

**Local Filmmaker  
Tackles Tough  
Issues...  
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# The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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

**FREE**

January 16 - January 22, 2018

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 421



MIKE RUTA PHOTO

## Team Moljo Relocates in Shrub Oak

After many successful years in Putnam Valley as a building block of strength and fitness in the community, Team Moljo and its resident trainer John Moljo have expanded their enterprise and relocated across the street from Lakeland High School. Team Moljo is now located at its new, upgraded facility -- Team Moljo Strength & Conditioning -- on 1396 East Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY 10588. Call 914-743-1887 for info or visit them at jmoljo@teammoljo.com or www.teammoljo.com

## Offsetting Loss of Indian Point Revenue Still Challenge One Year Later

By Rick Pezzullo

It has been one year since local officials were blindsided by the announcement that the Indian Point nuclear power plants in the Village of Buchanan would be shutting down in 2021.

While the shock of the secret agreement between Entergy, Governor Andrew Cuomo and Riverkeeper that was publicly revealed on January 9, 2017 has long worn off, government and school leaders are facing the challenge of how to replace \$32 million

in collective revenue that will be lost, along with 1,100 permanent jobs.

"The real problem is that there is no source of funding at the state or federal levels to offset our loss of revenue that begins in 2020/2021---\$32 million in total and the loss of many good jobs," said Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi, whose municipality currently receives \$800,000 annually from Entergy, which represents two percent of its budget.

Buchanan is set to lose \$4 million, or 46%

*Continued on page 2*



Joseph Hochreiter

## Peekskill Council Seeks Candidates to Fill Vacancy

By Rick Pezzullo

The Peekskill Common Council is actively seeking candidates to fill a vacancy created when Andre Rainey was elected mayor in November.

Rainey's empty council seat has two years remaining on its four-year term, but the individual who is appointed will only serve until Election Day, November 6, when a special election will take place for the final year of the unexpired term. The seat carries a salary of \$8,686.

Anyone interested in being considered must be a registered voter and have resided in Peekskill for a minimum of three years. A brief letter of intent and resume should be emailed to Rainey at

arainey@cityofpeekskill.com or mailed to: Mayor Andre K. Rainey, 840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566 by Friday, January 26.

Although the Democrats currently control all six seats on the council, Rainey maintained it wasn't a done deal that a Democrat would be appointed to fill the empty position.

"The council will be leaning towards the best decision we can make collectively with the resumes we have/will receive," Rainey stated. "I can't say what we're leaning towards as far as

party lines, but we have to determine who we agree upon by who sends a letter of intent and interest. Many people

I would love to be on the council with me, but seem to be unsure as of what they see nationally and during campaign season. Hopefully the candidates, whatever party, have the city's best interest at heart."

Rainey said he believes experience "is essential to government" and "someone with a great financial background

would be a great addition, but not limited too."



Mayor Andre Rainey

In addition, Rainey is looking for someone who is honest, possesses management, leadership and good communication skills, and will make tough decisions.

"Some politicians will not address issues that they know will make them unpopular. This should not be the case. One should not be scared to tackle issues affecting the community, regardless of how difficult or unpopular these issues may be," Rainey said. "A council person should be transparent and honest to the public. Although good intentions are laudable, a good, honest person knows there are more people involved in the

*Continued on page 2*

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# Offsetting Loss of Indian Pt Revenue Still a Challenge

Continued from page 1

of its operating funds, while the Hendrick Hudson School District will be suffering a \$24 million hit, or 33% of its budget.

"It has been a year of many meetings, asking many questions and trying to get our head around the challenges we face and how best to mitigate the loss of revenue and jobs for our community," Buchanan Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker said.

Besides the annual funding Hendrick Hudson receives, Superintendent of Schools Joseph Hochreiter pointed out Entergy has donated more than \$400,000 for supplies and equipment over the last 10 years so the district could provide innovative STEM programs for its students, along with sponsoring field trips, guest speakers and other educational enhancements.

Immediately following the news of the plant's closures, Hendrick Hudson

shelved a more than \$14 million capital improvement project that had been in the works.

"While the news of Indian Point's closure shocked and surprised our community, I remain optimistic and hopeful that our collective advocacy efforts, by working with local state and federal officials, will ensure that our world class educational opportunities for the children of Hendrick Hudson remain intact for generations to come," Hochreiter said.

"Our community has rallied together and has shown a resilience to work collaboratively, a willingness to be informed and educated, and commitment to work together as we confront the revenue gap Indian Point's closure will create," he added. "One year later, our focus will be to ensure governmental financial assistance, and that property taxes will not be

the sole source to close the projected financial gap."

Under the pact reached by Entergy, Cuomo and Riverkeeper, Indian Point Unit 2 will cease operations as early as April 2020 and Unit 3 in April 2021. However, an emergency provision is included that could give Entergy an additional four years of service in the event of war, a sudden increase in electrical demand or a sudden shortage of electric energy.

A 23-member local task force was created to identify ways to respond to the near future plug being pulled at Indian Point and the committee has been meeting regularly. Last spring, the governor also set up a special task force, which Puglisi, Knickerbocker and Hochreiter sit on, and the state has retained a consultant to specifically address the reuse of the 240-acre site. That report is expected

to be completed in April.

"We don't have to look far to see what happens in communities throughout New York State when businesses close, jobs are lost, and school funding goes away," Hochreiter said. "It goes without saying that my chief responsibility here is to work tirelessly to mitigate these potentially negative impacts on our local communities, residents, and ultimately our children. Five-year-olds, 11-year-olds or high school seniors should not pay the consequence of a set of decisions and negotiations that have long-lasting negative implications."

In the meantime, the Cortlandt Town Board is committing \$75,000 to hire an economic development consultant, and the board has agreed to set aside \$100,000 annually in a special fund to prepare for the end of Entergy's financial contributions.

## Peekskill Council Seeks Candidates to Fill Vacancy

Continued from page 1

decision-making process. Thus, making promises on issues over which one has no control, will only disillusion the people whom follow."

"The best council persons, in my opinion, exhibit a vision for the future and should be able to sell that vision

to the public and collaborate with the council and others," he added. "The people of Peekskill deserve the best and that's what we'll strive to appoint."

Several potential appointees have been mentioned through the city grapevine, including former Councilman Darren Rigger, who served as the mas-

ter of ceremonies during the New Year's Day swearing-in ceremony of Rainey and councilpersons Vanessa Agudelo, Ramon Fernandez and Colin Smith.

This week, Rigger neither confirmed nor denied that he was throwing his hat back in the political ring.

"I can't comment on any of this stuff.

Other than to say I am thrilled by this new council," he stated. "I think they are filled with lots of positive energy and new ideas."

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### Q: Do I have acid reflux disease?

**A:** First, let's understand what this condition is. Your stomach produces acid in order to digest food. Normally, acid remains in your stomach, finally passing into your intestines. However, with acid reflux disease, also known as gastroesophageal reflux disease or GERD, stomach acid leaks backward and upward, "refluxing" into the esophagus.

The large spectrum of symptoms connected with acid reflux includes "heartburn," a sharp pain in the chest from acid irritating the esophagus; or mild pain in the chest or upper belly. Both typically subside in minutes. Less common symptoms are nausea, vomiting, GI tract upset, and bloating. Severe acid reflux disease can involve regurgitating acid and stomach contents into the throat, and sometimes into the lungs. That can cause chronic coughing, pneumonias or asthma.

### Q: What causes it?

**A:** Backward movement occurs when the valve between the stomach and esophagus – the lower esophageal sphincter, or LES – weakens. Genetics can weaken it, as can smoking, and certain foods, such as coffee, chocolate and citrus fruits. A hiatal hernia can cause acid reflux by moving the LES from your

abdomen into the chest area. Long-term acid reflux can lead to Barrett's disease, a precancerous, chronic irritation of the esophagus, which must be monitored through regular endoscopies.

### Q: What are my non-surgical treatment options?

**A:** Many people can manage symptoms with over-the-counter medications that reduce stomach acid. It's important to understand, however, that medications do not stop the refluxing action. All they do is reduce the amount of acid in your stomach. Because these can interact with other medicines or reduce bone density, you may not want to take them long-term. You may also find relief through lifestyle changes – avoiding coffee and chocolate, and losing weight – which can help strengthen the LES.

### Q: Do I need surgery?

**A:** Severe acid reflux disease typically requires surgery. If you have a hiatal hernia, we fix it, and then wrap a portion of the relocated stomach to create a new strong valve. If there's no hernia, we only create a new valve. The procedure, called a *nissen fundoplication*, is performed at Northern Westchester Hospital using robotic surgery. Post-surgery, there's little chance your LES will weaken again.





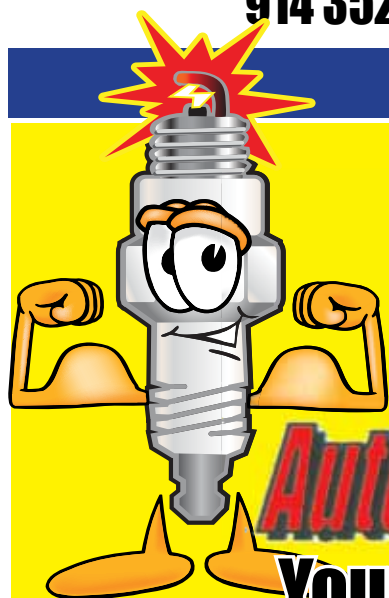
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# Applications Being Accepted for Crossroads Affordable Units

By Neal Rentz

Applications are being accepted for lotteries for affordable apartments at the Crossroads at Baldwin Place development on Route 6, the Somers Town Board was told last week.

