



Claxton Reflects on 16 Years in Office, Cancer Battle



Drew Claxton (right) being honored at a recent event by Councilwoman Vivian McKenzie and mayor-elect Andre Rainey.

By Rick Pezzullo

During her 16 years on the Peekskill Common Council, Drew Claxton encountered many political hurdles, particularly in her first two years when she was the "lone Democrat" on the seven-member board.

However, nothing she faced in the political circle, including hurtful personal attacks, can compare to the struggles she faced over the last four years in her battle with cancer.

"I can say, why me? But why not me?" Claxton said last week at the BeanRunner Café in Peekskill that she has owned for the last 10 years with her husband/partner Ted Bitter. "This is life. It's there and I try not to dwell on it. I would rather be happy in whatever amount of time there is then be miserable and suffering. I can't tell you the support I have gotten from

the community. The amount of support that I have gotten is awesome."

Claxton, 62, currently has Stage 4 cancer. Her health problems first surfaced four years ago after she felt something was wrong and went for a checkup. Her instincts were right as she was diagnosed with Stage 1 colon and rectal cancer. A year later, when it advanced to Stage 2, she underwent radiation and chemotherapy treatment. She had major surgery last February. She later found spots on her lungs, which were removed. She's now dealing with two spots on her liver.

"I keep catching things very early," she said, noting she has made changes to her diet and walks two miles every day. "The course of action (with liver spots) is you wait and watch. Chemo just controls it. The spots on the liver haven't changed,

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Catalina Proud of Accomplishments as He Bids Adieu

By Rick Pezzullo

In his final meeting as Peekskill mayor, Frank Catalina outlined a series of accomplishments during his four-year administration and reflected on what leading the city where he grew up meant to him.

"Serving as mayor has, without any doubt, been the highest honor of my lifetime and one I will forever be grateful to the citizens of Peekskill who twice elected me to serve," Catalina said at City Hall last week where he received loud applause and a standing ovation from those in attendance.

Catalina, an attorney who was defeated by Councilman Andre Rainey in November, said his administration had successfully turned around the city's flailing fi-

nances, ending 2017 with its third straight year of an operating surplus and an unrestricted fund balance of about \$2.8 million. When he took office, Catalina said the city's unrestricted fund balance was \$7,500.

"When I took office, this city was, financially, a disaster," he said. "We addressed these very serious financial problems head-on. On the day I took office, I said we could not tax our way out of these problems and that the path to financial security was through the growth of our tax base. That's exactly what we did."

One way Peekskill dug its way out of its financial doldrums was through increased development, with 28 new commercial

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which is good. I feel really good. I feel better than I have in years."

Her cancer fight is one reason why Claxton chose not to run for a fifth four-year term in November, when the Democrats won all four seats up for grabs, including mayor, and now hold all six elected positions, with a seventh Democrat coming on board soon to fill mayor-elect Andre Rainey's unexpired two-year council term.

"I wasn't surprised," Claxton said of the Democrats' sweep. "The Democrats ran a very strong ticket. I also believe people are tired of the negative campaigning, tired of the divisiveness, tired of the bashing. Frank (Catalina) became very known for that. His campaign was dirty. My last four years were hell with him. I think he tried to be nice in public. I think Andre has unlimited potential. He loves this city. He has a good heart. He's incredibly intuitive and incredibly smart."

Claxton, who was born in Libya, moved to Peekskill in the 1960s when she was eight with her mom and five siblings. She went into the Air Force when she was 18 and later earned a Master's degree in economics.

She said she first got involved in city affairs when there was a proposal to

cover McGregor Brook with landfill and she penned a letter to the editor. She was then appointed to Peekskill's Historical Preservation Advisory Board.

Her first bid for elected office was a losing effort in 1999. "Initially I said no. I said no three times," Claxton said about running for council. "I never imagined myself as someone that would be on the council. There was an old boys' network. I was never part of that. I didn't see people like me getting elected to boards like that. That has really changed. Anybody who really loves the city can run regardless of who their family is, or where they grew up, or what their social status is in the city."

Claxton ran again for council in 2001 and was victorious, but soon found herself "shut out" as the only Democrat under then-mayor John Testa. "It was an eye opener," she said. "I thought it was more about showmanship than getting things done."

It wasn't until Democrat Mary Foster was elected mayor in 2007 and the Democrats held a 6-1 advantage that Claxton felt "we went into hyper speed and we got a tremendous amount done in a very short time."

"We should have taken before and after pictures. People have very short

memories," Claxton said. "He (Catalina) cut ribbons on a lot of projects that were started under Mary Foster."

Claxton refuted Catalina's claims that Peekskill was financially hemorrhaging when he took office, saying the council made a decision to dip into fund balance instead of raising taxes and cutting jobs, until the well ran dry after the economy failed to rebound as hoped.

"In the end the economy caught up with us. We were not in financial despair," she said.

Claxton said she never had aspirations to be at the top of the ticket and enjoyed her role as one of seven decision-makers on the council.

"I like to do the work. We set the policies. We don't do the hirings and the firings," she said. "My role was one vote, one seat. There is nothing that can move forward in this city without the council. I feel that my battle won."

During her last council meeting, Claxton was praised by several Democratic leaders, including Linda Wildman, who presented Claxton with 16 roses for each

year she served on the council and mentioned Claxton had attended 736 work sessions and 368 council meetings during her tenure.

"I've witnessed the struggle with your health try to get the best of you and I've noticed your ability to move forward regardless. You're not just a councilwoman to me and others, you're a living legend," Rainey stated in a Facebook post. "A wife, a mother, a sister, an aunt, a grandmother that ANYONE wouldn't want in their family. You've never been greedy, nor selfish and that's what makes you amazing Drew."

"You clearly have left the city better than it was before," said former Councilwoman Marybeth McGowan.

Claxton said she plans on getting involved in the city "in a different way," perhaps with artists in Peekskill.

"I'll start getting involved in stuff that I like," she said. "It's going to be good. I have been honored to serve this city. It has been a pleasure. It's time for me to step aside and let the young folks move in."

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Director, Spine Radiosurgery Program
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Q: I'm hearing about an amazing new type of radiosurgery. What is it?

A: In the 1950s, researchers began a quest to use high-dose radiation to provide non-invasive treatment for neurosurgical problems (mainly of the brain and spine). This led to the field of radiosurgery, which involves directing targeted radiation into the brain to perform such procedures as burning away tumors and relieving symptoms. Over the next decades, with the growth of computers and our ability to look inside the brain, three-dimensional stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) developed. Now radiation delivery could be pinpointed by precise coordinates in three planes: length, width and depth. In the late 20th century, SRS technology evolved for use outside the brain, overwhelmingly for spinal tumors.

Q: What is special about Novalis?

A: Novalis delivers spine SRS, offering unique advantages in planning and delivery to neurosurgeons and patients. First, Novalis has a complex, but comprehensive system to confirm that we're delivering radiation to the right spot. So it offers a dramatic increase in precision and safety.

The advanced software gives us tremendous flexibility in designing treatment. Spinal tumors come in all sizes. Some bend around critical organs. But Novalis lets us design 3-D treatments in all shapes and sizes while sparing critical organs, such as the spinal cord, from damage by this very high dose of radiation.

Q: What can I expect if I have surgery using Novalis?

A: You'll be evaluated by a neurosurgeon and NWH's radiation oncology team. If this intervention is suitable, you'll undergo special scans. We put all the information into our special computer and design a treatment consisting of a 3-D computerized model. During treatment, you'll lie on a specialized table and, after a series of checks that confirm exact position, the machine delivers treatment. Sessions usually last about 15 minutes.

Q: Can I easily find hospitals offering Novalis treatment?

A: The next-closest hospital to Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH) offering Novalis treatment is in New York City. By providing both Novalis and Gamma Knife (stereotactic radiosurgery for brain tumors), NWH offers our community the entire spectrum of state-of-the-art treatments for patients who need SRS anywhere in the body.



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Officer Saves Cortlandt Man from Choking on Christmas

Here's a Christmas present you just can't beat – the gift of life.

On Christmas Day, a county police officer performed the Heimlich maneuver on a man who was choking and in severe distress in the Town of Cortlandt. The officer, David Dirienzo, will be nominated for the department's Life Saving Award as a result of his quick and decisive actions to aid the stricken man, Commissioner George N. Longworth said.

The incident began about 7:15 p.m. when Dirienzo observed a vehicle driving erratically on Route 6 near the Cortlandt Town Center. Dirienzo activated his lights and siren and pulled the vehicle over as it entered the town center shopping complex.

When Dirienzo approached the driver, he observed that the man was gagging, red-faced and unable to speak. He asked the motorist if he was choking and the

driver nodded that he was.

Dirienzo pulled the 48-year-old man from the vehicle and administered the Heimlich maneuver. After several thrusts, an object blocking the man's airway was expelled. The man resumed breathing normally almost immediately.

Dirienzo called for an ambulance as a precaution. The man was evaluated by EMS personnel from the Lake Mohegan Fire Department and declined further medical attention. Before leaving the scene, he thanked the officer for saving his life.

The motorist told Dirienzo that he was driving to his daughter's home in Mohegan Lake when he began choking. He said he was trying to get to the Town Center to pull over and try to dislodge the item on his own.

"It is very fortunate that Officer Dirienzo was present to provide immediate assistance," Longworth said. "When someone is choking, every second counts."

