

**Women Take  
Center Stage in  
Cortlandt  
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# The NORTHERN WESTCHESTER Examiner

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

January 9 - January 15, 2018

SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

Volume 10, Issue 420

## New Beginnings, New Leadership

### Gilbert Extends Olive Branch as He Takes Office in Yorktown

By Rick Pezzullo

Ilan Gilbert was sworn-in as Yorktown's 61st supervisor in the town's 230-year history on New Year's Day before more than 150 family, supporters and well-wishers who crammed into Town Hall.

Gilbert, a former town justice who ousted three-term Supervisor Michael Grace in November in a Democratic board sweep that also included Councilman Vishnu Patel being reelected to a third four-year term and former Town Clerk Alice Roker earning a first term as the top vote-getter, credited his late par-



PHOTO BY RICK PEZZULLO

Yorktown Supervisor Ilan Gilbert addresses standing-room only crowd.

*Continued on page 2*



### Letting It All Hang Out

More than 80 people stripped down on New Year's Day despite nearly zero degree temperatures to raise money for the This Is Me Foundation on the banks of the Hudson River in Peekskill. For story and photos, see page 3.

## Mayor Rainey, Three Councilmembers Take Office in Peekskill

By Anna Young

Former elected officials, family and friends packed Peekskill City Hall on New Year's Day to celebrate the inauguration of Mayor Andre Rainey and the three newest members of the Common Council.

"To know me is to know that I'm a very spiritual person. I'm not so foolish to think and understand why things work the way they do, but I do know as I stand here before you as your new mayor to God be the glory. Without his grace I really don't believe I'd be stand-

ing here this afternoon in front of you people," said Rainey. "We have made history. I want to thank the residents and the voters of Peekskill who put their faith in me as their next mayor."

Rainey, 33, a former councilman who was sworn in by his father and great-grandmother, made history in November when he became the youngest mayor in the City of Peekskill when he defeated two-term Republican Mayor Frank Catalina.

He is also the second African-Ameri-

*Continued on page 6*



PHOTO BY ANNA YOUNG

Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey thanks everyone who jammed into City Hall for swearing-in ceremony.

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# Gilbert Extends Olive Branch as He Takes Office in Yorktown

*Continued from page 1*

ents with instilling in him a value system “that is at the core of who I am.”

Gilbert stressed the need for the board and community to work together to get things accomplished.

“Even though we have a divided board we will work together,” Gilbert said. “I intend to be the supervisor of all of Yorktown. The citizens of Yorktown deserve no less. I want to challenge the cynical notion that we are a town divided. Every town has their issues and problems. If we work together we can find solutions. I want to end partisanship, the us vs them mentality. All it takes to fix it is goodwill and an open mind.”

Republican councilmen Tom Diana and Ed Lachterman were not in attendance.

Roker, who in 1990 was elected as the town’s first Democratic town clerk, a post she held until she retired in 2005, offered similar sentiments after she was sworn-in by State Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey Cohen.

“I never thought I would be back on this side of the table,” Roker said. “Never did I think I would run again for public office. It’s not just a job. You’re entrusting me to help create what people want. My promise is I will bring all of my experi-



(Left) Councilman Vishnu Patel poses with well-wishes;



RIGHT: RICK PEZZULLO PHOTOS

(Right) Councilwoman Alice Roker shares a laugh with State Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey Cohen.

ence to my new job. Above all, I will treat everyone with respect and fairness and I will listen. We should all have a hand in moving this town forward. I look forward to this journey.”

Patel said 2018 would be a year of hope and optimism and a year in which residents “will begin making the important decisions that will shape our future as a community.”

“I am hopeful and optimistic about the new year because I have enormous faith in the wisdom, intelligence, and ability

of the people of Yorktown to be active partners with us in town government,” Patel said. “Your Town Board will make decisions openly and not in secret. When we face controversial issues, we will ask what you think and we will take your ideas seriously before we make decisions. We will never withhold information. We will keep you fully informed so that you will be able to make intelligent choices to let us know what you want us to do.”

“At a time when our national government is paralyzed by extreme partisan-

ship and even hatred for those with different points of view, we can make Yorktown a shining example of the good that can happen when a government is inclusive and open, puts partisanship aside, and acts for the good of all the people and not for narrow partisan advantage,” Patel added.

Also taking the oath of office were Highway Superintendent Dave Paganelli and Town Justice Sal Lagonia, who were both reelected.

“This is not about winning a race. This



## The Pap Test

What every woman must know about this test and possible results...

### Ask the Doctor

**Elisa Burns, MD**

Medical Director,  
Director of Quality and Outcomes  
Institute for Robotic and  
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#### Q: What does the Pap test show?

**A:** The Pap test (or Pap smear) screens for pre-cancerous cellular abnormalities in a woman’s cervix. If abnormalities are found, you can be monitored or treated so you don’t develop cervical cancer. A Pap test involves scraping cells from your cervix to examine for pre-cancerous changes in tissue. Depending on your age, history and previous Pap test results, the cells might also be tested for high-risk types of the human papillomavirus (HPV), the most common cause of cervical cancer. Ninety-nine percent of cases of cervical cancer are caused by the human papillomavirus, which is generally sexually transmitted.

#### Q: If my Pap results are abnormal, what are the next steps?

**A:** If your cervical cells appear abnormal and/or you are positive for high-risk HPV, you may undergo a colposcopy, an examination of the cervix under magnification, to find areas most likely to have abnormal cells. If these are found, a biopsy is used to make a definitive diagnosis.

Among women aged 20 to 30 years, cervical cell abnormalities often go away by themselves, so we typically monitor rather than treat these women,

as cervical cancer develops slowly. However, when an older woman receives a positive biopsy report, we more often treat because abnormalities don’t always go away on their own. We usually surgically remove the abnormal area.

#### Q: How effective is the Pap test?

**A:** Very. Routine Pap tests have decreased the rate of cervical cancer in the U.S. by 80 percent. Women who get screened for cervical cancer have an extremely low rate of this cancer.

#### Q: At what age should I start and stop having Pap tests?

**A:** Start at 21. Women under 21 have a very low incidence of the type of high-grade abnormalities that will progress to cervical cancer. Screening after age 65 isn’t needed if you have a recent history of normal Pap results. If your Pap test and HPV test are negative, you should repeat both tests in three years.

### Did you know?

Routine Pap tests have decreased the rate of cervical cancer in the U.S. by 80 percent.



# Record Participants Take the Plunge in Peekskill for a Good Cause

By Anna Young

About 80 brave individuals stripped down to their bathing suits and other outfits in the bitter cold on New Year's Day eager to get soaked during the sixth annual Polar Plunge at the Riverfront Green in Peekskill.

The annual event, sponsored by The Quiet Man Public House in Peekskill, raises money for the This is Me Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises awareness for alopecia, while giving hope to any individual facing adversity.

Lauren and Caitlin Brady, sisters and creators of the foundation, who were both diagnosed in high school with alopecia areata, an autoimmune disease that causes hair loss, were overcome by the continued support from the community, especially with the freezing weather overtaking the Hudson Valley.

"There's honestly no words to say how much it means to us, this year especially because people didn't just wake up today and it was cold, it was already cold leading up to today," Lauren Brady said as she was picking ice out of her hair. "The support from our community since day one has been something that keeps us going and it's amazing."

After watching Miss Delaware 2010, Kayla Martell, take her wig off on national television and explain that she



Cold weather prevented participants from running into Hudson River, but water from a fire hose still had a shivering effect.

would be sporting her hairpiece during the 2011 Miss America pageant due to her alopecia, the Brady's were inspired to raise awareness about the disease, but also encourage those who struggle with any insecurity.

In February 2011, the dynamic duo began "This is Me," and a year later began awarding scholarships to local high

school seniors who displayed leadership skills while having faced adversity of any kind or helped others through adversity.

While safety concerns prevented participants from plunging into the Hudson River, the Peekskill Fire Department was on hand to hose down the group as the large crowd of family members and residents cheered them on.

Verplanck resident Krissy O'Sullivan said she prepared for her third plunge by having a drink before removing her layers, adding the good work the Brady's and their organization do for so many was well worth dealing with the cold temperatures.

"It starts a new year off great, it's refreshing, it's for a great cause and it's amazing," said sixth-year plunger and Peekskill resident Christine Vischoff. "It's amazing how the groups have gotten larger. Every year we have more plungers."

The first Polar Plunge attracted 11 participants and raised \$2,400. This year, the record-setting 80 participants raised more than \$13,500.

Emily Sullivan, 18, who has alopecia, praised the Brady's, stating how they have helped and supported her through her disease. The Cortlandt resident also commended participants for bringing a sense of community to the event.

"It's really great because it's more than just alopecia, it's everybody embracing who they are for themselves," Sullivan said. "You see all these people around and everybody goes through something different and it's really great because no matter where you come from we all come out to support each other."





# Puglisi Leads Female Dominated Swearing-In Cortlandt Ceremony

By Rick Pezzullo

Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi has served the town as an elected official since 1988, but taking the oath of office is still a moving experience.

"You would think after 15 swearing-ins I wouldn't be crying. It's emotional," Puglisi conceded, fighting back tears after she was sworn-in Sunday by Town Attorney Thomas Wood at Town Hall where family, friends and supporters were in attendance to witness the six winners of the town-wide November election officially assume their duties.

Puglisi, who was elected to her 14th two-year term, was one of five women who were victorious. Joining her in celebrating her overwhelming win, where she received 75% of the votes cast, were her two adult children, twins Allison and Jeffrey, grandsons Oliver and Jeremy Tan, and sister Cindy.

"I am just so delighted to continue as Cortlandt's town supervisor. It's humbling to receive the trust and support from the community. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as supervisor," Puglisi said. "Cortlandt is not just a place, it's home."

A history-making moment took place when Kimberly Ragazzo, flanked by her husband and two young daughters, was sworn-in as the first ever female town



(Left) Cortlandt Town Justice Kimberly Ragazzo shared her historic moment with her two young daughters and her husband. (Right) Cortlandt Supervisor Linda Puglisi was sworn-in for a 14th term as her grandsons and daughter looked on proudly.