Rosemarie Noonan, executive director of the Tarrytown-based Housing Action Council, said the project is being developed by her organization and the Kearney Realty & Development Group.

Crossroads at Baldwin Place consists of four buildings – two apartment buildings with Fair and Affordable units for seniors; one apartment building with Fair and Affordable units for non-seniors and one commercial building, Noonan said. It is expected that certificates of oc-

cupancy will be provided by the town for the buildings by June, she said.

There are 10 Fair and Affordable newly constructed, two-bedroom rental apartments with monthly rent of \$1,229 and \$1,995, for non-seniors, Noonan said.

The other project is 52 units of Fair and Affordable apartments for households with at least one resident 55 or older. The senior units have monthly rents of \$882 and \$1,079 for the 48 one-bedroom units and rents of \$1,048 and \$1,279 for the four two-bedroom apartments.

The application deadline for all the affordable units is February 8. There will be a public lottery to choose those who can occupy the apartments, which will include appliances, on February 15,

Noonan said.

Income guidelines have been set by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development to be eligible for the rentals, Noonan said.

An informational workshop on the seniors' affordable housing project has been slated for January 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mews II Community Room, 34 Clayton Blvd. in Baldwin Place. Applications and brochures will be available at the meeting.

To obtain an application or for more information, call the Housing Action Council at 914-332-4144, send an e-mail to [hac@affordablehomes.org](mailto:hac@affordablehomes.org) or visit [housingactioncouncil.org](http://housingactioncouncil.org).



NEAL RENTZ PHOTO

Rosemarie Noonan, executive director of the Housing Action Council, discussed affordable rental housing that is being made available at Crossroads at Baldwin Place.

## Somers Supervisor to Seek Power Outage Answers from NYSEG Head

By Neal Rentz

Fed up with too frequent power outages, Somers Supervisor Rick Morrissey and other local supervisors will meet with New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) President and Chief Executive Officer Carl Taylor on January 24.

The leaders of the local municipalities want to hear directly from the head of NYSEG about "what's their plan," Morrissey said last week.

At the January 11 Town Board meeting, Morrissey said he has been troubled by the outages, which he contended could be prevented by the utility. The Christmas Day power outage in Somers knocked out power for more than 1,000 homes, including many Heritage Hill residences, for as much as 10 hours, he said, noting the Christmas power outage came from difficulties at the Croton Falls substation.

Subsequent power outages have taken

place on January 1 and 2, Morrissey said, maintaining the utility could have prevented outages not caused by storms.

Morrissey and North Salem Supervisor Warren Lucas wrote a January 3 letter to the state Public Service Commission outlining their concerns as a "formal complaint."

"The alarming number and length of power outages has become a significant public safety issue," Morrissey and Lucas stated in their letter. "We are on a dan-

gerous course that, if not remediated, may have serious implications for our citizens."

"The abnormal frequency and length of power outages are occurring at a rate never witnessed by our communities," Morrissey and Lucas stated in their letter.

"There has been a clear degradation of services on the part of NYSEG, and with winter at our doorstep, the situation has become untenable," Morrissey and Lucas stated.



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and **Nonna's owner Mike Kabashi** as they kick off Nonna's January fundraiser for **Support Connection**, which aids women struggling with breast and ovarian cancer. Nonna's is holding fundraising drives every Saturday in January, and Mike has pledged to match all contributions. Stop in for a great meal and make a contribution!

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# Police Blotter

## State Police

**January 5** - State Police from the Cortlandt barracks arrested Richard H. Stiehl, 57, of Garrison, for Menacing in the 2nd degree, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 4th degree, both class A misdemeanors. Troopers were called to the Cortlandt Train Station at 6:05 p.m., for a report of a male brandishing a knife. Investigation found that Stiehl initiated a confrontation, produced a knife, and threatened to kill the victim. He was arraigned before the town of Cortlandt Court and released on his own recognizance.

**January 7** - State Police from the Cortlandt barracks arrested Robert R. Ulman, 51, of Cortlandt, for Menacing in the 2nd degree, and Criminal Mischief in the 4th degree (preventing an emergency call), both class A misdemeanors. At approximately 11:24 p.m., troopers were dispatched to Pinehurst Court in the Town of Cortlandt for a domestic dispute. Investigation revealed Ulman used a kitchen knife to menace the victims and took their phones to prevent any emergency call. He was arraigned in Town of Cortlandt Court and released on his own recognizance. An order of protection was issued on behalf of the victims.

## Yorktown Police

**January 6** - Nuala Anne O'Connor, 59, of Yorktown, was charged with felony assault in the second degree and misdemeanor menacing in the second degree following the report of a domestic incident at a residence on Saw Mill River Road. An investigation revealed O'Connor allegedly assaulted a victim by striking him with a closed fist, a golf club and a metal guitar stand, causing bruising and swelling on his face and body. It is further alleged that she menaced the victim by placing him in fear by holding a steak knife and using the knife to poke his legs. Yorktown Town Justice Sal Lagonia issued a temporary order of protection on behalf of the victim. O'Connor was released on her own recognizance.

**January 9** - Peter Bub, 51, of Peekskill, was charged with 32 counts of aggravated harassment after it was alleged between June 14, 2017 and November 29, 2017 he called the Yorktown Police Department and left 32 harassing messages for an officer.

**January 10** - Shane McDonald, 23, of Mahopac, was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance after being pulled over on Route 6 near the Taconic State Parkway at 2:50 a.m.

for driving with only one head light illuminated. McDonald was found to be in possession of Xanax, while a computer check revealed he was driving while his driver's license was suspended multiple times for failing to answer a summons.

**January 11** - Stephan Nrekic, 52, of Shrub Oak, was charged with criminal mischief in the fourth degree and petit larceny after police were called to investigate a domestic incident. It is alleged Nrekic got into a verbal dispute with the victim and broke the victim's lamp.

He then banged on the bathroom door where the victim had gone to contact police and broke the door frame, while also taking the victim's cell phone. A temporary order of protection was issued to the victim.

**January 12** - Gino DiCaprio, 30, of Mahopac, was charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped on Lee Road at 1:47 a.m. for failing to stop at a stop sign and failing to maintain a lane.

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## Obituaries

### Diana Martin

Diana Lynn Martin, a resident of Cortlandt and a teacher in Orange County, died January 5. She was 43.

A graduate of Hendrick Hudson High School in Montrose, she was a special education teacher for the Orange/Ulster BOCES in Goshen. She was born in Tarrytown on Feb. 27, 1974 to James and Mary Ann Martin.



Diana Martin

Besides her special friend Nate Long, she is survived by her father, James (Ann) Martin, sisters, Laura (Tyler Peck) Martin, Lisa (Brian) Foster, nieces and nephews, Natalie and Stephen Foster, and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her mother, Mary Ann Martin and maternal grandparents, Andrew and Gloria Marussich.

### Raymond Henderlong

Raymond J. Henderlong, a resident of Peekskill, died January 7. He was 90.

He was born November 2, 1927 in Detroit, Michigan, to the late Raymond Jacob and Garnet Irene (Myers) He married Jeanette DeRosso on October 2, 1954 at the First Baptist Church in Peekskill.

Mr. Henderlong was a veteran of the United States Army Field Artillery, received a honorable discharge as a Staff Sergeant in 1947. He worked for Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group in New York and retired as a Vice President in November 1992. He previously worked in Data processing at the New York Central Railroad in Detroit and New York and also at Olivetti Corporation in New York. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Peekskill since 1954 where he served in many leadership positions, the last several years as an Elder. He was also a long-term member of the Gideons International serving in many leadership positions.

He is survived by his children, Raymond Paul (Michele) Henderlong of Ravenel, SC and Theresa (Joseph) Goc of Naperville, IL; grandchildren Stewart and Paul Gates, Raeann Henderlong; step-grandchildren Amanda (Alex) Hamner and Nicole Spellman; brother, Harold Henderlong and sister, Shirley (Mike) Sherman, all of Michigan; sister-in-law, Geraldine Henderlong of Florida; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife Jeanette, four brothers, Calvin, Manuel, Donald and Vernon Henderlong and sisters Norma McLellan and Betty Simmons.

### Otto Siegwarth

Otto A. Siegwarth, a resident of Somers, died January 8. He was 81.

He was born in Sulzburg, Germany on February 28, 1936. He immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 23 and worked as a tool and die maker and engineer. A Somers resident and St. Joseph's parishioner for 39 years, he loved gardening, hiking, cross-country skiing, and singing.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ingrid (Bartels) Siegwarth; his three

children, Christine Siegwarth Meyer of Armonk, NY, Kirk Otto Siegwarth of Ellicott City, MD, and Clark Otto Siegwarth of Roswell, GA; and seven beloved grandchildren, Danielle, Nicole, Katie, Andrew, Erik, Jordan and Erin. Otto was predeceased by his daughter, Birgit, his brothers, Dieter Siegwarth and Horst Siegwarth, and his sister, Helga (Siegwarth) Lissak.

### Hackshaw "Chickie" Hamlet

Hackshaw Hamlet A. (Chickie), a resi-

dent of Mohegan Lake, died January 3. He was 80.

He was born May 27, 1937 in New York City, to Alfredo and Mona Cochrane Hackshaw. He served honorably in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. On July 21, 1962, he married Diana Mossop. Chickie worked as a mechanic for the New York City Transit Authority until his retirement in 1988.

He survived by his wife Diana, daughters Denise Hackshaw, Deborah Berrios (David) and his son Brian Hackshaw.