Westchester County
Police Officer David Dirienzo



Chabad of Yorktown Seeks to Reclaim the Lost Art of Human Connection

How are our almost constant interactions with devices affecting our relationships? This question is what drove Rabbi Yehuda Heber of Chabad of Yorktown to offer "Communication: Its Art and Soul" in Yorktown. Beginning Wednesday, January 17, at 7:30 p.m., he will present the first lesson of this new six-session course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI).

"Jewish wisdom includes many powerful and original insights into the art of communication that are more relevant today than ever," explained Rabbi Heber, the local JLI instructor in Yorktown. "The goal of this course is to mine these texts and seek out their golden teachings. I believe this can help us reclaim the lost art of deep human connection in spite of our devices."

"In Jewish philosophy, communication is more than just a tool: it is who we are. Humans are defined as communicative beings with a communicative soul, and aligning ourselves with this soul is our raison d'être. In "Communication: Its Art and Soul", we contrast Jewish thought with scientific discovery to unearth the essence of communication and how to utilize its powers to better ourselves, our relationships, and all of society," reads a description of the course on JLI's website.

"The integration of these two streams of knowledge—the secular/psychological and Jewish tradition—is remarkable," writes Mona Fishbane, former director of couple training at Chicago Center for

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Continued on page 14

Catalina Proud of Accomplishments as He Bids Adieu

Continued from page 1

projects built or in the planning process, along with 537 residential units. Catalina said his administration ranks first in new commercial units planned and second in residential units of any in Peekskill's history.

"Development expands our tax base while, in most cases, adds little to the city's cost of providing services. Development is not a bad word and developers are the friends and benefactors of municipalities, not our enemies," Catalina said. "While development certainly does not start with elected officials, it can be quickly stopped by elected officials who are close-minded and those who fail to see the short and long-term benefits of new smart and exciting developmental projects."

"I urge the incoming administration to recognize the strength of any city lies in its business community and the fuel that drives the business community's success is, quite simply, residential and commercial development," he added.

Catalina, who presented Rainey with the keys to City Hall, along with a specially designed mayoral shirt and sweatshirt, cautioned the new leadership to avoid lawsuits, bonding and "needless and useless" studies, and to always keep the Oath of Office in mind when governing.

"You are taking an oath to follow the Charter and to not only obey laws, but to

uphold them when others do not," he said. "And that means all of the laws, not just the ones you agree with. Following your oath is the best way to maintain your integrity. Remember, upholding the law and sticking to your oath is easy when it's easy but when public opinion, personal beliefs, or pressure from others urges you otherwise, that's the hard part and that's exactly where your integrity will be tested. If you want to take an action contrary to existing law, change the law rather than break your solemn oath for personal or political reasons."

Rainey, a Democrat who was sworn-in January 1, thanked Catalina for his guidance to ensure a smooth transition.

"I don't think I could have learned more under any other mayor than Frank," Rainey said. "I respect the love you have for the city. I think your passion for the city is stronger than mine because you have been here longer."

Catalina was also praised by former Councilman and longtime friend Larry Gomez and his mother, Frances Catalina.

"You did just what you said you were going to do," Gomez said. "You did it with integrity, always doing what you felt in your heart was best. The city is going to be better for it."

"His love of his hometown has never wavered," Mrs. Catalina said. "You made

Peekskill a proud place to live, work and be entertained. We only have to look around Peekskill to see the tremendous legacy of Frank and his team."

The newly remarried Catalina wished the new administration well and said he looked forward to "watching from the sidelines."

"As I close, I leave the incoming elected

officials with our record of achievements not to set the bar high, low or even at all. I just wanted to clearly set out what we did with our time here," he said. "Hopefully, these accomplishments will be surpassed. After all, regardless of politics, we all serve to leave our city a better place than we found it in. By that measure, I think we were successful."

Somers Researching Potential Litter Cam Legislation

by Neal Rentz

Having seen legislation passed in Yorktown in 2016, Somers Supervisor Rick Morrissey said last week the town is researching a new litter law for the town that could include the use of cameras to record those breaking the law.

The Yorktown Town Board unanimously approved an amendment to the Town Code in June 2016 to make dumping from a vehicle a civil violation if the offender is caught in the act.

The addition to the town's littering laws is unique, said Yorktown Town Attorney Michael McDermott, who is also a Somers Town Justice. He noted last year his research did not reveal

any other municipality with legislation regarding utilizing cameras to capture an image of a car license plate and the operator of the vehicle illegally dumping trash.

Morrissey said last week the town is researching potentially bringing a law similar to the one passed in Yorktown to Somers. Morrissey did not offer specifics of what would be the penalties for those caught in the act of littering.

"The town is at this time not considering legislation but researching other municipalities' codes as we take littering very serious in town and consider it to be a quality of life issue," Morrissey said.



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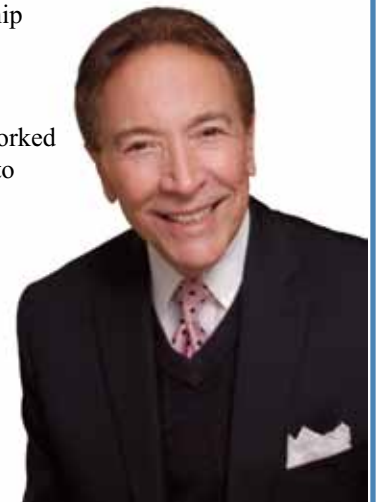
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Police Blotter

State Police

December 24 - State Police from the Somers barracks arrested Jason M. Cafaldo, 37, of Somers, for Assault in the 2nd degree, a class D felony, Assault in the 3rd degree, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Criminal Mischief in the 4th degree (preventing an emergency call), Resisting Arrest, Obstruction of Governmental Administration, all class A misdemeanors, and Menacing in the 3rd degree, a class B misdemeanor.

At approximately 11:15 p.m., troopers responded to Krystal Drive in the Town of Somers for a domestic dispute. Investigation revealed that during an argument, Cafaldo physically assaulted, and menaced the victim in front of a child who was also in the residence. Cafaldo was uncooperative, and combative with the responding troopers who arrived at the scene prior to and while being taken into custody. He was arraigned before the Town of Somers Court and remanded to the Westchester County Jail.

State Police from Cortlandt arrested Sharon M. Cowles, 46, of Shrub Oak, for DWI. She was traveling on Route 22 in the Town of Cortlandt when she was stopped for a vehicle and traffic law violation. Investigation revealed that she was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

December 23 - State Police from Cortlandt arrested Brian Sandoval, 23, of Ossining, for DWI. He was traveling on Route 9A in the Village of Croton-Hudson when he was stopped for a vehicle and traffic law violation. Investigation revealed that he was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

State Police from Cortlandt arrested Damien C. Luna, 22, of Cortlandt, for DWI. He was traveling in the Town of Cortlandt, when he was involved in a property damage motor vehicle crash. Investigation revealed that he was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

Yorktown Police

December 20 - Risa Fisbein, 62, of Putnam Valley, was charged with driving while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident following a two-car crash on Stony Street at about 5:24 p.m.

December 22 - Jose Hernandez, 28, of Peekskill, was charged with driving while intoxicated and driving without a license following a car crash on Route 129 and 118.

Roy Byremo, 52, of Yorktown, was charged with driving while intoxicated following a three-car accident in the area

of Underhill Avenue and Rochambeau Drive about 5:25 p.m.

Cyan Rampersent, 20, of Peekskill, was charged with petit larceny after it was alleged while she was employed at Macy's she transferred \$460 from returned merchandise on to two gift cards that she took.

December 25 - Victor Melchor, 38, of Croton, was charged with driving while

intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident following a crash on Crow Hill Road at about 5:40 p.m.

December 27 - Megan Blaufarb, 35, of Mohegan Lake, was charged with aggravated DWI following the report of a possible domestic incident where one party left the scene in a vehicle. Based on an inves-

Continued on page 12

Woman Killed in Somers House Fire



On December 26, at approximately 2:15 a.m. state troopers and firefighters arrived at 12 Hickory Road to combat a fully engulfed house fire. The sole occupant Harmony Thaler, 46, was found deceased by fire personnel. The fire is not considered suspicious at this time. State Police were assisted on scene by Somers Fire Department,

Croton Fire Department, Westchester County Emergency Medical Services, and the Westchester County Fire Cause and Origin Team..

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Obituaries



Walter Charles Morgenstern

Walter Morgenstern

Walter Charles Morgenstern, a former Yorktown resident, died December 28 in Winston Salem, North Carolina. He was 88.

He was born January 7, 1929 to Walter and Gertrude. He grew up in Brooklyn during the Great Depression. In 1946, he enlisted in the United States Army and served overseas in Germany relocating persons displaced by the war. In 1947, he was honorably discharged from the Army and re-

turned home to Brooklyn. Soon after returning, he entered Pace College where he received a Bachelors' degree in Business Administration in 1952.

During this period, he met Patricia Ann Daley, a local resident of Brooklyn and they were married in 1952 and remained happily so until Patricia's death in 1997.

After graduation, Mr. Morgenstern first went to work for Lever Bros. but a couple of years later went work for IBM where he worked until retirement in 1988.