RICK PEZZULLO PHOTOS

justice in Cortlandt by Town Justice Daniel McCarthy.

Ragazzo, a first-time candidate, defeated 28-year Republican Town Justice Gerald Klein on November 7.

"It's been quite a journey the last year," Ragazzo said. "I'm very happy that I was successful. I'm looking forward to serving you as your judge."

On the Town Board, Debbie Costello was sworn-in for a second four-year term, while James Creighton, a former

Planning Board member, took office for the first time.

"The first term was awesome," said Costello, daughter of former Councilman Edward Carter, who was joined by several members of her family. "It was a learning experience. There were a lot of things I didn't expect. It's an amazing thing to serve in office. The new year is a time for new beginnings."

"I'm honored and humbled to be here today," Creighton said. "We've got a lot

of challenges, but we've got the best employees and we've got the best people; people who are passionate about their town. It's my challenge to try to remember everyone."

New Town Clerk Laroue Rose Shatzkin, who is replacing Joann Dyckman, who retired after 20 years in office, and Receiver of Taxes Mary Breining, who earned a fifth term, also were sworn-in Sunday.



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Watch George, and guest co-host Cindy Merend as Mike Kabashi, owner of Nonna's Brick Oven Pizzeria in Peekskill, presents the Salvation Army and Assumption Church, a total of \$3,000.

Mike not only matched the amount collected in December for hurricane victims, he went above and beyond!

Nonna's will hold a similar fundraising drive on Saturdays in January, with the proceeds going to Support Connection, for women struggling with breast & ovarian cancer.

**Don't forget:** Nonna's Pizzeria in Peekskill offers a 10% discount to anyone mentioning this ad or the George Ondek Show in the month of January!

**Watch on Cablevision Fridays 9:00 PM**

on the local Cablevision access channel and local government channels throughout Westchester or on Youtube anytime by typing in George Ondek and the name of the guest.

*This week's sponsor: Nonna's Restaurant in the Beach Shopping Center, Peekskill*



# Police Blotter

## State Police

**December 28** - State Police from Cortlandt arrested Charles J. Heitner, 34, of Somers, 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.

**December 29** - State Police from Cortlandt arrested Jose L. Davalos, 45, of Montrose, for DWI. He was traveling on Route 9 in the Town of Cortlandt when he was stopped for a vehicle and traffic law violation. Investigation revealed that he was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

**December 31** - State Police from Cortlandt arrested Stephanie L. Maldonado, 24, of Peekskill, for DWI. She was traveling on Route 9 in the Village of Croton-Hudson when she was stopped for a vehicle and traffic law violation. Investigation revealed that she was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

State Police from Somers arrested Josephine C. Cooper, 57, of Somers, for DWI. She was traveling in the Town of Somers when she was involved in a property damage motor vehicle crash. Investigation revealed that she was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

**January 1** - State Police from Cortlandt arrested Cristina Sanchez, 24, of Verplanck, for DWI. She was traveling on Route 9 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.

State Police from Cortlandt arrested Jonathan J. Warden, 23, of Putnam Valley, for DWI. He was traveling in the Town of Putnam Valley when he was involved in a property damage motor vehicle crash. Investigation revealed that he was impaired by alcohol and was subsequently arrested.

sequently arrested.

**January 4** - State Police from Cortlandt arrested Fredy Ortega Flores, 26, of Cortlandt, for Driving While Intoxicated with a prior conviction within 10 years, and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation in the 1st degree, both class E felonies. Ortega Flores was traveling on Route 6 in the Town of Cortlandt and was stopped for a vehicle and traffic law infraction at approximately 2:05 a.m. Investigation revealed that Ortega Flores was impaired by alcohol with a prior conviction in

the last 10 years. Ortega Flores was also operating with his ability impaired by alcohol while being suspended for an alcohol-related offense. He was arraigned before the Town of Cortlandt Court and remanded to the Westchester County Jail without bail.

## Yorktown Police

**January 1 - 10:52 p.m.** - Juan Nauta, 22, of Mohegan Lake, was charged with assault in the third degree after he allegedly became involved in a verbal argu-

ment that escalated to him hitting the victim in the face and back with a closed fist.

**January 2 - 1:50 p.m.** - Christopher Walsh, 57, of Ossining, was charged with felony DWI after police responded to a report of a vehicle driving in an erratic manner in the area of Gomer Street and Granite Springs Road. A second call came in about a property damage accident on Saw Mill River Road involving the same vehicle. That vehicle was located in the Roma Building parking lot.

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# Mayor Rainey, Three Councilmembers Take Office in Peekskill

*Continued from page 1*

can to serve as mayor in the city, following in the footsteps of Richard Jackson, who was in attendance, along with Catalina, former Mayor Mary Foster and State Senator Terrence Murphy.

Vanessa Agudelo also made history by, at age 25, becoming the youngest person elected to the Common Council.

"We all wouldn't be here without all

of you and this is where the work starts," Agudelo said after being sworn in by her father. "It's going to be a tough year and it's time for us to dream dangerously. Let's put Peekskill on the map."

Also joining the Common Council in the Democratic sweep are Colin Smith and Ramon Fernandez.

"It's a very special occasion to see so many people that I know and love here in this room supporting, not just me,



ANNA YOUNG PHOTOS

(L-R:) Councilmen Ramon Fernandez and Colin Smith were sworn-in for their first four-year terms.

Yorktown High School junior Nimisha

Gupta, shown with her mom, was recently presented a certificate of achievement from Councilman Vishnu Patel on behalf of the Town of Yorktown. Gupta was honored in recognition of her Arangetram and successful completion of course in Bharatanatyam, which took 10 years of training to achieve.

Bharatanatyam is a major genre of Indian classical dance that originated in Tamil Nadu. Traditionally,

Bharatanatyam has been a solo dance that was performed exclusively by women, and expressed Hindu religious themes and spiritual ideas, particularly of Shaivism, but also of Vaishnavism and Shaktism.



but the people behind me," said Smith, a former Peekskill Board of Education president who was sworn in by his brother and mother. "We're going to do our best to serve you and to serve the City of Peekskill and as the oath says uphold the laws of our government, of our state, of our county and our city right here in good ole' Peekskill."

Fernandez was sworn in by Congressman Adriano Espaillat, and had several members of his family join him at the podium.

"I want to say thank you to my wife, to my son, to my two daughters, be-

cause when people say sometimes outside, they thank me for what I do, I don't sacrifice my time, I sacrifice their time," Fernandez said. "I want to thank God. He makes anything that looks like it's impossible to be possible."

Former Councilwoman Drew Claxton was also honored for her 16 years of service on the council.

The Common Council flipped in the November election from a 4-3 Democratic majority to 6-0 Democrats, with a seventh Democrat expected to be appointed soon to fill the unexpired term of Rainey.



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## Obituaries

### Merrill Tinning, Jr.

Merrill Tinning, Jr., a resident of Ossining, died December 31, 2017. He was 88.

He was born in St. Paul, MN on February 13, 1929, and was the son of the late Merrill and Anne Tinning, Sr. He was a veteran of both WWII and the Korean War and received numerous medals and two Purple Hearts.

Mr. Tinning is survived by his daughters Karla (Alfred) Grimaldi, Jr., Kerry Tinning, and Karen Tinning.

### Lester Rosenbaum

Lester Rosenbaum, a resident of Yorktown, died December 31, 2017. He was 86.

He was born August 25, 1931, in Peekskill to Goldie (Smallheiser) and Max Rosenbaum. He graduated from Peekskill High School in 1949, Harvard College in 1953, and Columbia Law School in 1958. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1953-1955. He returned to make his home in northern Westchester, opening his law office in Yorktown Heights in 1962 where he practiced for over 50 years. In 1981, his devoted wife Sally joined him in practice, becoming

his partner in law as well as in life.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his brother Irwin (Lydia) of Rockville Centre, and children Dan (Sandi) of Mamaroneck; Raymond (Masayo) of Walnut Creek, CA; Steven Hirschhorn (Diane) of Boulder, CO; and Miriam of Portland, OR; as well as his grandchildren Max, Ben, David, Lauren, Gideon and Kai. He was predeceased by his sister, Shirley Newman (David).

### Patrick O'Toole

Patrick Joseph "Joe" O'Toole, a resident of the Village of Buchanan, died peacefully December 31, 2017 at New York - Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt. He was 88.



Patrick Joseph  
"Joe" O'Toole

He was born on Verplanck Point on September 11, 1929 to Patrick Joseph (Red) O'Toole and Lillian Conklin O'Toole. He graduated from Henry Hudson High School class of 1947. He was a member of the Buchanan Fire Department, reach-

ing the rank of Second Lieutenant. An Army veteran during the Korean War, he served in Camp Rucker, Alabama and Sendai, Japan. He was a police officer with the Peekskill and Buchanan Police Departments. He served as detective and retired as Chief of Police for the Buchanan Police Department in 1982. He was a founding member of the Police Emerald Society and Co-Grand Marshall of the Buchanan St. Patrick's Day Parade. He was a proud "Pointer" and loved the communities he served and protected. Post retirement he also enjoyed "pushing the hot dog cart" on Washington Street in Peekskill.

In September of 1954, he married the love of his life, Carminda (Mindy Marques) O'Toole. He is survived by his wife of 63 years. Beloved father of Dennis O'Toole of Garrison, and Kathleen (O'Toole) and John Dale of Wells, NY. He was much loved by his grandchildren; Luke and Amber Dale of Lancaster, PA, Erin and Mark Darling of Wareham, MA, Tyler O'Toole of Bronx, NY and Paige O'Toole of Garrison, NY.

Mr. O'Toole believed in serving and protecting. He had a faith in Christ and a deep love for his family and the communities he served. He and his family are extremely grateful for the superlative

care of the staff at the New York Presbyterian Hospital Wound Care and Cardiology, Archcare at Home and the VA at Montrose.

