSS-STREET
08:45AM	CURRY	WEATHERBY
08:55AM	CURRY	DREW LA
09:05AM	DOUGLAS DR	HOLMES CT
09:10AM	DOUGLAS DR	WHITMAN RD
09:15AM	MUIR CT	
09:20AM	WHITMAN RD	POPLAR ST
09:30AM	FOREST CT	SYCAMORE LA
09:40AM	POPLAR ST	SHIELA CT
09:50AM	DEERHAUNT ST	SOMERSTON RD
09:55AM	CORDIAL RD	RAVENCREST
10:00AM	CURRY ST	RAVENCREST RD
10:05AM	CURRY ST	STONELEIGH
10:10AM	HITCHING POST LA	
10:15AM	LONDON RD	LILY CT
10:20AM	SMITH RD	BONNIE CT
10:30AM	WHARTON RD	LONDON RD
10:35AM	WHARTON RD	RADCLIFFE DR
10:40AM	QUINLAN ST	RADCLIFFE DR
10:45AM	LUELLA ST	MEAD ST
10:50AM	MEAD ST	QUINLAN ST
10:55AM	QUINLAN ST	OGDEN RD
11:05AM	HICKORY ST	HEMLOCK ST
11:10AM	HICKORY ST	CORDING RD
11:20AM	STERLING TER	FARM WALK RD
11:25AM	ESSEX FIELDS	FARMWALK RD
11:35AM	SPRINGHURST ST	LOCKSLEY RD
11:40AM	SPRINGHURST ST	SHARON LA
11:45AM	SPRINGHURST ST	SPRINGHURST CT
11:50AM	DEERFIELD AVE	HEATHERCREST DR
11:55AM	HEATHERCREST DR	GARTH CT
12:00PM	CECILE DR	SHARON LA
12:10PM	MEADOWCREST CT	MEADOWCREST DR
12:15PM	MEADOWCREST DR	FERNCREST DR
12:20PM	SADDLE RIDGE RD	BOSTON CT
12:25PM	CROMPOND SCHOOL	MANOR ST
12:30PM	BREAK	BREAK
1:40PM	FREYERS FLORIST	
1:50PM	STRANG BLVD	BARBERRY RD
1:55PM	FOX MEADOW CT	STRANG BLVD
2:00PM	WENDELL LA	CARR CT
2:05PM	LARKSPUR ST	FERRIS PL
2:10PM	FERRIS PL	DENBY DR
2:15PM	FOX MEADOW RD	LARKSPUR ST
2:20PM	HOLLY RD	DENBY DR
2:25PM	LORETTA ST	LESTER RD
2:30PM	DARNLEY PL	LESTER RD
2:40PM	GRANVILLE CT	*
2:45PM	PARK LA	MOHANSIC AVE
2:50PM	SHERRY DR	ELLEN LA
2:55PM	ELLEN LA	MARK RD
3:00PM	MARK RD	EDCRIS RD

3:05PM

EDCRIS RD

EDWARD LA

3:10PM

EDWARD LA

LELAND DR

3:15PM

WALTER RD

MARK RD

3:20PM

WILLIAMS CT

*

3:25PM

WILKENS FRUIT & FIR FARM

ROUTE 3

TIME	STREET	CROSS-STREET
8:45AM	BEAVER RIDGE APTS	ALLAN AVE
9:00AM	BRETON C T	ALLAN AVE
9:05AM	ALLAN AVE	ETNA PL
9:10AM	ALLAN AVE	BALDWIN RD
9:20AM	YORK FARM ESTATES	BALDWIN RD
9:30AM	DOGWOOD DR	FIELDSTONE CT
9:40AM	GIORDANO DR	BLOSSOM CT
9:45AM	GIORDANO DR	GLENROCK ST
9:50AM	COUNTRY HOUSE	BALDWIN RD
10:10AM	LAVOIE CT	BALDWIN RD
10:20AM	VIEWLAND DR	VISTA CT
10:30AM	MADISON CT	*
10:40AM	HAWTHORNE DR	LORING PL
10:45AM	LORING PL	YORKHILL RD
10:55AM	HILLTOP RD	ROUTE 202
11:05AM	ELIZABETH RD	RIDGE ST
11:15AM	RIDGE ST	WAVERLY CT
11:20AM	WAVERLY RD	BARRY CT
11:25AM	WAVERLY RD	COLONIAL
11:35AM	BARWAY DR	GOMER ST
11:40AM	BARWAY DR	GRANITE SPRINGS
RD		
11:45AM	DUNNING DR	GRANITE SPRINGS
RD		
11:50AM	HEDWIG DR	ALDEN RD
12:00PM	HYATT ST	GARY RD
12:05PM	GREGORY ST	GRANITE SPRINGS
RD		
12:10PM	SARA CT	*
12:20PM	BENJAMIN BLVD	PINTREE PL
12:30PM	GREENWOOD ST	BROOKSIDE AVE
12:35PM	BROOKSIDE AVE	LANDMARK CT
12:40PM	BREAK	BREAK
1:40PM	WINDMILL DR	WINDMILL CT
1:45PM	WINDMILL DR	SUNRISE ST
1:50PM	WINDMILL DR	SARLES DR
1:55PM	QUAKER CHURCH RD	GRANITE SPRINGS
RD		
2:00PM	EVERGREEN ST	CHRISTOPHER CT
2:05PM	EVERGREEN ST	OSLO DR
2:10PM	OSLO DR	FARSUND DR
2:15PM	FARSUND DR	EVERGREEN ST
2:20PM	EVERGREEN ST	LODER RD
2:25PM	TRELAWN ST	WHIPORWILL ST
2:35PM	VAN CORTLANDT CIR	PARKER LA
2:50PM	FOUNTAIN CT	FISHERPOND RD
2:55PM	SULTANA DR	SABER CT
3:00PM	LAUREL CT	HAMBLYN ST
3:10PM	VETERANS RD	COMMERCE ST

ROUTE 2

TIME	STREET	CROSS-STREET
9:00AM	YORKRIDGE APTS	ROCHAMBEAU
9:20AM	FRENCH HILL RD	UNDERHILL AVE
9:30AM	HEIGHTS DR	MORNINGVIEW DR
9:35AM	HEIGHTS DR	WESTVIEW
9:50AM	HAYES DR	WINSLOW DR
10:00AM	RUSTIC RIDGE	
10:10AM	BRIDGE POINTE LA	
10:20AM	HUNTERBROOK RD	WILSON RD
10:30AM	HUNTERBROOK RD	OLD LOGGING RD
10:40AM	BAPTIST CHURCH RD	HUNTERBROOK RD
10:50AM	BAPTIST CHURCH RD	BALDWIN RD
11:00AM	GAMBELLI DRIVE	*
11:15AM	ILLINGTON RD	GRANT LA
11:20AM	ILLINGTON RD	ESTATE DR
11:30AM	CHADEAYNE RD	LOG CHURCH
11:35AM	SYSKA RD	CHADEAYNE RD
11:45AM	ERIN LA	PINESBRIDGE RD
11:55AM	CROW HILL RD	CROW HILL PATH
12:00PM	SPRING MEADOW RD	SPRING POND RD
12:05PM	SPRING POND RD	SPRING HILL RD
12:15PM	BIRDSALL RD	JEROME RD
12:25PM	SIDNEY CT	
12:35PM	CHATHAM LA	WELLINGTON RD
12:40PM	CROTON HTS RD	CARTER'S GROVE
12:45PM	CROTON HTS RD	PETER PRATT'S INN
12:50PM	CROTON HTS RD	WHITEHORSE LN
12:55PM	BREAK	BREAK
1:55PM	MCKEEL ST	REVERE DR
2:00PM	RUTLEDGE DR	PICKENS CT
2:05PM	CHESTNUT CT	TROUT BROOK DR
2:10PM	PINE BROOK RD	HEATHER CT
2:15PM	PINE BROOK RD	OLD COUNTRY
WAY		
2:20PM	CAROLINA RD	GEORGIA ST
2:25PM	INDIANA AVE	CALIFORNIA RD
2:30PM	CALIFORNIA	EDGEWOOD ST
2:35PM	CENTRAL ST	MONTROSS RD
2:40PM	CENTRAL ST	HUDSON RD
2:45PM	CENTRAL ST	MOSEMAN RD
2:50PM	CENTRAL ST	RICHARD PL
2:55PM	MAXWELL DR	MOSEMAN RD
3:00PM	UNDERHILL AVE	HIGHBROOK ST
3:10PM	HALYAN RD	LONGVUE ST
3:15PM	FRIENDS RD	EDGEWATER ST
3:20PM	UNDERHILL APTS	SOUTH LOT

Board Instructs Engineer to Design Roundabout

Continued from page 6

conversations and presentations at public meetings, the Village website and social media.

"Our community deserves a safe, welcoming intersection, and today we do not have one. A roundabout will improve traffic flow, increase pedestrian safety, and encourage people to spend more time in our downtown business area," said Ossining Mayor Victoria Garity. "And in terms of the environment and sustainability, it will

preserve and even increase green space and decrease the emissions which occur at conventional traffic light intersections."

"As we work to improve the function of NYS Routes 9 and 133, which cut through our village, this can be a step in partnering with Department of Transportation (DOT), as well as a foundation to apply for grant funding that will further enhance the local downtown economy in the Village of Ossining," she added.

As the engineers develop construction documents, village officials will be reach-

ing out to organizations and stake-holders in the community to consider how the roundabout design can best enhance the local economy and character of the downtown.

Anyone looking for more information can view the current design documents on the Village website; view the November 16 Board meeting on YouTube; call the Village Office at (914) 941-3554; or email Mayor Victoria Garity at garity@villageofossining.org or Interim Village Manager Paul Fraioli at pfraioli@villageofossining.org.

Obituaries

Continued from page 6

Mary E. (Magai) Mutter of Concordia, Monroe Twp., NJ, three children, Jeffrey W. Mutter and his wife Marilyn of Severna Park, MD, Kathryn A. Manning and her husband Joe of Colfax, CA, and Barbara L. Elsworth and her husband Wayne of Leveret, MA; one brother, William Mutter and his wife Dale of Parsippany, NJ; six grandchildren, Andrew Manning, Sara Meyers and her husband Drew, Brian Manning, Kendra Chenoweth and her husband Bryan, Gregory Mutter, and Maddie Manning; one great-granddaughter, Hadley Meyers, and many other extended family members.

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Board Moving Forward with Budget; Denies Best Plumbing's Requests

By Neal Rentz

The Somers Town Board is moving forward with Supervisor Rick Morrissey's proposed \$8.9 million budget that

meets the state-mandated property tax cap.

The proposed tax levy increase is 1.47 percent and the proposed tax rate

would rise by 1.35 percent. The proposed spending plan includes no layoffs or major program cuts or additions, Morrissey has said.