*Continued on page 15*



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## Business of the Week

# Bridgham Barr Orthodontics Somers

By Neal Rentz

Bridgham Barr Orthodontics in Somers is a partnership of town residents Dr. Richard Bridgham and Dr. Anita Barr that began five years ago in town.

"Dr. Bridgham started the practice 22 years ago and when I was graduating residency I reached out to Dr. Bridgham to see if he was interested in having anyone join him since he had a very large and successful practice," Barr recalled last week. "It ended up that he was looking for a partner. So, I joined the team in 2013 and things have been going great since then."

"We offer great service to our patients," Bridgham said.

Bridgham stressed that he and his partner are board certified by the American Board of Orthodontics. Both partners had braces while growing up.

"The biggest thing is the patient experience when they come here is different," Barr said. "We like to bring people in to be part of our family and we get to know our patients really well. We go out of our way to make sure that everyone is taken care of in the best way possible from the state-of-the-art technology to very customized treatment



PHOTO BY NEAL RENTZ

Somers residents Dr. Anita Barr and Dr. Richard Bridgham are partners in Bridgham Barr Orthodontics in town.

planning to making sure from all other administrative scheduling and financial aspects that we're able to cater to each individual."

Bridgham said the partnership is one of the few orthodontic practices

that utilizes three-dimensional digital X-ray technology in Westchester and Putnam counties that adds to patient comfort and uses much less radiation than standard X-ray machines.

Other changes are braces that are almost invisible, Bridgham said. Barr said patients can also choose to have their braces with a color rather than silver. Another new technology used by the partners is OrthoPulse that "allows teeth to move quicker," utilizing an inferred light technology that can reduce treatment

by 50 percent, she said.

Barr said youths are not their only patients. "We've seen an increase in the amount of adults that are seeking treatment as a second round from when

they had orthodontics as a teen or for the first time in their lives," she said. Some adults want updated treatment from the work they had on their teeth as youths, she noted.

There are benefits from orthodontics aside from improving how a person looks, Bridgham explained. "Before the 80's it was purely about straightening teeth, creating specifically a nice smile," he said. Today orthodontics is more concerned about creating an appropriate bite to preserve the long-term health and stability of teeth, he said.

Aside from using new technology, the partnership stress making the patient experience comfortable. The duo stars in a humorous video that demonstrates how to floss and brush while wearing braces.

The tone of the office features "lightheartedness and happiness" provided to patients to make them feel comfortable "and take off that nervous edge," Barr said.

*Bridgham Barr Orthodontics is located at 293 Route 100, Suite 209, in Somers. For more information, call 914-277-1111, send an e-mail to [info@bbosmiles.com](mailto:info@bbosmiles.com) or visit <http://bbosmiles.com>.*



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## Letters to the Editor

### Anti-Grace Letter Writer is a Constant Whiner

#### To the Editor:

It seems that over past two years that all I heard from Mr. Tanzman was constant whining. One example, Quote "well the narcissistic Grace era is thankfully over in Yorktown even while even a similar malaise has gripped our nation's capitol." What malaise is he referring too? At least Mr. Grace has improved the towns economic outlook and tax base, unlike some of the past supervisors. He has made it more business friendly.

Now the next quote is quite interesting and revealing. Mr. Tanzman writes and I quote, "The mayo Clinic describes

the signs & symptoms as having an exaggerated sense of self importance; having a sense of entitlement and requiring constant excessive admiration believing they are superior and only able to associate with equally special; monopolizing conversations; and belittling or looking down on people or looking own on people they perceive as inferior." There was more but the rest makes no sense at all. It closes with Sound familiar? Yes it does. We have had that same person you have described as President for 8 long agonizing years. Where was Mr. Tanzman during those 8 years? Did I hear complaining about the

most divisive President in the past 100 years.

This next quote I think is quite revealing. "While not a psychiatrist or psychoanalyst, I am a social worker and one doesn't have to be Freud to recognize these traits in Mr. Grace or his mentor Mr. Trump." Well it seems that he is portraying himself as a mental health expert, is he not? Just what makes him an expert on this subject? Maybe he has played one of them on television or the movies and like others, now thinks he is an authority?

What I see here is a disgruntled person. Probably a never Trump-er and

defiantly a progressive democrat. People like him are the problem in this country. While he praises the new administration, will he do to

them what they did to the Republicans? The actions of your party were not any less hateful. Have a look at the town meetings. It wasn't the Republicans that disrupted the meetings by shouting from the floor. Let's see just how civilized your side will be now that you control the town.

**FRANCIS T MCVETTY,**  
(a resident of Yorktown  
for over 46 years)

### Free at Last from Hate-Filled Letter Writer in Yorktown

#### To the Editor:

This is in response to Melvin Tanzman's letter to the editor regarding the departure of Supervisor Grace.

Mr. Tazman's refrain "free at last" is music to my ears. We are finally free at last. Mr Tanzman said he would retire from his hate filled personal attacks on Supervisor Grace, a public servant who was elected multiple times to office and has made me proud to live in Yorktown. It has become a better place now compared to when he took office.

Mr. Tanzman's letter was unnecessary after the last election results and is just

another attempt for a hate monger looking for an outlet to poison our community. His divisive lies are just a cowards attempt to hide behind the guise of free speech. The Yorktown Democratic Party has pushed their agenda (of obstructionism) with smoke and mirrors down the throats of un-informed and gullible readers.

Mr. Tanzman speaks of narcissism. It takes one to know one. What do you call one who, week after week, along with his cohorts, spews his opinion/ views unsolicited. They think others are too dumb to form an opinion on their

own. Mr. Tanzman, your own Party finds you irrelevant. They would not even nominate you to run for office. And they know you best. "Free at last."

Weak, shallow minded individuals will always be intimidated by those who are intelligent, strong, and lead a purpose driven life with vision. Thank you, Supervisor Grace for being our Town's leader.

Again we are told about Mr. Grace's car collection. He tries to make one envision a hangar filled with Bentley's, Maserati's, and Lamborghini's. In truth, this is Mr. Grace's hobby and passion. He restores old junk cars. This hobby is likely less

costly than playing golf over the years with a new set of clubs. But the class warfare, jealousy and lies continued. "Free at last."

Hopefully Yorktown will be rid of these disgraceful disparaging remarks. The good people of Yorktown deserve better. "Free at last."

Supervisor Grace, thank you for being a class act in not responding and playing their hate filled game. Thank you, and your staff, for all your hard work and dedication in making our Town a better place.

**ROBERT VIOLANTE**  
Yorktown

### Early Voting is Needed in New York State

#### To the Editor:

Our state has a voting problem. In the 2016 election, 56.2% of eligible New York voters voted, ranking 42nd in the country. Our democracy thrives when all are able to engage in the election process. This means ensuring people's ability to vote through a number of potential new measures.

New York State is one of only 13 states

without early voting. Early voting allows flexibility for voters to vote when they are able to, while juggling work and familial obligations, rather than struggling to find time to vote only on Election Day, or being prevented from voting altogether. Early voting removes this obstacle. Similarly, automatic voter registration, done through the Department of Motor Vehicles,

streamlines the voter registration process. The resulting system would be more convenient, with shared

information reducing errors and redundancies, all while cutting costs. Same day voter registration allows eligible voters to register to vote, and ultimately vote, even if they have not yet had the opportunity to register before Election Day.

In order to apply for an absentee ballot in New York State the voter must provide a reason for the absence or inability to make it to the polls. New York should join the majority of states across the country and not require an excuse. Such policies do not protect our elections, or enhance the voting experience, but serve only as a deterrent and invasion of privacy.

When I recently polled my constituents on their thoughts on these proposals, early voting and automatic voter registration had the support of 69% and 68.1% of respondents respectively. Same day voter registration received 55.7% support from my constituents. This session I will continue my support of, and advocacy for, legislation that ensures that New York lives up to its promise and makes voting a

right and not a privilege. The laws of the state should never be the reason an eligible person does not vote in our elections.

Sincerely,

**SANDY GALEF**  
State Assemblywoman

### Letters Policy

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

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

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Examiner**

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## Op-ed

## Is Yorktown Protecting Its Environment?

By Susan Siegel

When a developer tells us that his plans will not cause any negative environmental impacts, should the town automatically accept his statement? Or should the town review the developer's statement to make sure that the town's interests — and the interests of its residents — are protected?

If the answer to this question seems obvious, then Yorktown has a problem. A serious problem. The environmental impacts of development applications, even those involving critical wetlands, are no longer being reviewed by a town-funded environmental professional. No town employee with environmental credentials or an outside environmental consultant is representing the town's interests and verifying the accuracy of a developer's "no adverse environmental impact" submissions.

That means that if homeowners have concerns about the possible environmental impacts of a proposed development in their neighborhood, they're on their own. It's up to them to "pass the hat" and hire their own consultant to make sure their property will not be negatively impacted by the proposed new development.

Just to be clear, I'm not saying that we

can't trust developers. All I'm saying is that while a developer is looking out for HIS interests, the town should be looking out for its interests — and the interests of its residents.

Yorktown's problem dates back to early 2017 when the previous Town Board decided not to renew the contract of an environmental consultant whose job included reviewing the wetland and natural resources sections of all site plans and subdivision plans. No reason was given for dropping the consultant who had worked for the town for many years.

In the consultant's place, the Town Board waited until November to hire a new environmental consultant. But unlike the previous consultant who automatically reviewed the environmental aspects of all development plans, the services of the new consultant were only to be used on an on-call basis. (To the best of my knowledge, the new consultant has not been called in to consult on a single application.)