### Gladys Hyatt

Gladys Janet Hyatt, a resident of Cortlandt since 1963, died January 4. She was 89.

She retired from the Peekskill City School District in 2008 where she taught for 22 years. On September 3, 1949, she



Gladys Janet  
Hyatt

married Everett W. Hyatt at St. Francis of Rome in the Bronx. He predeceased her in 1998. She is survived by her children: Clifford of Los Angeles, CA and Leslie of Hewitt, NJ. She is survived by her sisters: Concetta Fessler, Rose Mof-

fa, and Patricia McGuire; two grandchildren: Tracy(Steven) Zarodnansky, Courtney(Charles) Shillinger and two great-grandchildren: Annabelle Leigh and Marguerite Shillinger.

*Continued on page 15*

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## Guest Column

# Avoiding a Medicaid Lien or Estate Claim

By Salvatore M. Di Costanzo

For many families, a good portion of their wealth exists through the equity in their home. The home may also be the most sentimental asset as it carries many memories and emotional ties. We often counsel clients on different planning techniques to protect the home where Medicaid is contemplated to pay



for nursing home or home care. This is a review of just how Medicaid may take your home if you don't implement some form of planning to protect your assets.

It is inevitable that we may all at some point fall victim to an illness and require care, including nursing home care or home care. Medicaid has become the insurance of the middle class, especially in nursing home and home care cases.

In order to be eligible for Medicaid, you cannot have more than \$15,150 in assets. When contemplating Medicaid eligibility, the home is generally treated as an exempt asset for purposes of determining whether you have less than \$15,150 in resources. However, Medicaid keeps track of those benefits and may look for them to be repaid.

If you are a Medicaid recipient in a nursing home, a lien can be placed against your home if you are not reasonably expected to return home. A lien allows Medicaid to recoup what they paid on your behalf when the property is sold. Prior to placing the lien, Medicaid must provide notice to you that they intend to file a lien against your home. If proper

notice was not provided, there may be an opportunity to remove the lien.

Notwithstanding the above, Medicaid cannot place a lien against your home if any of the following persons live there:

- i. your spouse;
- ii. a minor child, or a child of any age who is certified blind or disabled;
- iii. a sibling who has an equity interest in the home and who was residing in the home for at least one year preceding the date you entered the nursing home.

A lien also cannot be placed against your home if you set up a Medicaid Trust and get through the five-year look-back period. This is why the Medicaid Trust has become such a popular planning technique.

If you are a Medicaid recipient while receiving Medicaid home care benefits, Medicaid cannot place a lien against your home, but they can file a claim against your probate estate upon your death if no planning has been done to avoid probate. For instance, when you die, your Will needs to be probated. Once the Will is probated, Medicaid will send the Executor of your estate a letter demanding payment for benefits paid. The Executor of your estate cannot ignore this otherwise they may become personally liable for the amount.

In a recent case, an individual required home care and did not retain an elder law attorney to work through the Medicaid home care process. Although the home was not considered an available asset, it became part of the Medicaid recipient's probate estate when she died since no planning was done to avoid probate. In this case, Medicaid filed a claim and the entire proceeds of sale were paid to Medicaid at the closing table. Although she failed to plan in advance with a Medicaid Trust, this could have been avoided using a Revocable Trust to avoid

probate.

Fortunately, if you take the time to consult with us, there are many options available to protect your home in advance of these unfortunate scenarios. We regularly use Medicaid Trusts, Revocable Trusts and other planning techniques to plan in advance.

Salvatore M. Di Costanzo is a partner with the firm of Maker, Fragale & Di Costanzo, LLP located in Rye, New York and Yorktown Heights, New York. Mr. Di Costanzo is an attorney and accountant

whose main area of practice is elder law and special needs planning. He is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and a frequent author and lecturer on current elder law and special needs topics. Since 2013, Mr. Di Costanzo has been selected each year by the rating service, Super Lawyers as a New York Metro leading elder law attorney. He can be reached at (914) 925-1010 or via e-mail at [smd@mfd-law.com](mailto:smd@mfd-law.com). Visit his practice specific website at [www.plantodayfortomorrow.com](http://www.plantodayfortomorrow.com).



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held December 30 for Stone Rose Steakhouse & Lounge on the first floor of the Jefferson Valley Mall.

The Northern Westchester  
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# Latimer Promises More Transparent Government as Executive

By Anna Young

Westchester County Executive George Latimer was sworn into office on New Year's Day, vowing to create a more transparent and renewed government throughout his term.

Moments after Latimer was sworn in by Supreme Court Justice Gretchen Walsh in White Plains, he announced that he would be sending a formal request to New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli to perform a full and open fiscal review of the county's policies and procedures.

"We want to make sure we know exactly where we are fiscally as we begin this new administrative year," Latimer said at the Michaelian Office Building. "We have a long road ahead of us and we need to know exactly where we are and where we're going."

In September, former County Executive Rob Astorino came under fire after DiNapoli released a report stating that Westchester was a fiscally stressed county.

"Whatever decisions we have to make going forward, we make them openly, transparently, and we make them together as a group of people trying to deal with



County Executive George Latimer makes it official.

our issues," Latimer said.

Latimer added that privatization of the Westchester County Airport is a high priority economic issue he'll be delving into during his administration.

Latimer signed an Executive Order

that will remove the names and likeness of any elected official from any county owned facility, along with all directional, informational and promotional signs. He said the only exception would be the office building where that official is based.

"All of these facilities are owned by the people of Westchester. Their effort, their tax dollars, their faith have put these things into place," Latimer said. "It is not the possession of any one County Executive over any period of time."

An Executive Order was also signed that will better involve municipalities in decisions that impact their community. Under the Good Neighbor policy, the county would be required to make a formal presentation at the designated city, town or village board meeting whenever they have a major action or change to make. The municipality would be given 60 days to gather information and allow for a public form before submitting their support, neutrality, or opposition to the county.

Latimer will also form a task force aimed at revisiting shared-services within the county, stating how government officials need to be more proactive in delivering services to all residents in the

most cost-effective manner.

A social media campaign entitled, #MyWestchester will also be launched, encouraging residents to share images, videos, and anecdotes about what makes Westchester special. Latimer said this will maintain the county's positive profile.

"Westchester is home to so many wonderful people, businesses, parks, waterways and a whole host of other things that make it such an ideal destination for folks to live, work, visit and raise a family here," Latimer said. "This is a way to show our pride. Westchester is a special place and we are eager to show it off."

Latimer said he is enthusiastic about his upcoming term and intends on being very active and open within the community. Over the next two weeks, the Democrat will be announcing his two-week "Tour of Change" campaign, where he will be making announcements on issues throughout the county.

"The people of Westchester County are uniquely successful, uniquely talented in so many different fields," Latimer said. "And we need to bring that talent that resides outside these windows into the decision-making process of government."

# Latimer Issues Order Banning Gun Shows on County Property

By Anna Young

New Westchester County Executive George Latimer issued an executive order last Tuesday afternoon banning gun shows from being held on county-owned property.

Despite a record-breaking turnout at last year's knife and firearm show at the County Center in White Plains, Latimer cited a national rise in gun violence, stating that he doesn't want gun culture glorified on county property.

"This venue, which was created decades ago, is a showplace for family entertainment and for family programs and services," Latimer said at the January 2 press conference at the County Center. "This center has always been a place for those types of family values."

Following intense debate last January after former County Executive Rob Astorino scheduled the Northeast Gun Show at the County Center, the Board of Legislators, in a straight partisan vote, approved legislation that would've banned gun shows on county property by a 9-8 margin.

But days before the scheduled show, Astorino vetoed legislation without any time for an override vote, stating that he was protecting First and Second Amendment rights.

From 1999 to 2010, the county discontinued gun shows. But Astorino lifted the ban after taking office and one was held at the County Center in 2012. However, after the Sandy Hook Elementary School



PHOTO BY ANNA YOUNG

County Executive George Latimer at media briefing at the Westchester County Center.

tragedy, a 2013 show was canceled, and a handshake agreement was made among county officials that the venue would no longer host the shows.

Latimer recognized that some may not agree with his decision, but feels strongly that the County Center is the wrong venue to host a gun show.

"Westchester County government should not be in the business of advancing the sale of weapons and other items often sold at gun show—plain and simple," Latimer said. "This is not a restriction on gun shows in the entire county, but rather just on public land."

Minority Leader John Testa (R-Peekskill), who voted against the ban last year,

believes Latimer's decision will result in the county having much less control over how gun shows are operated if they are held in private venues.

"I believe that taking a discriminatory approach by banning law abiding gun owners, sportsman and businesses from holding a gun show at the County Center is wrong," Testa told The Examiner. "A better approach is to require operators to follow the strict guidelines for gun shows that have been established by Attorney General Eric Schneiderman—the same guidelines which are observed for the gun shows that Governor Cuomo allows in New York State-owned buildings."

A push was made by members of the

Democratic Caucus to override Astorino's veto following the mass shooting in Las Vegas that killed 59 people and injured more than 500 last October. The action was denied.

Latimer also condemned the sale of Nazi and confederate memorabilia that was sighted at last year's show, stating that there's no use for it in society.

Members of the Democratic Caucus were also in attendance supporting Latimer, stating that they would work to make his Executive Order an official law.

"This is a great first start to our new year," Majority Leader Catherine Borgia (D-Ossining) said. "It's not appropriate for the government to make money selling weapons to its citizenry."

"Gun culture does not belong in Westchester County and certainly not in our municipal buildings," Legislator Catherine Parker (D-Rye) asserted.

Legislator Maryjane Shimsky (D-Hastings-on-Hudson) said this would be the first of many cooperative efforts in creating the kind of government the people of Westchester want, expect and need to thrive and move forward constructively.

"We're going to listen as best as we can to the voices of the people, we won't always do things that everybody likes, but we will try to always engage so people understand that this is their government at the end of the day," Latimer said. "We've got a long way to go, this obviously is just one decision on a path of decisions."