He spent much of his time in retirement pursuing his passions. He was a lover of all animals and had a special affinity for dogs. He volunteered at the Guiding Eyes for the Blind in Yorktown Heights where dogs are trained to assist people who have lost their site. He also adopted pets from this organization that were not quite cut out for the rigors of that type of work. Additionally, he volunteered his time to the John C. Hart Library in Shrub Oak, local food banks and The Tea Town Lake Reservation. A passionate reader, he loved to learn about history, enjoyed the NY Times cross word puzzles, travel and his daily walks.

He is survived by his four children; Kevin, Matthew, Jenny and Brian.

Richard Hopkins

Richard Gilpin Hopkins, a resident of Cortlandt for over 55 years, died December 24. He was 98.

He was born March 25, 1919 in Brewster, to Martha Lukens and Wallace Hopkins. He was raised in Brewster and Carmel, graduating from Carmel High School. In 1939, he joined the U.S Navy, serving in World War II in the Atlantic and the Pacific, as well as the Carribean and Mediterranean. He attended Officer Candidate School, retiring after 30 years in 1969 as a lieutenant. Later he worked for IBM in East Fishkill for more than 10 years.

He married Astrid Olsen, who predeceased him, on April 4, 1953, in Carmel. He is also predeceased by his brothers Edward Hopkins and T/5 Reed Hopkins, who was killed in World War II. He is survived by his daughter, Susan Hopkins of Cortlandt Manor and nieces, Martha Hopkins of Alexandria, VA, Nancy Hopkins Garriss of Harrisonburg, VA, and nephew, Reverend Reed Hopkins of Churchville, VA.

Obtaining his private pilot's license was one of his prized accomplishments. In addition, he was a member of various hereditary societies, including the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and the Sons of the American Revolution, his family settling in Putnam County before the Revolutionary War. He restored various historical markers in Putnam County as well as Gilead Cemetery, enabling it to be listed on the National Historic Register.

He was also a Master Mason, a member of Cortlandt Manor, NY Lodge No. 34, Free and Accepted Masons.

Aida Pinto

Aida (Ida) Pinto, a resident of Ossining, died peacefully December 24. She was 101.

She was born in New York City on March 23, 1916 to Dominic and Concetta (Basile) DePaola. She was preceded in death by her three sisters Florence, Victoria and Armida, and her husband John. She married the love of her life, John Pinto, in 1940. They were together until his death in 1998.

Mrs. Pinto loved fashion and managed the Plymouth Shop in the Bronx for many years. She moved to Briarcliff, New York with John to be closer to family. She was an exceptional chef and her signature lasagna was loved by all. She is survived by her daughter Michele of Ossining, New



Robert (Bob) Ciero,

York and daughter Denise (Tom) of California, her grandchildren Erin (Ergul) of Yorktown, New York, Christian (Anne) of Westport, Connecticut, Christopher (Katie) of California, and five great-grandchildren, John, Nicholas, Mason, Miles and Elisabeth.

Robert Ciero

Robert (Bob) Ciero, a longtime resident of Ossining, and formerly of Yonkers, died December 23. He was 75.

He played on the 1961 College World Series baseball team. He was a teacher and administrator at Yonkers High School, a former bar and restaurant owner, and at different times, coached the Yonkers High School basketball team. He was known as "Coach" to his players and colleagues and "Bullet" to his closest personal friends and fellow coaches, whom he loved as brothers. But he was faithfully and fittingly "Uncle Bob" to most.

He was born on March 25, 1942 in Yonkers to Nicholas and Elizabeth (Feeney) Ciero. He graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx, and received his B.A. from Boston College.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved wife of almost 50 years, Lorraine A. Ciero (nee Antonell). He is survived by cousins; his sisters-in-law, Ina (Antonell) Giniso of Sebastian, Florida, and Margaret (Antonell) Skrobola of Ann Arbor, Michigan; and by his brother-in-law, Robert (Bob) Skrobola of Ann Arbor, Michigan; as well as 10 nieces and nephews, 43 grandnieces and nephews, and eight great-grandnieces and nephews, all of whom he and Lorraine loved and cherished as their own children.

Marion Cohen

Marion Cohen, a resident of York-

continued on page 13

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Latimer Outlines Plan Before Taking Oath as County Executive

By Anna Young

Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced his plans last Friday to tackle significant county issues and create a more inclusive and transparent government.

During a press conference in White Plains, Latimer, who was surrounded by his leadership team, shared his enthusiasm to move the county forward in a positive direction as he prepares to replace incumbent Rob Astorino.

"I'm enthusiastic about something new, something open, something invigorating, and I'm realistic about the fact that there's going to be tough decisions ahead," Latimer said on December 29, three days before he was to be sworn into office. "If we can make them in a spirit of inclusion then we have better chance for buy-in."

Since Latimer soundly defeated Astorino in November, he has been focused on addressing government policies and personnel, recognizing the responsibility he faces leading a county with a more than \$1.8 billion budget and large government staff.

At his inauguration, Latimer was prepared to announce several policy proposals. Throughout January, he and his team will attend each village, town and city work session to discuss the central



ANNA YOUNG PHOTO

Members of County Executive George Latimer's leadership team were on hand during a press briefing last Friday on how the new administration plans to tackle its first month in office.

issues impacting each municipality.

Latimer will also hold informal town hall meetings called Coffee and Conversation in all 17 of the county's legislative districts, inviting the Board of Legislators representative for that district to join him.

"I've always found if you put some coffee and some snacks out you get a different climate of dialogue and hopefully a helpful one," Latimer said. "Westchester is filled with intelligent, successful people and they don't want to be talked down to and they don't want to be told what's good for them; they want to help shape what those policies are."

Latimer has also formed several committees that have held public forums

throughout the county addressing a wide range of issues, including criminal justice, economic development, mental health, human rights and administrative, operational and social services. He said feedback from the forums will help his team identify and prioritize issues facing Westchester.

He added that the Board of Legislators would be involved in exerting proper oversight in any decision-making process. He also intends to maintain his relationship with state officials to advocate for practical pieces of legislation.

Over the last month, Latimer has announced several leadership positions, including the appointment of former county legislator Ken Jenkins as deputy

county executive and former Pleasantville mayor John Nonna as county attorney. He also planned on announcing additional appointments on Monday and will fill all vacant positions by the end of January.

"We want to make sure we have the right people in the right position," Latimer said.

Latimer will arrange a series of meetings with each county department to become more involved, stating that he's most interested in identifying pressing issues that need to be handled quickly.

Throughout his 30-year political career, Latimer maintained that the public has a strong desire to be more involved in shaping government policy and believes public input is essential. Latimer has served on the Rye City Council, the Board of Legislators, the state Assembly and the past five years as a state senator.

"There's a desire out there to see change and there's a desire out there to see participation," he said. "I think from all the time I've been out in the community, you listen to people and you understand that we can run this government differently, more openly, more inclusively, more diversely and we can get a better buy-in from the people of Westchester. And that's what makes me enthusiastic and hopeful."

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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Salutes and Salvos

A Sizeable Sampling of Salutes and Salvos for 2017

Salvo to President Donald Trump for making a mockery of the highest elected office in the nation.

Salvo to Trump and the Republican majority in Washington for pushing through an ill-advised tax reform plan that will be detrimental to most residents in the Hudson Valley.

Salute to Peekskill Mayor Frank Catalina for his long list of accomplishments during his four years in office and for helping ensure a smooth transition for mayor-elect Andre Rainey.

Salvo to Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace for not extending a helping hand to supervisor-elect Ilan Gilbert.

Salute to Kimberly Ragazzo for making history as the first female elected to be town justice in the Town of Cortlandt, and to Gerald Klein for his 28 years serving on the bench.

Salute to Drew Claxton for 16 years as a councilwoman in Peekskill, including the last few years where she courageously served while battling cancer in various stages.

Salute to Westchester County Executive George Latimer for overcoming nasty personal attacks to pull off a resounding victory over Rob Astorino.

Salute to retiring Cortlandt Town Clerk Joann Dyckman for 20 years in her

position and taking the high road when she was snubbed by her own party.

Salvo to Yorktown Police Chief Robert Noble for his ill-advised decision to disband the volunteer Yorktown Auxiliary Police which never had any safety problems or incidents in its more than 60-year existence as the eyes and ears of the community.

Salute to Peekskill businessman Louie Lanza for helping to make Peekskill a destination city with his unique restaurants and first-class customer service.

Salvo to society where human communication has suffered from people's over reliance on cell phones and social media.

Salute to Rev. Fr. Adolfo Novio of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Shrub Oak for his good natured and upbeat demeanor and messages to parishioners.

Salvo to a host of horny men in power who give decent men a bad name.

Salvo to supermarkets that require multiple items to be purchased to receive a discount. Sometimes one roll of toilet paper or a bottle of soda is sufficient.

Salute to Joan at Customer Service, Milton, Elizabeth and all the friendly associates at ShopRite in Cortlandt who never hesitate to offer assistance and make shopping for groceries an

enjoyable experience.

Salute to Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi, Buchanan Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker and Hendrick Hudson Superintendent of Schools Joseph Hochreiter for aggressively exploring all options with the pending closure of the Indian Point nuclear power plants.

Salute to State Senator Terrence Murphy for being responsive to the concerns and needs of his constituents.

Salvo to the Peekskill School District for not being up front about the reasons behind the sudden departure last year of Superintendent of Schools Dr. David Fine.