Not even for a controversial application involving a 14-acre heavy wooded environmentally sensitive site in the Croton Watershed that contains two streams, steep slopes and a flood plain. Which meant that when the Planning Board held

a public hearing on the application, there was no town environmental review of the applicant's Environmental Assessment Form, habitat study, erosion and sediment control plan, and plans for building a road across both streams. Nor was there any town verification of the developer's conclusion that the subdivision would not have any adverse environmental impacts.

While the town was silent during the hearing (the town engineer informed the Planning Board that he needed an additional 30 days to complete his technical review of the application), area homeowners weren't. They did their homework — and they passed the hat, for a second time, to hire a professional engineer to review the applicant's latest submissions. One after the other, the homeowners came to the podium and called the Planning Board's attention to a series of deficiencies, missing information, conflicting, confusing, dubious and inaccurate statements in the developer's environmental submissions. It was a staggering list that included:

- Despite the fact that the plan called for building a road over two streams, there were no details of how the crossings would be constructed or the impact the disturbance

would have on the streams. There was no wetlands mitigation plan.

- There was no assessment of how the removal of trees, runoff, erosion and grading would affect the hydrology of the streams or how changes to the streams would impact downstream flows or the habitat for stream dependent wildlife.
- The tree survey, which was done in 2009, was no longer valid because many of the trees it counted were already down as a result of Hurricanes Irene and Sandy.
- The impracticality of relying on the new homeowners to maintain critical and sophisticated storm water retention facilities that were supposed to prevent runoff from flooding nearby existing houses.
- The incomplete habitat study that failed to identify species that may be on New York State's list of threatened or endangered species. The bird survey counted eight species of birds while a survey on the abutting property identified over 40 different species.

The homeowners did what they felt had to be done to protect their neighborhood

*Continued on page 10*

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# Cortlandt Filmmaker Tackles Complex Issues with Documentaries

By Anna Young

Filmmaker Leah Galant is bringing complex issues to the forefront of the conversation one film at a time.

During her brief career, the 24-year-old documentarian from Cortlandt has received high acclaim at national film festivals for her two documentary short films that each focus on controversial themes of social justice.

Last year, Galant was accepted into the Jacob Burns Film Center Inaugural Sally Burns Shenkman Woman Filmmaker Fellow program, where she received the creative support, mentorships, studio space and financial backing to film "Kitty and Ellen," a film documenting two best friends and Holocaust survivors who reflect on the political climate and their past during the 2016 presidential election.

Galant was also accepted into the Sundance Ignite Fellow program, an internship where young filmmakers receive additional creative and professional development opportunities as they develop their craft.

Galant, a 2015 Ithaca College graduate, always knew filmmaking was her passion. Despite an interest in photography growing up, Galant's focus became nonfiction filmmaking. But after taking a few sociology and ethnic study courses



Leah Galant

during her sophomore year, she realized she wanted to use film as a tool for social change eventually changing her major from fine arts to documentary studies.

"I realized how messed up the world is and that I had been living in a bubble," Galant said. "Learning how to make a film and learning every day issues and how I can combine those two things into generating and impacting change became my focus in school."

In her senior year, Galant took a documentary workshop, where she collaborated with a group of six people to produce "The Provider," a 22-minute

documentary that follows a traveling abortion provider in Texas who performs abortions despite restrictive laws and threats to her safety. The film was well-received and qualified for entry into several national film festivals, also earning the group a Student Emmy Award.

She was also named one of Variety magazine's "110 Students to Watch in Film and Media" for their April 2015 issue for her work on "The Provider," and another student project "Beyond the Wall," a film about a former inmate and his successful reentry into society.

"Finding a topic where I'm always growing is something I'll always seek out," she said. "We just want folks to tell their truth. There's nothing deceitful about that."

Despite the overwhelming success Galant had received, she was reluctant to come home after graduation and continued to stay in Ithaca an extra year to develop her talent. When she fell into a creative rut, she moved back home and began questioning her ability as a filmmaker.

Before discovering the Jacob Burns fellowship application, she knew she wanted to be a part of the Burns media community to further her education. Galant said she had a step-by-step plan where she would volunteer with the theater, become an usher and eventually work her way up to the education department. Luckily, she applied for the fellowship and was accepted immediately.

With support from Burns producer Sean Weiner and input from the film center's educational program, Creative Culture, Galant's story, "Kitty and Ellen," came to be. Weiner also produced "Death Metal Grandma," a documentary short that follows a 95-year-old Holocaust survivor as she attempts to break out as a death metal singer.

"It's been so incredible to work with a group of filmmakers, so it was an extension of film school in a very beautiful way because everybody's talents were so different," she said.

Last year, "Kitty and Ellen" went on to play at several film festivals, including DOC NYC, the largest documentary film festival in America. Galant said she was excited to screen her film, especially surrounded by cinematic icons that made her feel very welcome in the industry.

"Sitting in a room where people are moved is something I can't articulate," Galant said. "Any practice that you create anything from an authentic place and sharing it is exciting."

As Galant look towards the future, she wants to continue tackling female-centric themes that are both misrepresented and underrepresented to make a real impact on society. She also hopes to transition to feature length films and work alongside established female filmmakers.

"I think media is the most powerful tool for change and the goal is to bridge that communication divide," Galant said. "Any way that we can impact the world, especially now, is something that I want to do and continue to do."

## Is Yorktown Protecting Its Environment?

*Continued from page 9*

and their property values. But that doesn't excuse the town's failure to do its job: The town should have had an environmental professional reviewing the developer's submissions and providing input to the Planning Board.

If the new Town Board is serious about its commitment to the environment, then it needs to rethink what environmental services the town needs and how those services can best be provided. Money should not be an issue. If Yorktown can afford to spend in excess of \$5 million to build a sports complex, it certainly should be able to find money to protect and preserve the town's fragile environment.

*Susan Siegel is a former supervisor and councilwoman in the Town of Yorktown*



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| <b>\$349</b>        | <b>\$296</b>           | <b>\$266</b>           |
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# Enough with the E-Puff

**By Dr. Richard Stumacher, Chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Northern Westchester Hospital**

The use of electronic cigarettes by young people is skyrocketing and, according to experts, addicting a whole new generation to nicotine. While the number of youthful cigarette smokers has gone down, a report from the U.S. Surgeon General states that the number of high school students using electronic cigarettes increased 900 percent between 2011 and 2015. Children as young as middle-schoolers can be seen on the Internet competing to produce the most interesting vapor clouds using e-cigs, vapes and Juuling devices. Some kids estimate that more than half their peers are vaping and say they think it's safe..

## These Devices Aren't for Children, Ever.

Promoted as a safer nicotine delivery device than cigarettes, vaping has an ironic dual role in helping smokers quit and nonsmokers start. If you're an adult who hasn't found success with smoking cessation programs, I would rather you vape than smoke a pack of cigarettes. But these devices are not for children – ever.

E-cigs and vape devices and their liquid, which contain at least 42 harmful chemicals that we know of, including formaldehyde, lead, and nicotine, use



batteries to heat an aerosol cartridge that converts a chemical-laden liquid into a flavored vapor inhaled by the user.

## A Dangerous Lure. How Big Tobacco is Targeting our Children.

Through the use of modified vaping devices shaped like Pokéballs or Game Boys, tobacco companies are aggressively targeting children. This is a nasty, nasty thing that's happening. And it's catching on really fast. Research shows that enticing flavors like Fruity Pebbles and Vanilla lure adolescents into vaping for the first time. Many devices don't produce an odor or vapor, so vaping often goes undetected by parents and teachers.

It's devastating, but not surprising. Big Tobacco owns these vaping companies

and is pushing to addict the next generation. In fact, one juice-flavored pod in the JUUL brand of electronic cigarette delivers the same amount of nicotine as in a whole pack of cigarettes. Children as young as ten are using these products. By the time they get to high school, they'll be completely addicted.

## Developing Brains vs. Nicotine and THC.

According to the National Institutes of Health, developing brains are uniquely vulnerable to long-term modification from nicotine. The limbic system, which controls cognition, emotion, and drug reward, is actively maturing during adolescence. Nicotine may disrupt this process, leaving children with emotional and

learning difficulties and a greater chance to become addicted to other substances.

What's more, because of its odorless and discreet nature, marijuana wax or oil is frequently used by teens in vaping devices. Marijuana wax and oil contain a much a higher concentration of THC extract – the psychoactive, dependent chemical in the marijuana plant, with some wax or oil containing up to 80 percent THC. We've had adolescents brought to our Emergency Department due to 'greening out' or becoming extremely nauseous or distressed from vaping marijuana oil. The user may also be exposed to other toxic substances. Marijuana wax is commonly made with the lighter fluid, butane, which can cause irreversible brain damage when inhaled.

## Explosions, Lung Disease and the Unknown...The Scary Truth.

Aside from the damaging and addictive effects of nicotine and the potential harm from vaping marijuana, vaping devices themselves may pose serious dangers to smokers. Powered by lithium-ion batteries, devices have been known to overheat, catch fire and explode, causing severe burns and even missing teeth.

**And there are more potential hazards:** The vapor-producing liquid or "vape

*Continued on page 18*

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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, Jan. 16

**Free Medicare Counseling:** Get help understanding your Medicare benefits and coverage on Tuesdays year-round (except holidays) at the John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Field Library in Peekskill. No appointments are necessary for the free service. Meet with a trained counselor for information about Medicare Parts A, B and D, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Savings Plans, Extra Help and EPIC. You can also call the Senior Benefits Information Center Helpline with your questions at 914-231-3260 and a counselor will return your call within two business days. For a listing of all eight SBIC centers in Westchester libraries, go to <http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/senior-benefits-information-centers/>.