# Governor Cuomo Blasts Trump in State of State Address

By David Propper

Taking aim at the federal government, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo slammed President Donald Trump's administration, even if he only mentioned the Republican firebrand by name once during his annual State of the State address last week.

During his wide ranging and never-ending speech last Wednesday, Cuomo, a Democrat, said the state plans to sue the federal government for its newly imposed tax law as unconstitutional, alleging that it's the first federal double taxation in U.S. history, which violates states' rights and equal protection.

The Republican tax overhaul, approved late last year, puts a cap of \$10,000 on deductions of state and local income and property taxes, referred to as SALT, which has concerned New York officials across the political spectrum.

Cuomo called the federal government, controlled by the GOP in the executive and legislative branches, "the most hostile and aggressive toward New York in history." He claimed the federal government is robbing the blue states to pay for the red states.

"It is an economic civil war and make no mistake, they are aiming to hurt us," Cuomo said, arguing it will drive residents out of the state. "We believe it is illegal."

Cuomo also revealed the state is putting together a plan to restructure its current income and payroll tax system in response to the new GOP tax law. A more concrete plan could be rolled out later this month.

Besides scorching the federal government, Cuomo listed a long list of progressive initiatives he'd like to pursue. At times, it appeared he was positioning himself for a presidential run in 2020.

He spoke about his desire to eliminate cash bail for low-level offenses, put abortion rights into the state constitution, improve access to voting and allow children of illegal immigrants to go to public colleges for free or receive financial aid.



Governor Andrew Cuomo delivered his annual State of the State Address on January 3

He also proposed laws meant to combat sexual harassment and assault. Legislation he offered would stop taxpayer funds from being used to settle sexual assault and harassment complaints leveled against state officials. Additionally, Cuomo wants policies that would apply to all state and local governments in New York and implement a whistleblower process to help victims come forward. Sexual harassment cases would not be confidential unless the victim insists, Cuomo said.

Suing big pharmacy companies is another priority for Cuomo as a way to fight the drug scourge that's crippled many parts of the state and led to thousands of overdose deaths.

Looking back at what he's done, Cuomo touted "historic investments" in education, healthcare and economic development.

"State government is back," Cuomo said.

In an interview, Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D/Ossining) was pleased

with much of what Cuomo addressed. Galef said she was happy Cuomo wants to have a statewide policy to tackle sexual harassment, which is legislation she has spearheaded.

Galef said it was important Cuomo proposed easier voter registration and a policy that would force political advertisements that appear on social media to identify who paid for them. Galef agreed that the federal government is targeting New York and supported legal action against the new tax plan. Changing tax policy within the state is also critical, she said.

"It really is double taxation," Galef said of the new federal tax law.

State Senator Sue Serino said in a statement that Cuomo listed many expensive initiatives, but didn't explain how they would be paid for. She also wants Cuomo to touch on how to make the state more affordable, especially for seniors, and funding for Lyme and tick-borne diseases, which Serino, a Republican, has fought heavily for during her state ten-

ure.

She wants to work with her colleagues to cut spending, increase government efficiency and invest in small businesses during legislative session.

"Too many people right now are being forced to choose between raising their thermostats to keep from freezing and putting food on the table, and that's just not right," Serino stated. "We need to deliver a more affordable New York to ensure our communities can thrive."

State Assemblyman Kevin Byrne was critical of Cuomo's attacks the federal government. He said New York's tax structure has been regarded as one of the most "convoluted and complex in the nation." He noted there is currently a \$4 billion deficit and a 2017 comptroller report indicated New York is more than \$60 billion in state funded debt.

"However, the governor continues to spend hundreds of millions of tax dollars each year through 'backdoor borrowing' on initiatives that have yet to deliver the economic growth and job creation results we were promised," Byrne, a Republican, stated. "I hope that this year our state's leadership will take much-needed steps to reestablish New York as an attractive destination for businesses and residents alike."

State Senator Terrence Murphy (R/Yorktown) said since he began as a state lawmaker three years ago, the Senate has worked cooperatively with Cuomo in a "bipartisan way to deliver real results" for residents. But he said this latest speech struck a more partisan tone and was better suited for Washington D.C.

He said there are important issues that need to be addressed including the closure of Indian Point in Northern Westchester, controlling the state's spending and cutting property taxes.

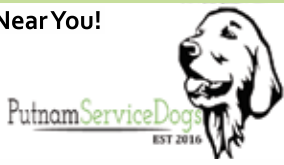
"I am confident we can put aside our philosophical differences to work with the Governor and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address these critical issues and give everyone in New York the opportunity to succeed," Murphy stated.

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## Pronto Printer Cortlandt

By Neal Rentz

Wappingers Falls resident John Marvin is continuing a family tradition that started in 1974.

Marvin is the owner of Pronto Printer, which was opened by his father, Gerald (who now resides in South Carolina), over four decades ago. Marvin purchased the business from his father in 1997, he noted last week. "Originally it was part of a chain, but the chain fell apart many years ago," Marvin said.

Marvin, who grew up in Yorktown, said he has been involved with the family business since he was a young child.

Marvin explained why he has been part of the business for many years. "I like dealing with people. I like helping companies promote their look and their brand," he said. "I really enjoy somebody coming in with a concept or an idea and being able to create that for them and have them walk out the door with a beautiful business card or an invoice or newsletters, even journals or books."

Pronto Printer creates a wide variety of products including business cards, letterheads, envelopes, postcards, newsletters, high school sports journals, and event programs. "Anything on paper



PHOTO BY NEAL RENTZ

John Marvin is the owner of Pronto Printer, a family-owned business that has been in operation in Cortlandt since 1974.

we do," Marvin said.

Pronto Printer utilizes several copy machines, with some that allow customers to have copies of such items as blueprints and wide format full color documents, Marvin said.

Marvin said his business works with "the smallest one-man show to big guys like Mavis Discount Tire with 350 locations."

Pronto Printer also provides logos. "That's what we really like to do," Marvin

said. "When they have a concept and really can just describe it to me I can make it from it for them and create what they're looking for." A logo or a business card is very important for a business, Marvin noted.

Marvin said his clients generally come from northern Westchester, as well as Putnam and Dutchess counties. "We've even got customers who moved to Florida and they prefer to do business with us. They correspond through e-mail and we ship it right down to them," he said.

Marvin explained why Pronto Printer has been successful for decades. "It's just a matter of staying up with the times and changing with the times," he said. "The industry continues to change."

"The real message that we'd want to get across to people is that we like to partner with you," Marvin said. "Their success is our success. Everybody needs printing of some sort."

*Pronto Printer is located at 2085 E, Main St. (Route 6), in Cortlandt. For more information, call 914-737-0800, send an e-mail to [john@prontoprinterny.com](mailto:john@prontoprinterny.com) or visit <http://www.prontoprinterny.com>.*

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# Anticipating Eagles on a Blustery Birding Day in Croton

By Brian Kluepfel

On Jan. 6, Saw Mill River Audubon and friends gathered at the Croton Point Nature Center for our annual Soup Social. It's a festive way to start the year, punctuated by friendly chatter, bird sighting reports, and in the end, delicious soups and desserts.

A slight injury allowed me to escape the morning hike. The group, undaunted by freezing temps and a dearth of eagles at the Croton Point Boat ramp, continued north to George's Island near Montrose, where the frozen Hudson was host to 10 of our national birds. The birds love fishing off the ice floes, and this week, the mighty river was so jammed up that a Coast Guard cutter was summoned to break up the ice, as in days of yore.

I remained inside at Croton Point, helping to prepare the room for the late-morning event, plugging in crock-pots and distributing cutlery. But I was able to do my favorite sort of winter birding from the back room of the nature center, where every winter weekend folks gather to drink coffee, eat cakes and observe birds from the large picture window, which overlooks a half-dozen feeders.

Despite (or perhaps because of) the feeders nearly being blown off their moorings, birds gathered by the dozens: Dark-eyed juncos and fearless chickadees in varying shades of black-and-white, pairs of Northern cardinals building mini-bunkers in the snow drifts to protect their seed caches, seemingly staining the tundra a bright crimson. Red-bellied and Downy woodpeckers flitted and clambered in competition for the suet cakes, while a lone Blue Jay, the largest bird around, was given a respectful clearing by his avian brethren.

My own contribution was small—I noted that an extra Mourning dove arrived at some point, bringing our total



STEVE RAPPAPORT PHOTO

Bald Eagle spotted last week along the Hudson River in Westchester.

to five. On such keen observation does citizen science thrive.

There was some small debate between Bonnie Coe, an Ossining photographer who also hosts the weekend Feeder Watch at the center, and a guest about whether a particular bird was a Tree

sparrow, a House sparrow, or maybe even a White-throated sparrow, but as with most birding debates, this was settled without fisticuffs or thrown objects. In the end, actually, the two parties agreed.

Of course, among the highlights were two fly-bys of majestic Bald eagles (proof that you really don't have to go outside in 8-degree weather, if you don't want to). One adult flapped quickly by, while a younger immature bird hovered in the air for minutes, upheld by the gusting winds, in perfect view from our west-facing window.

Many kudos to those who did venture out-of-doors and lead the birding expedition up and down the Hudson shore's frozen paths: redoubtable birder Charlie Roberto of Croton, who did not surrender when no eagles were sighted in Croton, and Saw Mill River Audubon Executive Director Anne Swaim, who in addition to helping coordinate the day's activities brought along an awesome pot of veggie chili.

The room heated up as visitors from as far-flung destinations as South Africa, West Africa, New Rochelle and Lewisboro filled the center, eagerly partaking in oven-fresh oatmeal cookies, Walker's

shortbread cookies, and simmering pots of winter squash, lentil and other tangy soups.

And, naturally, there were the birds. Even in the worst weather, we usually spot a few, and folks were already eagerly amending their 2018 lists. A small walk around the center reminded one of its history, and the fact that Croton Point has been rejuvenated from a garbage dump to a park which, when carefully maintained can attract visitors like bobolinks (a small change in how the grass is mown allowed that species to return).