Salvo to the Section 1 Executive Committee for its pure, unadulterated masking of the truth behind the Westchester County Center debacle that has stripped the basketball-playing student athletes of Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess and Rockland counties of their chance of participating in Championship Week at the fabled Mecca of Section 1 hoops.

Salute to Lakeland field hockey Coach Sharon Sarsen for winning an unprecedented 9th-straight NYS Class B championship... the legend of Sars lives on.

Salute to Ossining girls' basketball Coach Dan Ricci for winning an unprecedented 7th-straight Section 1 Class AA championship.

Salute to the Yorktown football team and Coach Mike Rescigno for winning their first sectional title since 1998 and appearing in the Huskers' 1st NYS title game since 1994.

Salute to the Yorktown boys' soccer team and Coach Ed Polchinski, which rallied time and time again to win its first Section 1 Class AA championship since 1990.

Salute to the Yorktown lacrosse program on winning an unprecedented 40th Section 1 championship.

Salute to longtime Yorktown girls' lacrosse Coach Ellen Mager on going out a winner, copping a second-straight Section 1 title and reaching the NYS Class B semifinals upon her retirement.

Salute to regional food pantries that quietly provide a much-needed service to hundreds of individuals and families who struggle to make ends meet.

Salute to all emergency service personnel whose dedication and quick response is invaluable.

Salute to good people who make the world a better place just by being in it.

Salute to our advertisers who faithfully support Examiner Media and ensure residents can have a weekly way to keep up with local news from a staff of experienced journalists and sales professionals.

Letters to the Editor

Thankfully the Grace Era is Over in Yorktown

To the Editor,

As a well-known Michael Grace "hater," I read with amusement your headline about the Supervisor bowing out mostly gracefully. He has characterized me as being on "the ugly fringe" of the Democratic Party, has demeaned legitimate critics as "twisted" and "divisive,"

and characterized residents as "dirt bags and punks." In defeat, "Stretch" Grace has shown no humility, never missing an opportunity to pat himself on the back for his "accomplishments." Well, the narcissistic Grace era is thankfully over in Yorktown, even while a similar malaise has gripped our Nation's Capital.

The Mayo Clinic describes the signs and symptoms of narcissism as: Have an exaggerated sense of self-importance; Have a sense of entitlement and require constant, excessive admiration; Believe they are superior and can only associate with equally special people; Monopolize conversations and belittle or look down on people they perceive as inferior; Expect special favors (i.e. property tax delinquency) and unquestioning compliance with their expectations; Behave in an arrogant or haughty manner, coming across as conceited, boastful and pretentious; Insist on having the best of everything — for instance, the best car (or antique car collection) or office; Have trouble handling anything they perceive as criticism. Sound familiar? While not a Psychiatrist nor a psycho-analyst, 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- Oh wait, as Mr. Grace stated "I was Trump before Trump" (Get it?)

Well now, I gladly retire as one of Mr. Grace's foils. While I may not agree

with everything Lanny Gilbert and the new Democratic majority will do: their character, their willingness to listen to and consider the views of others, will be a refreshing change. I will hopefully no longer have to cringe at statements from leaders at Board meetings, nor have to endure interminable lectures from the Supervisor.

FREE AT LAST!

MELVYN R. TANZMAN

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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**Business
of the Week**

Nonna's Brick Oven Pizzeria and Restaurant Peekskill

By Neal Rentz

Dutchess County resident Mike Kabashi developed a passion for pizza as a youth and has translated that into the ownership of several restaurants.

His latest venture is Nonna's Brick Oven Pizzeria and Restaurant of Peekskill, located in the Beach Shopping Center. He opened the eatery 11 years ago and regularly makes pizza in his establishment.

Kabashi explained last week why he chose to locate Nonna's in Peekskill. "Peekskill has always been a great city," he said, noting one of his former eateries was located on Welcher Avenue. "I liked the shopping center because it's strategically located."

Kabashi learned in late 2005 that the lease on the restaurant that had occupied the site was running out and that owner was leaving, so he took over occupancy of the property. After weeks of renovations, Nonna's opened and became successful "right off the bat," he said.

Kabashi expanded the kitchen and added customer tables at the site in property that was site of the former adjacent jewelry store.

In the early part of the current decade,



PHOTO BY NEAL RENTZ

Mike Kabashi has owned Nonna's Brick Oven Pizzeria and Restaurant of Peekskill since 2006.

Kabashi owned several restaurants and in 2014 decided to limit his ownership to just Nonna's. Owning many restaurants at the same time became "very overwhelming," he said.

Brick ovens cook pizzas differently than the typical ovens that bake the hot pies, Kabashi explained. "It cooks from the top. It cooks from the sides and from

the bottom," he said. Traditional pizza ovens cook only from the bottom, he said. The brick pizza oven "cooks much faster and in my experience, it cooks much better." He said it takes between seven and eight minutes to bake a pizza in a brick oven, adding a brick oven pizza has very crisp baked dough.

Nonna's offers several different pizza selections. Grandma's pizza is one of the restaurant's signature slices, featuring fresh mozzarella, fresh garlic, basil; and plumb tomatoes, as well as Pecorino Romano cheese, Kabashi said.

Another signature pizza is the cold margherita, which features a thin and crispy crust with sauce, sliced plum tomatoes, fresh mozzarella, roasted peppers, basil, extra virgin olive oil and balsamic vinegar, as well as salt and pepper. "You've got yourself a great pie," Kabashi said.

Nonna's extensive menu offers a large selection of appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, wraps, pastas, as well as chicken and veal. Seafood is a particular specialty, Kabashi said.

Nonna's caters and offers several family meals at discounted prices. A gourmet pizza slice and soft drink costs only \$6

and much less expensive than a fast food meal, Kabashi said.

While Kabashi is passionate about his business, another one of his priorities in life is serving others. "I like to help as much as I can," he said. "There is not a school. There's not a cheerleading team. There's not a football team, a baseball team or a dance studio that comes into this place for donations or to pick up an ad that we turn them down." He said he also regularly donates to local churches, the Red Cross, local police departments and other groups.

In December, Kabashi raised funds for the victims of this year's natural disasters in America. "We have accumulated a considerable amount of money" and he is going to match the amount of money that was raised during the month, he said.

"We're blessed with a good business and a good team as well and a good family," he said. "You must give back."

Nonna's Brick Oven Pizzeria and Restaurant of Peekskill is located in the Beach Shopping Ce at 1843 E. Main St. in Peekskill. For more information, call 914-737-3222 or visit <http://www.nonnaspizzainbeachcenter.com>.

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Rebellious Teen Keeps 170 Year Old Family Business Thriving:

By Stephen Teshner

It took the least likely Dain descendant, Nathaniel Dain's great-great-grandson, Jeff, a rebellious teenager seeking a job he couldn't get fired from, to save this historic family lumber business from two devastating fires, aggressive developer buyouts and the threat of big box hardware stores.

"When I first came to the company I was treated differently," says Jeff Dain. "I was the owner's son, but the owner didn't work there anymore." Even though his name was on the company shingle, letterhead and every product, Jeff, then just a high school kid, had to work from the ground up.

"I started in 1973 working part-time, going to high school. I'd hitch hike from Highland Falls to work. I got all the labor type jobs, like unloading a train car full of pine boards by hand, loading it onto a forklift, putting fifty-pound boxes or kegs of nails away, filling nail bins, stuff like that."

Now the CEO of N. Dain's Sons Lumber Company, Jeff Dain is a man of few words. He is tall with deep-set blue eyes, a moustache, wearing his denim N. Dain's Sons work shirt and jeans. A generally quiet-mannered man, Jeff's expression and slightly hunched shoulders belie the weight of thoughts he is constantly wrestling with.

Yet, if there's anything Dain loves to talk about, it's his business and his family, which happen to be one and the same.

Each decision Dain makes, or does not make, reflects 170 years of a family history, going back to ancestors who predate the Civil War, the Great Depression, and both World Wars. That's some pressure. But Jeff takes it in stride. He knows that a 170-year run of a family business doesn't just happen by luck. And, in a complicated, tech-run world, Jeff Dain has maintained an historic, simple and successful business that began with his great, great grandfather. When Dain started at the company, however, taking it into the 21st century wasn't even a thought.

Initially, despite being the only employee with the last name of Dain in the business, he "didn't really feel that the company was going to be [his] or anything ... although employees and customers would joke about [him] being the boss someday," Dain says. "One time they put a cement-filled workboot in the bottom of my school bag that I carried around with me for at least a month without ever noticing." Perhaps the reason he didn't notice was due to Jeff's growing preoccupation with improving the business.

Heritage can be a funny thing. It can creep into your thoughts and manipulate your decisions. Somehow, the notion of ownership and responsibility began to take hold on Jeff. He started by cleaning up the office and entrance areas, installing a small-cabinet showroom, and organizing the sheds in the back. "I noticed no one else had any inclination to grow the company or make it look good," Jeff said. When he cleared out abandoned trucks and overgrown weeds from



Jeff Dain

the then-lower yard, he was met with resistance: "don't make it look too good, they'll raise our taxes." In response, he built an apartment for himself on the property. Jeff Dain moved in.

Seated on the scenic shores of the Hudson River, in Peekskill, NY, N. Dain's Sons Lumber Company, widely known simply as Dain's Lumber, is one of the oldest family-run businesses in the United States. Founded by Nathaniel Dain in 1848 Dain's Lumber, now 169 years old, even predates the railroad.