There were no major changes to his original budget plan since he introduced it, Morrissey said. "The bottom line does not change," he said.

The main issue the town board will decide before voting on the 2017 budget on Dec. 8 is whether to purchase an electric or hybrid vehicle for town use that would qualify for a \$5,000 New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSRDA) grant. During the public hearing on the proposed budget at the Dec. 1 town board meeting, Director of Finance Robert Kehoe said the board could choose to buy a hybrid vehicle that gets 50 miles per battery charge that would cost the town a net of about \$25,000 after the grant was factored in. Another option would be to purchase a hybrid vehicle, he said.

Michael Blum, chair of the Somers Energy Environment Committee, said for the town to qualify for a separate NYSEDA grant the board would need to purchase an electrical vehicle. A Nissan Leaf electrical SUV would cost \$26,000 with the \$5,000 grant included in the payment, Blum said. "It's all elec-

tric," he said.

The board did not decide on what type of vehicle to purchase last week. Morrissey said the town needed to do additional research prior to the Dec. 8 meeting.

Best Plumbing requests denied

Also at the Dec. 1 meeting, the town board voted 4-0 to deny a series of requests from Best Plumbing. Morrissey recused himself from the vote.

Best Plumbing owner Jonas Weiner was seeking approval from the town board to allow it to have its showroom open on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; conduct supply sales and pickups on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and to remove the truck activity restriction which bans truck traffic at the site from 7:40 to 8:15 a.m.

Best Plumbing is located on the northerly side of Goldens Bridge Road (Route 138), directly opposite John F. Kennedy High School.

During the Nov. 10 public hearing none of the several residents who participated spoke in favor of the Best Plumbing's requests, expressing concern about such issues as increased traffic and potential safety risks, particularly for John F. Kennedy High School students and parents who drive their children to the campus.



Cortlandt Teen Achieves Eagle Scout

Nicholas Robert Merando, 16, worked on the Jacobs Hill Trail in the Town of Cortlandt for his Eagle Scout project. He utilized the downed trees and help from his Troop 45 in Van Cortlandtville to improve an 1/8 of a mile walking trail. Nicholas cut back brush, raked leaves and sticks, he defined the path with small downed trees and Dependable Tree Service donated wood chips for him to place along the path. On July 20, he had his Board of Review. Nicholas had his Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, October 2. Nicholas is an 11th grader at Walter Panas High School and a student in the BOCES Culinary Program in Yorktown. He is a member of the Lakeland-Panas combined Rebels Cross Country Track team and the Track and Field Team. Pictured with Nicholas (left) are Mary Jean Merando (mom), Jonathan Merando (12-year-old brother) and Robert J. Merando (Dad).

WILLIAM RAVEIS

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL GIULIANO

Santa Claus (Supervisor Michael Grace) had many helpers at annual Holiday Lights Parade in Yorktown Saturday.

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Mahopac Resident Joins U.S. Attorney at Drug Forum

By David Propper

itting side by side during a forum in White Plains last week were Drug Crisis in Our Backyard co-founder and Mahopac resident Steve Salomone and United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Preet Bharara.

Salomone, the co-executive director of the organization, said while he never expected to one day sit next to a law enforcement official of Bharara's stature, he's glad the push to raise awareness and solutions to combat the drug scourge in the area has gotten the attention of the federal government.

"We've been working on a local level for a long time and to have the support of the U.S. attorney has been terrific," Salomone said. "It's been helpful."

Salomone and Bharara were joined by a drug addiction doctor and drug enforcement agent at Pace Law School in White Plains last Thursday to discuss how serious the drug problem is in the area and what can be done to stop it. Each speaker offered a different perspective, with Salomone providing the most emotional and personal one.

Drug Crisis in Our Backyard was founded by 2012 by the Salomones of Mahopac and the Christiansens of Somers after both families lost a son to a drug overdose.

Bharara said during his remarks that people across the country are dying from opioid abuse every day and each one of those deaths have devastated a family and a community "and it's only getting worse."

Since 1999, opioid deaths have nearly quadrupled, according to the Center for Disease Control and overdoses are now the top cause of accidental deaths in America, Bharara noted.

Bharara said his office has the drug problem at the top of its agenda and the office is doing everything it can to shut down every unlawful distribution of prescription pills and hard drugs. That includes prosecuting doctors, pharmacists and dealers, Bharara said.

The federal office is also beginning to coordinate with local police departments every time there is an overdose death in that

certain community, in hopes of discovering the dealer that led to that fatality. Every overdose death should be treated as a potential crime scene, he added.

"If you are a coldhearted dealer, not an addict, but a dealer who peddles poison to people after learning about overdoses from your drugs," Bharara said. "We're going to come after you, hard."

Salomone talked about his late son Justin and his struggle with drugs that led to his death in 2011. Salomone reminded people that even though Justin was a drug addict, he had many other positive qualities. Salo-

mone also said his family was a standard American family that did all the right things, but noted Justin was always a little different. While a loving kid, he had issues adapting to social situations from a young age and handling pressure situations.

When Salomone first discovered Justin at 16 was using marijuana, Salomone admitted he and his wife should have come down harder on him. From there, Justin continued to escalate his drug use with harder drugs, including cocaine, Percocet and OxyContin. Once he reached Marist College, it got worse and later onto his work career,

Salomone said Justin continued to suffer from addiction. Salomone said he tried to mentor him, even hiring him into the company he was working for because Salomone thought Justin needed to be on a "straight arrow path."

He realizes now that he and his wife didn't approach it the right way.

"I wish I realize now that my son was ill and that I could have helped him," Salomone said. "Most people will admit that there is a problem in their community. Most parents will not admit that this problem may be in their own home."

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**Businesses
of the Week**

Evolution Arco & Tumble Yorktown

By Neal Rentz

While there are other studios to learn dance and gymnastic skills and take part in fitness programs, the new Evolution Arco & Tumble in Yorktown has something the others do not have – a small space and personal attention.

The new roughly 1,000-square-foot business opened on Monday in the Underhill Plaza shopping center.

Arco is the acrobatic arts that includes a dance element and there are Arco competitions.

The facility may be new, but the industry is not new to owner Sue Solazzo of Yorktown, who also owns the Epic Dance Center in Mahopac. Solazzo said she decided to open Evolution Arco “based upon on the needs that I see with my dancers and competitive dance teams.”

The manager of the new business is Putnam Valley resident Stephanie Bowe, a certified gymnastics coach. Bowe’s daughter, Kylee, has been a dancer and gymnast.

“We put our heads together and realized that there was really a lack of a couple of things locally,” Solazzo said. Some of the programs Evolution Arco



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Evolution Arco & Tumble opened in Yorktown on Monday, Dec. 5. Shown above is Yorktown resident Sue Solazzo, the owner, right, and Putnam Valley resident Stephanie Bowe, the facility’s manager

offers that other similar facilities do not include small “Mommy and Me” classes for babies and their moms “in a nice contained space; nothing huge,” she said. “We wanted to find something a little more mom and pop, family-friendly, (and) small.”

The facility allows dancers to take classes on such skills as aerials and back handsprings without having to commit to a full gymnastics curriculum, Solazzo

said. “My dancers are very busy, they take a lot of classes, but they want to improve their acrobatic technique. So this would be a facility they could come to and take shorter sessions,” she explained.

Evolution Arco provides programs for all ages, from as young as babies 18 months old taking classes with their mothers or care giver to learn basic tumbling skills and group activities, Bowe said. Aside from classes, the

facility also offers open gym times for youths and there is yoga, fitness and other programs provided for adults.

Customers of the new business pay based on the number of classes or sessions they want, Solazzo said.

The size of the new facility allows for more individualized instruction, Solazzo stressed. “There’s a lot of interaction between the teacher and the students,” she said.

Solazzo said she wanted the public to become familiarized with her new business. “We are an option,” she said. “If you come to Evolution you’re going to see a lot of progress with your child.”

Solazzo said one of the reasons for the name of the new facility was in keeping with a major portion of its mission. “You would start as a crawler and go all the way to a teen or an adult who is basically perfecting these very, very intricate advanced moves. It’s an evolution.”

Evolution Arco & Tumble is located at 1877 Commerce St., in the Underhill Plaza shopping center in Yorktown. For more information, call 914-962-3220, send an e-mail to info@evolutionacro.com or visit evolutionarco.com.

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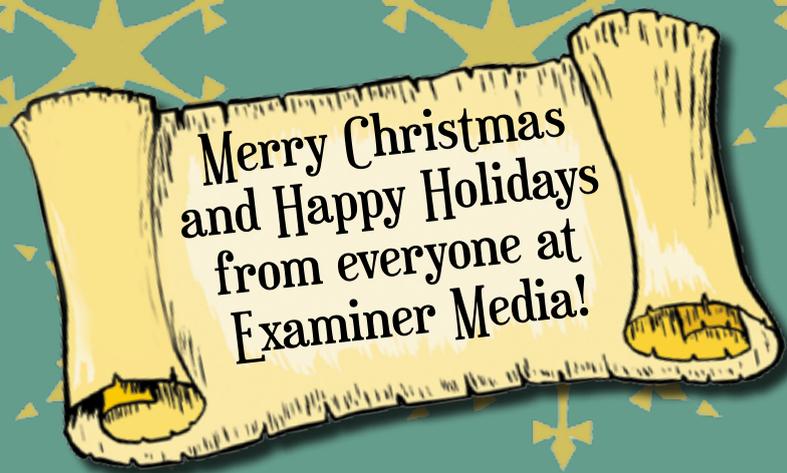


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PHOTOS BY RICK PEZZULLO

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Housing Study, 50 Years Old, Shows Changes in Preferences

The most interesting aspect of my recent move to a new residence was the discovery of an old footlocker in the attic that had been locked for 45 years and never opened. I had lost the key and had to ask a locksmith to open it.

Its contents, which I had forgotten over the years, were the magazine and newspaper clippings where I had achieved public relations placements in my early career. Most fascinating among those findings were clippings about a major housing study that I was assigned to promote. (Who knew that I was involved in real estate all those years before I became a realtor?)

The study was conducted by the design firm founded by that greatest of all industrial designers, Raymond Loewy. Its objective was to determine the preferences of men and women in choosing housing and the differences between the sexes in what they sought in a home. It was sponsored by a consortium of housing material manufacturers.

The study seems to have had enough impact to warrant significant attention by both The New York Times and Time magazine. In combing through the information provided, I found that much has changed in the last half-century, but

some things remained constant.

One of the most comprehensive studies of its type at the time, the national survey involved 2,500 respondents in their homes. For new home prospects, the interviews were conducted before, during and after visits to different types of properties and model homes.



By Bill Primavera

It was the first major study to analyze the difference between men and women in the way they regard homes and housing. It found model homes failed to fulfill the expectations and desires of would-be purchasers, but for different reasons. Women registered greater general disappointment than men, worried that the home would fail to meet their standards in raising children.