Small, committed groups like Saw Mill River Audubon allow these minor miracles to occur, as did similar groups who fought against DDT and allowed for the return of the Bald eagle to the Hudson Valley (and they also make awesome soups).

Don't forget that the annual Hudson River Eagle Fest is Feb. 10 at Croton Point Park. Project Feeder Watch happens at the Croton Point Nature Center every Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 11pm until early April—a great opportunity for beginning birders, and photographers, too (high praise to Bonnie, M.J., Rose and the other volunteers who make this happen).

## Attorney General Issues Consumer Alert Over Propane Delivery Price

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman has issued a consumer alert, encouraging New Yorkers to contact his office if they experience excessive delivery delays or potential price gouging related to propane delivery. New Yorkers can contact the Attorney General's hotline at 518-776-2000 or file a complaint online.

"No New Yorkers should have to freeze in this weather, and my office is looking into cases of unacceptable delivery delays and potential price gouging," said Schneiderman. "Any New Yorker being overcharged or left in the cold without propane should

contact my office immediately."

The Attorney General is also urging consumers to investigate the options they have for heating their homes during the cold winter months. Fuel oil and propane prices can vary significantly from supplier to supplier. Prices can also fluctuate dramatically throughout the heating season. Consumers considering entering into fuel oil and propane contracts for the season should make sure they understand all of the terms and conditions in the agreement, including any fees or charges for deliveries, minimum purchase requirements or other conditions.



## The Season to Guard Against Burst Water Pipes

Since I now live in a condo in a large building, I thought that I no longer had to worry about the prospect of water pipes freezing and bursting, but, unfortunately, the sprinkler pipes in the attic did freeze and burst during last week's frigid weather causing water damage in the unit next door to mine. And the units below that one suffered water damage as well.

Other than a fire or tornado, the most damaging event a house can suffer is flooding from a burst water pipe. Yet, most people have just a sketchy knowledge of how to avoid this potential disaster.

One of my most memorable mishaps with burst pipes involved a young couple, buyer clients, who had found the home of their dreams and wanted to close as quickly as possible because the lease on their rental was about to expire. But their dream was dashed, at least temporarily, by a discovery we made when we arrived at the house for the engineering inspection.

We were greeted by an ominous sound of water leaking and discovered in the family room that water was spraying through the seams of the plasterboard walls and half of the ceiling had collapsed. The engineer quickly shut off the

water main, but it was too late to prevent the extensive damage to the walls, ceiling, built-in cabinetry and flooring.

As an estate sale, the house was empty, but the selling agent had been very careful to monitor the heating system so that the pipes wouldn't freeze, so she couldn't understand what went wrong. The engineer looked around and found that,

outside, the garden house had not been disconnected from the outside spigot. He explained that water in the hose had frozen and backed up into the pipe that traveled through the garage, which was unheated, to the family room on the other side of the garage wall, causing the pipes to burst. When the ice melted, the room was flooded.

When water freezes, it has the force of 2,200 pounds of pressure per square inch, according to Dave Goldberg, now retired from Goldberg Plumbing &

Heating, but whose son is still serving Westchester and Putnam counties. "One of the most common causes of burst pipes is when people forget to detach their hoses for the winter. It should always be done by mid-October," he said.

"But there are many reasons pipes can burst," he continued. "It can be a mere draft through a tiny crack in a wall, and

if it is cold enough outside, the wind chill factor can cause a pipe to freeze, and it can be anywhere in the house, even over the living room.

Goldberg cited the popular use of wood and gas-burning stoves as another cause of burst pipes. "They give you a false sense of warmth," he said. "It can be 70 degrees inside, but that heat may not get to the outside walls where the water pipes are located."

As a safeguard, Goldberg recommends that non-toxic anti-freeze be added to the heating system so that if the power goes off, the water won't freeze. "It's like putting anti-freeze in a car," he said, "and, it should be checked annually to see that it's still at an effective level."

For insulating pipes in the basement or crawl space, he suggests using a heating strip that turns on automatically like a thermostat, and then to wrap both the pipe and heating strip with insulation.

Another safeguard in frigid weather, he said, is to keep water running from both the hot and cold taps where the pipes are against an outside wall. I'm well aware of this technique because, when I lived in an antique single-family home, my wife always cautioned me on frigid nights to keep the water dripping in the mudroom half-bath which was exposed on two sides by outside walls. "Remember to keep the water dripping"

she always said, and I always responded back, "I know, I know, you already told me," but then, I would get myself into trouble by turning the faucet off anyway, just by force of habit.

With the weather currently colder than any wintry spell I can remember, keep in mind that using a little extra water by the drip method, especially for pipes on outside walls, is a safe investment to protect against burst pipes.

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



## A Glimpse Into the Rarefied Air of High-end Wines Sold at Auctions

We read with envy the numerous accounts of rare, high-end wines sold in the marketplace. Collectors enter into bidding frenzies to acquire wines from highly rated wineries and highly rated vintages. However, for most of us 99 per-centers, after we read of these wines changing hands amongst a few rich collectors, we never hear of them again until the next sale.

Here's the rub: investors in high-end wines typically seek out trophy wines for bragging rights, not imbibing rights. Rarely are bottles of older vintages of highly regarded wines ever opened for the sheer pleasure and enjoyment such wines afford. Rather, they sit in an expensive temperature-controlled underground cellar, simply on display as trophies.

There is a consensus amongst those in the wine trade that the rarer the wine, the less likely it will ever be consumed. It will merely make the rounds of auction houses, garnering escalating prices with each passage of ownership.

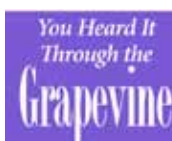
With this thought in mind, I've decided to present a tally, and brief narrative, of the 10 most expensive wines ever sold

- to date.

Note: I've written in greater depth on a few of these wines. I annotated them as the "Focus of a Previous Column (FPC)." For copies of these columns, please email me.



By Nick Antonaccio



10. 1947 Château Cheval Blanc. Talk about bragging rights. This imperial-size bottle Bordeaux, the equivalent of 8 standard bottles, was purchased at a Christie's auction in 2010. This size bottle will surely impress friends and family. Price: \$304,375, equivalent to \$38,047 per bottle and \$7,609 per each of the 40-glass capacity. Just enough for a (large) dinner party.

9. 1951 Penfolds Grange Hermitage. A highly regarded, and rare, Australian wine. Who would think a Shiraz could command such high prices in every vintage? There are purported to be less than 20 bottles remaining. Price: \$38,420/bottle; \$7,684/glass.

8. 1945 Château Mouton Rothschild (FPC). One of the most highly regarded vintages from one of the most highly regarded estates in Bordeaux, this wine was sold at auction last May from the

cellar of world-famous collector Bill Koch. The astounding price was \$34,350 for each of the 10 bottles auctioned. But that's not the highest price ever paid. In 2007, an anonymous bidder paid significantly more for a jeroboam bottle (equivalent to six standard bottles). Price: a whopping \$310,700 or \$51,792 per equivalent bottle. That's \$10,358 per glass, if you're ever in a position to enjoy it.

7. 1992 Screaming Eagle Cabernet Sauvignon. One of the most famous wines in the world, this Napa cult wine is a bit of an outlier, as this imperial size bottle is significantly younger than many of the other wines on my list. Sold in 2000 at the famous Napa Valley Wine Auction, a perennial showcase of one-percenters vying for bragging rights, the bidding frenzy amped up the winning bid to \$500,000, the most ever paid anywhere, anytime for a single bottle of wine. Price: \$62,500/equivalent standard bottle; \$12,500/glass. If you went shopping for a single standard bottle today, it would set you back \$8,500 to \$10,000, still in the one-percenter stratosphere.

6. 1811 Château d'Yquem (FPC). This is where we cross the threshold into high stakes bragging rights. The lofty standard

bottle prices of the previous four bottles are far surpassed by the remaining wines in my tally. Beginning with this dessert wine, the most expensive white wine ever sold, prices are now in the affordability range of only the top end of the top one-percenters.

This French producer in the Sauterne region limits production to miniscule levels, even foregoing production in vintages not meeting its strict criteria. And prices reflect this. In 2011, an Indonesian restaurateur purchased this half bottle, one of only ten offered for sale that year. His plan was to display the bottle behind bulletproof glass in his wine bar, waiting for a special occasion to open and enjoy it. Price: \$117,000 or \$23,400 per glass.

Next week, the top five. Can it get crazier than wines six through ten? Yes, it can.

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.



# Happenings

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

## Tuesday, Jan. 9

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

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

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

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

## Wednesday, Jan. 10

**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.

**Breast Cancer Support:** A Young Women's Breast Cancer Support Group for women who have or had breast cancer at a young age meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Yorktown offices of Support Connection, 40 Triangle Center, Suite 100, Advance registration is required for all groups; call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290. For a complete calendar of groups at all locations, visit [www.supportconnection.org](http://www.supportconnection.org).

**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](http://www.firsthebrew.org).

**Judaism Discussion:** How To Be A Jew Without God – If you or someone you know likes being Jewish but has difficulty with the concept of "God," Cantor Erik Contzius' class can help people celebrate and embrace Judaism. The class meets at 7:30 p.m. on four consecutive Wednesdays, beginning tonight, at First Hebrew Congregation, 1821 Main St., Route 6, on the border of Peekskill and Cortlandt. Cost: \$5 per class. To RSVP or for more information, visit [www.firsthebrew.org](http://www.firsthebrew.org), e-mail [fhc@firsthebrew.org](mailto:fhc@firsthebrew.org) or call 914-739-0500.

## Thursday, Jan. 11

**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](mailto: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 enter, 2966 Crompond Rd. Feel free to come and bring a friend, even if you cannot commit to coming to class weekly. We always welcome new participants. No knowledge of Hebrew is expected, and no particular depth of Jewish knowledge is assumed. Info: 914-245-2324 or [yorktownjewishcenter.org](http://yorktownjewishcenter.org).