Born in Maine, in 1819, Nathaniel Dain, great grandson of a revolutionary war veteran, moved to New York where he taught at West Point, then studied medicine and eventually entered the pharmacy business. Nathaniel married Eliza Briggs who came from a well-to-do family that likely helped him purchase the lumberyard on the shores of the Hudson River in the late 1840's. Nathaniel served the city of Peekskill, NY as a school board trustee, the Peekskill Savings Bank as a trustee and treasurer, the Peekskill Military Academy as a board member and served as a church trustee, firmly establishing the Dain name in Peekskill's community.

In Nathaniel's days, the company schooner delivered lumber along the Hudson. Before the rails came, they used horse and buggy to deliver orders. It was a modest but steady business.

Nathaniel and Eliza Dain had two sons, Frank and Henry, for whom Nathaniel named the company, Dain's Sons, which later became N. Dain's Sons Company Inc. From its inception, Nathaniel established the business as a family operation. They also had a daughter, Emily, who had seven children.

Frank, who had six kids, created extension lumber businesses in upstate and western NY. Henry Dain, born in 1857, eventually took on the Peekskill Dain's Sons business.

Henry also had six children. His son Bryant created Bry Dain Lumber in Hopewell Junction, NY. Another son, James, founded his own investment company in Minneapolis, J.M. Dain & Co. in 1922, which would later become the Dain Rauscher Company.

Other brothers established offshoot businesses, some flourishing, others failing. But with all the building booming at that time, lumber was in demand and business was good for Dain's Sons.

Nathaniel's son, Henry Paulding (also known as "Tippy" from a story that involved a boat, a girl, and a lake) inherited ownership of N. Dain's Sons. Tippy's grandson, Henry Dain III, (a.k.a. Little Tippy) born in 1922, was Jeff Dain's father.

Henry Dain III had little interest in the family lumber business. Sometime in the 1960's, he tried to sell it. A natural salesman, Henry easily convinced customers to order from Dain's. Collecting payment was another story. After only a few years, Henry III left his family's lumber business for the advertising world where his salesmanship gifts quickly elevated him to executive status.

Henry's departure from N. Dain's Sons left the business without a family member working here for the first time. Until 18-year old Jeff needed a job.

When the Conrail railroad tracks were built, they passed between the offices of N. Dain's Sons and their lumber yard. N. Dain's Sons owned the only private crossing across the Conrail railroad tracks. Conrail threatened to close the crossing down many times. This was the first of many threats to the business.

In the late 1970's a fire destroyed the hardware store and cabinet shop and remained burned down for a long time. Again, Jeff cleaned out everything. He established a small hardware store in a building down the street that kept the business going. That store later became his first home with his wife and eldest son, James; later still, it became a showroom. Today it's being transformed into a finishing room for the shop.

Cleaning up the fire was Jeff's "first inclination of ownership." He began to envision how the business could evolve. But Jeff had "no idea of how to go about anything" and there were no other family members working there to help or consult. Jeff was the sole representative of his family's legacy. And yet, "at some point," Dain reflects, "I knew inside that there was a reason this company was still here."

Then in the mid 80's an aggressive condominium developer wanted to buy the property. After all it ran alongside the beautiful Hudson River where many other developments were being built. Dain's Sons owned property on both sides of the train tracks. The developer envisioned condos and boat slips on the Hudson.

"Our [train] crossing was the only private crossing anywhere and it was a constant problem not knowing if Conrail would close it down." There had been several bad train-

related accidents. It was a huge problem for Jeff and his father, Henry, who still owned the company while working in advertising. So, there was strong impetus to sell and rid the company the burden of future accidents.

Henry III saw that his son, Jeff, had a serious interest in the company, and refused to sell to the developers. Still, they continued to negotiate aggressively, offering to move N. Dain's Sons to other locations. Ultimately, the developers bought the Bertolini Beer distributor building, previously Capitol Glass, and Naylor Bros. Foundry before that. Dain agreed to the developers offer to make improvements to Dain's property which enabled them to build their yard. That's "when I really became the decision-maker in the company," Dain says.

Then, on Feb 1, 1989, the year the Berlin Wall came down in Eastern Europe, Dain's Lumber suffered its most devastating fire: the office and sheds burnt down to the ground. Jeff watched with his parents and his then on-and-off-again girlfriend, Christine, as the fire devoured much of what he had built. The upside? That fire fused Jeff and Christine together. They were later married with two sons and a daughter of their own. N. Dain's Sons was coming full circle.

After the fire, Jeff and his company had no choice but to accept the developer's offer for the land, which was significantly less than the original amount. "We had two old trucks, an empty warehouse and most of the insurance money went to the developers even though they were going to knock it all down anyway." Nonetheless, N. Dain's Sons stayed in business. Jeff and his crew doggedly worked around the clock and "somehow with the help of long standing customers and employees [we] kept the place afloat!"

In the early 1990's, a new threat emerged in the form of Home Depot, which announced its arrival to the region. The hardware Goliath was coming to town. Many hardware stores and lumber yards closed, certain that they wouldn't be able to compete. But Dain's Lumber stayed open and they reaped the rewards of all the abandoned customers who needed lumber and hardware in the interim.

"We remodeled our store to be more user-friendly for homeowners," Jeff says. "Before Home Depot opened (and after the other stores closed) people were forced to find us. After Home Depot's debut, our homeowner business shrank, but not significantly. They actually put us on the map even though we had already been here for 150 years!"

And it offered Dain the opportunity to make a game-changing industry decision.

Plastic lumber - Trex - was introduced to the industry. Many hardware and lumber businesses thought it was a joke. Jeff Dain did not. "We took on Trex and proceeded to build what is now the largest outdoor display deck anywhere. Bingo! We had the market on the up-coming decking business!" He also steered the company into the fencing market. The big box stores or larger lumber-

The Story of Jeff Dain and Dain's Sons Lumber Inc.

yards could offer none of these things.

He had found a niche market for his company.

They invested in their buying groups that solidified their market. It simply grew from there. As if overnight, the kid who just wanted an easy job became the savior of a century and a half old family legacy. "The last time this yard was run by a family member was my grandfather, Henry P. Dain Jr. and he died two years before I was born. Today I have my wife and three sons working here. It's come full circle." Another son, Michael, and daughter, Georgia, are pursuing outside careers, following in the shoes of their advertising exec grandfather.

During the economic downturn of 2007, Jeff eyeballed a new niche opportunity. After witnessing truckloads of logs being cleared from a nearby lot, then sent to landfills for firewood, Jeff purchased a sawmill to cut and finish the waste into live-edge slabs, a process in which logs are cut into slabs, leaving the natural edge. It began as a hobby, but there was a lingering notion that this craftsman's approach to lumber could become something unique. So, he purchased a kiln and other machinery and began cutting local trees for customers. There was something serene and peaceful about the slow, methodical process of working with wood this way; after years of selling lumber, he developed a deeper connection with the source of his family's livelihood. Naturally, as heritage would dictate, Jeff's sons got involved. Now, The Mill at Dain's Lumber, a truly 'green' initiative, boasts three sawmills working with pieces as big as 44" slabs, and a 5,000 square-foot shop turning live edge slabs into tables, benches, and bar tops. And while it's currently open and thriving, an official grand opening will take place in early December, complete with a showroom of stunning woodworking products just in time for the holiday season. Wood has a story to tell, and you can see it in these live-edge slabs.

Meanwhile, Dain's continues to offer general shop work and welding services for both the local community as well as businesses to the North, East and even South into New York City.

Sometimes, family is an anchor, sometimes it's the sail. While Dain's is a family run business once again, and arguably more successful than ever, that doesn't make things easy for its CEO. Working with family means blending personal issues into the workplace. It's inevitable. And it's an obstacle. But family can be a rudder as well. When Jeff started running Dain's he was on his own, without a family mentor. Today, he has three sons and a wife advising him whether he welcomes it or not; but their points of view illuminate insights into customer service decisions that the company ultimately benefits from. "One son constantly reminds me that we have to put out quality workmanship; my other son reminds me how important our customers, employees and family are," Jeff muses.

Jeff often visits his family plot on Hillside cemetery where all his ancestors are buried. He goes there to seek counsel. "When I'm going through difficult times within the business or family I sit and ask for guidance. I think about how they all had this same company, how they all had families that they had to deal with.

"They all had daily and historical problems they had to contend with: Civil War, the Great Depression, World War I and II; the Korean War; Vietnam, Prohibition. They all had this company that was their livelihood and they had to balance it all out.

It's just amazing to me that over the past five generations the world has changed so dramatically and yet, within this little company, it's the same: our livelihood, our connections to family and life – it's the same as it always was."

Like the rings of a tree, the Dain family story ripples outward, but for Jeff it remains connected to the center, the beginning: Nathaniel.

Dain's advice to other businesses includes factoring in six assessments before making business decisions: Assess the need, the competition, and the profitability; as-

sess if it's something you can do well and stay good at; is it good for the environment and the community; and finally, assess the overall cost. "Mistakes are part of progress," Jeff says. "Be prepared for your business to become a living thing that can take all your time. I remember the old-timer contractors telling me, as long as you're committed and work for this it will succeed."

Jeff's son, Bry, sums up the Dain family work ethic: "When you put your clothes in the wash in our house, if they didn't have sawdust in the pockets when they went in they will when they come out!"