**Senior Benefits Information:** Trained volunteer counselors help older adults and their caregivers find information about government benefits to help them stretch their budgets every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E. Main St., Shrub Oak. Get information on Medicare health and prescription plans, nutrition assistance, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), tax relief programs, and much more. Info: 914-245-5262 Ext.227 or <http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/sbic>.

**Healthy Happy Hour:** Healthy Happy Hours are held on Tuesday nights in Mahopac and another location may be added. Take a 10-day vacation from processed foods. Are sugary, fatty, easy-to-prepare, addictive junk foods making you feel sick and tired? Then reset your metabolism and break your addictions to unhealthy foods. For more information contact Diane at 914-843-8745.

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

## Wednesday, Jan. 17

**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.

**Senior Exercise:** We offer the Workout M-W from 10-11 a.m. And Zumba Gold on Friday 11 a.m. to noon. The programs are free to all seniors in Peekskill. Call Terri Dean to register at 914-734-4250 Ext. 5.

**Anime Club:** An Anime Club meets every Wednesday through May 30 at the Somers Library. from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m. This program is for teens entering 7th grade & up. Info: 914 232 5717.

**POUND Program:** POUND TM Fitness Program, a 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics isometric movements and poses, is offered at Theatre and Dance Arts 131 Bedford Rd. Katonah. Drop in or weekly discount rates are available. The program is being provided on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 11:45 a.m. Call Peggy for more information at 914 960-4097.

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

## Thursday, Jan. 18

**Talmud Class:** Talmud and the Ethics of our Sages meets on Thursdays, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Yorktown Jewish enter, 2966 Crompond Rd Feel free to come and bring a friend, even if you cannot commit to coming to class weekly. We always welcome new participants. No knowledge of Hebrew is expected, and no particular depth of Jewish knowledge is assumed. Info: 914-245-2324 or [yorktownjewishcenter.org](http://yorktownjewishcenter.org).

**Opioid Overdose Training:** Community opioid overdose training will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Somers Library. The Westchester County Department of Health will offer free training for the public on how to respond to an opioid overdose using Naloxone (Narcan). Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Register online at [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health) or call the Division of Health Promotion at 914-995-6584.

**Room To Breathe:** This month's offering from the Ossining Documentary

and Discussion Series (ODDS) is "Swim Team." The free screening will take place at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave. Seating begins at 6:15 p.m. and all are welcome. A panel discussion will follow. The film is about a San Francisco public middle school where chaos and overcrowding creates a nearly impossible learning environment. A meditation teacher arrives and is confronted with defiance, contempt for authority, poor discipline, and little interest in learning. As they learn mindfulness techniques the students slowly start to take greater control over themselves, and a new sense of calm begins to permeate their worlds, in class and at home. Info: Ossining Documentaries.org.

**Prayer Service For Life:** The Church of the Holy Spirit, 1969 Crompond Rd., Cortlandt, will hold a prayer service at 7:30 p.m. on the eve of the 45th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The participants will pray that the law that legalized abortion in the United States may one day be overturned.

## Friday, Jan. 19

**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 am 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.

**Senior Advisory Committee:** The Yorktown Senior Advisory Committee will have as guest speakers Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps Capt. Rich Carriello, new Supervisor Ilan Gilbert and new Councilwoman Alice Roker at its next meeting. at 1 p.m. at Yorktown Town Hall. All Yorktown seniors are invited.

**Anime Nights:** Join us for a chance to watch anime from Crunchyroll with your friend at the Somers Library. This program is for teens entering seventh grade and up. It meets one Friday a month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the following dates 1/19, 2/16, 3/16, 4/13, 5/11, and 6/1.

**Temple Beth Am Shabbat:** Temple

Beth Am will "opens its doors to all who enter" for Shabbat on Fridays at 8 p.m. Our modern Sabbath service has a spiritually engaging and warm feeling while following traditional modes. All are welcome to our friendly sacred space A Tot Shabbat will be held at 5:30 p.m. 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 [rabbiiw@optonline.net](mailto:rabbiiw@optonline.net). Preceding the regular service will be a Shabbat for Tots at 5:30 p.m. 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 e-mail Rebbetzin Ellen at [RebbetzinEllen@gmail.com](mailto:RebbetzinEllen@gmail.com).

**Jewish Center Services:** At the Yorktown Jewish enter, 2966 Crompond Rd., Friday night Sabbath services are held at 6:15 p.m. And Sabbath services on Saturdays will be held at 9:15 a.m. on most Saturdays. After the services Rabbi Sternstein conducts a learning session based on the Torah portion of the week. Light refreshments are served and everyone is invited to join us as we share in the warmth, knowledge and friendship within our congregation. Info: 914-245-2324 or [yorktownjewishcenter.org](http://yorktownjewishcenter.org).

## Saturday, Jan. 20

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

**Ossining Farmers Market:** The Ossining Down to Earth Farmers Market is now being held outdoors on Spring



# Happenings

and Market 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](http://DowntoEarthMarkets.com).

**Pup Raising:** Putnam Service Dogs is hosting a free informational lunch for people interested in changing lives, giving back to the community, and raising a great pup from noon to 1 p.m. at Panera Bread, 6 Triangle Center, Yorktown. Info: [putnamservicedogs.org](http://putnamservicedogs.org), or 917-449-5359.

**Support Connection Yoga:** Support Connection, Inc. announces a free pro-

gram: "Yoga: A Path Toward Wellness" will be offered from noon to 1:30 p.m., at Club Fit in Jefferson Valley, on Jan. 20 and 27. It is open to women 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.

**Historical Society Program:** Westchester: The Making of an Iconic Suburb will be the topic of a talk and PowerPoint picture program by author/journalist Robert Marchant of Croton-on-Hudson at 2 p.m., at The Little Red Schoolhouse, 297 Locust Ave., Cortlandt. Sponsored by the Van Cortlandtville Historical So-

ciety, the free event is open to the public. For more information and in case of inclement weather, visit: [www.vancort.net](http://www.vancort.net) or call 914-736-7868.

## Sunday, Jan. 21

**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

## Monday, Jan. 22

**Somers Library Monday Programs:** Two programs are being held on Mondays at the Somers Library. Drop-in Art is held on Jan. 22 and 28 and February 5, 18, and 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Do you want to create during the

cold winter? Drop in; no registration is required. Bring supplies of your choice. There is a \$6 charge per class. Bridge at the Somers Library is being held on Mondays throughout 2018 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. These classes are for beginners and players with some experience as well. Learn how to navigate your way around the game from bridge maven Walter Heitner. You will learn bidding and work on the play of the hand. By working with a group, you will all get better together. Space is limited; register online at [www.somerslibrary.org](http://www.somerslibrary.org) or call the library at 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.

## Lagonia Joins Justin Veatch Fund Board of Directors

The Justin Veatch Fund is proud to announce that Yorktown attorney Sal Lagonia will be joining its board of directors. Lagonia, who was re-elected to a third term as Yorktown Justice last November, has a keen interest in working with teens and has served on the board of directors of Student Assistance Services Inc., the Westchester County Youth Board and chaired the Yorktown Recreation Commission. Lagonia practices family law, real estate law, business and aviation law and is an aviation analyst at Fox News. Lagonia is also a musician (trumpet, flugelhorn, piano and guitar) who performs regularly with the Class Action band. He spoke of the important role music plays in his life when he delivered the keynote at The Fund's 2017 scholarship awards program.

"The Veatch Fund has a special place in my heart," said Lagonia, "as it joins to-



Sal Lagonia

gether two passions of mine; music and our fight to reduce the drug problem in a positive way. To me, music is ulti-

mately uplifting, and we must bring that empowering message to our neighbors, young and old."

The Justin Veatch Fund, a 501(c)3 organization and registered New York charity, was created in 2009 following the death of 17-year-old Justin Veatch from an accidental drug overdose as he began his senior year in high school. Justin was a talented songwriter/musician whose music can be heard on Spotify and other streaming platforms. The Fund's mission is to honor his legacy with music scholarships to graduating high school seniors, music programs for teens and counseling on the dangers of teen drug abuse. 29 scholarships have been awarded so far with six more planned for June.

Jeffrey Veatch, Justin's father and The Fund's president, has delivered his multimedia talk A Message from Justin to more than 35 thousand students with the

goal of inspiring teens to take better care of themselves and watch out for their friends. The documentary film Whispering Spirits which tells Justin's story has been screened in classrooms and community events in more than 36 states and is endorsed by The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD).

"We believe Judge Lagonia can help us advance our goals as we search for new ways to mentor teens," said Veatch. "Among other things, we hope to renew teen music workshops in 2018 and will be looking for new avenues to harness the power of Justin's message."

On the Board, Lagonia joins dedicated community advocates and Veatch family members who are passionate about honoring Justin's legacy by empowering teens and expanding musical opportunities for them.

## Obituaries

*Continued from page 6*

Also survived by five grandchildren, Arlene, Sean, Joey, Matthew, and Christopher and three great-grandchildren, Julius, Lazarus and Demetrius.

### Richard Murray

Richard Thomas Francis Murray, a resident of Verplanck, died January 8. He was 79.