**Community Grief Workshop:** "Dealing with our grief, support and boundaries" is the subject of this free community workshop given by First Hebrew Congregation, facilitated by Rabbi Pamela Wax at 7:30 p.m. RSVP to 914-739-0500 or [fhc@firsthebrew.org](mailto:fhc@firsthebrew.org). First Hebrew is located at 1821 Main St. (Route 6), just west of Beach Shopping Center. Info: [www.firsthebrew.org](http://www.firsthebrew.org)

**Wine With Weiner:** Wine with Weiner will be held at 7:45 p.m. at Temple Beth Am, 203 Church Pl., Yorktown. Come to Beth Am for an informal conversation with the Jewish community on the issues that affect our lives. With welcoming wine (or other beverages people bring), Rabbi Weiner facilitates a fascinating "laid-back" discussion while bringing us closer as a Jewish community. Congregants and non-congregants alike are invited to take this journey with our Rabbi. No previous knowledge is required, and all backgrounds are welcome. For information, please call our Rabbi at 962-7500 or e-mail him at [atrabbiw@optonline.net](mailto:atrabbiw@optonline.net)

## Friday, Jan. 12

**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 "open its doors to all who enter" for Shabbat on Fridays at 8 p.m. Our modern Sabbath service has a spiritually engaging and warm feeling while following traditional modes. All are welcome to our friendly sacred space A Tot Shabbat will be held at 5:30 p.m. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl. Yorktown. For more information, please call our Rabbi at 914-962-7500 or e-mail him at [rabbiiw@optonline.net](mailto:rabbiiw@optonline.net)

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

## Saturday, Jan. 13

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

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

**Ossining Farmers Market:** The Ossining Down to Earth Farmers Market is now being held outdoors on Spring and Market Streets. Customers old and new will find delicious produce, pasture-raised meat, poultry, and eggs, breads,



# Happenings

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baked goods, and much more. For a full list of our markets and vendors, visit [DowntoEarthMarkets.com](http://DowntoEarthMarkets.com).

**Support Connection Yoga:** Support Connection, Inc. announces a free program: "Yoga: A Path Toward Wellness" will be offered from noon to 1:30 p.m., at Club Fit in Jefferson Valley, on Jan. 13, 20 and 27. It is open to women living with breast, ovarian and gynecological cancers. To learn more or to pre-register, which is required, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290.

**Art Of Joy:** The Art of Joy and Inspiration will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

at The Yoga Studio, Club Fit, 584 N State Rd, Briarcliff Manor. Participants practice pranayama, asana and meditation to create space and left prana flow more freely, allowing gratitude in. The program is being hosted by the Yoga Teachers Association. The cost is \$45 for members and \$65 for non-members in advance. Info: 914-582-7816 or [YTAyoga.com](http://YTAyoga.com).

## Sunday, Jan. 14

**Healing Yoga:** Yoga classes for women with breast cancer are held at 5 p.m. on Sundays at Hudson Yoga, 5 Old Post Rd. South, Croton-on-Hudson. Weekly

classes are being conducted by rotating instructors. The suggestion is \$15. Info: Elisha Simpson at 914-319-4010

## Monday, Jan. 15

**Somers Library Monday Programs:** Two programs are being held on Mondays at the Somers Library. Drop-in Art is held on Jan. 22 and 28 and February 5, 18, and 26 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Do you want to create during the cold winter? Drop in; no registration is required. Bring supplies of your choice. There is a \$6 charge per class. Bridge at the Somers Library is being held on

Mondays throughout 2018 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. These classes are for beginners and players with some experience as well. Learn how to navigate your way around the game from bridge maven Walter Heitner. You will learn bidding and work on the play of the hand. By working with a group, you will all get better together. Space is limited; register online at [www.somerslibrary.org](http://www.somerslibrary.org) or call the library at 914-232-5717.

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

## Obituaries

Continued from page 7

### Robert "Butch" Conklin

Robert R. "Butch" Conklin, a lifelong Peekskill resident, died December 30, 2017. He was 71.

He was retired from the Peekskill School District's custodial department. He was a 48-year member of the Peekskill Fire Patrol, a longtime member of

the HVVFA and the Putnam Northern Westchester Fire Police. He was also a member of the Westchester County Volunteer Firemen's Association.

He was predeceased by his parents, Raymond and Roberta Gilleo Conklin, and his sister, Dianne.

### Joseph Reis

Joseph Reis, a longtime Ossining resi-

dent, died January 1, 2018. He was 84.

He was born in Portugal on March 3, 1933, to John and Beatriz Reis. He came to the United States as a young man. He lived in Newark, NJ for about 10 years which is where he met and married his wife Fernanda (Alves). They were married on April 17, 1960. While there, he was very active with the Portuguese community in Newark. He later moved to Tarrytown for a few years and settled

in Ossining about 53 years ago.

He was retired from General Motors where he had worked for 30 years. He was a member of UAW Local 664. He was also very active in the Portuguese American Cultural Center in Tarrytown.

He is survived by his loving wife Fernanda as well as his loving daughters Linda Rodrigues and Susana D'Emic. He is also survived by five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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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 principal business address: **Maria Katsoros, 305 Florence Street, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

**Notice of formation of SIXTH BROUGH 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.

**SUMMONS: Complaint for Divorce or Divorce from Bed and Board Kshitiz Agnihotri v. Adya Shukla In the Providence Family Court in and for the County of Providence.** 1 Dorrance Plaza Providence, RI 02903 Civil Action File Number: P20176290 Nominal Hearing Date: 02/01/2018 at 9:00am **To the Above Named Defendant:** You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon the Plaintiff or the Plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address appears below, an answer to the complaint, which is herewith served upon you. Under Rhode Island Family Court Rules of Domestic Relations Procedure, your answer must be in writing and filed with the court within 20 days after service of this Summons, complaint, Language Assistance Notice, and all other required documents, exclusive of the date of service. A copy of your answer should also be forwarded to the Plaintiff's attorney. Failure to answer may result in a judgment by default against you for the relief requested in the complaint. Under the Family Court Rules of Domestic Relations Procedure, your answer must state as a counterclaim any related claim you may have against the Plaintiff. Failure to do so may prohibit you from making such claim in any other action. **Kshitiz Agnihotri, Don P. Moyer, Atty. for Plaintiff 51 Jefferson Blvd. Warwick, RI**

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MAN ON FIRE PRODUCTIONS, LLC.** Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 20th, 2017. Office in Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: **Joel Fendelman, 8 Fox Hill Road Pound Ridge, NY 10576. Purpose: Film Production.**

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# Crossword

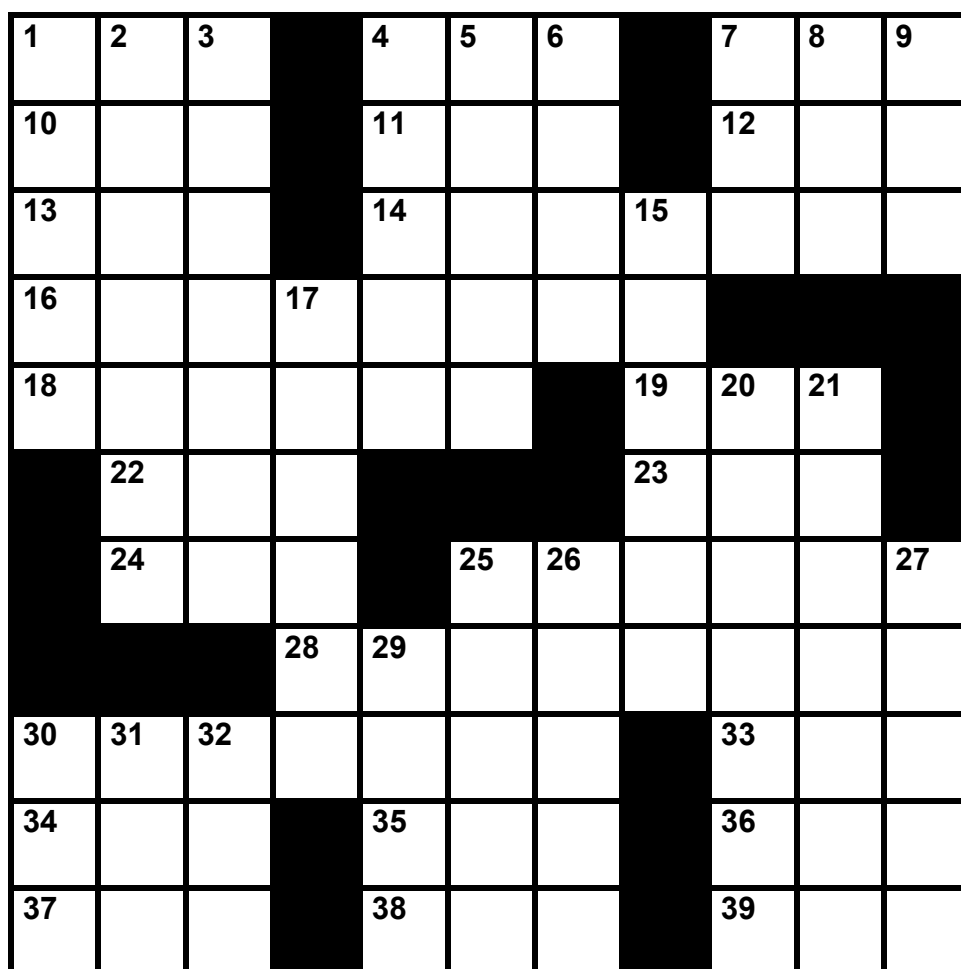
## ACROSS

1. Two-striper (abbr.)
4. Football positions
7. Trial lawyer's advice
10. Laughter on the internet, abbreviation
11. Building addition
12. Thanks, for short
13. Miss. neighbor
14. Small plant part
16. Carmel sewer and drain supply
18. Mugs
19. \_\_\_ rule (usually)
22. Energy measurement
23. Relax
24. Commotion
25. Belonging to model Klum, or Brewster Inn
28. Water
30. Fragrant long-grain rice
33. 10th anniversary gift
34. Court group, abbr.
35. French for sea
36. Space invaders, for short
37. How-\_\_\_
38. They're paid to have the last wd.