Remember, this was 50 years ago, before we had open floor plans. In those days, kitchens were walled off almost as though they were undesirable places. In the ensuing years, kitchens have opened to dining rooms, family rooms and/or playrooms where mothers and children can interact easily.

Men, on the other hand, saw the new dwelling as failing to serve the major masculine needs, identified at that time

as ways to express individuality, protection of personal privacy and the display of possessions and the family. Discontent among women was directed at particular rooms and functions – the kitchen, entrance and recreation room – while men reacted to specific features and were more permissive of many general faults.

The findings showed the point of greatest husband-wife agreement occurred at the earliest stages of married life and family formation, while agreement waned significantly as the family matured.

Divergent as their motivations may have been when considering such factors as children, individuality, use of time, investment, possessions and socializing, it was concluded that to buy housing, husbands and wives must come to reasonable agreement about what they want. This agreement, it was found, gave greatest weight to children, privacy and convenience. The concern for children, their health, security, social and educational opportunities, came first with both genders until the children had grown and left home.

Probably the biggest change since the study is the psychology of home buying. At that time, it was believed that women were more practical about housing, while males envisioned a dwelling that may have been less satisfactory than they imagined.

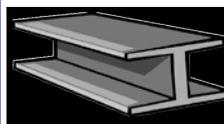
Another area that may have changed was the selection of favorite rooms. Fifty years ago, men were more favorably impressed by the foyer and kitchen, while women were not. At the time, men found that the entrance foyer would transfer a favorable impression as host and homeowner.

There was general agreement between the sexes, however, in the living room and master bedroom/bath combination.

At the time, women associated the kitchen with being more isolated and detached from family and guests, a sort of Siberia, while their preference for the master bedroom was a symbol of marriage security where they could retreat when they wanted to be alone. It was also the room where they saw themselves as “pampered and desirable.”

One of the not-so-startling conclusions of the study was that the purchase of a house was seen as a matriarchal move. When the husband decided to buy a house, the study noted, it was probably for the sake of his wife and children.

Probably the biggest change has been favorite rooms. Surely, the kitchen many times “sells” today’s home, particularly for women. As for men, they have fared pretty well in having their own space for individuality when you consider that the term “man cave” wasn’t in the discussion a half-century ago.



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Happenings

The Northern Westchester Examiner We're happy to help spread the word about your community event. Please submit your information at least three weeks prior to your event and include the words "Happenings Calendar Submission" in your email subject line. Entries should be sent to Neal Rentz at nrentz@theexaminernews.com.com.

Tuesday, Dec. 6

Social Action Meeting: Do you want to help the hungry and those in need in our area? Do you have ideas for social action projects? Come to the Social Action committee meeting. You can help whether you join the committee or not. The program is scheduled for 7 p.m. Meet in the library at First Hebrew, 1821 Main St., Peekskill, just west of the Beach Shopping Center. For information call 914-739-0500, e-mail fhc@firsthebrew.org or visit www.firsthebrew.org.

Elder Law: As a free public service, on Dec. 6, elder law attorneys Salvatore M. Di Costanzo and Jennifer L. Bienstock of Plan Today for Tomorrow (PTFT), a law firm that focuses on elder law and special needs planning, will host an informative gathering of its own in its Northern Westchester office. Topics will include estate planning, wills, and Medicaid planning. Space for the Fireside Chat is limited to 15 attendees, with reservations accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, those interested can call 914-245-2440 or e-mail mharrison@mfd-law.com.

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

Wednesday, Dec. 7

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.

Video Game Design: Video Game Design with Unity will be held from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the Somers Library. Video games are fun to play, but even more fun to make. Create a 3D video game with Unity, a powerful game engine. Utilize your imagination to create something that has never been done before. This program is designed for teens/tweens in grades six and up. Please sign up by calling 914-232-5717 or visiting www.somerslibrary.org.

Bingo Wednesdays: Come to First Hebrew for \$2,000 in total guaranteed

bingo prizes, plus an average of \$1,000 awarded in specialty games. Doors open 5 p.m. and games begin 7:15 p.m. every Wednesday (except holidays – check First Hebrew's website calendar). First Hebrew is just west of the Beach Shopping Center at 1821 Main St., Peekskill. Info: 914-739-0500 or www.firsthebrew.org.

Torah Studies: Chabad of Yorktown, 2629 Old Yorktown Rd., is proud to announce Season one (11 classes) of the Torah studies course. The program brings you a series of stimulating text and discussion based classes that take place on a weekly basis. Our lessons will engage you in a multidimensional way by challenging you intellectually, spiritually and emotionally. They explore contemporary issues through a Torah perspective as well as tackling timeless questions in the Jewish tradition. The classes are open to all, whatever your level of learning may be. The fee for the full season is \$36, which includes textbook. Each class is independent. For more information, to view the topics of the classes, or to register call 914-962-1111

Thursday, Dec. 8

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 (almost) 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.

Death Cafe: Everything you wanted to know about death and dying is up for discussion over coffee, tea and dessert at this informal small group meeting .at 7:30 p.m. at First Hebrew, 1821 Main St., Peekskill. There is no religious slant or expected outcome. Participants can discuss practical, philosophical or spiritual aspects. Space is limited and RSVP is required. Regardless of your religion or lack of it, please rsvp to rabbi@firsthebrew.org or call 914-739-0500. Visit www.deathcafe.com and/or www.firsthebrew.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 rabbi@optonline.net

Friday, Dec. 9

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.

Holidays On The Hill: County Executive Robert P. Astorino invites children of all ages to visit Westchester's only public holiday model train display during Holidays on the Hill, December weekends through Dec. 18 at Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial in Somers. For the first time, the Lasdon main garden will be lit up with sparkling lights. Visitors can stroll through the garden as holiday music plays softly in the background. Visitors can also take tractor drawn wagon rides (weather permitting) that will lead to a magical festive light display in the woods. Santa will make appearances throughout the event to hear the wishes from children, young and old. The main house, decorated for the season, will showcase the huge model train display, including the Polar Express and other trains chugging on a tiny Metro -North line from New York City to Katonah. Along the way, the trains pass famous landmarks, a Christmas town, skyscrapers and winter landscapes, featuring miniatures of Santa, Rudolf, the Grinch, Peanuts and more. The library will present holiday movies and storytelling at various times. The dining room will be transformed into Santa's home complete with a gingerbread house, Christmas tree and Santa himself, as well as Mrs. Claus (when she's not baking cookies or wrapping gifts). The Garden Shop will be open for

business, selling refreshments, poinsettias, Christmas trees, wreaths and gifts, featuring the work of local artists. Proceeds from the Christmas tree sales will go to homeless veterans. Holiday light show and wagon rides begin at 4 p.m. on each event day. Daytime admission (entry between noon and 3 p.m.) is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. After 3 p.m. admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children. Wagon rides are \$5 per person. All children under 2 are admitted free. Admission proceeds benefit the Lasdon glass house conservatory, now under construction. Go to the Friends of Lasdon Web site at www.lasdonpark.org for Santa and storytelling hours. Holidays on the Hill is presented by Friends of Lasdon Park and Arboretum and co-sponsored by Prospero Nursery and Westfair Electric. Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial is a Westchester County Park that is located on Route 35 in Somers. Go to parks.westchestergov.com call 914-864-7268 for more information.

Christmas Concert: Please join us at 7 p.m. for our annual concert of joyful Christmas music at the Church of the Assumption in Peekskill. Performers include internationally acclaimed soprano Mary Mancini, world renowned accordion virtuoso Mario Tacca and The Victor Lioni String Quartet. They'll be performing your favorite Christmas hymns and carols, as well as stunning pieces from Bach, Vivaldi, Handel and Mozart. Tickets are \$17 for Adults; \$15 for Seniors; \$7 for children under 17. Light refreshments will be served after the concert in the Fr. Wilson Hall beneath the church. For more information contact the Assumption Rectory at 914-737-2071 or Gioia Productions at 914-737-8872.

Temple Beth Am Shabbat: Temple Beth Am will "open its doors to all who enter" for Shabbat on Fridays at 8 p.m. Our modern Sabbath service has a spiritually engaging and warm feeling while following traditional modes. All are welcome to 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 rabbiw@optonline.net Tot Shabbat will precede the regular service at 5:30 p.m. tonight. Filled with movement, music, and ruach (spirit), Rabbi Robbie and Rebbetzin Ellen help bring in the Shabbat with that special "Shabbat Spirit" followed by a Shabbat dinner. The only cost of the dinner is a Shabbat Shalom smile. To RSVP or for more information, please email Rebbetzin Ellen at RebbetzinEllen@gmail.com.

Happenings

Jewish Center Services: At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. Friday night Sabbath services at 8 p.m. and Sabbath services on Saturdays will be held at 9:15 a.m. on most Saturdays, after the services Rabbi Sternstein conducts a learning session based on the Torah portion of the week. Light refreshments are served and everyone is invited to join us as we share in the warmth, knowledge and friendship within our congregation. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Saturday, Dec. 10

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

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

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

Fund Raisers: Fund raising events presented by the Peekskill Education Foundations to benefit educational programs in the Peekskill School District have been scheduled for this weekend at the Peekskill Clay Studios @ The Hat Factory, 1000 N. Division St. Pottery sales will be held on Dec. 10 and 11 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A wine tasting will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 11. Tickets for the tasting purchased no later than Dec. 10 is \$20 and can be purchased on line at

www.peakskilleducationfoundation.org. Tickets at the door are \$25.

Parade Of Champions: The Town of Somers is sponsoring a parade to honor Somers High School championship teams from 204 through this year at 2 p.m. The parade will be staged at the Somers Police Station and will march down Route 139 to the Somers High School athletic field where a ceremony will take place. Info: 914-277-3637.

Field Library Exhibit: The Field Gallery, which is located in the Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill, is proud

to bring back celebrated New York Daily News photographer and Peekskill resident Charles Ruppman. In this new exhibit - carefully curated from over 3,000 archival photos, many seen for the first time. Ruppman captures the citizens of New York in a series of portraits unmatched in their striking complexity, clarity and mystery. Many of the photos are shown in their original, unedited formats with the News' editors' grease-pencil mark-ups; some are photos-of-photos, the original negatives having been stolen or lost from the archives. Join us for the opening reception on Dec. 10 from 2 to-5 p.m. The exhibit will be held through 22. Info: 914-737-1212

or peekskill.org.

Yoga Program: Support Connection announces a free program Yoga: A Path toward Wellness will be held on Dec. 10, 17 and 31 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Club Fit in Jefferson Valley. The program is open to people living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Shop and Play: The Grange for Life, Relay for Life team will be hosting a Shop and Play. This exciting and fun evening begins at 6:30p.m., shop our many vendors and then play bingo,

Continued on page 26



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Paramount Hudson Valley Arts to Present 'This Wonderful Life'

A One-Man Play of the holiday favorite movie *It's a Wonderful Life* will be presented by Paramount Hudson Valley Arts on December 9 at 8 p.m. featuring Jeremy Kendall.