He was born to William H. Murray, Sr. and Margaret (Boyle) Murray on August 30, 1938 in Peekskill. He was a dedicated parishioner at St. Patrick's Church in Verplanck. He also dedicated his life to many fire departments including as a past chief of the Verplanck Fire Department and Commissioner of the Verplanck Fire Protective Association, past President of the Westchester County Volunteer Fireman's Association, and was

life member of the Buchanan Engine Co. He also served with the Columbian Hose of Peekskill and the Centennial Hose of Peekskill. He was a member of the Peekskill Elks and the Knights of Columbus. He was a proud veteran serving in the Army from 1961-1962. He belonged to the William J. Boyle Post 1030 American Legion. Richard was a bricklayer with the Bricklayers Local 5.

Mr. Murray is survived by his brother William H. Murray, Jr., nephews Sean (Michelle) and Frank Murray, nieces Jean Gormley and Anna Johnson (Bob), and by great-nieces and nephews Sean Jr., Patrick, Niamh, Sophie, Ryan, Sierra, and Bailly.

### William Smith

William "Bill" R. Smith, a long-time resident of Somers, died peacefully in his sleep January 8. He was 86.

He worked as an engineer for IBM in Poughkeepsie until his retirement in 2000. He earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Marist College. He served in the Air Force from 1952 to 1960 and received the Army of Occupation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. He was predeceased by his parents Edgar and Mildred; his siblings Ralph, Florence, and Carolyn; and his first wife Elaine.

Mr. Smith is survived by his wife of 30 years Margaret Pauline; his children Steven and Genevieve; his step-children Peter Brown (Jenny), John Brown (Laurel), and Clare Brown-Kane (Wade); his nine grandchildren; and his four great-grandchildren. He was the quiet, sturdy anchor of the family. He was Mr. Fix-It and a faithful part of every family gathering. He will be greatly missed by all who were privileged to share his life with him.



Yorktown novelist and short story writer Susan Berliner was the guest speaker at the Yorktown Rotary Club's luncheon on January 10. She discussed how she got the ideas for each of her books as well as the creative writing process. Visit her website at [www.susanberliner.com](http://www.susanberliner.com)

Crossword

ACROSS

1. Wonder
4. New form
7. Electrocardiograph
10. Your in the Bible
11. Dada co-founder Jean
12. Cambridge univ.
13. Affirmative vote
14. New Mahopac bank
16. Splashing sound
18. Morning chat personality
20. Bridled
24. Mahopac Kennels, goes with 30 down
26. Make zzzs
27. Comes to
29. Nicholas II, for one
30. See 24 across
32. Fiasco
35. And so on (abbr.)
38. Sch. in Stillwater
39. Leaves from China, often
40. Cleo's undoing
41. Automated cash provider
42. Govt. issued ID
43. Fight-ending letters

DOWN

1. Words before profit or

- premium
2. Query
3. Peacock feather marking
4. One of the major leagues, abbr.
5. Kind of message
6. Works
7. CPR specialist
8. Air Force One passenger, abbr.
9. Muscle-car letters
15. Japanese religion
17. Central American country
18. Q followers
19. "Quincy" regular
21. "Piece of cake"
22. Important time
23. Word origin abbreviation
25. Chooses
28. Telemarketers' goals
31. University head
32. Foo Fighters "It's a shame we have to die, my dear" song
33. New York time (abbr.)
34. Mooch, as a smoke
36. "Naughty!"
37. U.S.N. noncom

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(Solution om page 18)

Fixtures: What Stays and What Goes?

Buyers and sellers who seem perfectly nice and normal throughout the sales transaction can suddenly lose their cool when the seller asks at the last minute that a modest chandelier over a kitchen table be excluded among the fixtures included in the sale.

"Oh no, you don't," the buyer might say, "it wasn't excluded in the listing!" And, the fight begins. This very scenario happened to me a short while ago. The seller had forgotten to discuss the chandelier's exclusion with his listing agent on the listing. It was a very ordinary fixture, surely one not worth fighting about.

"But we bought it early on in our marriage," the seller protested to his agent. "Our family gathered under it every morning at breakfast, every night at dinner," he was reported to have said, and so it went. But my buyer didn't relent. I appealed to his better judgment. "That chandelier is an inexpensive Tiffany reproduction," I argued, "and couldn't have cost more than \$100. I'll buy one that's more than twice its quality as a closing gift for you," I said. "No, I want that one," he said.

It looked as though it was going to



By Bill Primavera

come to a showdown. Just prior to this incident I had heard a story about how the sale of a home was lost because the seller had changed her mind about leaving her washer and dryer with a house because those particular models, with which she had fallen in love, literally, had been discontinued and she didn't want to risk her emotional health with trying another brand.

Oh, my goodness, I declared, you're going to risk losing a house over a matter like a cheap kitchen chandelier? See reason here, I admonished the buyer. Sanity finally prevailed and the seller was allowed to keep the fixture to which he was so strongly attached.

Shortly after that experience, I was involved with another dispute, and you guessed it, it also involved lighting fixtures, this time in a gorgeous historic home when the seller had affixed the highest-grade wall sconces and chandeliers you could imagine in every room, all quite appropriate to their 18th Century surroundings. My buyers oohed and aahed over every one of them in every room. Only after they decided to make an offer after the first showing did I

make the inquiry of the seller (it was one of those hybrid kind of FISBOs where the seller does most of the work, but the listing is on the MLS system) about exclusions and, sure enough, the lighting fixtures were "available for sale." My buyers were not happy, and neither was I.

Give yourself a test. Which of the following items would normally not be included as fixtures in the sale of a home: built-in stereo system, electric garage door opener, wall-to-wall carpet, built-in microwave oven, water heater, dishwasher, built-in stove, drapes, refrigerator, washer and dryer?

You are correct if you answered that the last four items are not included. All the other items are automatically included since they are attached and have become fixtures.

The literature on the subject is somewhat simplistic. For instance, lumber sitting by the side of a house is personal property because it is not permanently attached to the structure or the land, and is therefore not included in a home's sale price; however, when that lumber is nailed or bolted together to become a fence, the wood fence is a fixture attached to the land and is included in the sale.

Oddly, while the examples I gave about

chandeliers would identify them as fixtures, their light bulbs are not permanently attached to the structure so they remain personal property. Very few sellers remove their light bulbs from the light fixtures (as they are entitled to do) unless it's a particularly contentious sale. (Although, when I sold my first home, I ended up hating my buyer so much that I removed every light bulb from the house and every roll of toilet paper from the bathrooms. Hopefully, I've matured since those early years.) If a home seller wants to exclude a fixture from the sale, it must be specifically itemized and excluded in the sales contract.

When a dispute arises whether or not an item is included in a home sale, it is accepted practice that courts favor (a) buyer over seller, (b) tenant over landlord and (c) lender over borrower.

Well, I guess we all know where we stand in such battles.

While Bill Primavera has enjoyed careers as a journalist and publicist, he is now a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate, specializing in upper Westchester and Putnam Counties. To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call (914) 522-2076.



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## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF M. ELIA WELLNESS, NP IN ADULT HEALTH, PLLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/27/17. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **M. Elia Wellness, NP in Adult Health, PLLC, P.O. Box 609, 1350 East Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY 10588**. Purpose: Practice the profession of Nurse Practitioner in Adult Health.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF BLOOM HAIR SALON LP.** Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/29/2017. Office loc. Westchester. SSNY designat-

ed as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to the principal business address: **Maria Katsoros, 305 Florence Street, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

**Notice of formation of SIXTH BOROUGHS CLOTHING LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/10/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **LEGALINC CORPORATE SERVICES INC. 1967 WEHRLE DRIVE, SUITE 1 #086, BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14221. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF WI-ESEN, LLC. ARTS.** Of Org. files with SSNY on 10/6/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **LegalZoom, 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CZOU & CO., LLC.** Arts of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/18/2017. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail copy to 9 Highview Dr, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: any lawful activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ADVANCED PROFITS, LLC.** Arts of Org filed with Secy of state of NY on 5/11/17. Office loc: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to PO BOX 112, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF @CE-SARCAPJR, LLC. ARTS.** of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/15/17. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose any lawful activity.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MAN ON FIRE PRODUCTIONS, LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 20th, 2017. 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: **Joel Fendelman, 8 Fox Hill Road Pound Ridge, NY 10576. Purpose: Film Production.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF FRANK MARKETING GROUP LLC. ARTS.** Of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/10/2017. Of-

fice location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to **109 Robins Road, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE TUMMI GROUP, LLC.** Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/11/17. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **The Tummi Group, LLC, 7 Triumph Court, Flanders, NJ 07836. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.**

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(Solution to puzzle on page 16)

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS  
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# Enough with the E-Puff

Continued from page 12  
“juice” is known to contain a chemical called benzene – an active ingredient in car exhaust. One vape flavoring in particular, known as diacetyl, is linked to a potentially fatal lung disease called “popcorn lung.” When inhaled, diacetyl is known to cause inflammation and scarring of the lung’s smallest airways, leading to a progressively worse dry cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, fatigue and even death. Experts are calling for “urgent action” to evaluate exposure to diacetyl and other flavoring compounds in e-cigarettes.

While there has been no case of a patient with a disease directly linked to vaping, Dr. Stumacher believes it’s still too early to find one. Now factor in recent evidence that clearly proves adolescent vaping leads to cigarette use. Make no mistake, this is a looming health crisis. Ten to 20 years from now, this is going to get really ugly.

Until last year when a law was enacted to stop retailers from selling e-cigarettes to youth under age 18, vaping devices were completely unregulated. Today, the US Food and Drug Administration categorizes e-cigs as a tobacco product, while noting that regulation of these products does not mean they are safe to use.