39. One kind of bread

## DOWN

1. Feline's defense
2. More cultured
3. South American cowboy
4. Played over
5. Blemishes
6. Fruit of the blackthorn
7. Arch city, for short
8. Four stringed guitar (abbr.)
9. Superlative add on
15. Country singer Randy
17. "Dances With Wolves" structure
20. Cooler
21. Gymnast trait
25. Despised
26. Mideast leaders
27. Feeling
29. Woman of rank
30. Fruit or vampire
31. Blood system letters
32. Flier out of Stockholm



(Solution on page 14)

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(Solution to puzzle on page 13)

1	C	2	P	3	L		4	R	5	B	6	S		7	S	8	U	9	E
10	L	O	L				11	E	L	L				12	T	K	S		
13	A	L	A				14	R	O	O	15	T		L	E	T			
16	W	I	N	17	W	A	T	E	R										
18	S	T	E	I	N	S					19	A	20	S	21	A			
		22	E	R	G						23	V	E	G					
		24	R	O	W			25	H	26	E	I	D	I	27	S			
				28	A	29	D	A	M	S	A	L	E						
30	B	31	A	32	S	M	A	T	I			33	T	I	N				
34	A	B	A				35	M	E	R			36	E	T	S			
37	T	O	S				38	E	D	S			39	R	Y	E			

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*Covering Putnam County and Northern Westchester Sports*

# Can't Hide Sailor Pride!



## Hen Hud Crowned Champions at Minisink Valley Invitational

PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Hendrick Hudson cheerleaders made the trek north to Minisink Valley High School to compete in the Warrior Invitational last Saturday where they took the mat with the utmost Sailor Pride and nailed a flawless routine to secure 1st place honors. "All 27 athletes had the same goal that they accomplished as a team," Sailor Coach Nicole Selvaggi-Landry said. "As their coach, I can't begin to put into words how rewarding it is to watch them go out there and do exactly what you have coached them on. I'm beyond proud of them and humbled by our parent support. My team brought me to tears, all 27 of them are amazing student athletes!" In addition to winning 1st place as a team, the Hen Hud fan section -- @HenHudFanBase -- was awarded with the Best Fan Section at the competition. "They did not stop cheering for us from beginning to end. Proud to be a Sailor is an understatement," the coach exclaimed! Members of the team include Captains Sam Aaronson, Maiya Aubry and Jessica Selvaggi-Landry, plus Hailey Armusewicz, Hanna Armusewicz, Jessica Bartolomeo, Jadynn Camp, Julie Casuriaga, Matilda Curley, Alyssa DiScafani, Tarah Doyle, Megan Driver, Carla Guariglia, Diana Guariglia, Nicole Kopensteiner, Gaby Lebitsch, Tori Lennox, Kelsie MacFadyen, Gabriella Mannarino, Fiona McGovern, Natalie McIntyre, Leah Montgomery, Jackie Moore, Vanessa Nine, Fiona Reilly, Amanda Siegel and Danielle Smith.



## Sports

## Boys' Hoops Notebook

# Putnam Hoops Challenge Could Get Facelift for 2019

By Ray Gallagher  
Examiner Sports Editor  
@Directrays

Okay, so here's the deal: Almost seven years to the day since I last poked my nose into the affairs of the 11th annual Putnam Basketball Challenge, I'm doing

so again; this time with the blessings of tournament directors Tom McMahon and Bob Nugent, who do all they can to keep this hoops challenge going.

Usually, when I stick my nose into places it doesn't belong, the response is as expected: "Butt out, big fellow!" But after

four fairly ordinary games and minimal fanfare at the Putnam Challenge last Saturday at Carmel High School, most of the necessary parties are on board with the idea to make the 2019 Putnam Basketball Challenge the best one yet.

The most vital element of the next rendition is to get all five Putnam County programs back on board, including Putnam Valley and Brewster, which opted out this year's tournament for whatever reasons. Here's what I'll be asking Mr. McMahon and Nugent to consider when we sit down later this winter as partners in crime to hatch a new plan to invigorate the Putnam Challenge.

First and foremost, bag the Webutuck vs. Pawling game; the matchup doesn't

draw local flies when teams come from Amenia and other portions of Southern Dutchess for the Putnam Challenge. I'd rather see Pawling vs. Ontonagon; just out of morbid curiosity.

Secondly, make the Putnam Challenge an actual challenge, and have the five schools from Putnam County challenge five bordering rivals from Northern Westchester in a five-game bid to establish regional supremacy. Haldane vs. North Salem is simple, since it's already in place and provides folks with a superb small-school matchup between two feisty, well respected programs with two superb coaches – Haldane's fiery Joe Virgadamo and Salem's stylish Henry Sassone -- who completely contrast in style.

Get Putnam Valley, a solid Class B contender now for six years, on board again, and pit Coach Mike McDonnell's Class B Tigers against Class A Lakeland. Seriously, do I even need to say another



Putnam Valley junior TJ Brescia is met by Carmel juniors Shane McNerney and Peyton Cayea in Tigers' 57-56 win over host Rams last Wednesday.



Carmel junior Christian Hutra drained a handful of clutch shots on PV's Darnel Shillingford and Tigers in PV's 57-56 win over host Rams last Wednesday.



RAY GALLAGHER PHOTOS

Putnam Valley junior F Darnel Shillingford drives for two of his 22 points on Carmel junior John Franklin in Tigers' 57-56 win over host Rams last Wednesday.



Haldane sophomore Matt Champlain works paint in Blue Devils' 52-50 loss to North Salem.

word about this matchup? There's no love lost between the bitter rivals who rarely get to square off against one another due to their classifications, and they love to kick each other's @\$@ whenever possible. PV vs. Lakeland is a must, so Hornet Coach Steve Fallo: Please clear your calendar for the first Saturday in January or, perhaps the first week in December, which is when I'd like to see this Putnam Challenge 'Season Tip-Off' take place.

That's two games out of the way. So, Brewster used to host the event and Coach Tom Nelligan never backs down from a challenge since he was the prime minister of Kennedy Catholic's heyday in the mid-90s/early 2000's, so let's square the Bears off against natural border rival John Jay (CR), who has been faithful Putnam Challenge participant for

*continued on next page*



# Sports

## Boy's Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Carmel junior Peyton Cayea gains point against Put Valley's Matt Aviles (L) and Darnell Shillingford in Tigers' 57-56 win over host Rams last Wednesday.



Put Valley sophomore Matt Aviles dropped 20 points on Carmel in his varsity debut.



Mahopac senior Shane Loos drives lane in Indians' 55-48 loss to John Jay last Saturday.

years, including Saturday's 55-48 win over Mahopac.

Three down, two to go. So, let's tee up Carmel next. Rams A.D. Susan Dullea, perhaps the nicest A.D. in the land, is totally on board to host the venue next year and do whatever she can to help promo the event, so we gotta get

head, I like a Carmel vs. Somers matchup since Somers used to be a part of the challenge and I love me some of Coach Chris DiCintio's Tuskers. I'd also settle for Panas, Ossining and/or Hen Hud in this game against Carmel... so we have some options here if anyone is listening and/or

interested.

Lastly, Mahopac is in. We just need to figure out who Coach Matt Simone's Indians play. While it would make some sense to just have the Indians face Carmel in the evening's finale; that would limit us to four games and deter from the original Putnam vs. N.West. theme, so let's get Yorktown in the mix and have Coach Kevin Downes' Huskers battle against his former Mahopac club. Yeah, Yorktown vs. Mahopac makes a ton of sense any time. That might be the perfect finale.

So, in conclusion, let's make the 12th

annual Putnam Challenge something we can all be proud of: North Salem vs. Haldane; Lakeland vs. Putnam Valley; John Jay vs. Brewster; Somers, Hen Hud, Ossining or Panas vs. Carmel; and Yorktown vs. Mahopac. The first county to win three games wins the Putnam Challenge and claims regional supremacy.

Y'all have my email address. Consider this an invite, and hit me up if you're interested in the 2019 Putnam Challenge.

## NWE/Putnam Examiner Super 7 Poll

**No.1 HEN HUD** – Sailors (5-1) posted a 59-43 win over reigning Class A champion Lourdes, who is hardly the same Warrior team we saw last year, but when Mehki Grey (17 points), Kyle James (14) and Austin Fraser (12) are all doing significant damage, the Sailors are still a unit with Final 4 potential and could be playing a semifinal game in Osh-Kosh (since we have absolutely no clarity from Section 1 Exec. Comm. on the County Center debacle).

**No.2 SOMERS** – At 4-3 overall, the Tuskers have a very intriguing tip off against host Panas today and a grudge match with league rival Brewster Thursday.

**No.3 OSSINING** – Coach Casey's Pride (7-1) are currently behind state-ranked (No.1) Mt. Vernon and New Ro' in terms of Class AA seeds as we enter the halfway point. Can they sustain or is this a mirage? League grind will tell the tale.

**No.4 PUT VALLEY** – 55-43 loss to Sacred Heart Sunday at County Center, on the heels of a 57-56 win over Carmel... you can't tell me there's not work to be done here. JV call-up Matt Aviles provided and offensive spark with 20 in his debut, and the youthful Tigers (7-3), without a senior starter, are still a dangerous Class B club when clicking on all cylinders.

**No.5 PANAS** – The Panthers (3-2) have a very legitimate chance to win the Yorktown tourney this coming weekend, and a win over Somers today would go a long way toward securing the respect of Section 1 and provide a major shakeup in this poll.

**No.6 MAHOPAC** – This 3-4 record could turn to 3-6 if Indians don't know what's good for them with Jay EF and Arlington on deck before the Indians tip off against Carmel on Jan. 17, but the win over 7-3 Suffern shows what the unit is capable of.