Audiences will be transported to Bedford Falls and travel along George Bailey's iconic journey of discovery. Actor Jeremy Kendall inhabits every role in this hilariously touching stage adaptation of the iconic holiday film *It's a Wonderful Life*. George Bailey, Clarence, Mr. Potter, and the gang come to life as Kendall creates a heartwarming story about the effect one-hardworking man's life have on the people around him.

This Wonderful Life is a centerpiece in the Paramount's holiday family programming. The play captures simple truths and the importance of family and friends and how one man can make a difference.

The play was written by award winning journalist and playwright Steve Murray who is a critic-in-residence for Arts Matter.

Tickets range from \$20 to \$30 with special discounts for seniors, children and veterans.

Paramount Hudson Valley Arts is a non-profit in residence at the historic Paramount Theater. For tickets & more information visit paramounthudsonvalley.com or call the box-office at 914-739-0039. Paramount Hudson Valley is located at 1008 Brown Street in Peekskill.

About the film

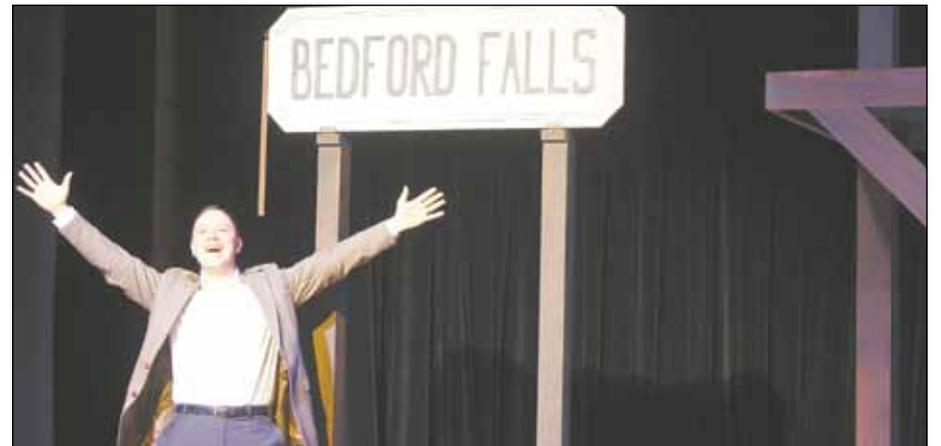
It's a Wonderful Life is a 1946 American Christmas fantasy drama film produced and directed by Frank Capra, based on the short story "The Greatest Gift", which Philip Van Doren Stern wrote in 1939 and published privately in 1945. The film is now among the most popular in American cinema and because of numerous television showings in the 1980s has become traditional viewing during the Christmas season.

It's a Wonderful Life is one of the most acclaimed films ever made, praised particularly for its writing. It was nominated for five Academy Awards including Best Picture and has been recognized by the American Film Institute as one of the 100 best American films ever made, placing number 11 on its initial 1998 greatest movie list, and number one on AFI's list of the most inspirational American films of all time. Capra revealed that the film was his personal favorite among those he directed, adding that he screened it for his family every Christmas season.

About the Playwright

Steve Murray is an award-winning arts journalist and playwright, and his plays, including *Hungry to Bed*, *Rescue & Recovery*, *Mileage* and *This Passion Thing*, have been produced internationally. *This Wonderful Life*, his take on the

Frank Capra film, has been one of the most frequently produced scripts in the country since its premiere at Portland Center Stage in 2005. He received a 2010 Tanne Foundation Arts Award. Murray is critic-in-residence for Art Matters, an arts journalism project organized by the Macon Arts Alliance and Mercer University's Center for Collaborative Journalism.



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Crossword

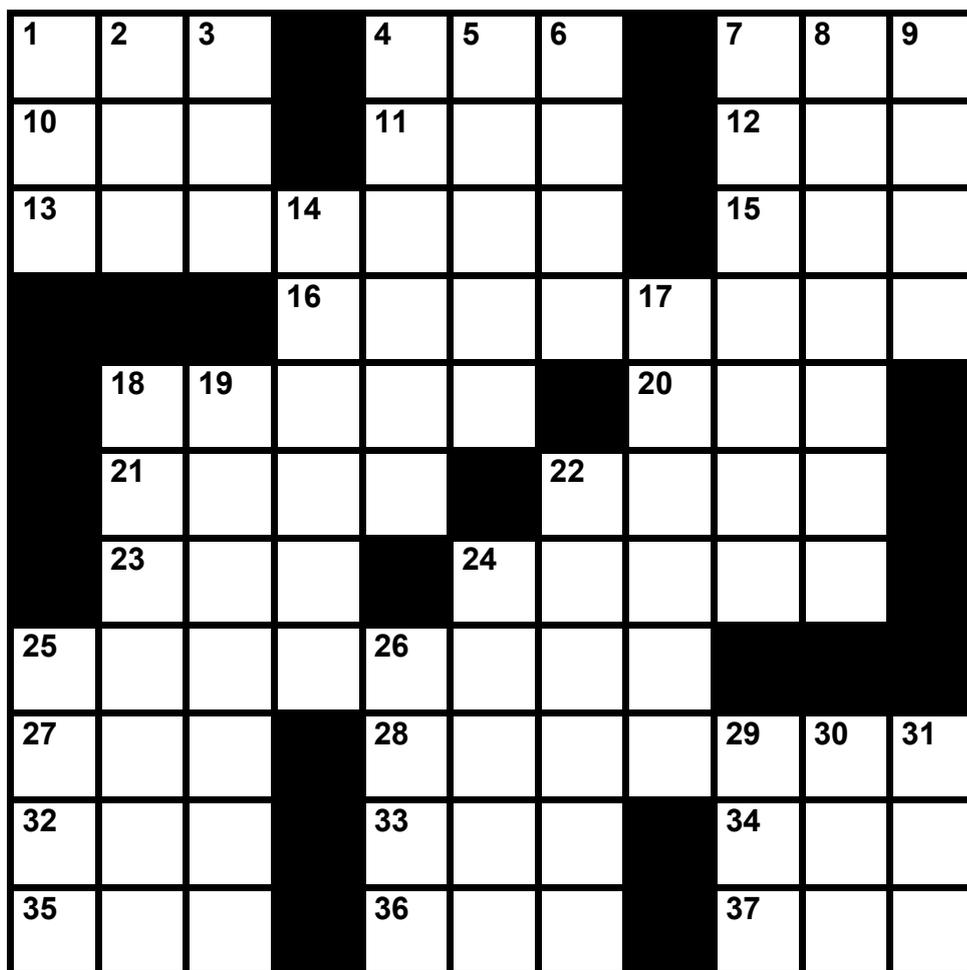
ACROSS

1. Part of ATV
4. Group overseeing fed. property
7. Agt. Mulder's employer
10. The Princess and the ____
11. Paul of politics
12. Footed vase
13. Pudding ingredient
15. "The show must go on" singer, first name
16. Entertainer Ed would buy insurance at this Mahopac agency
18. Figurative use of a word
20. Catch some Zs (with "off")
21. Wrigglers
22. Rabbit tail
23. Source of some '60s trips
24. Hiding place
25. Indy and Daytona
27. Eggs, to a biologist
28. So-called
32. Short for a lot of money
33. Romanian coin
34. Wrath
35. Start of something big
36. Fat letters

37. Catch in the act

DOWN

1. To the point
2. "Back to the Future" actress ____ Thompson
3. Race unit
4. Categorizes
5. Architectural column base
6. Concerned about every last detail
7. Tawny
8. Wide range
9. Cognizant
14. Beloved of Tristan
17. Should it happen that
18. Middle East city
19. Calibrate again
22. Writing implement
24. Capital between Eugene and Portland
25. Mahopac barber shop with an Italian flair
26. Corduroy feature
29. Beefeater
30. Gothic, for one
31. Cotillion girl



See solution on page 24

Descriptive Terms Used in Describing a Sensory Wine Experience

"This is a hedonistic wine that is full-bodied, with aromas of forest floor, black fruit and a hint of vanilla. It's assertive, but a bit flabby. Chocolate, and a touch of barnyard, accent the supple tannins, which contribute to a long finish."

Is this a precise and concise description of a particular wine or a pretentious, overwrought exaggeration ascribed to wine snobs? I believe it is a bit of both: an attempt to convey the unique characteristics of a particular wine by employing vibrant adjectival terms. Many of you are exposed to these "descriptive" terms when considering the purchase of a bottle of wine.

Whether in a critic's written review, from the mouth of a sommelier at a restaurant, or printed on a shelf-talker at your local wine shop, the terms used by these cognoscenti typically run the gamut of terms not otherwise associated with agricultural products. However, wine has a tendency to bring out the best, and sometimes the most creative, subjective descriptive terms one can imagine.

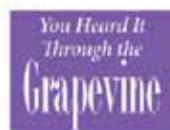
This week we're going to explore the world of wine-tasting terms frequently encountered by consumers. Whether

viewed as elaborative or bombastic, expressive or trite, they are now firmly embedded in the wine lexicon.

Allow me to expound. Wine is a sensory expression of smell and taste; each of us has varying impressions as we experience it. My interpretation of the ten thousand senses of smell and five senses of taste that are built into my DNA are not the same as yours.



By Nick Antonaccio



My pungent, earthy perception of a wine from the southern Rhone may be an off-putting barnyard aroma to you. Nonetheless, wine terms serve a valid purpose: they differentiate one grape from the next, one region from the next, one regional winemaker from the next.

Let's explore a few of the terms that seem to pervade the wine world. For ease of context, I've arbitrarily aggregated them into three broad descriptive categories: 1) Found in Mother Nature; 2) Human Traits; 3) Human Physiology.

1) Found in Mother Nature: Wine is a fruit, so you would expect grapes to have a varied fruit aroma and flavor profile. Adjectives for whites run the gamut, from peach and pear to apple and lemon; for reds, chocolate (cocoa), black berries,

cherries and blueberries seem to proliferate. But there are a few terms that push the envelope. Saddle leather, tobacco, wet dog, tar, #2 pencil and barnyard are aromas that exist in nature, but do I really want them in my wine? Yet, to my nose they are quite evident in some wines.

More abstract terms like tannic (a dry mouth feel) and acidic (pucker effect) are based on the organic chemistry of wines, but there are several seemingly contradictory adverbs that modify these adjectives. Can wine have silky tannins or balanced acid?