There’s no reason any of our youth should be vaping, but they are. It’s rampant in our schools and a whole generation of addicts is being created. It’s important for parents to discourage the trend. Don’t buy these products for your kids. Make sure your children aren’t purchasing them online; it’s easy to click ‘over 18’ and have the products sent directly to your home. Learn about the dangers and start the conversation about vaping. Finally, set a positive example by being tobacco and e-cig-free yourself.

Editor’s note: Northern Westchester Hospital has made it a hospital wide effort to educate our community about Vaping (aka. E-cigarettes, Juuling). Between 2011 and 2015, the U.S. Surgeon General found vaping, or e-cigarette use, among high school students increased by 900% percent, with more teens now using e-cigarettes than cigarettes. Our Community Health, Education, and Outreach department, in collaboration with Respiratory Therapy, Dr. Richard Stumacher, Dr. Jim Dwyer, and our Director of the Emergency Department, Kristen Lawton, is coordinating programs throughout the northern Westchester community. Our educators are providing in-class and assembly presentations in our area school districts. Our physicians are presenting to PTA groups and community organizations.



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**De-Scintillating  
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**Somers  
Bears  
Down,  
Beats  
Brewster**

Somers G Dani DiCintio goes for two of her 14 points in the Tuskers' 61-47 league win over host Brewster and Taylor Riccardi (14) last Thursday, but state-ranked (No.12) Class A Somers found it much tougher in Saturday's 84-47 loss to seven-time reigning Class AA champion Ossining, ranked No.8 in NYS... see Girls' Hoops Notebook





## Sports

## Boys' Hoops Notebook

# Class B Put Valley, Class A Somers Perform Under Pressure

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor  
@Directrays

I mean, where do we start? The Section 1 boys' hoops season has been anything but uneventful. A seemingly wide-open Class A scenario currently led by Saunders (8-

3) and upstart Rye (12-0), anybody's guess in Class B, a Class C title that appears up for grabs, the off-court County Center debacle and subsequent lawsuit levied at Section 1's Executive Committee, oh, and, another ho-hum run for the Class AA roses by state-ranked (No.1) Mount Vernon.

Section 1 hoops is a great beat to cover every year, but we've got us some significant juice this year: A never-a-dull-moment season that just might end up having a less-than-stellar Final 4 venue on account of the aforementioned County Center catastrophe and the many scattered neutral semifinal sites becoming a real possibility. With no solution at hand, the situation has turned into a dire pissing match with the helpless student athletes of Section 1 shamefully feeling the pinch. There, I said it!

Moving on: A couple of Class B giants got after it last Friday night in North Salem where the host Tigers squandered a seven-point halftime lead in a 54-48 loss to **PUTNAM VALLEY**, which is seeking its fourth Final 4 appearance in five years and had the look of a team hell-bent on doing so.

PV doesn't start a single senior, so expectations are what they are, but the Tigers played their best quarter of the season in the fourth last Friday, having junior forwards Darnel Shillingford (25 points, 9 of

11 from the line in the fourth) and TJ Brescia (17 points) at their best. The duo teamed up to limit 6'6" North Salem, power forward Kendrick Tchoua to 16 points, all in the second half.

Additionally, Put Valley got six big points from junior G Austin Fabiano, who gave the Tigers (9-3) their first lead of the night (50-48) after a corner three-ball late in the fourth.

"We got what we expect to get from Darnel and TJ, but role players like Austin Fabiano really stepped up tonight," fourth-year Put Valley Coach Mike McDonnell said. "It was truly a team effort: Tough perimeter defense by Fabiano, (Ryan) Soto and (Brandon) Guerra. Charlie Gatewood's gutsy play off the bench, taking a late charge, was key. It was Shillingford's best two-way performance of the season: 25 points, clutch late free throws and holding



Putnam Valley F John Millicker battles for rebound in Tigers' win over North Salem last Friday.



Putnam Valley G Brandon Guerra dropped a huge fourth-quarter hoop in win over North Salem.



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Put Valley G Austin Fabiano drains go-ahead 3 in Tigers' 54-48 win over North Salem, Friday.

their center down. TJ Brescia, aka the sheriff, as always delivered."

The Tigers, in general, delivered late. In a tale of two halves, PV had just 26 points after three quarters, contributing to a nine-point deficit after three quarters. Then, out of nowhere, the Tigers scored 28 in the fourth quarter, storming to the finish line, including an array of low-post moves from Brescia that truly impressed and some savvy play from Shillingford, who outplayed Tchoua down the stretch.

"We came in here having never played against him, but we studied him," Shillingford said of the North Salem transfer. "We just wanted to outwork him. Going into it, me and TJ just said let's outwork him. We knew our defense had been fine in the first half, having held them to 22, so we knew if we just kept the defense up the offense would come off of that."

And should they take that mentality into the stretch run, the Tigers will be a major player in Class B. **CROTON-HARMON** (4-5) hopes to get it going as well after defeating Hawthorne Cedar Knolls and getting worked by Briarcliff last week...

## CLASS A

**SOMERS** Coach Chris DiCintio is an honest cat. He's not one of those coaches who falsely tells writers, "I don't read what you guys say."

"Get those power rankings turned around, brother" DiCintio said after his Tuskers pounded host **WALTER PANAS** last Tuesday to the tune 59-42, and previously-ranked No.1 **HEN HUD** suffered a 53-47 loss to John Jay CR.

And while John Jay CR (6-5) is better than they are given credit for this season, and the Sailors (7-2) remain a strong Class A club, DiCintio hit the nail on the head, so there's a new sheriff atop the NWE/Putnam Super 7 Poll this week, and it's got the look of an elephant and could for quite some time should Somers finish out strong.

The Tuskers (7-3) followed up the Panas win with a decisive 63-45 win over **BREWSTER** (4-5) on Thursday. Somers hotshot Lorenzo Bicknese dropped a game-high 24, including five field goals from downtown, while flashy G Gio Tradito went for 12. Kevin Halper (11 points) put the game away with three 3's

*continued on next page*



# Sports

## Boy's Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Displaying an array of low-post moves, Put Valley F TJ Brescia drops two of his 17 in win over North Salem.



Panas G Brandon Hodge did all one could do to keep his Panthers in the game, but Somers was too much for Panas to handle in Tusker blowout.



Somers F Max Germaine and Panas F Peter Andersen get after it in Tuskers win over Panthers last week.

### NWE/Putnam Examiner Super 7 Poll

**No.1 SOMERS** – Thursday's matchup with host John Jay is not one the Tuskers should be looking past, considering the early edge to the league title hangs somewhat in the balance.

**No.2 PUTNAM VALLEY** – Tigers (9-3) are currently looking like a potential No.2 seed in Class B but state-ranked (No.16) Briarcliff, (No.24) Irvington, Blind Brook, Pal Prep and North Salem remain ridiculously tough obstacles in wide open field of contenders.

**No.3 HEN HUD** – Sailors (7-2) have a legit starting five, but the concern is depth.

**No.4 PANAS** – When and if the Panthers (4-3) put it all together, they remain a team who can contend with most, but the 17-point loss at home to Somers is a tad concerning.

**No.5 MAHOPAC** – There's really no reason to believe the Indians (5-5) can't win the league crown, despite the 2-point loss to John Jay EF, especially if 6'5" F Rheel Allen can emerge as a second-half

surprise #FaRheel.

**No.6 OSSINING** – The Pride (7-3) need to start posting quality wins and they get three chances between Tuesday and Saturday with Put Valley, Greeley and TZ on deck.

**No.7 YORKTOWN** – Huskers (5-5) hung very tough in two-point loss to Greeley, which sort of got our attention, and they were bucking for a big bump in this poll if they could take out Panas last night in the Husker tourney final.

**HM LAKELAND** – Hornets (4-6) are losing some luster after losses to Magnus and John Jay CR but ever-improving they are.

**HM HALDANE** – Having a great season, the Blue Devils (7-2) are, and Class C is there for the take (sorry about the misspelling of Alex Kubic's name in the headline last week).

**HM BREWSTER** – Bears (4-5) handed it to Sleepy Hollow, 50-28, behind Dignan and Cameron Hart (13 each), but lost to Somers by 18.

in the fourth, and my man Jack Gilroy (10) provided four double-digits scorers for the Tuskers. The Bears were led by Kevin Stefanick's 17. Most impressively, Somers, which identifies with defense, limited Brewster sniper Harrison Dignan to just two points.

Somers also defeated South Bronx, 84-59, in the Scarsdale tourney consolation

behind Bicknese (21 points) and Gilroy (16).

When the Tuskers lost to state-ranked (No.13) Class AA Pine Bush a few weeks back, they could have shown a glass jaw, but they rallied to win six of the last seven and remain firmly affixed within the Class A Final 4 contenders. Somers will put that notion to the test this coming



Put Valley's Ryan Soto flies out to defend North Salem G Ryan Donovan in PV win last Friday.

Saturday when they take on state-ranked (No.19) Class A Saunders in the "Pride on the Court" Challenge at Sarah Lawrence College.

Hen Hud bounced back strong from the Jay setback with a 66-59 win over Class B Valhalla behind 19 points from F Kyle James and 14 from G Dylan Fraser. Mekhi Gray and Austin Fraser each chipped in with nine for the Sailors, who defeated **OSSINING**, 50-45, on Saturday. Fraser (12), Gray (14) and James (11) led the Sailors while Zahir Hernandez (15) and Jacob Toppin (10) led the Pride.