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Makings of a Great Guest Room

The holiday season is a time when many of us receive overnight guests, and the experience can be wonderful one if their sleeping quarters are properly considered. Sleeping overnight in another person's home can be delightful or a real drag, depending on the planning or lack of it that goes into the guest's accommodations. I've experienced both situations.

The first time I was an overnight guest was as a senior in college when I was invited to join my roommate for a weekend in New York City where we were scheduled to stay with one of his best buddies.

Being from a small southern town, I had never been in a Manhattan apartment, but my expectations ran high because I had just seen a movie that showed the city digs of Doris Day as the very height of sophistication.

What I found instead was a five story walk up in the East Village, long before it was chic, arriving breathlessly to a cold water flat, long since outlawed. My sleeping arrangements were on the floor in the space where the coffee table had been pushed away. I had only a blanket under me to prevent my bones from getting bruised on the

hard floor. My buddy was luckier the first night because he got to sleep on the sofa, which our host proudly announced had been retrieved from the sidewalk. The second night, I got the sofa, but it was actually more uncomfortable than the floor.

To bathe, there was no shower, but rather a claw-footed bathtub, elevated on a platform across from a galley kitchen. When it was not in use, the tub was covered with a wooden top that served as the kitchen table. There's nothing to compare with my memory of bathing in the tub while our host prepared scrambled eggs 18 inches away from me, and then to eat breakfast on top of the tub where I had just bathed. It wasn't quite pooping where you eat, but not far off. Doris Day, where were you to the rescue?

I vowed that someday I would have my own place in the city and invite all my out-of-town friends to visit me with a stay over they would remember. After I married, my wife and I couldn't afford to have an extra bedroom in our first apartment, at least we were able to offer a comfortable Castro Convertible in the living room. It wasn't until we moved to the country that we were able to realize our

dream of having a nice guest room.

I like visiting my retired brother- and sister-in-law is that in both their large homes, one in Florida and the other in Asheville, there is a separate guest suite. To stay with them is truly like a fabulous vacation. Not all of us can have a separate suite for guests, but we can compensate for it by providing other amenities that speak of comfort, convenience and luxury. For that, I consult with my wife Margaret who's the ultimate homemaker and hostess. Her advice:

- Fluffy new guest towels neatly folded on a corner of the bed or on a chair can make guests forget that they don't have a private bathroom.

- It's nice to have some totally empty drawers in the room, if not an entire chest of drawers. Also there should be at least half a closet for hanging clothes. My wife likes to put attractive hangers in that space.

- A comfortable easy chair with a reading light positioned for reading is always welcomed, along with an interesting selection of magazines and books. Guests are unlikely to read a whole novel while staying over, but they might enjoy the coffee table book variety that can be just scanned

through for interest.

- A bedside, lighted clock will be especially appreciated by guests in that, sometimes, you feel that time is altered when you're not surrounded by the familiar trappings of home.

- And like a hotel, you might add a couple of bottles of water and some packaged snacks, healthy and otherwise.

- Of course, a television set or even a laptop on a desk is a great way to have your guests entertain themselves at least part of the time they're with you.

Consider the advice above, but also keep in mind that too special a guest room may encourage guests to stay longer than you want. Remember Benjamin Franklin's advice that: "Guests, like fish, begin to smell after three days."

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.



By Bill Primavera

Analyzing the Sensory Experience in Your Glass of Wine

Several readers have told me that they are confused by descriptive terms used to characterize wines. This week's column will take you down the path of understanding, and developing, a wine glossary. Now you can dazzle each other with a wine syntax that will help you better appreciate the true nuances of wine tasting.

First, the biology lesson (and you thought ninth grade science would never be relevant in later life!). One of the reasons that experiencing wines is so complex and yet so simple is that we are able to employ several of our five senses in a singular, focused moment. Of these senses, taste and smell are the critical components.

For taste, think flavor. It is our taste buds that distinguish the overall experience of the wine at hand. The tongue is where the five elements of taste reside: sweet, sour, bitter, salty, umami. As we sip our wine, there are specific areas on the surface of the tongue and the side of the mouth that impact our perception of wine. Sweet receptors reside on the front of the tongue, salty on the front sides, umami in the middle, sour on the rear sides and bitter on the rear. The next time you sip a wine, or taste any food for that matter, take special note of this road map in your mouth.

Let's translate several of these senses of taste. If your tongue senses sweetness,

the term "residual sugar" is usually applied. Sour is often described in terms such as flinty, citrus, lemon grass, musty and is primarily dependant on the level of acidity in a wine. Low acidity may be described as fruity, buttery, soft or flabby (not much structure) whereas high acidity may evoke terms like crisp or pineapple. Bitter has many connotations, from soft to astringent, that relate mainly to acidic elements, including tannin, finish, peppery, spicy, earthy, green and mineral.

On to our sense of smell. Think elements of fragrance, bouquet and aroma. This is where our senses are most refined and complex – and unique to each individual. Whereas there are five elements of our sense of taste, our olfactory receptors number over 10,000. By far, our experience of wines comes from the sense of smell. This is predominantly why we each have different preferences, likes and dislikes in wine; one person's "chocolatey" may be the next person's "barnyard." Typical nuanced expressions include 1) fruit terms like apple, lemon, grapefruit, melon (white wine) to blackberries, cherries, strawberries, currants, jammy (red wine); 2) floral terms like violets, roses, honeysuckle; 3) vegetative/herbal terms like licorice, black pepper,

woody, grassy; 4) terms associated with processed products like chocolate, coffee, molasses, vanilla, honey.

Of course, the combination of the senses of taste and smell result in the total wine experience. Here, a few examples of pairing taste (flavor) and smell (fragrance/bouquet). The charred taste and the earthy aroma of steak pair well with an oaky, earthy, tannic Cabernet Sauvignon or Zinfandel. The fresh taste and buttery flavor of a white fish pair well with a crisp, grassy Sauvignon Blanc.

Note: This week's column is a reprise of one from 2007.

The counterpoint to the conventional wisdom in pairing fish is that many fish dishes are served with sauces that are in direct contrast to the underlying sensory elements of the fish. Serving a Sauvignon Blanc with an unadorned white fish may be the perfect pairing, but the same fish embraced by mango and papaya chutney will overwhelm any traditional wine paired with it. Instead try the fruity flavors and tropical bouquet of a lightly oaked Chardonnay or the soft, low-acid, slightly jammy bouquet of a French Pinot Noir. Memorize two simple rules: first, seek balance between wine and food; and second, match the wine to the sauce, not to the protein.

So there you have it. Now it's up to you to refine your palate. Soon, not only will you appreciate the descriptive terms of

wine aficionados, but you will be well on your way to becoming a sophisticated oenophile yourself.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted numerous wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.



By Nick Antonaccio



Police Blotter

Continued from page 3

tigation it is alleged Blaufarb operated a vehicle while intoxicated and with a one-year-old in the car. It was also discovered she had a prior conviction for DWI in the past 10 years. She was remanded to jail on \$10,000 cash bail.

Sean Grimes, 48, of Honolulu, Hawaii, was charged with criminal contempt after police responded on December 6 to a Wood Street residence for a domestic incident report. It is alleged Grimes violated a Westchester County Family Court Temporary Order of Protection by emailing the victim 11 times over the course of several months.

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. May honoree
- 4. 24 of them = 100%, abbr.
- 7. Part of a giggle
- 10. It borders Wash.
- 11. W.W. II battle site, for short
- 12. Granola bit
- 13. Salty Chinese sauce
- 14. Up to
- 15. Degree in math?
- 16. Post war nuclear test, or Mahopac deli
- 19. Half of D
- 20. Cotswold noise
- 21. Colorful fish
- 23. "___ la vie"
- 24. Nothing
- 25. ___ race
- 26. Providential
- 31. Grumpy colleague
- 32. D.A.
- 33. Spa sound
- 34. Project conclusion?
- 35. Miff
- 36. Ending for a toy dog
- 37. QB's gains
- 38. Neighbor of Swed.
- 39. Title of respect

Down

- 1. Catchall abbr.
- 2. Skunk's defense
- 3. Deli spread
- 4. Pretentious bad taste
- 5. Spin
- 6. Pilot's hurdle
- 7. Civics, e.g.
- 8. Irks
- 9. Biblical verb ending
- 17. Milan landmark, La ____
- 18. Urges and helps on
- 21. In layaway
- 22. Game equipment
- 23. Gait between trot and gallop
- 25. Cortlandt Manor Gym ____ Fitness
- 27. Puffed up
- 28. Beanery sign
- 29. "Raiders of the Lost Ark" extra
- 30. Calendar abbr.
- 31. Home Depot promotes it

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
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(Solution on page 14)

Health Department Advice to Safely Weather the Cold

With below-freezing temperatures in the region, the Westchester County Department of Health reminds residents to take precautions against hypothermia and frostbite and to take care when heating their homes using alternate heating sources.

Seniors and infants less than one year of age should never sleep in a cold room and should be dressed in warm clothing to prevent the loss of body heat. If a safe temperature cannot be maintained inside your home, make temporary arrangements to stay elsewhere.

The drop-in shelters run by the Department of Social Services are open around the clock this week. For emergency shelter, call 995-3333 weekdays. After 4 p.m. and on weekends, call 995-2099. Libraries, municipal buildings and malls are also good places to warm up.