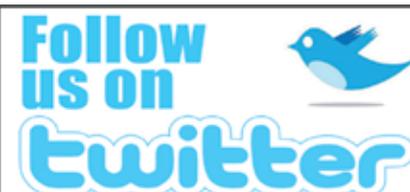
2) Human Traits: Certain wine qualities have no context in natural wine terms, so abstract terms are employed. The wine lexicon has embraced human traits to explain wine's finer attributes. Examples: a) approachable: someone who is accessible. In wine, one that is ready to be drunk now; b) hedonistic: a pleasure of the senses. In wine, one that is meant to be enjoyed without pretext – not to be analyzed or deconstructed; c) assertive: bold, aggressively self-assured. In wine, one that is in-your-face with bold flavors and/or tannins.

3) Human Physiology: Here I may be treading on slippery grape skins. Certain terms historically used to describe our physical characteristics have found

their way into the wine descriptor lexicon. Some are complimentary, others pejorative: full-bodied, round, great nose, supple, flabby, leggy. I'll leave it to your imagination to draw these comparisons between humans and wines.

As I tell anyone who asks for advice on selecting wines: "Experiment. When you find one that intrigues you, that tantalizes your senses, asserts its suppleness without being too flabby. . . ." Oops, I slipped. Rather: "Do you like the aroma and taste of a particular wine? After all, it's a beverage to be enjoyed, not analyzed."

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



1	A	2	L	3	L	4	G	5	S	6	A	7	F	8	B	9	I
10	P	E	A	11	R	O	N	12	U	R	N						
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Solution from last week's puzzle

1	I	2	S	3	M	4	A	5	U	6	G	7	I	8	E	9	S
10	K	E	A	11	S	P	I	N	E	T							
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LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

7th Ave., Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Real Estate Rental and Management.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of VAULTED GOLD SERVICES LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/26/2016. Location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: **VAULTED GOLD SERVICES LLC, PO BOX 8542, PELHAM, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PETER SONNENBERG , LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 08/08/16. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **Peter Sonnenberg 1133 Pleasantville Road Briarcliff Manor NY 10510. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

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

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: SKYHOOK PRODUCTIONS LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/01/2016. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: **The LLC, 215 Loring Avenue, Pelham, New York 10803, principal business location of the LLC. Purpose: any lawful business activity.**

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

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MOST AND CO PRODUCTIONS LLC. Arts of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/17/16. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to principal business address: **Michael Wong, 2 Pell Place, Pelham, New York 10803. Purpose: any lawful purpose.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF T.C. INVESTIGATIONS, LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY on October 17, 2016. Office location: Westches-

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continued from previous page

ter County, New York. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail a copy of any process accepted on behalf of the LLC served upon him or her to: **103 Skyview Lane, New Rochelle, N.Y. 10804. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

UNDERSTORY BREWING LLC filed Arts. of Org. with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on November 22, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 203 of the NY LLC Law. Office Location: Westchester County. Principal Business Location: Understory Brewing LLC, 13 Rick Lane, Cortlandt Manor, NY 10567. Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served and the SSNY shall forward process to **Understory Brewing LLC, c/o Corporate Filings of New York, 90 State**

Street, Suite 700, Office 40, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful business purpose for which LLCs may be organized under the law.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PEEK-SKILL HOLDINGS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on July 26, 2016. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **Brendon Fitzgerald, 741 Shenandoah Ave., Peekskill, NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful acts.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LEONE ONE LLC. Art. of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/30/16. Office location : Westchester County. SSNY is desig-

nated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to : **9 Cedar St. Tuckahoe, NY 10707. Purpose: any lawful activity.**

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Monday, Dec. 12

Musical Munchkins: The Yorktown Musical Munchkins meet on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. at the Yorktown Stage Theater in room 12. The program is for older babies up to the 1's. Free trial classes are offered. Info: 914-771-7000 or www.musicalmunchkins.com.

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

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

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Active Adults: Active adults (ages 55+): Empty-nester? Live alone? Your House too big for you? Looking for a place to live and share expenses with a like-minded person your age? Consider sharing a house. Come from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the John C Hart Memorial Library, 1130 East Main St., Shrub Oak. Learn how by attending our seminar on Cohousing for Active Adults. Discussion topics: "The why's and how's of co-

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Happenings

Continued from page 21

which begins at 7:15 p.m. There will be great prizes and lots of fun. All proceeds go to Relay for Life Yorktown. Babysitting is available on-site, for a small fee. There is plenty of parking. The event will be held at the Yorktown Grange, 99 Moseman Rd. Yorktown Heights.

Sunday, Dec. 11

Bake Sale: The Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool Bake Sale will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Stop by our table and let us help you with your holiday baking. First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown is located at 2880 Crompond Rd. Info: www.fpcyorktown.org.

Free Menorah Workshop: A free Menorah workshop will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at The Home Depot at the Cortlandt Town Center. Make your own Menorah, receive your own apron, and enjoy Chanukah treats. To RSVP, which is required, visit www.ChabadYorktown.com, or call 914-962-1111 The program is sponsored by The Home depot.

Choral Christmas Concert: Camera-ta d'Amici is proud to present their choral Christmas Concert "Angels We Have Heard" at 4 p.m. at the South Salem Presbyterian Church, 111 Spring St., South

Salem. Conducted by Kristin Sponheim, the program includes repertoire ranging from early to present day music that embodies a joyful and reflective celebration of Christmas. The concert will include traditional carols with the audience invited to sing along. Tickets are available via check payable to Camerata d'Amici, P.O. Box 74, Ridgefield, CT 06877. Tickets are the door are \$25 for adults (or \$20 in advance) and \$10 for children 12 and under. Follow Camerata on Twitter @ [camerata_damici](https://twitter.com/camerata_damici) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CamerataDAmici>.)

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

International Folk Dancing: International folk dancing for all ages and abilities is being held today and on Dec. 18 at New Era Creative Space, 1016 Brown St., Peekskill. No previous experience or partner is needed. All ages welcome at all times. Line, circle, and couple folk dances from around the world will be taught and reviewed. The fee is \$5. Info:

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Sports
Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports

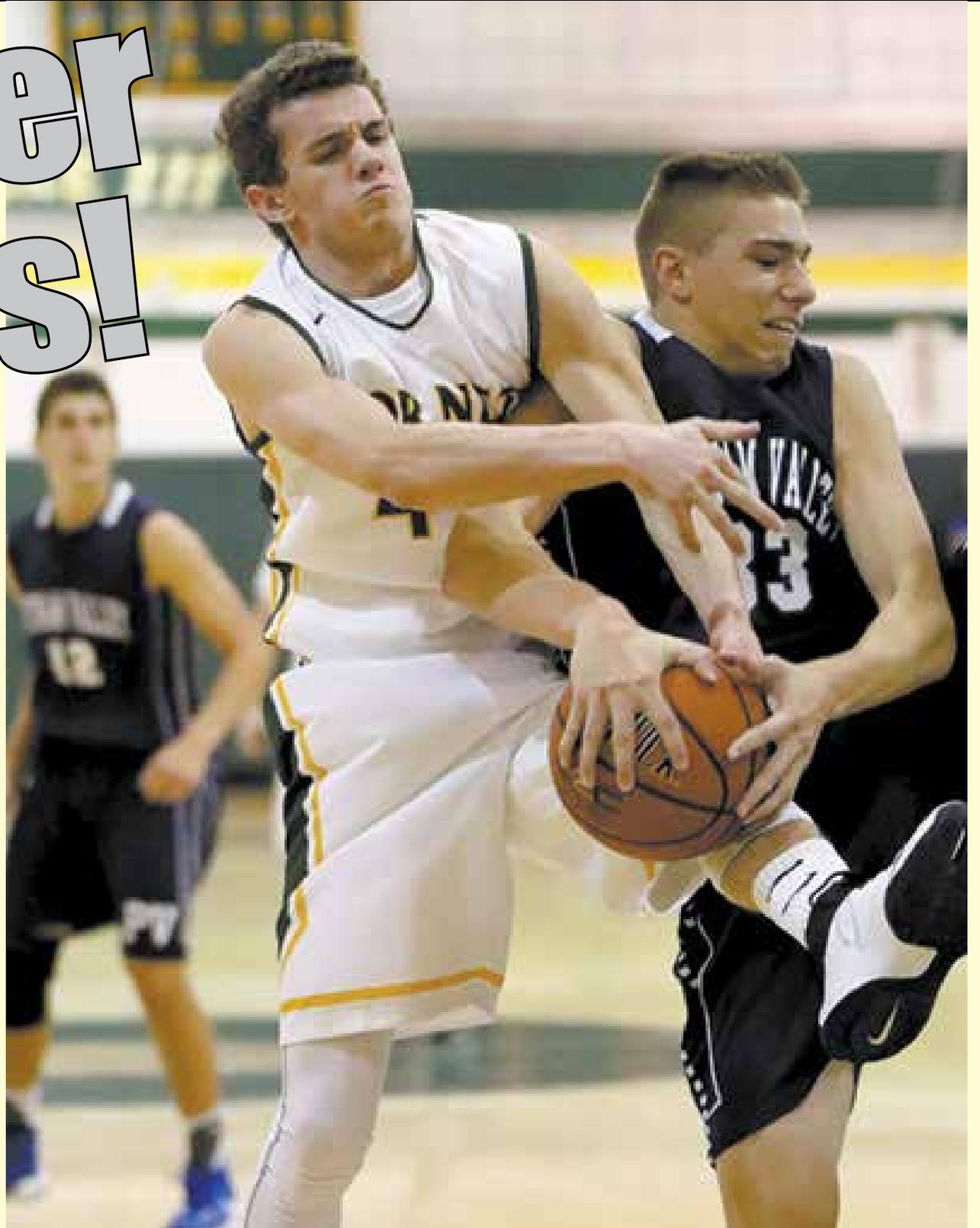
December 6 - December 12, 2016

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

SPORTS SECTION

Border Wars!

Hoops
 Supremacy
 at Stake
 2016-17
 Boys' Hoops
 Preview
 Edition



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO

Lakeland's Griffin Shiland (L) and Putnam Valley's TJ Brescia were just two of the players among the many local teams within the Northern Westchester and Putnam County region to tip off the 2016-17 Section 1 basketball season this past weekend. Lakeland defeated PV, 40-35, in the opening round and settled for second place in its annual Carolyn Conroy Memorial Tournament Saturday while PV came in fourth, but the season will undoubtedly heat up during the holidays at gym near you as a bunch of the locals compete against one another... see Boys' Hoops Notebook

Sports

Hoops Notebook

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

With an incredible 2016 fall season behind us, local hoop fanatics are hoping for similar fortune on the boys' basketball circuits this winter, but Section 1 championships have been tough to come by in Class AA, A and B for boys' teams in this neck of the woods. We explore some opportunities in the space below, featuring some of the prime-time players and programs in the Northern Westchester/Putnam Examiner region, who hope to be alive and well in the final days of February and the first week of March when the Mecca -- THE Westchester County Center -- plays host to the best of the best.

Know this: Getting to the big barn in White Plains won't be easy this winter, and, perhaps, could be tougher than years gone by.