**No.7 LAKELAND** – Brewster, Magnus and John Jay this week. If the Hornets (4-4) are indeed legit, they need to go 2-1 worst case scenario and win the two league games.

**HM HALDANE** – Impossible to ignore the Blue Devils' 6-2 start after they battled North Salem in a 52-50 loss at Putnam Challenge. Coach Virgadamo has always drawn blood from a stone but that was truly impressive, more striking than wins over Schechter, Chester, Rye Neck and Clark.

**HM YORKTOWN** – Really need to see the Huskers (3-4) make it to the finals of the Budries tourney this weekend, and would love to see a 'Town vs. Panas final, but the Panthers have a tough road to hoe in Clarkstown North.

**HM CARMEL** – I mean, the Rams are 1-8, but they're one of the better one-win teams around, if that means much of anything.



Mahopac senior Ryan Dugan splits four Jay defenders for two of his game-high 21 points in Indians' Putnam Challenge loss last Saturday.



## Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook

# Lakeland, Brewster, Panas Chalk up Wins out of Break

By Tony Pinciario

Following an 18-day layoff, **LAKELAND** resumed its winning ways in the current girls' varsity basketball season.

Lakeland trumped Nanuet, 47-41, improving its record to 6-3 this season. Alexa Cole led all scorers with 21 points and she also added nine rebounds and three blocked shots. Cole went 4 for 4 from the free-throw line to seal the win. Kelsey Walsh chipped in with 14 points.

Lakeland's record has the team feeling optimistic as it heads into the second half of the season. The Hornets have been successful, to date, because of three factors.

"I think what's helped us so far is our team chemistry and our hard work," Walsh said. "We all get along really well and we work hard in practice and it transfers over into the game."

"Also, Alexa (Cole) has been our leading scorer each game, which also helps a lot. Having a good record early in the season has been a great motivation and confidence booster for our team."

After a lengthy 'vacation' from games, Walsh and her teammates made the best of practice and overcame complacency that could affect teams.

"After not playing a game for over two weeks, it got a little hard, at some points, to stay focused in practice over the long break, but we managed to do it," Walsh



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

Panas' Danielle Merante and Taryn Hodge try to outwork Yorktown's Ashley Zeolla in Panthers' 49-48 win over Huskers last Wednesday.

said. "And when it came time to play, we stayed energetic and focused, which helped us have a really good game against Nanuet."

Lakeland Coach Miranda (Lustig) Mangan credited her team with picking up its defensive intensity in the fourth quarter against Nanuet. Mangan cited senior Claire McKenna with being a difference-maker defensively in the final quarter.

"Claire did a really nice job of defending Zoe Amalbert in the fourth quarter," said Mangan of Nanuet's leading scorer. "Claire did a great job of denying Amalbert the ball. When Amalbert did get the ball, Claire did a great job of staying in front of her and challenging her shots."

**BREWSTER**, like Lakeland, continued its fine play as it opened 2018 with a 54-44 win over North Salem.

Maggie DePaoli poured in a game-high 27 points and Meagan Beal added eight points and 11 rebounds as the Bears improved to 9-3 this season.

"We did a great job adjusting

to three starters in foul trouble and not playing great transition defense in the first half," Brewster Coach Mike Castaldo said. "We were only up six at the half. We stayed in a zone and did a much better job in the transition."

"I was very happy with the way we adjusted and responded because North Salem did a great job against our man and we needed to stay in the zone. I wasn't happy that we had to switch to zone, but we played it well and it got us the win."

**MAHOPAC** swept Ursuline B, 39-24, and **YORKTOWN**, 47-38 in the consolation game of the Panas Tournament, to even its record at 4-4.

Claire Felix scored a game-high 16 points and Caitlyn O'Boyle chipped in with nine points against Ursuline B.

Zina McInerney scored a season-high 21 points and Felix added 11 points against Yorktown. McInerney was named to the all-tournament team.

"We were anemic offensively in the first half and we also got into foul trouble, early, having to sit two starters midway through the first quarter," Mahopac coach Chuck Scozzafava said. "Our defense kept us in the game during the first half. In the second half our offense came to life and we were able to pull away enough to get the win."

Kat Severino led Yorktown with 15 points and was chosen for the all-tournament team.

**PANAS** (3-4) held firm for a 48-48 win over host Yorktown last Wednesday, getting a team-high 17 points from senior captain Danielle Merante. Panther Kellie Brown added 11 points, including big free throws down the stretch,

*continued on next page*



Panas' Kristen Kelly is pressured by Yorktown's MacKenzie Merson in Panthers' 49-48 win over Huskers last Wednesday.



Panthers Kellie Brown and Danielle Merante put the pinch on Yorktown's MacKenzie Merson in Panthers' 49-48 win over Huskers.



# Sports

## Girls' Hoops Notebook

continued from previous page



Yorktown's Ashely Zeolla is guarded by Panas' Kellie Brown in Panthers' 49-48 win over Huskers.



Panas' Taryn Hodge is pressured by Yorktown's MacKenzie Merson in Panthers' 49-48 win over Huskers last Wednesday.

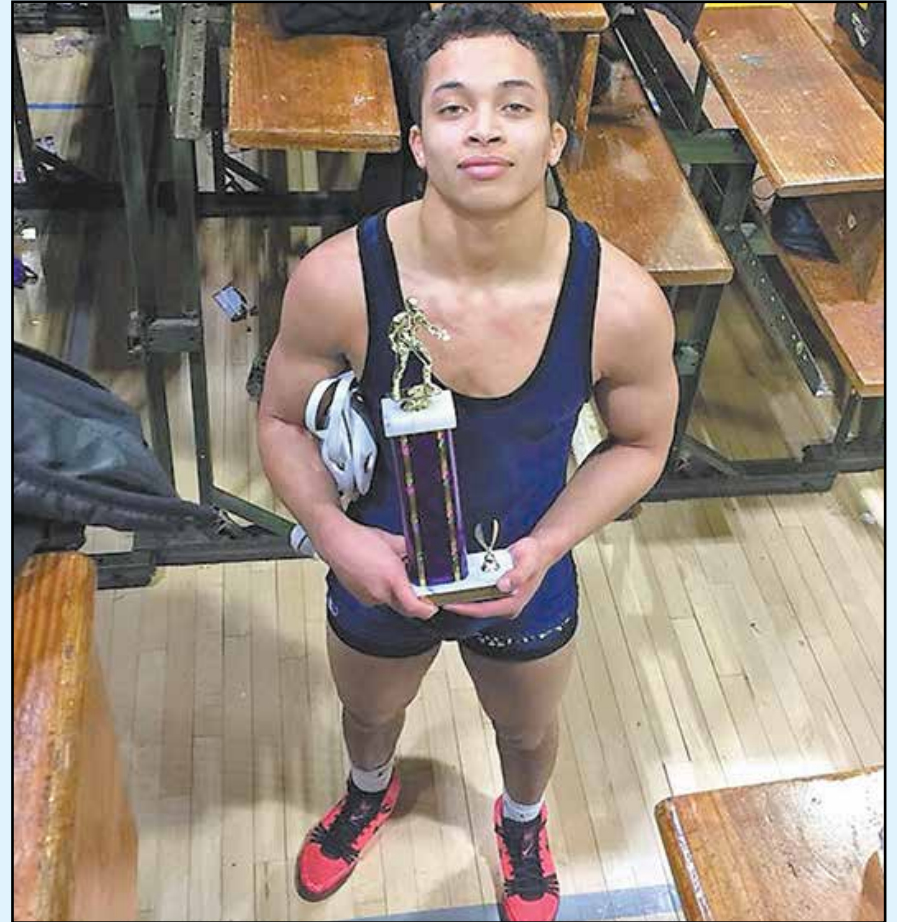
according to Coach Matt Evangelista. Kristen Kelly chipped in eight points and big baskets to bring Panas back from an early deficit. Severino led Yorktown with 22 points to keep her solid season going.

Panas also lost to Class AA R.C. Ketcham in the finals of the Panas Holiday Tournament, 49-38. Merante led the Panthers with 14 points. Merante and Brown were named to the all-tournament team...

Ossining had the week off. The Pride returned and played Kennedy Catholic, Monday, before a Friday meeting with 2017 Section 1 Class A champion, Somers. The Tuskers and Putnam Valley, who are having solid years, were both snowed out of its respective games last week.

**HEN HUD** dialed up the defensive intensity in a 41-28 victory over Haldane. After allowing 12 points in the first quarter, Hen Hud only

## Sams I Am! Put Valley Senior Crowned Shoreline Champ



Putnam Valley senior wrestler Kyle Sams, a top-notch student athlete on and off the mats, poses with his first-place trophy after winning the 132-pound title at the prestigious Shoreline Wrestling Tournament at New Rochelle High School last Saturday.



Yorktown's Emily Metz drops a shot on Panas' Danielle Merante in Panthers' 49-48 win over Huskers last Wednesday.

surrendered 16 points the rest of the way, including just three points in the fourth quarter.

"What I was most happy with in the fourth quarter was I had the role players who came off the bench and did their jobs," Hen Hud Coach Ken Sherman said. "Kira Varada came off the bench and had five steals and shut down their guard. Aniyah Thomas and Thalia Oliveria also came off the bench and contributed quality minutes which we will need down the road."

Caitlin Weimar finished with 19 points, 10 rebounds and eight steals. Thomas added six points and three steals.

**Coaches are encouraged to contact beat writer Tony Pinciario after each and every game at [Tfinch23@optonline.net](mailto:Tfinch23@optonline.net) for inclusion in the weekly Girls' Hoops Notebook.**





# Merante Time!

## Panas Forward Serves it Hot in Win 49-48 over Yorktown



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

Walter Panas senior Danielle Merante soars for two of her team-high 17 points in the Panthers' 49-48 win over host Yorktown and Kat Severino (L) and MacKenzie Merson last Wednesday as the youthful Panthers continued their ascent among the Class A contenders... see Girls Hoops Notebook



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