### CLASS AA

In a 49-47 loss to John Jay EF, **MAHOPAC's** Justin Parker went for 14 points, but the real story was the play of F Reahl Allen, who jumped off the bench with a promising 13-point/15-rebound effort. It wasn't all bad for Mahopac, which posted a 55-46 win over Ramapo earlier in the week when F Ryan Dugan had 14 points to lead Mahopac, which improved to 5-4 after a 58-40 win over Arlington Saturday. Parker hit the Admirals up for 20 while Indian F Ryan Dugan added 15 and Allen went for 10 for the Indians, who held Arlington to one fourth-quarter point.

**YORKTOWN** lost 56-54 to Greeley despite solid outings from Mike Broder (15 points), James Lundberg (10 points, 7 boards) and G Marc Spinelli (11 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists, 5 steals).

The league loss didn't deter the Huskers (5-5) from coming out hard in a 57-47 win over Hastings in the opening round of the Budries Tournament. Lundberg had a special night with 19 points, 10 boards and three steals. Spinelli (7 points, 5 boards, 4 steals) and Tommy Weaver (7 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists) each had a well-rounded effort.



## Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook

# Ossining's Griffin Never Blinkered Despite Hardship

By Tony Pinciario

Aubrey Griffin took a mature approach to a serious knee injury, which sidelined her for her sophomore year on the basketball court.

"In the beginning, it was hard, but it taught me how to be mentally stronger," said the sensational Ossining junior. "I couldn't dwell on it and focus on being hurt. Instead, I had to focus on getting better and helping the team."

Griffin is showing no ill-effects of the torn anterior cruciate ligament as she is averaging a team-leading 27.1 points per game. She is also averaging 7.9 rebounds and 4.1 steals a game for the 10-3 Pride, the seven-time defending Section 1 Class AA champs.

Griffin recently joined an elite girls' basketball club, registering her 1,000 varsity point in a recent victory over Kennedy Catholic.

Even though Griffin was unable to play her sophomore year, she remained an integral member of the team. Griffin felt she became more focused while watching games and practices, and she was an unofficial assistant coach.

"It showed me a different way the game was played, and I was able to understand the game even more," Griffin said. "I tried to help as much as I could. If a teammate needed motivation or was down, at times, during a game, I would talk to them and cheer them on."

Once Griffin received medical clearance to return, she was counting down the days until practice began last November.

"I was really excited that I was able to play again, and get back on the court and play with my teammates again because I missed playing with them," Griffin said.



RICK KUPERBERG/RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Putnam Valley G Kelli Venezia splits Yorktown's Ashley Zeolla (L) and Mackenzie Merson in Tigers' tourney win over Huskers Saturday.

Ossining Coach Dan Ricci was equally happy to see Griffin back.

"Aubrey is a tremendous athlete who

helps us get easy baskets," Ricci said. "Aubrey looks like she was never injured."

It is only natural for an athlete, returning from a serious injury, to be a somewhat tentative, at first. Griffin was cautious, but didn't allow herself to think about it. Instead, Griffin approached her return with the same tenacity she demonstrates on the court.

"I just said to myself that I was back and I did the therapy I needed to do and my knee is stronger now," Griffin said. "I felt comfortable a couple of games into the season because I'm not scared to hurt my knee. I'm going out and playing my hardest."

Griffin was on the verge of collecting her 1,000th varsity point, but was not aware of it. She thought she was nowhere near the milestone because she

missed last year. However, when she made a driving layup in the 92-58 win over Kennedy Catholic, the game was stopped and Ricci presented her with the ball.

"It means a lot but I wouldn't have been able to accomplish this without my teammates," Griffin said. "My teammates always find a way of passing the ball me when I'm open."

Griffin filled out the stat sheet with 30 points, five rebounds, five assists and four steals. Kailah Harris added 18 points and seven rebounds, Julia Iorio netted 16 points and Kelsey Quain finished with 15 points. Jaida Strippoli handed out 10 assists.

Griffin scored a game-high 32 points in an 84-47 win over 2017 Section 1 Class A champion **SOMERS**. She also had 13 rebounds and five steals. Harris had 22 points and 15 rebounds and Strippoli added 11 points and six assists.

Ossining owns a three-game winning streak and played South Shore of Brooklyn, Monday. Griffin said Ossining has hiked the intensity level on defense during this current stretch.

"Coach Ricci said that we needed to step up and play Ossining basketball," Griffin said. "We've been working on defense, defense, and defense in practice because that's what wins games."

A young **PUTNAM VALLEY** team continued its excellent play, sweeping North Salem, 59-20, Dobbs Ferry, 39-30, and Yorktown 43-32, improving to 7-1.

Against **YORKTOWN** (3-7), in the Huskers' tournament, Kelli Venezia drained a game-high 20 points to lead the Tigers, who advanced to yesterday's tournament championship.

Putnam Valley's defense has been stifling through seven games, yielding less than 35 points per game.

"We struggled offensively against Dobbs Ferry," PV boss Kristi Dini said, "and it showed, as our last game was December 21, but we played great defense. They're a good team and it was a great battle."

"We really moved the ball well against North Salem, but our defense was really tough. North Salem only had eight points at halftime."

Dini is pleased with her team's defensive



Hen Hud's Caitlin Weimar did what she could, but it wasn't enough in the Sailors loss to Section 1 heavyweight Our Lady of Lourdes.



Put Valley G Arianna Stockinger shadowed Yorktown hotshot Kat Severino in Tigers' tourney win over Huskers Saturday.



Putnam Valley F Dora Rippon, who is having an exceptional junior season, drives on Yorktown's MacKenzie Merson in Tigers' tourney win over Huskers Saturday.

*continued on next page*



# Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Brewster G Maggie DePaoli scored 25 points but it wasn't enough to offset Somers last Thursday.

approach, whether in practice or games.

"The girls buy in and work extremely hard in practice breaking down every component of man defense and putting it all together," Dini said.

Dora Rippon led the way with 17 points and 12 rebounds against Dobbs Ferry. She

then poured in 26 points against North Salem. Venezia chipped in 14 points and 12 assists and Ariana Stockinger had 12 points.

**PANAS** went 2-1 for the week with victories over Peekskill, 59-41, and Gorton, 67-30. The Panthers, now 5-5 this season, lost by a point, 51-50, to Pelham.

Kellie Brown paced the offense with 20 points against Peekskill (1-6). Danielle Merante added 14 points and Kristen Cinquina had 12 points.

In the Pelham game, Brown netted 19 points and Kristen Scrobola and Merante had nine points apiece. Brown tallied 15 points, Merante added 12 and Caileen Nolan collected 11 points against Gorton.

"We played well as a team against Peekskill," Panas coach Matt Evangelista said. "We defended very well. Kellie made timely shots to keep us in the lead for most of the game. We did a good job of protecting and extending the lead in the fourth quarter."

Cinquina evened the score against Pelham in the last 30 seconds, but Pelham converted one of two free throws with 1.4 seconds remaining to steal the game.



John Jay's Erin Walsh, Kendall Degenhardt and Elizabeth Jahn swarm Lakeland's Jessica Ascencio in Indians' 42-40 buzzer-beating win over Hornets last Thursday.



Brewster G Megan Beal drives lane against defense of Somers' Dani Cucchiarella in Bears' loss to Tuskers last Thursday.

"We got off to an early lead in the Gorton game and maintained the lead until we blew it open in the fourth quarter," Evangelista said.

**SOMERS** also went 2-1 for the week. The Class A Tuskers defeated Tappan Zee, 59-53, and Brewster, 61-47, before an 84-47 loss to Ossining in a matchup of 2017 sectional champions.

"The best thing about the two wins were the continued growth of the two girls off of our bench," Somers' coach Marc Hattem said. "Senior Dani Cucchiarella and sophomore Pooja Rao continue to get better, making us a deeper team. Pooja averaged 10 points and six rebounds in the two wins."

"In the loss to Ossining, it was a two-

point game, 31-29, late in the first half, but then they went on a big run to put us away. They are as good as any team we have seen or will see. Dani had a career-high six 3-pointers."

Hannah Angelini had 21 points and seven rebounds against Tappan Zee and Liv Lipski added 13 points. Angelini finished with 17 points against Brewster, Dani DiCintio contributed 14 points and Lipski rang up five steals.

Despite the loss to Somers, **BREWSTER** Coach Mike Castaldo came away pleased with this team's performance.

"I could not be prouder of the way my team played," Castaldo said. "The girls executed the game plan, played extremely physical, got on the floor and took charges. We just lost to a really good team."

Castaldo said one factor that led to Somers' victory was the 18 points it received from its bench players.

Maggie Depaoli finished with a game-high 25 points, including five 3-pointers, and Kristen Stefanick chipped in 16 points.

"Maggie did a great job of breaking the press, getting to the rim and was lethal from long range. Kristen had her best all-around game as a varsity player," Castaldo said. "This was a great game to be a part of."

**YORKTOWN** opened its week with a 48-37 win over Horace Greeley, then dropped a 43-32 verdict to Putnam Valley.

Kat Severino posted a game-high 26 points against Greeley. Mackenzie Merson added 10 points and Jesse Barer finished with seven points. Severino scored 17 points against Putnam Valley.

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# Somers Fetches Win over Panas, 59-42

## Tuskers Heating Up for League Title Drive



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO (please visit [www.HVSPphotos.com](http://www.HVSPphotos.com) for more)

High-flying Somers junior G Lucas Fecci and the Tuskers (7-3) got the better of Walter Panas F Peter Anderson (L) and the Panthers last Tuesday when Somers, winners in six of their last seven games, including a dominant 59-42 win over host Panas, staked their claim as the favorites to win the league crown, what would be the Tuskers' first since 1989. A big bout with league foe John Jay CR this Thursday will go a long way in determining that.. see Boys' Hoops Notebook



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