CLASS AA

The four Class AA teams in these parts will try to compete in one of the toughest conferences in the state where Fox Lane, NOT MOUNT VERNON, returns as champions for just the third time since 2000. Make no mistake, though, the mighty Knights return with a massive chip on their shoulders, intent to reclaim their rightful spot atop the AA standings.

LEAGUE I-D

YORKTOWN (11-10) was hoping the third time would be a charm against Fox Lane, but the Huskers were eliminated by the Foxes. The Huskers will go as Tanner Dyslin (6'3", F) goes. The gifted senior enters his third year on the varsity as the team's No.1 scoring option after averaging over 17 points, nine rebounds and two blocks per game last year before the injury bug struck.

Husker Marc Spinelli, a 6-2 Jr. G, is



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG/BOB CASTNER PHOTOS

Yorktown F Tanner Dyslin is among the top players in the NWE-Putnam region this season.

a player to watch; Sol Barer, 6-2 Sr. G and Matt Severino, 6-0, Sr. G will be key fixtures while top newcomers Kyle Cohen, 6-5, Sr. F; Tom Weaver, 5-11, soph G; Joe Sgobbo, 6-5 soph F; Madison Cora, 6-2, Jr. F; Cam Cuparo, 6-4 Sr. F and James Lundberg, 6-4 Jr. G/F push for time and develop roles.

"Tanner is a versatile player," Downes said. "He has a strong post game and is also an excellent perimeter player. We will rely on Tanner to carry the load most nights. Junior Marc Spinelli is an explosive player primed for a great season. Seniors Sol Barer and Matt Severino have excellent experience and will play an integral role for Yorktown this season. Our newcomers will all make major contributions. We will once again rely on solid defense and rebounding as we enter the season."

Downes suspects defending sectional champion Fox Lane will be at the forefront of the league title chase, but fully expects to be a legit contender with a force like Dyslin out in front of the Huskers (2-0), who won the Mahopac Tournament Saturday and looked good in doing so as Coach Downes made his return to Indian Country.

OSSINING (17-5) got slammed in the off-season when All-Section G Alan Griffin bolted to Stepinac, which had been rumored shortly upon the conclusion of the season. When coupled with significant graduation losses, the Pride's chances of producing another 17-win season are slim. After falling to Saunders in the quarterfinals last season, Pride Coach Mike Casey was expecting to take the next step, which got a lot tougher without Griffin. In the meantime, the Pride will look to tackle League I-D rivals Yorktown, Fox Lane, Greeley and Port Chester.

Ossining lost several key players (Obi Toppin, Stokeley, Griffin) from last year's 17-5 team that gave the Pride its best outing in more than a decade, but with a group that put in the work in the offseason Coach Casey thinks

this unit will still be able to compete with everyone on the schedule.

The starting five (when healthy) projects as Robert Valdez (PG), Adrian Griffin (SG), Kahseem Trotter (SG), Jay Criss (G/SF) and Richard Bautista. The sixth man to start the season is Jacob Toppin, Latrell Goss or Patrick Mallory depending on the situation.

"We are battling the injury bug to start the season so everyone has to be ready to go," Casey said. "Our goal for the season is to compete every night. This should be a very competitive league, with the defending Section 1 class AA champs along with Yorktown, Horace Greeley and Port Chester who are

always tough. Our goal every year is to win the league and to get to the County Center. We won our league last year and we were one point away from the County Center (in a quarterfinal loss to Saunders). I think this group will be motivated to do both."

LEAGUE I-A

CARMEL (11-11) gave Ossining fits in the opening round of the tournament, but the Rams came up short down the stretch and lose a ton of seniors to graduation. Coach John Venditto enters Year 4 with a new cast of characters led by G Brenden Cody, who enters his third season on the varsity as a strong go-to option. Seniors Brian Harlin, G; Andrew Dileo, F; Guy Cipriano, F; Kyle Shilling, G; and Matt Dougherty, G/F, are returning veterans, who expect to contend with Mahopac, Arlington, Jay EF and RCK for the League I-A title.

Harlin had the look of a go-to player in the Mahopac Tournament to open the season where the Rams placed fourth behind titlists Yorktown, Mahopac and Brewster.

"We do not return any starters from last year's team, which will make the early season challenging as the boys work to find their roles," Venditto said. "They have been practicing hard and are learning to play with one another. This is an unselfish group of players, who are excited about the season."

MAHOPAC (11-10) failed to produce an out-bracket victory and did not make the field of 16 tournament teams for the second-straight year. After four-straight trips to the County Center and one championship appearance from 2011-2014 under former Coach Kevin Downes, now at Yorktown, the Indians are struggling to find the swag that brought them there. Swag comes with confidence and the Indians haven't won as much since Downes bolted and the overall level of

"basketball" talent dipped, so confidence isn't something that comes easy to a team that has gone 17-23 the last two years.

Returning starter Andrew Ryan (5'11" Sr. G), plus Augie Djerdjaj (6'1" Jr. G), Kenny Perna (5'10" Jr. G), Shane Loos (6'2" Jr. G), Robert Garcia (6' Jr. G) and Ryan Dugan (6'4" Jr. F) will be the first six up. The rest of team, per second-year Coach Matt Simone, are all potential impact bench players.

"We have a really young but very deep team," the coach said. "All players on this roster have the potential and expectations to be an impact player off the bench. It comes down to a matter of who will step up and take on that role on a young and inexperienced team that must play fast, tough and gritty basketball in order to be successful. The effort and toughness we show on the defensive end, paired with how fast we can gel and become a true team, will be significant factors for us this season. We will lean a lot on our only returning starter in Andrew Ryan."

Ryan, who is primed to have a break out season, is the only returning starter, having averaged 10 PPG, 5 APG, 4 RPGs and 3 steals.

"Our league is always extremely tough and competitive, and any team can win on any given night," Simone said of Arlington, Ketcham, Carmel and East Fishkill. "The team with the most effort and heart will usually win. Although young, I have high hopes and expectations for this group because the potential is there. We just need to make sure we are playing the "Mahopac brand" of basketball each and every game."

That brand used to be good enough for 15-18 wins and a run at the gold ball, but the good ol' days are hard to get back to.

CLASS A

The 2015-16 season was not a banner campaign for the local Class A clubs,

continued on next page



Carmel's Brian Harlin should provide some pop to Rams' offense.



Mahopac senior G Andrew Ryan is expected to lead Indians this season.

continued from previous page

who failed to advance beyond the first round of the Section 1 tournament. Doing so this season will be equally difficult. Most pundits and coaches are predicting Byram Hills to repeat as champions, but the County Center remains the goal and a team like Somers just might have the depth and athleticism to do so while Peekskill aims to prove the last several years were a correctable aberration.

LEAGUE II-E

HEN HUD (13-8) was shocked in the opening round of the Class A tournament, falling to Harrison, 62-43. After its best regular season in decades, the 8th-seeded Sailors were looking to make the jump to the Final 4 in Coach Jordan Hirsch's second year, but it all came crashing down at home against the No.9 Huskies.

They'll return a bunch of players with a chip on their shoulders, including All-League G Dylan Fraser, Gregg Fuchek



Hen Hud G Dylan Fraser returns with an All-League skill set.

and Thomas Maloney, who all saw significant minutes last year. Seniors Jack Attinelly, Ray Morris, Dan Maloney, and juniors, Kyle James and Austin Fraser have all been important pieces of the program and return for their second season on varsity. New to the varsity squad are athletic juniors Alan Jackson and Jack Kelly, plus sophomore Mekhi Gray, and senior football standout Marquan Anderson.

Simply put, the Sailors aren't hurting for athletes, but the question is; do they know the nuances of basketball and have the necessary hoops IQ to win at a high level.

"We have a nice mix of seniors and underclassmen that have built some great chemistry over years of playing together," Hirsch said. "Based on what I have seen in the very short time we have been together full time; I expect that this team will play with a fire and enthusiasm that will be

very fun to be a part of. We lost a great group of seniors, but return a lot of battle tested players that have worked extremely hard this off season."

PEEKSKILL (2-18) has fallen off a cliff in recent seasons, having done the unthinkable last year by failing to qualify for even an outbracket game. Third-year Coach Tim Turner has presided over an unpredictable dip in the level of talent at Peekskill, which has lost some players to private schools and failed to live up to the lofty expectations that come with a program that won five-straight sectional titles and three state crowns from 2005-2009 under former legendary Coach Lou Panzanaro, who won 10 sectional titles from 1993-2009 and five state titles between 1995-2007.

Through no fault of Turner's, Peekskill is not the Peekskill many of us grew up with, and the hope is that the Red Devils become relevant again this season after they really struggled last season. Wins and losses-wise, it was the Red Devils worst season in history. The fall-off from perennial powerhouse to failing to qualify for the playoffs has been vexing, but Peekskill's diverse culture does not lend itself to basketball like it once did. The city has changed and the number of "true basketball talents" has dipped significantly over the last five years, putting Turner in a tough spot.

Turner was a key assistant for several seasons to Coach P, so these recent struggles are harder on him than anyone else.

Turner will turn to CJ Redd, 6'4" junior swingman, to turn the corner. The three-year veteran Redd has upped his level of play by virtue of having been thrown to the wolves since freshman year. His perimeter game is solid and he attacks the rack well, but his supporting cast will need to step it up, including sparkling soph Shion Darby, a 5'11" G. There is some help in the form of two bigs, including monster transfers Joe Blakely, 6-4, Sr., F and Nadame Tucker, 6-4, So., G/F, who might just put Peekskill back on the map.

LEAGUE II-C

SOMERS (7-14) couldn't get past Pelham in the outbracket round last year; this after reaching the Class A semifinals in 2015. An athletic unit returns in 2016 in the hopes of returning to the County Center, including Gio Tradito (5'8" junior G), Lorenzo Bicknese (6' junior F), Nick Gargiulo (6'5" junior C), Chris DiCintio (5'10" junior F), Kevin Olifiers (5'11" junior G), Jack Gilroy (6'3" junior F), Justin Lancaster (6' junior G), Vinny DiFilippo (5'9" junior G), Matt Pires (5'11 senior G) and Marc Maestri (6'2" senior F).

Having played football through Thanksgiving Day in the NYS championship, many of the Tuskers will be working their way back into basketball form in Coach Chris DiCintio's fifth

season at Somers (16 overall). Make no mistake, though, it won't take the Tuskers long to show that they belong.

"We return 13 players from last year's squad, including four starters," the coach said. "We were loaded with young talent playing eight sophomores in the rotation last season. They came on strong in the second half of the season, winning six of their last 12 games. With seven players coming off a state football championship, we're looking to prove that these boys can play more than one sport. They are setting their sights on winning a league championship for the first time in 27 years. The schedule is tough up front, but by mid-season, these Tuskers should be primed for a solid playoff run."