"Low temperatures can be life-threatening, especially for seniors, infants and people who are at increased risk for hypothermia," said Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD. "To avoid frostbite and hypothermia, wear a coat, hat, gloves and lots of layers and limit your time outside."

Warning signs of hypothermia in adults include shivering, confusion, memory loss, drowsiness, exhaustion

and slurred speech. Infants with hypothermia may appear sluggish, with very low energy and bright red, cold skin.

Frostbite is especially dangerous because it often occurs with little warning. At the first sign of redness or pain, get out of the cold or protect the exposed area. Fingertips, toes, the ears or nose can become numb so quickly that he or she is unaware of being frostbitten, and may remain outside, increasing the chance of permanent damage. People with poor blood circulation, including seniors and those with diabetes are especially vulnerable to frostbite.

Tips to prevent frostbite and hypothermia:

- Dress in several layers of windproof clothes to trap body heat.
- Wear gloves, scarves and a hat that covers the ears.
- Go indoors when you begin to feel cold.

If you think someone is suffering from hypothermia or frostbite, call a medical provider immediately.

Never use a generator inside your house or in partly enclosed areas, such as garages, basements, porches, crawlspaces, sheds, carports or breezeways, even if your windows are open. Generators

should only be operated outside, away from open windows. Carbon monoxide in the generator's fumes can build up and cause fatal carbon monoxide poisoning. Barbeque grills and camp stoves produce carbon monoxide and should only be used outdoors.

The Health Department also reminds residents to take the following precautions when using alternate heating sources at home:

- Be sure that fireplaces, wood stoves, or other combustion heaters are properly vented to the outside and do not leak flue gas indoors.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using space heaters and wood burning stoves.
- Ensure adequate ventilation if you must use a kerosene heater.
- Use only the type of fuel your heater is designed to use - don't substitute.
- Do not place a space heater within three feet of anything that may catch on fire, such as drapes, furniture, or bedding, and never cover your space heater.
- Never place a space heater on top of furniture or near water.
- Never leave children or pets unattended near a space heater, fireplace or wood burning stove.

For more information on cold weather safety, contact the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000 or visit our website at www.westchester.gov.com/health. You can also follow us on Twitter @wchealthdept or like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/wchealthdept](https://www.facebook.com/wchealthdept).

Obituaries

continued from page 6
town, formerly of Rockaway, NJ, died December 26. She was 90.

She was born on July 16, 1927 in New Brunswick, NJ to the late Michely and Esther Klein. She will always be remembered by her three sons, Robert (wife Meche), Mark (wife Cheryl), and Josh (fiancée Dafna), and her late daughter Judy Schwartz (husband Bruce). She also leaves behind eight grandchildren; Jennifer, Alex and Gabby (Robert and Meche) Jacob, Leah and Hope (Bruce and Judy), and Zachary and Mitchell (Mark and Cheryl). She will be buried with her family at Floral Park Cemetery in New Jersey. The family requests that any donations be made in her memory to the Alzheimer's Association.

(Solution to puzzle on page 13)

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16	C	R	O	17	S	S	R	O	18	A	D	S							
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37	Y	D	S			38	N	O	R		39	S	I	R					

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Chabad of Yorktown Seeks to Reclaim the Lost Art of Human Connection

Continued from page 3
Family Health, endorsing the course. “The approach is sophisticated, practical, and sure to be helpful to students.”
Medical and mental health professionals, including social workers and family therapists, can earn continuing education credits for attending Communication: Its Art and Soul.
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designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.
Interested students may call 914-962-1111 or visit www.ChabadYorktown.com/JLI for registration and for other course-related information.




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Tuesday, Jan. 2

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 pm. The cost is \$30. Come experience the beneficial effects of acupuncture in a group setting. Register: hyinhealth@gmail.com. On the last Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Eating Disorder Support Group, led by a LCSW and clinical nutritionist will be held. Discuss and resolve issues around relationships with food. Info/register: hyinhealth@gmail.com or www.hyinhealth.com.

Wednesday, Jan. 3

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™ 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.

Thursday, Jan. 4

Christmas Display: The Christmas around the World Crèche Display is at Graymoor through Jan. 14. On display are handmade and mass-produced crèches from almost every continent and country. The crèches are constructed of materials as diverse as straw, wood, ceramic, stone, paper and even elk horn. For more information, including information about additional retreats, contact Debbie Sinon at 845-424-2111 or e-mail her at GSLC@AtonementFriars.org.

Talmud Class: Talmud and the Ethics of our Sages meets on Thursdays, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Yorktown Jewish center, 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.

Friday, Jan. 5

Coloring For Adults: It's not just for kids, and it's the latest craze. Join our adult coloring book club at the Somers Library

Meetings will be held in the conference room every Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Relax, color, and socialize for free. Materials are provided or you may bring your own color pencils and coloring books. Registration is not required. Info: 914 232 5717.

Job Hunting Help: Free drop-in, hands-on assistance with online applications, resume writing, e-mail accounts and more is held on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the second-floor conference room at the Ossining Public Library, 53 Croton Ave. Assistance is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. This is not a computer class. Info: Cheryl at 941-2416 Ext. 315.

Temple Beth Am Shabbat: Temple Beth Am will "opens its doors to all who enter" for Shabbat on Fridays at 8 p.m. Our modern Sabbath service has a spiritually engaging and warm feeling while following traditional modes. All are welcome to our friendly sacred space 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 rabbiv@optonline.net

Jewish Center Services: At the Yorktown Jewish center, 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.

Saturday, Jan. 6

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

Torah Study: Study Torah at Temple Beth Am at 9 a.m. All are invited to study Torah with our engaging Rabbi Robbie Weiner. Bagels and coffee are provided for all wishing to explore how this week's Torah portion is a mirror into our lives. No previous knowledge is required, and all backgrounds are welcome. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl., Yorktown. For more information, please call our Rabbi at 914-962-7500 or e-mail him at RabbiW@optonline.net.

Sunday, Jan. 7

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

Monday, Jan. 8

Somers Library Monday Programs: Two programs are being held on Mondays at the Somers Library. Drop-in Art is held on Jan. 8, 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 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.

Saturday, Jan. 13

Yorktown Democratic Committee Inauguration Ball: The Yorktown Democratic Committee will hold its Inauguration Ball on Saturday, January 13, at 7 p.m. at Ceola Manor in Jefferson Valley. The Ball is to honor the inauguration of Yorktown's newly elected Town Supervisor, Ilan Gilbert, Councilwoman Alice Roker and Councilman Vishnu Patel. The price per person is \$150 if paid in advance. If you are interested in attending, please contact Vicky Abbate at 914-584-5388 or YDC-Fundraiser@gmail.com no later than Saturday, January 6.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: **Flaggers Unlimited Plus, LLC** Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/10/2017. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: **The LLC, 66 Leonardo Dr. North Haven, CT, principal business location of the LLC. Purpose: any lawful business activity.**

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF M. ELIA WELLNESS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/01/17. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to **M. Elia Wellness, LLC, P.O. Box 609, 1350 East Main Street, Shrub Oak, NY 10588 Purpose: For any legal purpose.**

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 designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail process to the prin-

cipal 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.**

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Suffern Succotash!



BrewTown Squanders Lead, Falls to Mighty Mounties, 4-3

RAY GALLAGHER PHOTO

BrewTown G Dylan Tolbert, a Yorktown senior, slides across his crease to make a first-period, wrap-around save in the CornCubs' 4-3 loss to visiting Suffern last Wednesday at the Brewster Ice Arena where BrewTown squandered a 2-1 third-period lead against the Section 1 perennial powerhouse Mounties... see Ice Hockey Notebook

Sports

Girls' Hoops Notebook

Brewster Wins Hastings Tourney, Ossining Streak Snapped

By Tony Pinciario

Coaches always tend to be cautiously optimistic entering a new season and **BREWSTER** girls' basketball Coach Mike Castaldo is no different.

Even though he was positive and looking forward to what his team could achieve, he is pleasantly surprised after the Bears won the John Costello (Hastings) Holiday Tournament, improving to 8-3.

"As for the start, I couldn't be happier," Castaldo said. "I didn't expect that we would be playing this well in November, but now we need to elevate our play even more and push each other to get better."

Brewster closed out the calendar year with a 68-53 victory over Hastings in the

title game, preceded by a 60-36 triumph over Sleepy Hollow in the first round.

Bears G Maggie DePaoli was named tournament most valuable player and Meagan Beal was selected to the all-tournament team. This is the second consecutive year Brewster won the Hastings Tournament.

Castaldo pointed to captains Taylor Riccardi and DePaoli as the prime reason the Bears have won eight of their first 11 games.

"Taylor and Maggie are phenomenal leaders who lead by example," Castaldo said. "They always play hard and hold their teammates accountable. Also, Meagan Beal has been huge for us from the day she was

moved up as a freshman two years ago. She is a coach's dream, super smart on the court and will outwork her opponents with tremendous heart and desire."

Beal registered 31 points, including 13 of 15 from the free-throw line, and 14 rebounds in the final. DePaoli added 21 points, four assists and four steals.

"After the first quarter, it was the Meagan Beal show," Castaldo said. "She was all over the place, whether it was offensive rebounds, steals against the press or getting to the line she was the best player on the floor."