Somers will get a good look at what it is made of when it hosts the Mike DePaoli Holiday Tournament Thursday 12/15 through Saturday 12/17: featuring a solid local field in Putnam Valley vs. Yorktown on 12/15 and Somers vs. Mahopac on 12/16 with the championship set for 12/17.

BREWSTER (12-10) lost to Lourdes, 56-47, in the opening round and was walloped by graduation. Longtime veteran Coach Tom Nelligan will rely on a host of newcomers to get it done this season. Brewster has added six new players to their roster this season after losing five starters to graduation, which has created an intense, competitive atmosphere for time in the rotation.

The team has worked very hard in the preseason and will look to push the ball on offense and use multiple defenses, according to third-year Bears Coach Tom Nelligan, who guided Kennedy to a handful of sectional titles in a previous prosperous tenure.

Connor Dignan and Sean Nevin have provided excellent leadership in the early going. Seniors Dignan (6-1) and Nevin (6-0) will lead a group of virtual rookies, in that they haven't seen much time on the varsity, including shifty sophomore Harrison Dignan, a 5'8" G with mega promise, and seniors F Angel Baez (6'1"), F Rob Pigat (6'2") and G Sean Kelly (5'11").

Newcomers include Chris Blaser, 5-8, Jr.; Ethan Farquharson, 6-3, Jr.; Dylan Gusler, 6-2, Jr.; Cameron Hart, 5-11, So.; Jack Mahoney, 6-1, Jr. and Kevin Stefanik, 6-0, Jr.

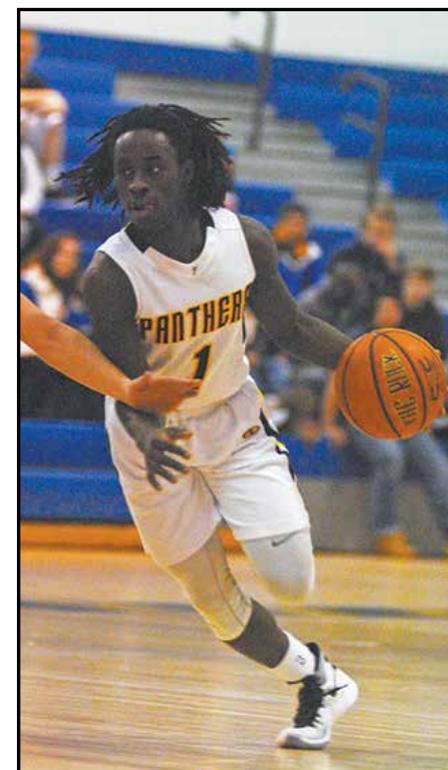
The league is very balanced and should give the Bears a crack at keeping games close and winning their share.

Connor Dignan and Nevin will need to kick it up a notch both on and off the court while providing leadership to up-and-coming youngsters like talented Harry Dignan, who is said to be a marksman in the making.

WALTER PANAS (10-12) lost to Byram Hills, 59-34, in the opening round. The projected starting five is fairly polished, though their challenge will be at the rim: PG Brandon Hodge, G Stephan Reyes,



Peekskill's Charles Redd is one of the top shooters in the region this season.



Veteran Panas G Brandon Hodge will bring it at both ends of the floor this season

G David Reynoso. G Joe Staino and F Brandon Ramos are a guard-driven unit that will find it tough to run and gun if they can't effectively rebound.

"We are going to be an undersized varsity team but hope to make up for it with our athleticism, quickness and three-point shooting," said Panther Coach Shawn Sullivan, just two years removed from winning Panas' one and only sectional title

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Sports

Hoops Notebook

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in 2014. "The goal on offense will be to move the ball and find our shooters. We are going to try to pressure the ball and not let our opponents get comfortable in their half court sets."

Hodge, Reyes, Reynoso and Ramos are all versatile players who played significant minutes last year while Kevin Dyckman, Nate Anderson, Jacob Celestine and Nik Velez all return for the second year of varsity and should provide a solid bench.

"I think our league will be very competitive and all five teams have an shot to be league champs, but Byram is still the favorite in class A," Sully said.

Don't be surprised if the Panthers are in the running for the league title.

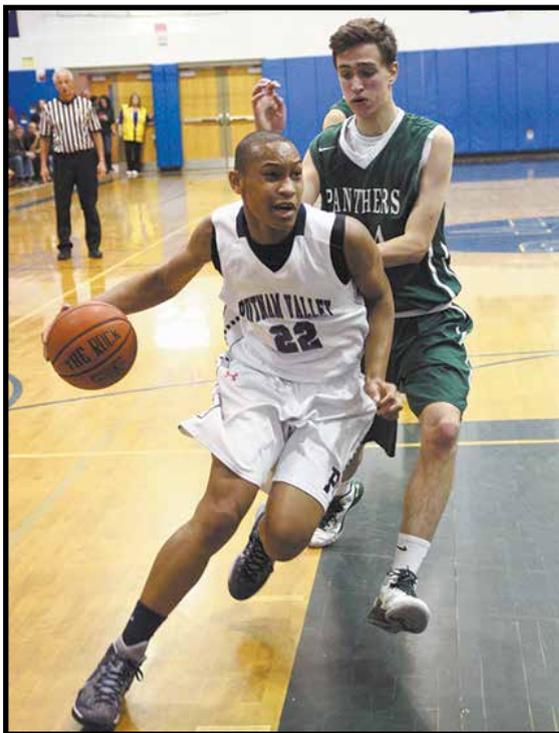
LAKELAND (8-13) failed to make the field of 16 after falling to Brewster in the outbracket, so it's been a few years since the Hornets were relevant. Second-year Coach Steve Fallo hopes to amend that notion and get the Hornets to a level they were more accustomed to just three years ago behind a nucleus of returning vets, including senior guards Tim Fallo (6'2", Captain), Pat Morelli (5'11", Captain) and Griffin Shiland (5'10", Captain).

Additionally, David Kale (G/F, 6' 3"), John Mule' (G, 5' 9"), Kyle Harrison (C/F, 6' 3") and Matt Tuite (C/F, 6' 2") have been playing together for a long time.

"I expect them to be dedicated and to work hard every day to make each other and their teammates better," Fallo said. "We want to be playing our best basketball in February."

Key newcomers include Chris Foci (G, 5' 10") and Mike Capozzi (F/G, 6' 1").

"This team is athletic," Fallo said. "They have speed and the quickness to be able to



Putnam Valley sophomore Darnel Shillingford will need to deliver the goods if the Tigers are going to amount to much this season.

run in transition and can play defense. We have seven returning players, which will help with good team chemistry. Tim, Pat and Griffin have played together for a long time and have a terrific work ethic. They will need to set the example of how to work hard, play team ball and communicate to all players during practices and especially games. Our goal is to compete every night we play. We need to work hard and play team ball every game to give ourselves a chance to win."

Lakeland placed second to Greeley in the Hornets' own Carolyn Conroy Memorial Tournament to open the season.

CLASS B

PUTNAM VALLEY (21-3) has been the most consistent program in the region the last four years, but the Tigers' string of four consecutive County Center appearances could be in jeopardy this year, what with PV being decimated by the graduation of its most well-rounded senior class in history. The Tigers advanced to the Class B finals for the second time in three years but were knocked off by champion Briarcliff after taking out Blind Brook in the semis.

Apart from fundamentally sound sophomore swingman Darnel Shillingford, the returning veterans saw very little court time last season and will be thrust into starring roles. It's 'Shill's' team now and the sooner he gets accustomed to that, the better of the Tigers will be this season and beyond.

Senior guards Marc Zadrima and Justin Acosta will be pushed by a core of talented sophomores, including

John Millicker, TJ Brescia, Ryan Soto and Brandon Guerra, who may need a year of seasoning under fourth-year Coach Mike McDonnell, who won't be able to pamper this group of up-and-coming rookies. Juniors Kevin Gallo and Christian Lopez are the primary perimeter three-point threats.

"Shillingford and Brescia are versatile inside/outside players who impact a game not only on offense but also with defense and rebounding," fourth-year Coach Mike McDonnell said. "Zadrima and Acosta are vastly improved and a tribute to how off-season work makes a difference. Nick Singer, JT Montaldo and Anthony Woods add needed front court depth. We will be competitive but may have some growing pains. We're talented but very young. It is asking a heck of a lot of six sophomores in the top of our rotation to defeat senior-laden teams, yet I would warn anyone who takes this group lightly. There are some real special kids here."

Some of these newcomers – Brescia in particular -- will be thrust into immediate-impact roles, which some of them may be ready for. Others could stand for a year on the junior varsity, but the current situation won't allow for it, which is why a fifth-straight venture to the Class B Final 4 will be beyond difficult. The Tigers took fourth at the Lakeland tourney with off-court issues swirling about the team. Beyond that, the Tigers will get a look at Blind Brook, a perennial Section Class B power, before seeing some tough competition at the Somers Holiday Tournament.

Temper County Center expectations this year but know that there is something cooking in PV, provided they understand that the time to grow up – both on and off the court – is now.

CLASS C

HALDANE (17-10) went where no Blue Devil team had gone before in the winter of 2016, advancing all the way to the NYSPHSAA finals before meeting their match in an 82-40 loss to Section 6 champion Middle Early College. Along the way, the two-time defending Section 1 champion Blue Devils won 61-52 over Hamilton in the Section 1 Class C finals and knocked off Chester, Stony Brook and Moravia in the state tournament.

A largely senior-laden team last year, Blue Devil Coach Joe Vigadamo, now in his 11th season, finds a team in transition this season; led by 6'7" shot-blocking F Blain Fitzgerald, who can do a little bit of everything well as one of the top players in class. Returning vets include junior Aidan Siegel, 5'10" and 6'1" sophomore Kyle Sussmeier.



Haldane's Blaine Fitzgerald is one of Putnam's finest all-around players.

Daniel Rotando, 5-10, Jr.; Liam Irwin, 6-2, Jr.; Anthony Lombardo, 5-11, Jr. and Nick Dipalo, 5-11, Jr. are expected to be impactful newcomers as the Blue Devils look to fend off hard-charging North Salem, plus Tuckahoe and Hamilton for Class C supremacy.

CHSAA

KENNEDY (24-3) Coach Al Morales has been hit hard by the transfer bug, yet again, so the veteran mentor of many seasons will adjust on the fly and look no further than his own home to pick up the slack. Junior AJ Morales, the son of the coach, has been with the Gaels since his freshman year and enters the 2016-17 as 'The Man' for lack of a better term. A sniper by trade, the 5'11" Morales can stick the 3 ball with great efficiency. He will be joined by Lakeland transfer Jaz Burton (6'3", C), Aaron Brown (6'3", F), Beacon transfer Aaron Davis (5'6", G) and Justin Parker (6', G), plus a slew of talented newcomers.

After finishing the last two seasons with a combined record of 50-5 and capturing a 2014-15 CHSAA title, the 2015-16 undefeated league champion Gaels are poised for more of the same.

"We'll look to AJ Morales for leadership after losing our top player to prep school," Morales said, noting the loss of prep school talent Malachi de Sousa to South Kent (CT). "We're young, energetic and hungry to try and get back to the top."

The Gaels will open December 1st in Binghamton, NY in the STOP-DWI Holiday Classic where they return as back-to-back champs. The Gaels will then play three games in the KSA Holiday Classic at the Disney Wide World of Sports Arena December 18-22nd before heading back home to challenge top league foes like Fordham Prep, McClancy, Nazareth and Xavier.



Lakeland G John Mule hopes to spark an up-tempo Hornet attack.

Putnam Valley Takes Aim at 3rd Section 1 Title in 4 Years

By Tony Pinciario

The evolution of the PUTNAM VALLEY varsity wrestling program, which began in 2001, has developed into a perennial power in Section 1 and NYS.

Under the leadership of Coach Will Carano, the Tigers own Section 1 Division II (small school) team titles in 2014 and '15 and were runners-up to Pearl River in '16. During this run, numerous Putnam Valley wrestlers have won individual sectional titles and placed in the NYS championships.

Putnam Valley enters this season, along with Pearl River, as the favorites to win the Section 1 Division II title. The Tigers are frontrunners because of their fabulous five – two-time sectional champs Satoshi Abe, a senior, and juniors Mike Bruno and Kyle Sams, and 2016 sectional titlist Jared Eliopoulos along with Constantine George, also seniors.

Abe recently signed to attend Lehigh University in September and continue wrestling. Bruno finished fourth in the state in 2016.

Carano, a Section 1 wrestling champion for Mahopac, and his wrestlers do not back down from the high-caliber competition that he schedules annually. As a result, this has enabled Putnam Valley to excel at sectionals and states.

One thing that Carano always does is focus on the current day, whether it be practice or a match.

"I really try very hard to keep my thoughts on the season in check," said Carano, the program's only coach. "There is so much to lose extrapolating out to February 12 and beyond based on anything I see or think I know at this point. So as we enter week three I will tell you what I know and hold true every season I have coached this team to date... that if these athletes train hard, maintain smart nutrition, get the rest they need and dedicate themselves to wrestling hard but more efficient matches this year [more than ever] then we will be in the mix with rising team and individual talent we see in Section One."

Carano and assistant coach Evan Kneuer will welcome Joe Mahoney into the coaches' corner. Mahoney is no stranger to coaching as he won a Section 1 title with Mahopac in 2000 and had a state champion in Joe Mazzurco (2000).

BREWSTER has been a rising power in Division I during the tenure of coach Tom Looby. The Bears had a top-10 finish in the 2016 Section 1 team championships and individual champions Mike Larm and Grant Cuomo. Larm, who is wrestling at Johnson & Wales, finished fourth in the state at Cuomo placed fifth. Cuomo is back and will be aiming to become Brewster's first two-time sectional champ.

Looby, a sectional placefinisher for Mahopac is entering his 14th year. He welcomes a host of underclassmen looking to continue Brewster's sectional presence.

Brooke Pagan is the lone senior addition

to the team. He and Cuomo will provide the leadership and will be joined by sophomores Jack Muentener, Alex Goldberg, Lewis Grana and Cody Hamblin. Eighth-grader Jacob Hamblin, Cody's younger brother, completes the group.

"Modified Coach Dave Bloom has done an outstanding job preparing his wrestlers for the next level," said Looby, who has also guided Brewster to a Section 1 Division I Dual-Meet championship. "We will have a number of freshman in our starting lineup. They will all improve as the season progresses and we'll have these boys for four years. Our sophomores are strong wrestlers and provide great leadership already for the underclassman. Our goal is to continue to improve skills, stay healthy, and build on this young group for the future."

MAHOPAC boasts a solid, veteran lineup. During his 27 years at Somers, Dennis DiSanto established the Tuskers as a sectional power with numerous champion and placefinishers. Six years ago, DiSanto made the move to Mahopac and he has done the same with the Indians that he accomplished at Somers.

Garret Semenetz, the 2016 Section 1 Division I 99-pound champion, headlines this veteran nucleus. Semenetz went on to finish 8th at the state championships. Mike Muldoon was a divisional champ and finished third in the section at 119 pounds last year. Alex Rabinowitz and Mike Delahanty both took third at divisionals. Also returning are Chris Horan, Jack McDonald and Tom Mahoney.

DiSanto has a sizeable group of newcomers to varsity with seniors Andrew Wright and Mike Nathenson joining the lineup. Junior Christian Brita moved from Washingtonville (Section 9). Sophomores Andi Berisha, Frankie Scauzillo, Joe Harney and Charlie Nicosia, along with freshman Tyler Roa will all be battling for starting spots.

"We are pretty excited about the season," DiSanto said. "We have a well-balanced line-up, returning all-section wrestlers and younger guys who will make an impact. We are looking forward to a very successful year. As long as we can stay healthy we are going to be a tough team in dual meets and in tournaments."

Mahopac will host the annual Peter Caruso Memorial Tournament, Jan. 28. The tournament is held in honor of former Mahopac wrestler and sectional placefinisher, Peter Caruso.

HEN HUD had a breakthrough 2015-16 season as the Sailors had their maiden voyage in Division II. Hen Hud responded with an excellent Section 1 Division II Championship as Sebastian Burbano (160 pounds) and Jordan Artope (182) won sectional titles. Devin Furphy (fifth), Matt Kempfski (second) and Ryan Loguidice (third) all placed for the Sailors. However, all five graduated.

It also marked the retirement of veteran

coach Paul Lavallee. The Sailors return to Division I this season and will do so with a familiar face in new Coach Shane Turrone.

Turrone is no stranger to the program. He was a sectional placefinisher and amassed more than 100 career wins for Lavallee, and was the assistant coach the past six years.

The galley is not empty for Turrone as seniors Thomas Calandro, Peter Maselli and Jacob Anstett anchor the returning core. Maselli and Anstett placed third and fourth, respectively, at 138 and 170 pounds last season. Juniors Hector Giron, Dylan Marques and Ilham Nasirov are back with Giron and Nasirov finishing sixth and second, respectively at 113 and 285 pounds.

Turrone has the freshmen tandem of Beckett Herman and Will Jersey, and sophomore Joe Picucci back.

Sophomores Webb Lin and Jon Basler are slated to start in the 126-pound and 182-pound weight classes. Freshman Ethan Romero makes the step up from modified and will start at 99 pounds. Classmates Paul Williams and Alex Garcia will also join the starting lineup at 120 and 220, respectively.

"I am excited to start my first year as head coach and I couldn't ask for a better group of kids to start with," Turrone said. "I entered the tam in some tough tournaments, but I think our kids are up for it and my philosophy is the tougher the competition, the better you become."

OSSINING showed how much Pride it has in wrestling by winning a league title last season. The Pride finished 14-1 with 14 consecutive wins last year.

Larry McRae has done it all for the program. He was a wrestler, then was the assistant for 11 years before becoming the head coach. This will be his 11th year making the lineup.

The Pride will be tough to beat again this season with eight wrestlers back, highlighted by the senior quartet of Charles Rios, Hearthon Sewell-Richards, Izaiah Steen and Terrell Effort. Sophomores Joshua Manning, Isaiah Beltran and Zach Bonner and eighth-grader Rob Horan round out the core.

Senior Bruce Castillo, sophomore Xavier Morris and freshman Mylse Carter are new to the varsity lineup.

"I'm looking forward to having a successful year, with the amount of wrestlers we have returning," McRae said. "Our strength will come from our veteran leadership. Last year, we were a better dual-meet team and this year I'm hoping to have a better showing in the Section Tournament."

Ossining opened the season by hosting the Mike Nardone Dual-Meet Tournament. The tournament is named in honor of the former Ossining coach who passed away earlier this year.

The Pride defeated Clarkstown North, 47-27, John Jay-East Fishkill, 57-30, and Brewster, 64-19. However, Pleasantville spoiled the day with a 40-36 win over

Ossining in the title match.

YORKTOWN continues to make strides for coach Eric Fama, entering his third year. Fama, a sectional champ for New Rochelle in 2004, returns a nucleus of sectional qualifiers and placefinishers from last season.

Juniors Connor Thomas, Patrick Patierno and Mauricio Arango headline this group. Thomas finished third in the section and Arango was a division champ. Senior Thomas Carson and freshman Andrew Finateri return to starting spots.

Fama is impressed with eighth-grader Chris Perry, who will be the starter at 106 pounds.

"We still have a young, but experienced team," Fama said. "We have a lot of guys that can go deep in just about any tournament. As a team we are looking to make a jump and crack into the top 10 in the section."

Yorktown opened its season at the Eric D'Agnese (Somers) Tournament. Thomas and Perry won their respective weight classes, Carson, Patierno and Finateri were runners-up and Arango finished third.

Fama and his Cornhuskers will host the annual Yorktown Dual-Meet Tournament, Saturday, Dec. 10.

The present and future for **SOMERS** and third-year coach Ron DiSanto, Jr., looks promising.

DiSanto has a veteran nucleus back and a hungry, determined group of newcomers ready to contribute. Seniors Billy DiBenedetto and Graham Roediger, who both placed sixth in the Section 1 Division I Championships, are the team leaders. Juniors Antonio Vieira and Sean Freebern, both sectional qualifiers, return as does freshman Matt Kelly, who won 16 matches last season.

"We've had a young team the last two years, so those kids that were underclassmen are now upperclassmen, so I like that we have more kids with experience," DiSanto said. "Those same kids show good leadership as well."

LAKELAND/PANAS welcomes new Coach Anthony Whitehouse to the program. Whitehouse and the Rebels will miss the graduated Alexander Melikian, who won the Section 1 Division I 182-pound title and went to place second in the state. Melikian is wrestling for Binghamton.

The Rebels will be led by seniors Brandon DiDomenico and Kevin Moore, both sectional qualifiers last season. Sophomore Ryan Ocasio also returns. Newcomers, sophomore James Colombo and freshman Frank Sherwood are pushing for starting spots.

"While we are strong in some classes, overall, we are a young team," Whitehouse said. "Our overall success will be determined by the hard work and development of our young wrestlers. I think our excellent senior leaders will really help to facilitate this process."

Spin' to Win!



Yorktown Crowned Mahopac Tourney Champs

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

Yorktown G Marc Spinelli (12 points) makes an acrobatic move in the Huskers' 56-36 win over Brewster in Friday's opening round of the Mahopac Tip-Off Classic, which the Huskers (2-0) went on to win Saturday in a 70-58 triumph of the host Indians, who had no answer for Husker F Tanner Dyslin, the tourney MVP with a beastly 30 points... see Hoops Notebook



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