"We did a great job of getting the lead and maintaining our composure when we weren't playing well. Every time Hastings

cut into the lead we responded with a run of our own. I am so proud and happy for Meagan Beal. She has worked so hard. This was a great team win."

Kristen Stefanick added 11 points, including three 3s.

In Brewster's first-round game, the Bears limited Sleepy Hollow to 11 first-half points.

"We did a nice job of pressing them, causing a lot of turnovers and bad shots, and we capitalized on them," Castaldo said. "We played great team defense, controlled the boards on both ends and took good shots."

OSSINING made its annual December trip to the Westchester County Center for the Slam Dunk Tournament. The Pride were upset by Penfield (Section 5), 83-78, in overtime, but rebounded to dominate North Rockland, 84-46. This could very well be the Section 1 Class AA championship game in early March.

Penfield forced the extra period with a strong fourth quarter. The loss ended Ossining's 88-game winning streak against New York State Public High School Athletic Association teams.

"What we took away from the Penfield game was that the team that works harder will benefit in the end and defense wins games," said senior Kelsey Quain, "so we wanted to apply a higher level of intensity on the defensive end for the next game."

Ossining accomplished this, especially in the second quarter as the Pride held North Rockland to seven points. As a result, Ossining went into halftime with a 44-24 lead.

Aubrey Griffin led Ossining with 34 points and 10 rebounds. Quain poured in 28 points and Julia Iorio added 14 points.

"We got the chance to redeem ourselves the next day," Quain said of the North Rockland game. "We had to take away what we learned from the loss, but not dwell on it, because of the short amount of time."

Griffin also had 34 points and 10 rebounds against Penfield. Kailah Harris finished with 14 points and eight rebounds and Quain added 12 points.

SOMERS went 1-1 in the Slam Dunk Tournament, dropping a 49-46 decision to Susquehanna Valley, currently ranked second in New York in Class B, before bouncing back with a 55-49 win over The Masters School.

"They had a 6-foot-4 center who really hurt us," said Somers' Coach Marc Hattem of Susquehanna Valley. "Dani (DiCintio) had a great game against Masters and Dani Cucchariella had a great weekend, going 6 for 6 from the field."

"The bench really contributed in the Masters game, also. We got great hustle and defense from junior Nikki Florino and freshman Taylor Penzo."

DiCintio had 21 points, four assists and four steals against Masters to conclude a brilliant tourney effort.

NWE/PUTNAM Examiner Super 7 Boys' Hoops Poll

(Poll reflects games played through Friday, Jan. 29th)

No.1 HEN HUD – Sailors (4-1) didn't play this week but still have to find a way to measure up to state-ranked (No.15) Saunders, (No.23) Rye, (No.18) Tappan Zee and unranked Byram Hills and Poughkeepsie in the end if the Sailors want to end this Final 4 drought dating back to 1991 (yeah, I harp on things).

No.1A SOMERS – Class AA Pine Bush,

in mix of Class A Final 4 hopefuls. Not sure if either Somers or Hen Hud can run with Saunders and G Keyshawn Miller.

No.3 OSSINING – Closed with a 13-3 run against rival Sleepy in a 50-26 win at County Center: Is it me or is there some juice to Coach Casey's Pride (7-1) this season? Remember who got on board early if so.

No.4 PUT VALLEY – With recent 55-46 loss to Valhalla in Dobbs Ferry tourney final, one can safely add the Vikings to the list of legitimate Class B obstacles standing before PV and the Final 4, including state-ranked No.14 Briarcliff, No.25 Irvington and defending Class C champ North Salem. Charges

No.5 PANAS – Can't wait to take photos of the Panthers under the new LED lights I've been begging for; for many years! Tip of the cap to A.D. Belfi. Hope to get there before Jan.29 tourney finale against Mahopac.

No.6 MAHOPAC – Road to Class AA playoffs will run through a collective, five-at-a-time, grunt-like path.

No.7 LAKELAND – Yorktown, Brewster, Magnus and John Jay CR out of the break: Hornets best go 2-2 or better.



RAY GALLAGHER/RICK KUPERBERG PHOTOS

Yorktown wing Mike Broder was draining and painin Peekskill despite a run from George Bridle.

HM YORKTOWN – 65-60 win over Peekskill gets Huskers (3-4) a mention but we've come to expect much more in 2nd half: Roni Brucaj (21 points) and Michael Broder (18 points) need more of the same.

HM CARMEL – If the Rams play like they did in 1st half of 78-67 loss to Newburgh on Friday, which was their best effort in a couple of years, this well-coached, hard-nosed unit will make serious headway in this poll and Class AA in the days ahead.



Carmel G Peyton Cayea drives to rim in Rams' 78-67 loss to Newburgh Friday.

ranked No.14 in NYS, was too much to handle but the Tuskers (4-3) showed well by reaching finals of Slam Dunk tourney at County Center. Tuskers remain firmly

Sports

Ice Hockey Notebook

BrewTown Squanders Lead, Falls to Suffern, 4-3

By Ray Gallagher
Examiner Sports Editor
@Directrays

Last Wednesday's puck-drop against Suffern at the Brewster Ice Arena was going to be the biggest test of the year for the combined Brewster/Yorktown CornCubs... win, lose or draw. Anytime a Section 1 hockey team faces the mighty Mounties, they'd best bring their A-game or be sent packing and BrewTown knew that going in.

The suddenly-surging Mounties overcame deficits of 1-0 and 2-1 to defeat BrewTown and came away with a 4-3 victory. That makes four wins in a row for Suffern (5-3), which has outscored its last four opponents by a whopping 18-3 margin and appears to be hitting its traditional stride at the halfway point of the season.

Connor Sullivan, who scored two goals

Brewster/Yorktown (5-2, 1-0), spotted the CornCubs a 1-0 lead when he barreled to the crease and rattled a rip off the pipes, onto the shoulder of Mounties G Mike Halper and behind the goal line with 9:32 to go in the second. But it was one of only 13 shots the CornCubs would put on goal.

BrewTown D Connor Henderson gave the CornCubs another short-lived 2-1 lead with a power-play blast from the point with 11:27 to play. But a gassed unit would play on its heels from that point forward and eventually succumb.

"I thought after we got that power play goal we would keep bringing it to them," BrewTown junior F Colin Dineen said. "I guess the lack of practice over the Christmas break showed because everyone was tired. We definitely want another shot at them."

Previously, at the Ice Time Sports Complex in Newburgh, the CornCubs destroyed host Monroe-Woodbury, 9-4, getting their fifth-straight win. The Bear Cubs blew open a 4-4 game with five unanswered in the third. Connor Sullivan had three goals and two assists and Colin Dineen had two goals and two assists to lead the CornCubs. Sullivan, Dineen, Justin Groux, Mike Isola, Chris Froessel and Kevin Moroney each have found the net often as BrewTown has stated its case for section-wide recognition.

"There are a lot of kids from different high-level travel teams, and we set a fast pace from the start," Dineen said. "When we move the puck, there aren't many people that can stop us, so we're excited to get a chance to play against the better teams in the section."

Brew/Town also defeated White Plains, 6-4 behind Chris Froessel (2G, 2A)...

Quinten Evangelou (4G, 3A) and Brett Hanson (3G, 3A) were huge for the **CORTLAND** (4-3-1, 3-0-1) in their 10-2 win over Fox Lane...

MAHOPAC ended the 2017 portion of its schedule with a 6-3 victory over White Plains behind a monster effort



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Brewster junior F Colin Dineen makes his way up ice in 4-3 loss to Suffern last Wednesday at BIA.



Brewster D Connor Henderson gave CornCubs a short-lived 2-1 lead in eventual 4-3 loss to suffring Suffern Wednesday at BIA.



Yorktown's Justin Groux sets up scoring attempt in 4-3 loss to Suffern last Wednesday at BIA.



Yorktown F Connor Sullivan rips shot in 4-3 loss to Suffern last Wednesday at BIA where he scored twice and fueled hope for the would-be upset.



Brewster's Thomas Mark lays a hit on Suffern player in CornCubs' 4-3 loss to Mounties.

from Brian O'Shea (3G, 2A) and John Dignam (1G, 2A)... Save the date for the Indians vs. **CARMEL** game on Friday, Jan.26th when Hockey Fights Cancer drops at 9 p.m. at the BIA. It's the only time these rivals will face each other this season and all proceeds will benefit @CommunityCares. Hats off to these two programs for doing so...

Overall Records:
Mahopac 6-2, 2-1;
Somers/North Salem 2-4, 0-1; Carmel 3-3-1, 1-0.

Scoring Leaders:
Mahopac -- Brian O'Shea 11G, 8A, Gianfranco Pulice 7G, 7A; Cortland -- Hansen 14G, 8A,

Evangelou 11G, 7A, Joseph Jimenez 3G, 13A; BrewTown -- Sullivan 10G, 6A, Dineen 6G, 9A.



Brewster D Rory McLaughlin puts a hip into a Suffern player in CornCubs' 4-3 loss last Wednesday at BIA.

Ruff Terrain!

Peekskill Takes Road Less Traveled in Loss to Yorktown



RICK KUPERBERG PHOTO (please visit www.HVSPphotos.com for more)

Peekskill's Marcus Ruff stampedes through Yorktown's Chris Martz, who effectively took this gutsy charge, in the host Huskers' 65-60 non-league win over the Red Devils last Thursday when Yorktown improved to 3-4... see Boys' Hoops Notebook



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